

# A VOLUNTARY NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: RCS - PT

REDE CAMPUS SUSTENTÁVEL \_ PORTUGAL

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS NETWORK

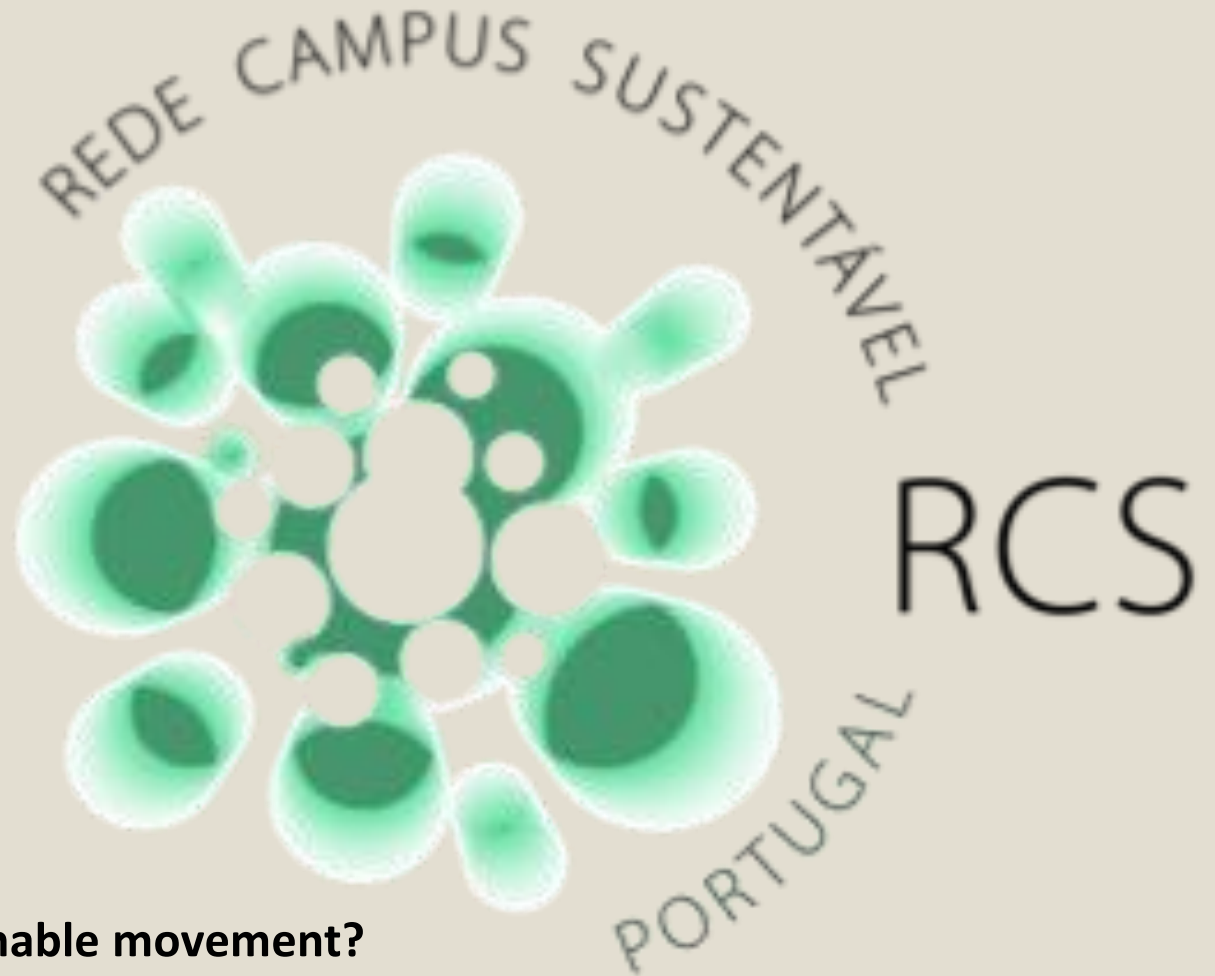


Aldina Soares  
aldina.soares@estsetubal.ips.pt



# Content

- **Sustainability Challenge**
- **Sustainable Campus**
- **RCS First Steps**
- **RCS Evolution**
- **RCS In progress and Future**
- **Conterpart Organizations**
- **Is internationalization following the sustainable movement?**



# Sustainability Challenge

Sustainability definition

by young voices



# Sustainability Challenge

The increase in the **world's population**, growing demands for **natural resources**, **global warming and climate change**, drastic reduction of **biodiversity**, **waste management** or **social inequalities** are just some of the main sustainability challenges that society is facing today.

**Institutions of higher education (HEIs)** have a significant role in promoting change to sustainable as **centers of knowledge and innovation**

Also, as centers of knowledge and innovation generators, **HEIs** have the potential to become **key drivers** and **leaders** of societal change in sustainability

# Sustainable Campus

## Movement for sustainability in HEIs

In the **1990s**, HEIs began to recognize the need to **reflect the reality** that humanity is **affecting the environment in ways which are historically unprecedented**, and which are potentially devastating for both natural ecosystems and ourselves.

Since **HEIs are an integral part of the global economy** and since they prepare most of the professionals who **develop, manage and teach** in society's public, private and non-governmental institutions, they are uniquely positioned to **influence the direction we choose to take as a society**.

As major contributors to the values, health and well being of society, higher education has a fundamental responsibility to **teach, train and do research for sustainability**.

# Sustainable Campus

What is the true meaning of sustainability in an HEI context?

“**Sustainability at Campus**” implies that the critical activities of an HEI are:

- ✓ **ecologically sound,**
- ✓ **socially just**
- ✓ **and economically viable,**
- ✓ **and that they will continue to be so for future generations.**

It's a **long-term perspectives, multi-stakeholder involvement** and **inter-/trans-disciplinary** approaches

# Sustainable Campus

**What aspects should HEIs consider for the transformation to Sustainability?**

A Sustainable Campus must consider at least **education, research, campus and operations management** and **community engagement** as main areas to include

A truly IES would emphasize these concepts in its **curriculum** and **research**, preparing students to contribute as working citizens to an environmentally healthy and equitable society.

Also, the IES apply the concepts in **is practice/operation** and **relations to communities** as an example to follow.

In practice, an HEI would function as a **sustainable community**, embodying responsible consumption of energy, water, and food, and supporting sustainable development in its local community and region.



# RCS: First steps

2018, Jun

**1º virtual seminar** about sustainable campus  
“Energy Week”, **six institutions**



**SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY WEEK**

An initiative of the  European Commission | 

**1º Encontro Virtual Campus Sustentável (EVCS)**  
junho 12, 2018

**LOCAIS**

- › Universidade de Coimbra, FCTUC |  
Departamento de Engenharia Civil (DEC-UC) / Sala SE4.2
- › Instituto Politécnico de Leiria, ESTG |  
Sala de visionamento em grupo da Biblioteca José Saramago
- › Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa, ESTeSL |  
Sala 1.3 da Escola superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa (ESTeSL-IPL)
- › Universidade de Aveiro | Sala de Traduções (no edifício da Reitoria)
- › Universidade de Lisboa, IST |  
ISTARTLAB do Pavilhão de Matemática do IST (Piso 01)
- › Universidade do Algarve, FCT UAlg – Dep.Ciências da Terra do Mar edo Ambiente | Campus de Gambelas, no edifício 1, na sala 0.10



# RCS: First steps

- **START: 2018, 27 Nov**
- **1st Sustainable Campus Meeting** was held at the **University of Coimbra**, organized by the **Energy Initiative for Sustainability** [1º Encontro Campus Sustentável](#)
- The initiative was carried out by a **transdisciplinary and interdepartmental energy group** at the University of Coimbra
- **Objective:** intended to **share knowledge, initiatives** and **success stories** and **promote cooperative actions** within the subject Sustainable Campus.

# RCS: First steps

## START

- Mission and Objectives
- Commitment letter for HEIs
- Executive comission
- Working Groups
- Site and Social Networks
- Annual conference and meeting

**2018 : Initial members**



# RCS: First steps

**Mission** – to promote sustainability issues in Portuguese universities and polytechnics and, thus, contribute to a more sustainable society.

*“The Sustainable Campus Network – Portugal (RCS-PT) is a **cooperation network between people** from national higher education institutions (HEIs) for the implementation of the principles and practice of sustainable development in the environmental, social and economic aspects.”*

# RCS: First steps

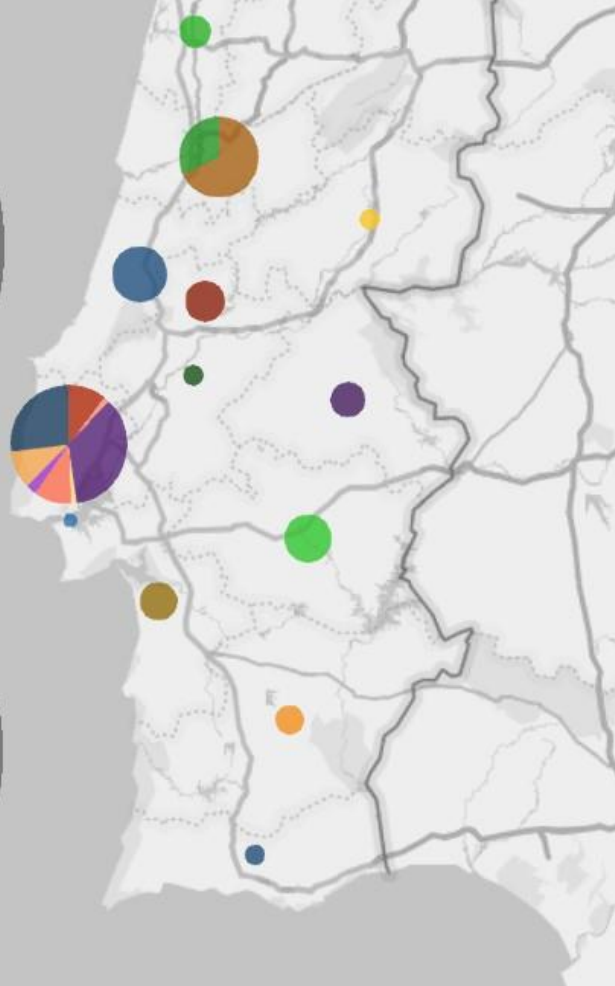
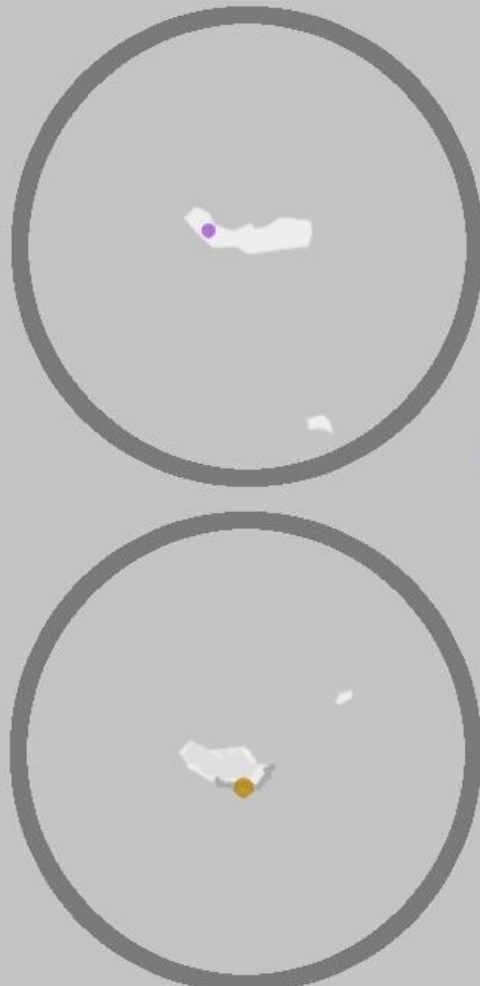
Portuguese HEIs commitment to  
Sustainable Development

2019 \_ 31 signatory institutions  
of the Commitment letter

2022 \_ 36 signatory institutions  
of the Commitment letter



- EM-CE
- IPBeja
- IPBragança
- IPCB
- IPCoimbra
- IPLeiria
- IPLisboa
- IPP
- IPPortalegre
- IPS
- IPSantarem
- IPT
- IPVC
- ISCTE
- ISEC Lisboa
- Outros
- UA
- UAb
- UAçores
- UAlg
- UC
- UCP
- UEvora
- UL
- ULusofona
- UMadeira
- UMinho
- UNL
- UP
- UTAD



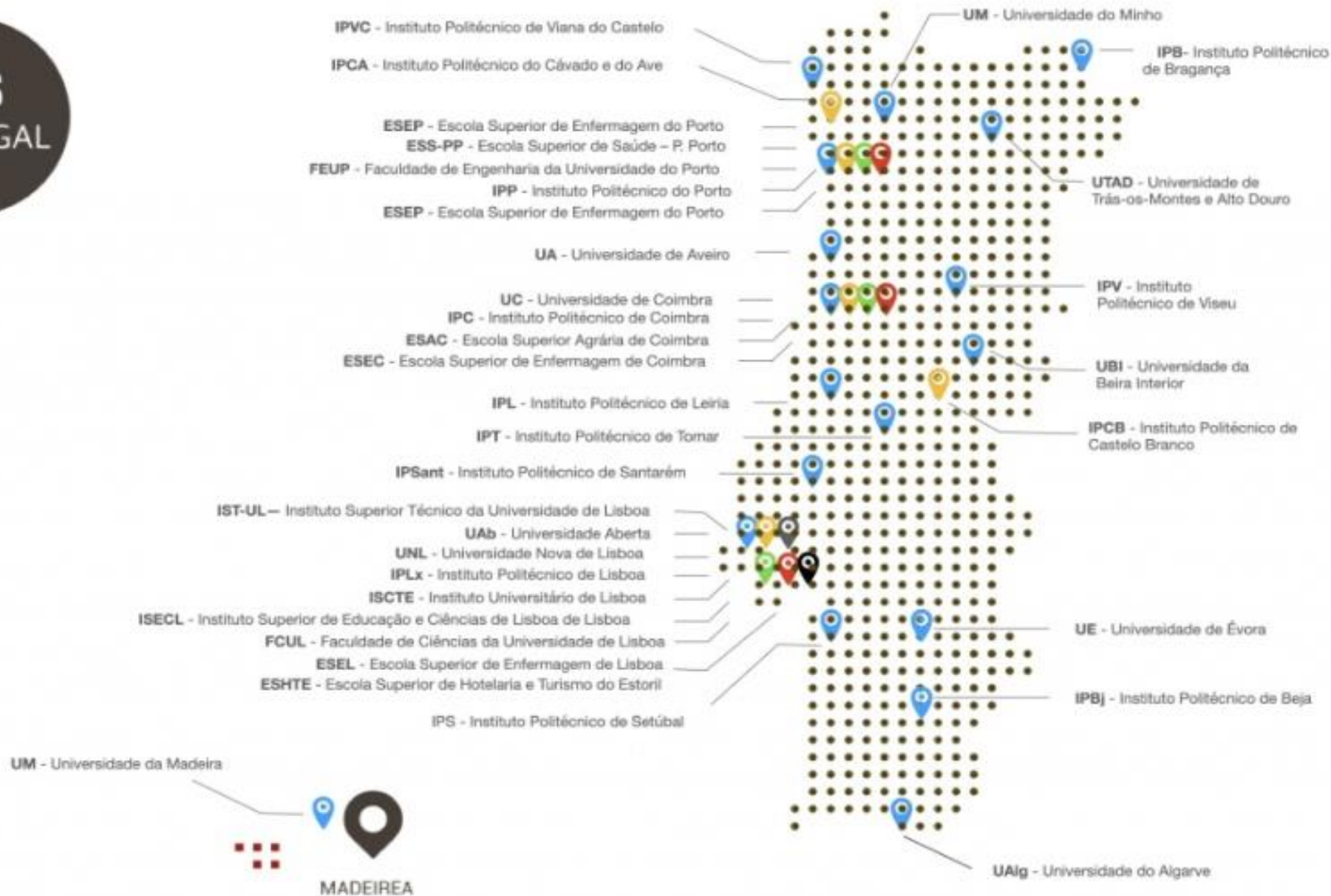
# RCS: Evolution

## RCS individual members

2019 \_ 40 individual members

2022 May\_ 240 individual members













# RCS: Evolution

## Organization of voluntary participation

### RCS Executive Committee:





- Maintain turnover and representation
- Broad, nationwide coverage
- Balance in Universities and Polytechnics
- Active in Working Groups
- 6 Members
- Voluntary assessors (5)

---


 <b>ALDINA SOARES</b> INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE SETÚBAL	 <b>ANA C. MADEIRA</b> FACULDADE DE ENGENHARIA DA UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO	 <b>ANTJE DISTERHEFT</b> UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA	 <b>JOAQUIM SANTOS</b> INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE LEIRIA
 <b>MARGARIDA RIBAU</b> UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE	 <b>MIGUEL ELIAS</b> UNIVERSIDADE DE ÉVORA	 <b>SANDRA S. CAEIRO</b> UNIVERSIDADE ABERTA	 <b>VITOR MANTEIGAS</b> INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE LISBOA

---

**COMISSÃO CONSULTIVA**  
(2021-22)

 <b>ANTÓNIO GOMES MARTINS</b> UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA	 <b>JOSÉ LUÍS SOUSA</b> INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE SETÚBAL	 <b>LUÍS NEVES</b> INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE LEIRIA	 <b>MARTA LOPES</b> INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE COIMBRA
--	---	---	---

---

  
**MANUEL BARROS**



# RCS: Evolution

## 10 Working Groups

1. Governance and Strategy
2. Education and curriculum
3. Gender Equality
4. **Production and Consumption Sustainable Food**
5. Sustainable Cities and Communities
6. Sustainable Mobility
7. Energy Efficiency
8. Water Efficiency
9. Waste Management
10. Circular Economy

# RCS: Evolution

## Sustainable campus conference CCS

- CCS19, CCS20, CCS21





**CCS2020**

### CLOSING SESSION

With the intervention of the Pro-President for Quality and Sustainability from IPT and the representative of the Executive Committee of the Rede Campus Sustentável, Portugal



**ECS2020**

### ENCONTRO CAMPUS SUSTENTÁVEL 2020

Rede Campus Sustentável Portugal Annual Meeting



**CCS2020**

### PRÉ-EVENTO

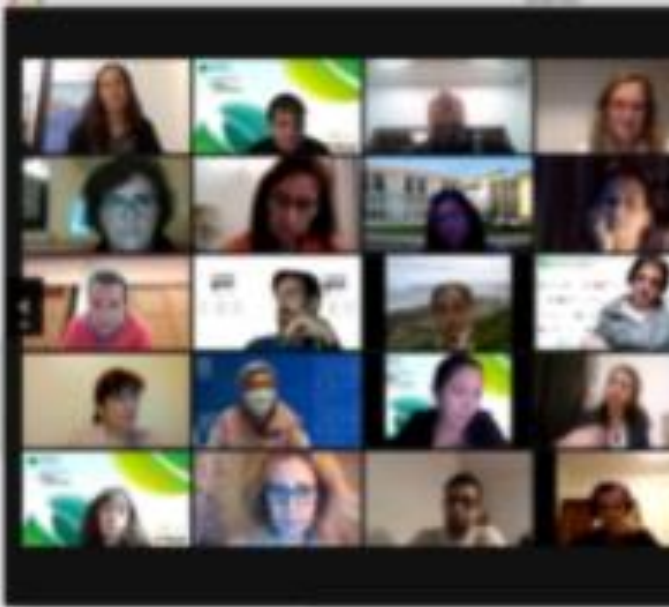
Annual Meeting of the RCS Working Groups. "Colheita de 2020"



International XI Week \_ IP Santarém\_ 6-10 Jun 2022



# RCS: Evolution 3 meetings



Obrigado aos 55  
Participantes!



## DISCUSSÃO EM PEQUENOS GRUPOS



# RCS: Evolution RCS webinars

## WEBINAR TITLES

Sustainable Cities and Communities: Examples of Good Practices for Campus and Community Interaction

Concept and application of the circular economy in the various domains of product value chains: Examples of good practices

Water saving measures in HEI facilities and their consequence on the functioning of the sanitation network

Reuse of treated wastewater

“Sustainability Teams in HEI: why & how?”

Sustainability Governance in Higher Education – what matters? Good mobility practices in HEIs

Waste management: implementation of communication circuits and strategies

Hazardous Waste Management”

Organic Waste Management

Sustainable food in HEIs in Portugal, challenges and opportunities

The state of food, in the 21st century, in HEIs. Heritage | Sustainability | Tendencies

# RCS: Evolution

## Energy webinar


“Monitoring of energy consumption  
in Higher Education Institutions:  
experiences and challenges”



**Sessão online**  
**Dia 4 de Março às 11h**



### Monitorização de consumos de energia em Instituições de Ensino Superior: Experiências e desafios



Com a participação de:


**Joaquim Santos**



**Ivo Araújo**



**Mário de Matos, Martijn Kuipers e Mário Nunes**



# RCS: Evolution Representation



Seminar in Sustainability and Climate Change 2021/2022  
Prof. Inês Cosme

CENSE center for environmental and sustainability research

NOVA GLOBAL STUDIES DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

NOVA FCSH

## Open Class

"Seeing the world with new eyes?"  
About transformative learning and sustainability  
with Antje Disterheft

25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 | 18h-20h | Online



**OBJETIVOS**  
DE DESENVOLVIMENTO  
SUSTENTÁVEL

2.º Ciclo  
**Webinars**  
out./dez. '21

14 dezembro | 11h00

## Parcerias

António Gomes Martins, Membro fundador da Rede Campus Sustentável

Marcelo Bizerril, FORGES

Nuno Maia, associado do GRACE





# RCS: Evolution

## Contest



# RCS: Evolution    Survey RCS

**In January 2021, a single survey was launched with 11 thematic sections that were developed by the respective WGs, 86 questions in total.**

**The survey was sent to the 106 HEIs in Portugal and was answered by 36**

## Survey Sections:

- A. Summary characterization of the HEI
- B. Governance and Strategy
- C. Education and curriculum
- D. Gender Equality
- E. Sustainability in Production and Consumption Food
- F. Sustainable Cities and Communities
- G. Sustainable Mobility
- H. Energy Management and Energy Efficiency
- I. Water Efficiency and Rational Use of Water
- J. Waste Management
- K. Circular Economy

# RCS: In progress and future

## Diffusion of events and good practices

- *IN PORTUGAL, MANY HEIS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING ACTIVITIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY ON THEIR CAMPUS*
- ***IF YOU KNOW A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS ACTIVITY LET US KNOW!!***
  - <http://www.redecampussustentavel.pt/>
- *Facebook*
  - <https://www.facebook.com/redecampussustentavel.pt/>
- *Linkedin*
  - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rede-campus-sustentavel-portugal/>
  - **Email: [portugal.rcs@gmail.com](mailto:portugal.rcs@gmail.com)**

# RCS: In progress and future

- **Publication the survey report:** It was a collaborative project of more than **60 people**, based only in the **voluntary dedication**.

## **ALSO:**

- Specific **mobility survey**
- Restructuring the functioning of the **Executive Committee**, more focus on **communication** and **Working Groups**
- Preparing an extraordinary work session for members in 2022 **will be here at FCUL**
- Prepare the **CCS22 conference** at IPLeria

# RCS: In progress and future Challenges

- The RCS' modus operandi is **collaboration and cooperation** among its individual members.
- Next step: **encourage active cooperation between HEIs** around common sustainability projects
- We need to **increase our influence on the practices** of Portuguese HEIs
- Transversal **training courses**
- **Observatory of sustainability** in Higher Education
- .... We are going to ask the **members their opinions**



# RCS: In progress and future



**COMUNIDADE  
CAMPUS  
SUSTENTÁVEL**

**Rede Campus Sustentável, Portugal**  
[comunidade-campus-sustentavel@googlegroups.com](mailto:comunidade-campus-sustentavel@googlegroups.com)



Our success will be judged by our ability to put forward a bold agenda that makes sustainability and the environment a cornerstone of academic practice.

# Counterpart Organizations

The Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria was founded in 2012 as an **informal network** of universities.

Alliance **strengthens sustainability issues** and provides added **motivation to its members** to integrate sustainability at their institutions and **adds support to their efforts**.

A working group of the Alliance elaborated a [handbook for the development of sustainability concepts at universities](#)



<https://nachhaltigeuniversitaeten.at/english/>

Currently 17 Austrian universities are members of the network, and they committed itself to developing a **sustainability strategy**. This aim was defined in the **performance agreements** that each university negotiates with the **Austrian ministry for science, research and economy**. These strategies must include **specific objectives and measures to promote sustainability within research, education and operations**.



# Counterpart Organizations



The Association of **University Leaders for a Sustainable Future** (ULSF) is the **Secretariat for signatories** of the Talloires Declaration (1990),

The initiative is currently followed by more than **500 universities** from around sixty countries, such as **United States, Brazil, Taiwan, Canada, Colombia, India or Australia** as representative examples.

ULSF supports Talloires signatories and promotes sustainability as a critical focus of **teaching, research, operations and outreach** in higher education through **publications, research, and assessment**.

<http://ulsf.org/>

# Counterpart Organizations

## Copernicus Alliance

was released in 1993 by the **Association of European Universities**, providing general guidelines to integrate sustainable development into the main areas of HEIs.

Nowadays, the association comprises **320 signatories** from 36 countries



COPERNICUS Alliance - European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development  
Registered NGO under German law, Registration number: VR200489, Tax number: 33/270/10066

Email: [office@copernicus-alliance.org](mailto:office@copernicus-alliance.org)

► COPERNICUS Alliance management

# Counterpart Organizations

- **International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)** comprises a total of more than 60 universities.
- The mission of the ISCN is to provide an international forum to **support higher education institutions** in the **exchange of information, ideas, and best practices** for achieving sustainable campus operations and integrating sustainability in research and teaching.



**ISCN**  
International Sustainable Campus Network

<https://international-sustainable-campus-network.org/>



**ISCN**  
International Sustainable Campus Network



<https://international-sustainable-campus-network.org/membership/>

# Counterpart Organizations

- The **Green Office (GO)** Movement stands for institutionalising sustainability in higher education by **empowering students** and **staff** as change-makers.
- ***Vision for the movement:***
  - 1.inspire Green Offices** to identify how they can become more impactful
  - 2.encourage collaboration** among Green Offices to learn from each other



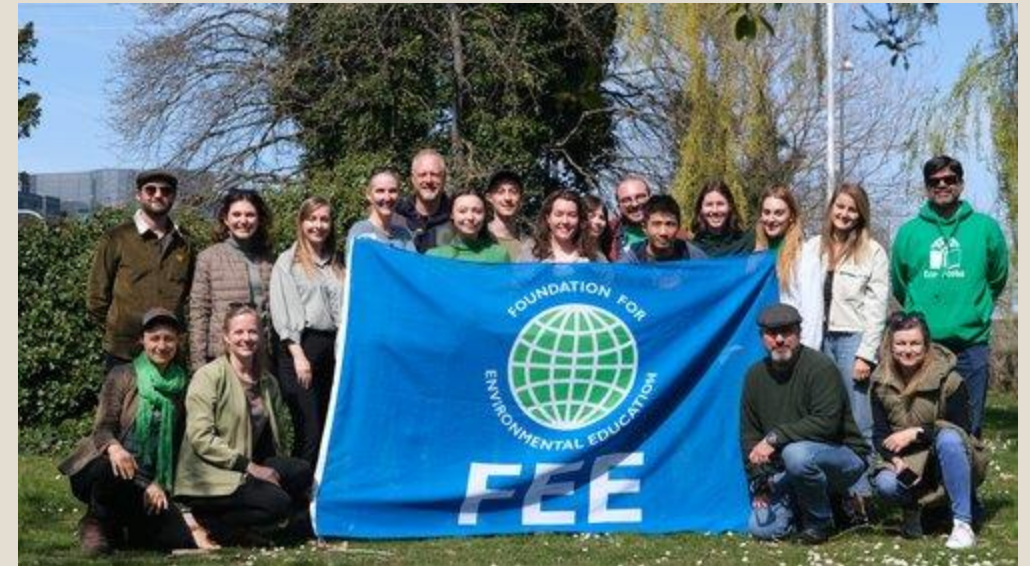
# Counterpart Organizations

*FEE*

*EcoCampus*



<https://www.ecoschools.global/>



*Foundation for Environmental Education is a  
private company limited by guarantee*



# Thank you for your attention!

[portugal.rcs@gmail.com](mailto:portugal.rcs@gmail.com)

