



# ANGIE

ACADEMIC NETWORK FOR A GREEN & INNOVATIVE EUROPE

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

for the establishment of the

*Academic Network for a Green and Innovative Europe*

Annex 2: Activities of ANGIE Network

# Activities of Academic Network for a Green and Innovative Europe (ANGIE Network).

## A. The activities of clusters

### 1. The activities of a cluster can include:

#### 1.1 Research activities:

- a. Each cluster should develop collaborative research projects annually focused on sustainability.
  - i. Each cluster should develop collaborative research projects that bring together diverse disciplines to address complex sustainability challenges.
  - ii. Identify key problems to solve within the WATERIC fields.
  - iii. Encourage clusters to jointly apply for research grants from international bodies, governmental agencies, and private foundations to support large-scale projects.
- b. Projects should involve multiple cluster members and seek interdisciplinary approaches.
- c. The projects can be funded by different programs of the European Commission or by other official and transparent investors (World Bank, etc.)
- d. Establish innovation hubs within clusters to foster the development of new technologies and solutions for sustainability.
- e. Facilitate the transfer of developed green technologies and innovations to industry and society for practical implementation.
- f. Offer research fellowships for postdoctoral researchers and visiting scholars to work on sustainability projects within the network.
- g. Provide scholarships for graduate students conducting research on sustainability topics, encouraging the next generation of researchers.
- h. Organize an annual research conference to present findings, share knowledge, and network with other researchers and stakeholders.
- i. Host workshops focused on specific research topics, providing hands-on training and fostering collaboration among researchers.
- j. Encourage members to publish their research in high-impact journals and create a dedicated ANGIE journal or publication series.
- k. Promote open access to research findings to ensure broad dissemination and impact.

#### 1.2 Education activities:

- a. Develop comprehensive sustainability curricula that can be adopted and adapted by member institutions.
- b. Design and offer interdisciplinary courses that integrate knowledge from different fields to provide a holistic understanding of sustainability.

- c. Create e-learning modules and online courses on various sustainability topics accessible to students and professionals globally.
- d. Host regular webinars and virtual classrooms to facilitate learning and interaction among students and educators from different clusters.
- e. Establish exchange programs for students to study and conduct research at other member institutions, fostering cross-cultural and interdisciplinary learning.
- f. Promote faculty exchanges to share expertise, collaborate on research, and enhance teaching methods across the network.
- g. Offer workshops and training programs for faculty, researchers, and industry professionals to enhance their skills and knowledge in sustainability.
- h. Focus on capacity-building initiatives to equip educators and practitioners with the tools and methods needed for effective sustainability education.
- i. Develop certification programs for various sustainability competencies, providing credentials that recognize expertise and commitment to sustainable practices.

### 1.3 Communication activities:

- a. Promote sustainability through public outreach, publications, and media engagements.
- b. Develop a communication strategy to share findings and best practices within and outside the network.
- c. Launch public awareness campaigns to educate the broader community about sustainability issues and promote sustainable behaviours.
- d. Engage with local communities through events, workshops, and partnerships to promote sustainability at the grassroots level.
- e. Publish regular newsletters and magazines featuring research highlights, success stories, and updates from the network.
- f. Utilize social media platforms to share information, engage with the public, and create a community around sustainability topics.
- g. Organize public lectures and talks by leading experts in sustainability to raise awareness and inspire action.
- h. Host an annual sustainability summit bringing together researchers, educators, policymakers, and the public to discuss progress, challenges, and future directions.
- i. Produce policy briefs and recommendations based on research findings to influence public policy and decision-making processes.
- j. Build partnerships with governments, NGOs, and industry to amplify the impact of the network's activities and advocate for sustainable policies and practices.
- k. Create a digital knowledge portal where members can share research findings, educational resources, and best practices.
- l. Utilize collaborative tools and platforms to facilitate communication and cooperation among network members.

## B. Governance and decision-making

2. Executive Board Meetings:
  - a. Quarterly meetings to review progress, discuss strategies, and make decisions.
  - b. Each founding member has one vote in decision-making processes.
3. Advisory Committee Consultations:
  - a. Regular consultations with the Advisory Committee for expert input.
4. Adaptive actions:
  - a. Establish a flexible governance structure that can adapt to the changing needs and dynamics of the network.
  - b. Use a participatory approach to decision-making, involving representatives from all clusters.
  - c. Regularly update governance policies and procedures to reflect the evolving context and challenges.
  - d. Engage a broad range of stakeholders, including students, faculty, researchers, and community members, in network activities.
  - e. Develop mechanisms for stakeholder feedback and participation in decision-making processes.
  - f. Foster strong relationships with external partners, such as government agencies, NGOs, and industry, to enhance collaboration and support.
  - g. Implement transparent reporting practices for all activities, including financial transactions, project outcomes, and governance decisions.
  - h. Ensure accountability by establishing clear roles, responsibilities, and performance expectations for all members.
  - i. Develop mechanisms for addressing grievances and resolving conflicts within the network.

## C. Growth and sustainability

5. Scalability:
  - a. Develop a comprehensive growth plan outlining short-term and long-term goals for network expansion.
  - b. Identify potential regions or countries for new clusters based on strategic importance and existing academic and societal needs.
  - c. Establish criteria for selecting new members and forming new clusters to ensure alignment with ANGIE's mission.
  - d. Initially focus on strengthening and stabilizing the founding clusters before expanding.
  - e. Encourage each cluster to gradually increase its membership by inviting relevant academic and societal organizations.
  - f. Implement pilot programs in new regions to test the feasibility and effectiveness of expanding ANGIE's model.

- g. Secure funding and resources to support the addition of new clusters and the scaling of existing ones.
- h. Allocate resources based on the strategic importance and potential impact of each cluster's activities.
- i. Develop partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations to access additional funding and resources.
- j. Create a structured process for recruiting new academic institutions, research bodies, and societal organizations.
- k. Develop marketing and outreach strategies to attract high-quality members committed to sustainability.
- l. Use a vetting process to ensure new members meet ANGIE's standards and bring value to the network.

#### 6. Sustainability:

- a. Ensure that all network activities, including research projects and events, adhere to sustainable practices.
- b. Promote the use of renewable energy, resource conservation, and waste reduction within all clusters.
- c. Develop guidelines for sustainable campus operations and encourage members to adopt them.
- d. Establish a diversified funding model that includes grants, donations, partnerships, and membership fees.
- e. Create a financial plan that outlines budgeting, fundraising goals, and financial management practices.
- f. Implement transparent financial reporting and accountability measures to build trust and credibility.
- g. Develop a robust administrative infrastructure to manage network operations efficiently.
- h. Utilize technology and digital platforms to facilitate communication, collaboration, and data sharing among clusters.
- i. Implement policies for risk management and crisis response to ensure continuity and resilience.
- j. Regularly assess the performance and impact of each cluster and the overall network.
- k. Use key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress toward strategic goals.
- l. Conduct annual reviews and stakeholder consultations to gather feedback and identify areas for improvement.
- m. Provide ongoing training and professional development opportunities for members to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- n. Organize workshops, seminars, and conferences to disseminate best practices and innovative solutions.
- o. Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement within the network.

#### 7. Evaluation and Improvement:

- a. Regular evaluations of cluster and network performance.
- b. Implement improvements based on feedback and changing needs.



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