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The Student Union of the University of Eastern Finland The Environment Programme 2015

1. Common

In the Environment Programme of the Student Union of the University of Eastern Finland (ISYY) is being defined the environmental principals and aims of the Student Union activity and given clear instructions of measures to achieve the aims. The Student Union is committed on obeying the Environment Programme by the decision of the Representative Council. The Representative Council shall follow the implementation of the Environment Programme on the grounds of the Executive Board's reporting. The Executive Board's Responsible for the Environmental Sector shall coordinate the implementation of the Environment Programme together with environmental clubs of the campuses. The Student Union shall commit to update the Environment Programme on every term of office of the Representative Council and the Executive Board shall report annually on the implementation of the Environment Programme. In addition, the Executive Board shall update and uphold the attachments of the Environment Programme.

The most important matter on the implementation of the Programme is committing the operators to the activity. Operators are often not aware of an environment programme and act according to their old routines. Thus it is important to get the environmental-friendly activity as a part of the everyday routines. For this is also needed the training of the operators. The Student Union shall take care on informing on the Environment Programme to the staff members, Sections, clubs and members. The Environment Programme shall be taken as a part of staff member and association trainings, and the principles of the Environment Programme shall be recorded into the association guide. The Environment Programme shall be easily found for the members on the website of the Student Union. The Student Union shall take the environmental aspects into account when making purchases.

The Student Union has a significant opportunity to increase the environmental awareness amongst its members. The Student Union wants to encourage its members to take the environmental aspects into account in all their actions.

The activity of ISYY is directed by environmental-friendliness. The Student Union recognizes and acknowledges its responsibility for its environment and because of that, it tries to take the environmental aspects into account in all its actions. The Student Union wants to encourage also its members for this: information on environmental matters are provided for the members, the environment clubs operating at the campuses are being supported and

the organisations and clubs operating at the campuses are tried to commit to the Environment Programme. The Student Union wants to remind that in the environmental matters, even the small everyday choices matter.

2. Implementation of the Programme and reporting

The Executive Board members shall follow the implementation of the Environment Programme on their own sectors; the Executive Board's Responsible for the Environmental Sector also from the parts of the Executive Board and Representative Council, and the Chairpersons of the Campus Boards from the parts of the Campus Boards. The Office Secretary/Organisation Secretary shall report on the implementation of the Environment Programme from the part of an office, for the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall implement the Environment Programme in all its actions. The Executive Board shall report on the implementation of the Environment Programme for the Representative Council as follows:

1. The Representative Council, Executive Board, office and Sections once in a calendar year

On the report shall appear how each operator has obeyed the Environment Programme, how it has improved/gotten worse from the last report, how the implementation of the Environment Programme's different sectors affects in practice and what is going to be done to the possible faults.

2. Clubs once in a calendar year

The Executive Board shall report, how well the organisational field implements the Environment Programme and how have been encouraged to do that.

3. Offices

ISYY has offices at all three campuses. Staff members and elected officials are working at the offices. At the office premises of the Student Union of the University of Eastern Finland shall be operated environmental-friendly and by conserving energy. The staff members and other operators using the premises shall commit on obeying the actions below.

Choices in the ways of acting of the users of the office premises may seem small, but they affect clearly to the costs caused by the electricity and water consumption and the heating.

Coffees and teas of the Student Union offices shall be Fair Trade certificated. Environmental instructions shall be put visible at an office.

3.1 Recycling

Waste shall be recycled as follows: organic waste, mixed waste, papers, cardboards and paperboards shall be recycled, and waste-to-energy, according to how it is possible. Each work space shall have a required number of suitable rubbish bins.

Actions, with which is ensured the success of recycling waste:

- Persons using the work spaces are instructed to use the rubbish bins correctly.
- To the kitchens and coffee rooms are acquired bins for organic, cardboard, hazardous and mixed waste, and the staff and other users of the premises commit to use those.

3.2 Energy conservation

Energy shall be conserved at the offices. The most important action for energy conservation is switching the lights off, when nobody is present. Computers and their screens shall be switched off for night.

Actions, with which can be achieved energy conservations:

- Everyone switches off the lights and devices when leaving the office.
- Indoor temperature is kept low and pleasant for working. The lights are not kept on unnecessarily.
- Unnecessary printing is avoided and printing is done tight and two-sided.
- For energy conservation is being supported by following the electricity consumption.

3.3 Cleaning

- When taking care of the premises' cleanliness, unnecessary use of energy and water shall be avoided at the Student Union office. Dishwashers shall be tried to use only when full.
- Cleaner of the premises shall be instructed on recycling the waste and they shall be expected to bring the waste into the rubbish bins meant for those.
- Cleaning equipment of the Student Union offices shall be environmental-friendly.

4. Activity

The Student Union and the Student Union operators organise various activities. The Student Union shall take the environmental-friendliness into account in all its actions. The environmental-friendliness shall be taken into account also in the meetings of the operators and in the servings of the Student Union's events and meetings.

The Representative Council exercises the highest decision-making authority of the Student Union. The Executive Board is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the Representative Council, together with the Campus Boards, and prepares the matters going to the Representative Council.

4.1 Meetings

- Environmental aspects shall be taken into account in all decisions of the Student Union's different operators.

- Primarily, the agendas or attachments shall not be printed in other than special cases.
- Agendas and attachments of the meetings shall not be copied, but sent through email to the ones participating in the meeting. The matters shall be considered with the help of a video projector or computer.
- Using durable dishes shall be preferred in meeting servings.
- Electronic remote meeting devices shall be used in the meetings between the campuses.
- Possible meeting serving shall be vegetarian food.
- Coffees, teas and fruits served in the meetings shall be Fair Trade products.

4.2 Events and celebrations

Common about the events

Different operators of the Student Union organise annually various events. The environmental aspects shall be taken into account in planning and implementing the occasions and events, thus the environmental burden caused by those is being decreased.

- Using durable dishes shall be preferred.
- Invitations and posters shall be printed on papers having an ecolabel or 100 % recycling rate.
- In the informing of the celebrations and events shall be moved primarily to electronic informing.
- In the anniversaries, the guests shall be requested to prefer immaterial gifts for the Student Union.

Servings

Producing, packing and transporting food consume energy and natural resources, and cause emissions. It is the most ecological and ethically sustainable to purchase organically produced vegetarian food, from as close as possible.

By a decision of the Representative Council, ISYY is involved in the Fair Trade University commitment of the University of Eastern Finland.

- Vegetarian food shall be preferred, if there is food serving in an event.
- Coffees and teas being possibly served in an event shall be Fair Trade certificated.
- In possible alcohol servings of celebrations and events shall be purchased Fair Trade products whenever possible, and in addition, preferred local or organic products.

4.3 Transportation

Especially the Executive Board and the Representative Council travel during a year both between the campus cities and to events all around in Finland. Also the staff members

travel between the campus cities and to the events of the National Union of University Students in Finland. It requires also travelling between campuses, as the Student Union operates in three cities.

- Primarily shall be walked, gone by bike or used public transport when moving in a city.
- Need for travelling shall always be considered on case-by-case basis.
- Public transport shall be used on longer distances, other vehicles in special cases.
- Electronic meeting shall be preferred whenever possible and reasonable.
- Air transport shall be used only, if it is reasonable by the cost and the use of time.

4.4 Informing

- Informing shall happen primarily electronically (Wiikko-Ärsyke, Facebook and other equivalent channels)
- Only environmental-certificated paper shall be used in printings.

5. Purchases and investments

The Student Union commits to take for example the environmental aspects and sustainable purchases into account, when making purchases and competitive tendering. A necessity consideration shall be conducted in association of new purchases, and products being more durable and better quality, taking into account the whole lifecycle, shall be preferred. In addition shall be taken into account the effects of the production, usage and final placement, and possible environmental certificates of the manufacturer. Usable devices and furniture taken off from usage shall be sold or delivered for recycling.

5.1 Common of purchases

- A necessity consideration shall be conducted before each purchase.
- Environmental aspect shall be raised as a one of the primary selection criterion in purchases.
- Local companies shall be preferred in purchases.

5.2 Office equipment purchases

Printing paper is one of the largest items of expenditure in office equipment purchases. Usage of paper shall be reduced by moving even more to the usage of electronic systems.

- Printing papers and envelopes being purchased shall be Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificated.
- Need of printing shall be reduced by moving into even more efficient usage of electronic systems.
- Environmental-friendliness of the purchases shall be taken into account in the office equipment purchases.

5.3 Investments

In the investment of the Student Union is committed to ethical principles. Ethicality of the investments is being followed every calendar year.

- ISYY shall commit to remove its investments from the shares of companies producing fossil fuels, and from the funds and other investment instruments investing to those companies indirectly.
- The Secretary General shall report annually on the ethicality of the investments.

6. Properties of the Student Union

The Student Union of the University of Eastern Finland has properties for rent. The principles recorded to the Environment Programme shall be obeyed in the management and maintenance of the Student Union's properties.

6.1 Recycling

- In the properties shall be taken care of appropriate recycling. It shall be tried to affect on that each housing company has inclusively managed waste recycling.
- Environmental instructions, in which are being told of waste recycling and energy conservation, shall be found from each property administrated by the Student Union.

6.2 Electricity and water consumption

Energy-efficient and environmental-friendly options, which suit well for working, shall be taken when purchasing light bulbs into the properties of the Student Union. Energy-efficient devices shall be preferred. Sauna shall not be unnecessarily on. Electricity and water consumption of the Student Union's properties shall be followed and told about the development of those for the members, for example in association of an Energy Conservation Week.

When purchasing plumbing fixtures, their consumption of water shall be taken into account. Fixtures shall be maintained and inspected regularly, so the faulty fixtures will not cause unnecessary water consumption or water damage.

- Lights equipped with motion sensors shall be purchased into suitable places of the Student Union's properties in association of a renovation.
- Each operator shall commit to switch off the lights when leaving a room.

6.3 Purchases and renovating

The Student Union commits to take for example the environmental aspects and sustainable purchases into account as criteria of a choice, when making purchases and competitive tendering. A necessity consideration shall be conducted in association of new purchases,

and products being more durable and better quality, taking into account the whole lifecycle, shall be preferred. In addition shall be taken into account the effects of the production, usage and final placement, and possible environmental certificates of the manufacturer. Usable devices and furniture taken off from usage shall be sold or delivered for recycling.

- A necessity consideration shall be conducted before each purchase.
- Environmental-friendly products shall be preferred in purchases.
- Enhancing the environmental-friendliness of the properties shall always be taken into account in renovation.
- Durable hand towel dispensers shall be purchased to the rest rooms of the Student Union offices and the properties owned by the Student Union.

6.4 Cleaning

The commitment of the Student Union for the Environment Programme shall be expressed when making competitive tendering for the cleaning services. In the call for bids shall be required, that a bid involves the service provider's report of their own ecological customs.

7. Stakeholders

The Student Union cooperates in various ways with many different stakeholders and cooperation parties. The Student Union affects in its actions on the cooperation parties, so that they would also take the environmental aspect into account in their activity.

7.1 University

The Student Union shall be actively involved in changing the activity of the University more environmental-friendly. The Student Union shall be actively involved in the Fair Trade University activity. The University exercises significant financial authority through its investment capital. In accordance with its Strategy, the University tries to respond with its activity to the challenge brought by the environmental change. The Student Union pressurises the University to commit on removing its investments from the fossil fuel industry.

- The environmental-friendliness shall be taken into account even better in the shared events of the University and the Student Union (semester opening).
- The Student Union shall pressurise the University to remove its investments from the fossil fuel industry.
- The Student Union shall operate as the challenger of the University on enhancing the environmental-friendliness.

7.2 Student organisations

The student organisations organise activity for the students of the University in various ways and they are an important link between the students and the Student Union. The Student

Union supports the student organisations with general, action, printing and premises grants. The environmental-friendliness of the projects shall be taken into account when giving grants.

Informing about the Environment Programme shall be taken as its own section to the association training. By informing, the associations are tried to take the environmental aspects into account voluntarily. Own section about the Environment Programme shall be written into the association guide. The ecolabel granted by Student Union for the student organisations makes the activity of an environmental-friendly student organisation known also for other organisations. The Executive Board shall define the criteria for granting the ecolabel. The label shall not be compulsory to grant annually, in case enough environmental-friendly student organisation is not found.

- Taking the environmental-friendliness into account shall be taken as one of the grant criterion.
- Criteria of the ecolabel being granted for the student organisations shall be created and environmental-friendly student organisations shall be awarded.
- Student organisation operators shall be trained to take the environment into account in their activity.

7.3 Campus cities

ISYY operates in three campus cities. The Student Union influences actively on enhancing the public transport and the pedestrian and bicycle traffic of the campus cities. The Student Union regards the Carbon Neutral Joensuu project positive and participates in it, according to how it is possible. The Student Union influences actively on getting all campus cities as the Fair Trade Towns.

- Enhancing the public transport shall be kept on view as one of the main subjects of city and municipal elections influencing.
- Kuopio and Savonlinna shall also be challenged for the Fair Trade Towns.
- Also the environmental-friendliness shall be taken into account in student housing, in addition with the accessibility and reasonable pricing.
- ISYY shall be involved in increasing cycling in the campus cities.

7.4 Other stakeholders and cooperation parties

The Student Union cooperates with many operators. The Student Union shall take the environmental-friendliness into account in all its actions with all different cooperation parties. The Student Union shall inform its cooperation partners about its Environment Programme and tries to get also the cooperation parties to take the environmental aspect into account in their activity.