



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Necessary and urgent, the transition and transformative action to a post-carbon society and a sustainable cultural sector needs to be a focus for FACE's work. FACE engaged in the Erasmus+ funded project Shift-Shared Initiatives for Training Project (2019-2021) to co-create online manuals and guidelines on Climate Change (in relation to the other themes Cultural Leadership, Inclusion, and Gender & Power-relations related to three of the UN Sustainable Development Goals). This collective reflection and production aimed to take into account the responsibility of European networks on these subjects, the recognition of the prescriptive role of arts and culture, as well as the analysis of risks connected to the future evolutions of international mobility (increased transport costs, possible eco-conditioning of funding, geo-political situation, etc.)

With this sustainability policy, FACE recognises and addresses the environmental impacts associated with operating an international cultural network. Its ambition is to commit to systematically reduce the environmental and climate impacts of its organisation and activities and to improve its resilience in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss and over-exploitation of resources, working on both mitigation and adaptation, as well as strengthening and accelerating our collective efforts.

In line with the latest assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and scientific guidance, and within the framework of the European Green Deal and the SDGs, FACE engages in concrete commitments and pathway to 2030, in order to meet and contribute to climate targets and to respond to the environmental and climate crises in the sphere of its action and influence.

FACE reaffirms its engagement to explore the cultural dimensions of climate change and to take action with positive impact, creativity and resilience, including with tools for change to measure and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate its low-carbon transition.

This environmental policy builds on the outcomes and legacy of the SHIFT ERASMUS+ project, and particularly the SHIFT eco-guidelines for networks¹.

Scope & Principles

FACE's work aligns with local, national, European and global commitments and connects to organisations and networks working towards similar objectives, bearing in mind the complexity of the current challenges, the necessity to contextualise the reflections and proposed solutions and the intersectionality of challenges at a global level.

FACE, while covering the various contexts and specificities of its members, made of heterogeneous structures (types, size...) and contexts (geographical, financial, infrastructural...), proposes to promote the logic of cooperation within the network and beyond and to seek the path to ambitious and realistic environmental commitments capable of preserving the essence of our professions for a network whose core is mobility, the international circulation of artists and culture professionals and turned towards balanced and reciprocal international exchange.

¹ <https://shift-culture.eu/achieve-environmental-sustainability-in-your-work/>



Therefore, the scope of this environmental policy covers all major areas of the organisation's environmental impact, and by extension the one of its over 65 members, from national funders, to other networks and info points, to centres for creation, joined by a small number of dedicated individual members.

It refers specifically to the European Parliament's recommendations in September 2020 to encourage to choose the least polluting means of transport, but at the same time not to stigmatise, discriminate against or exclude participants from remoted or infrastructurally weaker contexts². The international circulation of artists, culture professionals and ideas cannot be a simple variable of local and international climate policies.

In this regard, this FACE sustainability policy is a way to (re)contextualise the conversation on cross-border artistic mobility and environmental sustainability, unfolding the interdependencies between privileged (Western) Europe and other territories, investigating local practical sustainable solutions (e.g. on time, resources, well-being, local networks management) and listening to a variety of voices from the Global South.

FACE organises or participates, through the attendance of the staff and/or board members to on-site, hybrid or online events every year. Therefore, as for most of the European organisations, emissions resulting from travel (particularly flying) are the main contributors to the size of the network carbon footprint and its environmental impact.

FACE does not own or rent a building. Its employees work remotely. Therefore, certain categories of impacts like energy efficiency of buildings, water savings and sustainable actions for office space are not taken into consideration in FACE's reduction measures and commitments.

Contributing to offsetting one's carbon footprint means financing carbon reduction or sequestration projects up to one's own residual carbon footprint. The terms "compensation", "off-setting" and "neutrality" assume that a certain and immediate emission is compensated by a presumed, and often future, absorption. Moreover, they suggest that the climate problem can be solved by a simple accounting entry and therefore do not encourage long-term commitment. Even if the contribution is very important for the climate, the priority is to reduce one's own emissions.

FACE believes that in order to respond to the urgency of environmental sustainability and climate change, we need to look beyond carbon offsetting and at more urgent reduction and adaptation actions while adopting a contextualised approach.

FACE recognises that environmental sustainability action overlaps with equity and diversity issues. If this sustainability policy conflicts with our EDI Policy, the related policies will override it.

² The European Parliament released a text in September 2020 with effective measures to 'green' the Erasmus+, Creative Europe, and European Solidarity Corps programmes: Article 13: The European Parliament 'Urges the Commission to encourage and enable participants to choose the least polluting means of transport, such as the train, but at the same time not to stigmatise, discriminate against or exclude participants for whom air travel is the only viable option; calls for special attention to be paid to the outermost regions and to rural and remote areas in this regard'.
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0211_EN.pdf



Definitions and Values

FACE refers to:

- **Climate change** as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, Glossary in Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5° C):

“A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.”

- **Cultural Mobility and Green Mobility** as defined by the On the Move network that FACE is member of:

“Mobility is a central component of the professional trajectory of artists and culture professionals. Involving a temporary cross-border movement, often for educational, capacity-building, networking, or working purposes, it may have tangible or intangible outputs in the short term, and/or be part of a long-term professional development process. Mobility is a conscious process, and those involved in it, whether by directly engaging in it or by supporting it, should take into consideration its cultural, social, political, environmental, ethical and economic implications³.”

“Green mobility is understood in a holistic way. It not only considers the means of transportation used by artists and culture professionals but also the contexts in which artists and culture professionals are evolving, the reasons behind their mobility, and the impacts of what is done at their destination and upon return to their local context.

Green mobility is a collective responsibility, involving both those who benefit from mobility and those who financially support it, and must take into account the social, political, economic, infrastructural, environmental and ethical dimensions that frame it.”

Finally, FACE refers to the definitions stated in the SHIFT eco-guidelines for networks⁴.

Commitments

Considering the urgent need for a systemic and intersectional approach to environmental issues and climate change, taking into account the complexity of challenges and diverse specificities and contexts of its members, FACE commits to working collectively towards common goals by:

- Adhering to the SHIFT eco-guidelines and recognising the environmental impacts and ecological footprint associated with operating a European cultural network with an international dimension;
- Advocating at various levels of competencies to act on the issue while taking into consideration the diversity of contexts involved into international mobility.

FACE commits to communicate, engage and federate and act as an exemplary reference to its members, other networks and the sector at large.

³ <https://on-the-move.org/about/cultural-mobility>. The definition of ‘green mobility’ was specifically devised part of FACE environmental sustainability.

⁴ <https://shift-culture.eu/achieve-environmental-sustainability-in-your-work/shift-eco-guidelines-for-networks/>



Considering the impact of communication, including digital technology which is a major player in greenhouse gas emissions, resource depletion and biodiversity loss, FACE commits to a sustainable communication & IT approach by:

- A paperless approach for the guides and resources produced by FACE,
- A systematic but adapted mention not to print in the produced publications,
- Extending the life of electronic devices,
- Promoting low-impact and sustainable digital practices.

Considering the fast-moving evolution on environmental sustainability relating to culture, FACE commits to continued improvement by:

- Training its staff and board members,
- Reflecting on an adaptation and risk management plan.

Considering current and future geopolitical developments, sanitary crises and regulatory changes that could weaken international mobility, FACE commits to a proactive approach, anticipating these developments and risks to build its resilience.

Annex

- SHIFT Templates⁵

*Policy approved on 27 May 2025,
Elodie Peltier, President*

⁵ <https://shift-culture.eu/achieve-environmental-sustainability-in-your-work/shift-eco-guidelines-for-networks/>