

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Environmental Impact Report shows that the Environmental Protocol that has been developed and established in the framework of Jump To Job! Project (J2J Project) is being taken into consideration throughout the J2J Project. All project partners agreed to act consciously to pay attention to all the aspects of the Protocol (waste reduction, reuse and recycling, energy efficiency, mobility, reduce of food waste, travelling, venues for training, conference, avoidance of plastic cutlery, digitalised material and documentation etc.).

The information gathered in this report reflects general summaries of the project partners' practical experiences with regard to the Environmental Protocol.

The key point of the Environmental Protocol is that it keeps all involved focused and even more sensible for the environmental issues when planning different project activities. It also gives each project partner a different and fresh perspective to Environmental Protocols that they have endorsed and are implementing in their own organisation.

As already indicated the impact of the Environmental Impact Protocol is visible in all the activities that are undertaken in the context of the J2J Project. This can be illustrated with the following examples:

- 1) Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the regular project partner meetings were conducted online by using the MS Teams programme as software.
- 2) Mainly digital documents and promotional materials have been developed and were used for dissemination instead of paper material.
- 3) Both trainings courses organised in Spain and Greece were conceptualised and organised with defined care and attention paid to the Environmental Protocol.

The only activity that could not be done through online because of its nature (interactive exercises, group work etc.) were the training courses with trainers, job coaches and the peer mentors. Both project partners that hosted the trainings (Fundación INTRAS in Valladolid, Spain, and Theotokos Foundation in Ilion, Greece) took into consideration all elements of Environmental Protocol including:

- 1) Choice of location/venue of the training and also for the accommodation.
- 2) Only minimal use of individual transportation.
- 3) Reduction of food waste and avoidance of plastic cutlery, plastic bags and bottles.
- 4) Minimal use of paper material etc.

The same holds for EPR when organising the Final Dissemination Event on 23 June 2022 in Brussels at Mundo Madou and in cooperation with Café Tandem.

When planning the travel arrangements, all project partners paid attention to the fact that the participants travelled collectively. Planes were taken when no other option was available as to the justifiable travel time. When staying in Valladolid and Ilion for the training courses the participants tried to avoid to the maximum the use of individual transportation, and rather opted for public transport (bus, metro). In both cases this was done to improve the air quality.

The way both trainings were organised – and the same applies with regard to the Final Dissemination Event organised by EPR in Brussels –, the elements of good practices that are easy to implement into practice were recognised and applied:

Fundación INTRAS, Valladolid, Spain

- 1) Fundación INTRAS decided to host the training at the same place that the participants of the training were staying. The hotel was located only 10 minutes of walking distance from the train station, so there was no need to use public transportation. Because the hotel was also located in the city centre, the participants could easily reach any point in the city by walking (for example to go to the chosen restaurants for dinner).
- 2) Regarding lunches which were prepared at the hotel, each participant could choose the menu (one dish or two dishes depending on the amount of food they usually have for lunch) which helped to reduce food waste.
- 3) Beverages (coffee, water, tea) were ordered directly in the cafeteria of the hotel – the use of plastic cutlery and cups was thus avoided.
- 4) The room chosen for the training had natural light. There was thus no need to turn the lights on during the training sessions.
- 5) In terms of paper waste, neither the agenda nor the training materials were printed for the training meeting since they had been sent by email prior to the training to all participants.
- 6) This experience with the Environmental Protocol hyped the already present awareness of the project partners in regard to environment issues. Foundation INTRAS thus decided to use the same approach in organising different events, workshops or trainings in the future.

Theotokos Foundation, Ilion, Greece: Regarding the hosting of the training in Greece, Theotokos Foundation decided to follow the “3 R’s: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” in line with the Environmental Protocol. This can again be well illustrated by the following points:

- 1) They preferred not to use paper materials, unless it was necessary.
- 2) Digital material and digital technology were used during the training and meeting.
- 3) Since the lunch was served every day in the canteen of the hosting organisation, only the quantity of food necessary was prepared to avoid food waste. All remaining food was given to needy families.
- 4) For lunch, reusable plates and cutlery was used.
- 5) All plastics were recycled.
- 6) Due to the location of the Theotokos Foundation in Ilion compared to the hotel – namely at the outskirts of Athens – a combination of public transport was used (first metro in walking distance, then transportation of the whole group with the Foundation Theotokos bus, and minimal taxi use – and then putting the maximum number of group members in a taxi). Since the location of the accommodation for the participants of the training was in the city centre it was easily approachable by public transport from Athens airport and moving in the city was manageable by foot or public transport.
- 7) The most challenging thing for employees of the Foundation Theotokos is the avoidance of individual car use in order to get to the Foundations’ location. Pursuing the aim to improve the air quality, for years now already they use cars in turns, serving each other – instead of 3 cars they use 1 car.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were confronted and challenged with the question what we can do to minimise the long-lasting negative consequences with regard to the use facial masks and plastic tests kits for COVID-19 etc. in the course of the J2J Project, an item which had not yet covered by the Environmental Protocol which was completed before February/March 2020.

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