Sustainability of student organizations

Minutes. 23-02-2017

1. **Present:  
   \*** Liesbeth van der Linden. Corporate Education, Research & Innovation.   
   \* Yanina from S&I  
   \* Peijun Peng from S&I  
   \* Kirsten from Amnesty group  
   \* Kathi from WEP  
   \* Laura Sloot. Education coordinator Green Office  
   \* Wouter Smolenaars. Operations coordinator Green Office  
   \* Josien Croezen. Outreach coordinator Green Office
2. **Warming up**

Laura introduced Green Office and herself. Sustainable aspect: working on sustainability at WUR. Less sustainable: Green Office does not have procurement guidelines regarding sustainability yet.

Liesbeth van der Linden introduced herself. She works at Corporate Education, Research & Innovation. Task: focusing on students but not education.

Kirsten is secretary of the Amnesty group. Sustainable: taking into account vegetarian and vegan students when organizing dinners. Changed from paper surveys to online surveys.

Peijun Peng is treasurer of S&I. Sustainable aspects: no usage of plastic cups or plates. Enrolled in a project to get rid of plastic disposables on WUR. Positioned a battery collection point in forum.

Yanina S&I, also in corporate group. Sustainable aspects S&I same as Peijun Peng. Least sustainable: usage of flyers, posters, etc.

Kathi, PR manager of WEP, sustainable: veggiebags (local, organic vegetables sold at forum each week) and no use of flyers/posters.

1. **60 seconds of sustainability Green Office Movie**
2. **Presentation of the survey outcomes regarding sustainability of student organisations  
     
   (**see ppt for outcomes) Short summary:

* 25 of the 34 associations responded: 3 ‘green’ organizations, 3 out of 4 big student associations, 7 study associations.
* 7 organizations ‘would like to know more’
* 56% replied ‘NO’ to the question “is sustainability related to the goals of your organisation?”, only 24% said “YES”
* 76% of organisations try to minimalize the amount of paper used for promotion of their activities.
* About half of replies have future plants for their organisations regarding sustainability.
* About ¼ of replies encourage members to act sustainably in mobility terms. Maybe so little because many students go on their bike anyways.
* Half of the organisations do not have sustainable procurement guidelines.

1. **Addressing specifically mentioned problems**

Waste of paper

* Promote via Facebook/narrowcasting/intranet
* Try to print only what you need
* Stop flyering

Separate your garbage

* Clearly mark your bins
* Also separate batteries/lights etc.

“We have no own building, so we can’t do anything about sustainability there.”

* Try to influence the building you’re in! Talk to building managers for example.
* Make sure you still turn of the heating and the lights when you leave the room.

1. **Things to take into consideration that can be (un)sustainable:**

* IT use
* Cooking
* Organizing activities
* Procurement
* Gadgets
* Food waste /activities using food
* Charity

1. **Discussion time**

Liesbeth: the 60 seconds movie of Green office should be used much more to reach out to departments etc.

Wouter: Ecosia as a search engine is a way to improve sustainability of IT. (ecosia uses profit to plant trees)

Yanina: idea to involve other organizations to have more interest in sustainability: a prize for the most improved student organization in terms of sustainability.

Kathi: also define sustainability first for the organizations that do not think of sustainability that much. On topics like waste separation etc.

Liesbeth: how did the organisations that did not show up at this meeting fill in the questionnaire? Survey was important to get people acquainted. But how to come to the second step of attracting non sustainable organizations? Student council could reach out to organizations regarding sustainability.

Liesbeth: distribute results of the survey! Study associations have stuvowa meetings, we could put sustainability in their agenda. Liesbeth will try to arrange this.

Yanina: would be nice to have an incentive or something that motivates like a reward or a challenge. To have associations overcome the first threshold of behaving sustainably.

Liesbeth: maybe something like an estaffette: nominate others to become more sustainable.

Liesbeth: we should use ‘Green Teacher Awards Ceremony’ to reach out to audience regarding sustainability.

Another idea; having a ‘scoreboard’ for organisations regarding sustainability and publishing the organization with the most progress monthly.

Kirsten: Amnesty shares office with Licere. They could talk with them about for example recyclinginthe office etc.

Liesbeth: Will try if Arthur Mol can motivate students and associations in his speech durig Green Teacher Awards.

Yanina: flyering topic: there is always an information overload for students. Facebook is always within own network. SO sometimes fl yering is necessary to reach out to new people.

Laura: in that case: put poster on poster boards at stairs, saves much more paper. The necessity of flyering also depends on the message on the flyers.

Liesbeth: Best way to demotivate flyering: make people refuse flyers. Posterboard in front of the stairs is good idea.

Kirsten: put people near posterboards to explain the posters and attrackt interested people

Liesbeth: GreenOffice could arrange fancy posterboards.

Liesbeth : next step: getting the organizations of the survey to meet and discuss progress.