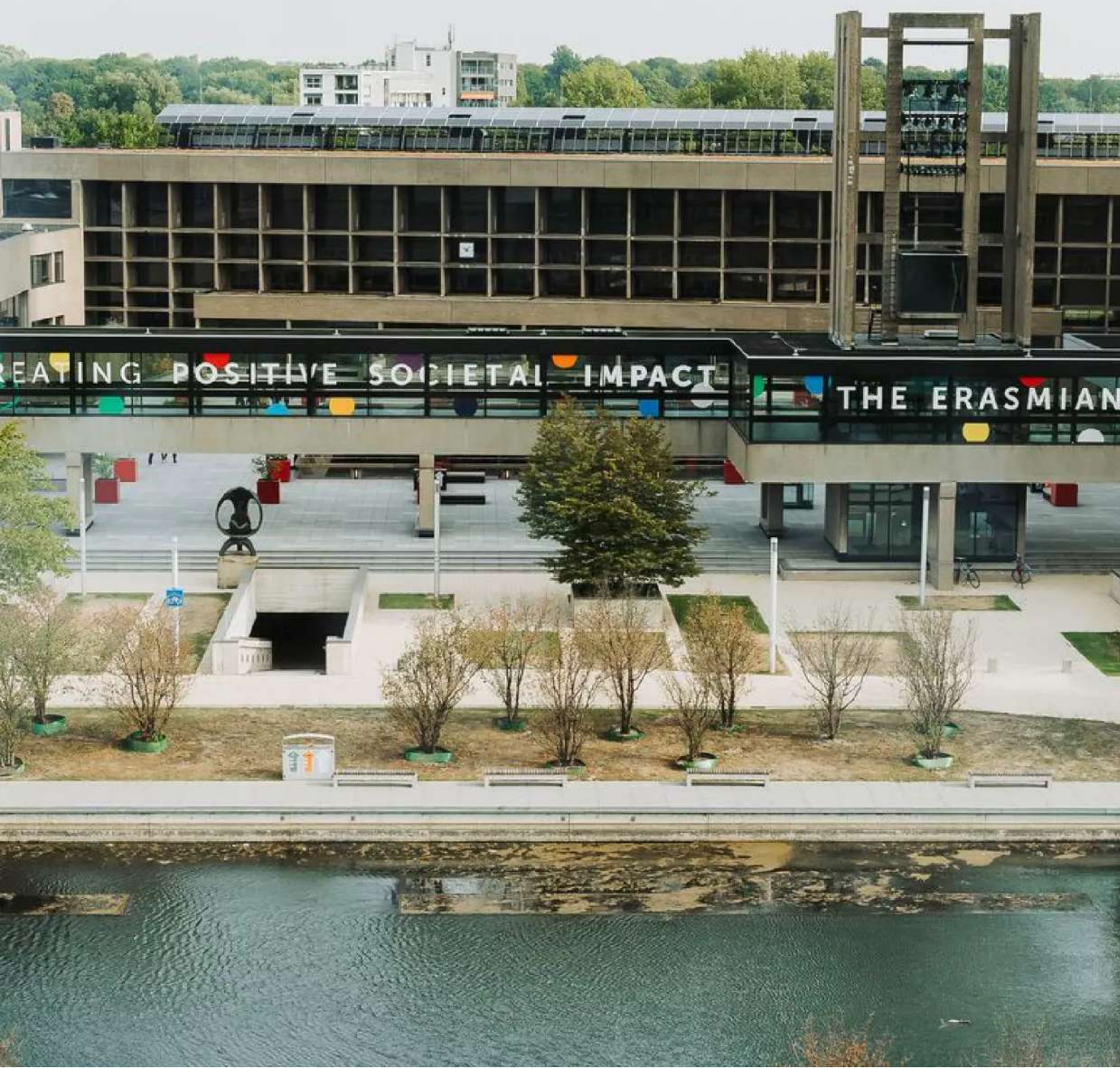


**Sustainability report 2023**  
Erasmus University Rotterdam



# Management summary



## 1. Introduction

The Executive Board published the [Climate and Ecological Emergency](#) declaration in February 2023.

Several pledges have already materialized in 2023, while others are still being planned. One successful project following the declaration was the series of 12 [EUR Sustainability Dialogues](#) organised in 2023 and 2024, which saw over 550 students and employees engaging in a collective effort to generate [input](#) for the coming Strategy 2025-2030, where sustainability will remain one of the top priorities. Another noticeable achievement in 2023 was the publication of the results of the first version of the [Industry Engagement Monitor](#) that maps EUR's relationship with companies.



## 3. Research

Sustainability research at EUR is a collective effort by researchers from every faculty and discipline. In 2023, the [Sustainability Monitor](#) was launched to provide insight into how our research relates to the SDGs.

The number and range of inter- and transdisciplinary research initiatives at EUR are increasing. This year, researchers from the DIT platform produced a [report](#) exploring governance of transdisciplinary sustainability research programmes. Additionally, two researchers from the Erasmus School of Law (ESL) published a report that contributed to the [banning of floating degassing](#).



## 2. Education

Our aim is to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to address sustainability challenges in their future careers. Currently, EUR boasts [106 degree and non-degree programmes focused on sustainability](#). In addition to these programmes, students and staff could participate in a wide range of workshops and initiatives, such as the Climate & Ecological Literacy to Action workshop, summer school by DIT and Transition Academy by DRIFT.





## 4. Operations

As part of our efforts towards an eco-positive university by 2030, we have implemented numerous initiatives to reduce our environmental footprint. For example, as of 1 July 2023, all catering orders are vegetarian because of [a modified catering policy for employees](#). Furthermore, in November 2023, [prices for vegan meals were permanently reduced by approximately 25 percent](#). As part of the “bring your own cup” initiative, as of January 2024, [disposable cups are no longer available on campus](#). In addition, [we revised the sustainable mobility scheme for employees](#), extending the public transport and bike schemes while also increasing parking fees.

## 5. Carbon Footprint

In line with EUR's sustainability ambitions, various carbon-reducing actions and initiatives have been implemented in last years. To better measure their impact, the Real Estate & Facility department started reporting on EUR's annual carbon footprint in 2011. Each year, we strive to enhance the quality of these reports and provide the best possible picture of EUR's impact on the natural environment. This year, our carbon footprint calculations for 2022 and 2023 are complied with the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.



## 6. Diversity and Inclusion

Integrating sustainability into our educational programmes, research and operations must happen in a fair and equitable way. The EUR IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access) centre plays a significant role in our plans to achieve to inclusive education, social safety and equitable opportunities for all our students and staff. The IDEA centre team published their first [annual report](#) about their achievements of 2023.

## 7. Impact and Engagement

In 2023, our engagement initiatives included a series of [Sustainability Dialogues](#), the Sustainability Award for Economic Faculty Association Rotterdam (EFR), the second edition of the [DIT day](#) and the Erasmus Sustainability Days organised by the [Erasmus Sustainability Hub](#). Additionally, student-led study associations across campus worked on reducing their own emissions through changes in mobility and food choices.



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## 01 From words to actions

### Sustainability as part of Strategy 2024



## Introduction

The Sustainability Progress Report always causes mixed feelings: we present highlights and our achievements, while we also acknowledge that there are still many obstacles and challenges on our way to a just and sustainable world. Is the glass half full, or rather half empty? Do we make enough progress, or is it going too slowly? In this report, we try to strike the balance between being proud of our achievements and acknowledging the challenge of the changes that still lie ahead. The reader may judge to which side the balance tips. We simply do our best to make change happen and engage the members of our community to join us in our transformation journey.

Responding to internal and external pressure, the Executive Board published the [Climate and Ecological Emergency](#) declaration in February 2023, which upgraded EUR's sustainability ambitions. Several pledges have already materialised in 2023, others are still to be planned.

” The declaration not only shows that we are serious about the environment, but also helps us to speed up our sustainability agenda.



**Ellen van Schoten**  
Vice-president of the Executive Board

## Co-creating a sustainability strategy together

The 12 [EUR Sustainability Dialogues](#) organised in 2023 and 2024, with over 550 students and employees engaging in a collective effort to generate input for the coming Strategy 2025–2030, were important in ensuring that sustainability will remain one of the top priorities. We discussed controversial topics such as cooperation with the fossil fuel industry and the deep transformation of our teaching and research programmes. We asked our community: how will we challenge the linear, profit-driven economic models we have been teaching? Will our teaching and research contribute to a just and sustainable socio-economic system in which values like community and commonality are prioritised?



Figure 1. Sustainability Dialogues poster, 2023–2024

The outcomes of the dialogues are currently being assessed by the Executive Board and the deans to determine how these will become part of our sustainability strategy in the coming years.

Another remarkable outcome in 2023 was the publication of the results of the first version of the [Industry Engagement Monitor](#) that maps EUR's relationship with companies. The first results indicate that we have few direct relationships with the fossil fuel industry, but also that our 'green' portfolio is rather small. The monitor will be improved further into a robust measurement tool.

” There is clearly a need for guidelines that regulate our relationships with the fossil fuel industry.



**Derk Loorbach**

**DIT academic lead; member of the Sustainability Steering Group**

Strategic progress has been made on operational topics such as [food](#), [commuting](#) and [procurement](#) – a clear sign that sustainability is increasingly important when we make day-to-day decisions and that EUR is offering incentives to facilitate sustainable choices.

We kindly invite you to read for yourself and see how sustainability takes shape at EUR.

” Collaborating with various departments to develop new policies and measures enhances our operations by fostering ownership and integrating sustainability into daily practices.



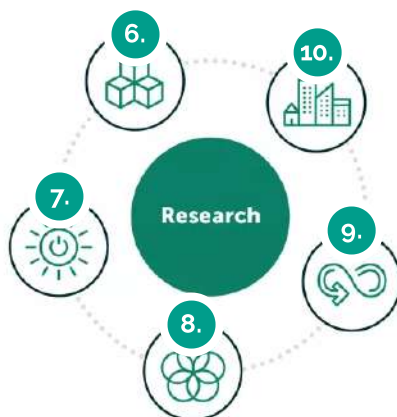
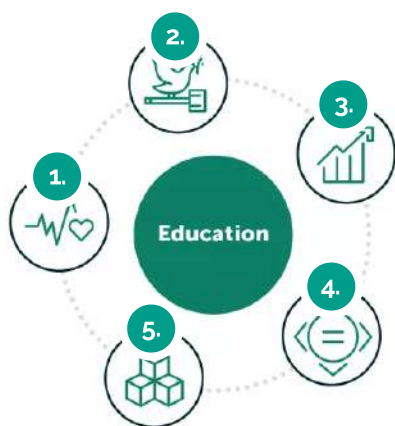
**Mariecke van der Glas**

**EUR Sustainability programme manager**

## Sustainable Development Goals

The concept of sustainability is used in a broad sense, according to [the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) of the United Nations](#). EUR is working hard to make these goals an integral part of our core business: teaching and research, as well as part of our operations. Extensive information on how our research and teaching relate to the SDGs can be found in our [SDG mapper](#).

*Figure 1.1 Top 5 SDGs to which our research, education and operations relate the most.*



**1. SDG 3**

*Good Health and Well-being*

**2. SDG 16**

*Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*

**3. SDG 8**

*Decent Work and Economic Growth*

**4. SDG 10**

*Reduced Inequalities*

**5. SDG 9**

*Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*

**6. SDG 9**

*Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*

**7. SDG 7**

*Affordable and Clean Energy*

**8. SDG 17**

*Partnerships for the Goals*

**9. SDG 12**

*Responsible Consumption and Production*

**10. SDG 11**

*Sustainable Cities and Communities*

**11. SDG 16**

*Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*

**12. SDG 1**

*No Poverty*

**13. SDG 10**

*Reduced Inequalities*

**14. SDG 2**

*Zero Hunger*

**15. SDG 3**

*Good Health and Well-being*

## 02 Education for sustainability

Mainstreaming, literacy and accessibility



## Introduction

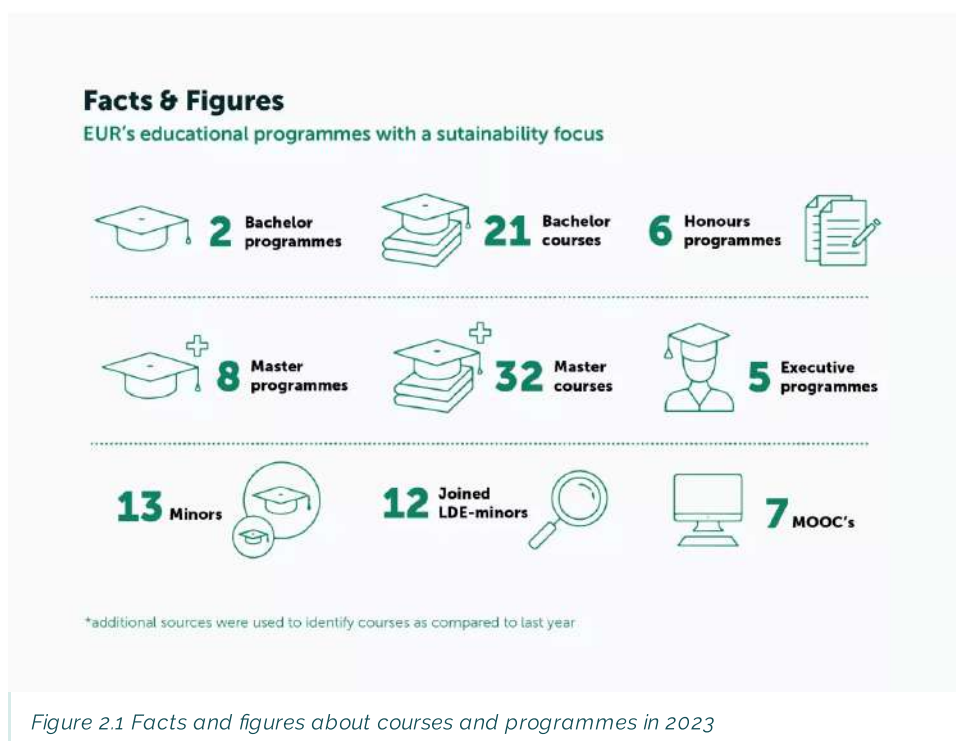
Education is at the core of our university and is arguably the most direct pathway to creating a positive social impact towards a just and sustainable world. Integrating sustainability into our educational framework means teaching students to understand and appreciate the interconnectedness of economic, social and environmental factors. Our aim is to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to address sustainability challenges in their future careers. Achieving this goal also requires engaging and educating our lecturers. As we aspire to contribute to addressing sustainability challenges, we must transform the way we teach and learn.

During the EUR Sustainability Dialogues in 2023, [it became clear that embedding sustainability in all existing courses and programmes](#) is a priority. The participants from the EUR community want to see transformative education that enables our students to work effectively in a disruptively changing society. This is why our chosen goals are to strengthen the mainstreaming, literacy and accessibility of sustainability education.

## Facts and figures

### Goal: offer a wide range of minors, majors and specialisations with a sustainability focus

EUR currently boasts 106 degree and non-degree programmes related to sustainability, including honours programmes, professional programmes and open online courses (MOOCs). Our website provides an [overview of sustainability-related courses and programmes](#). Our method for identifying sustainability-related courses and programmes was updated this year, which partly explains the significant increase in the number of courses and programmes compared to last year.



## Highlights and achievements

The new [master programme in Societal Transitions](#), co-produced by the DIT platform, the Erasmus School of Philosophy (ESPhil) and DRIFT, welcomed its first cohort of students in 2023. Through this programme, we aim to teach students to interpret, develop and facilitate sustainability transitions. Students learn about interdisciplinary knowledge, drawing upon the expertise of several of EUR's leading schools.

[Two new courses were added to the Research Master in Philosophy and Economics at the Erasmus School of Philosophy \(ESPhil\)](#). Now students can choose two more specialist courses: Climate Change and the Demands of Justice, and The Philosophy and Economics of Climate Change.

Students who choose the new [minor Action Education for Social Change & Sustainability](#) can learn theoretical and practical tools to make teaching transformative and sustainable. EUR students rated the first edition as one of the highest rated minors in the 2023–2024 academic year.

The education innovation programme [Impact at the Core](#) develops impact-driven education initiatives to teach students how to address social and environmental challenges effectively. The objective is to provide every student of every EUR programme with impact-driven education opportunities, [as part of which they work with external stakeholders to address sustainability issues](#). In addition, [Impact at the Core hosted an Impact Education Dialogue with lecturers, researchers, students and social partners](#) to discuss how we prepare students for their role in the energy transition.



The [Erasmus Hub! Rotterdam](#) was officially opened in 2023. It is a new place for active and creative teaching with a focus on impact-driven education, working on solutions for sustainability-related issues and engagement with Rotterdam. The Hub! is an innovation programme founded by Impact at the Core.

” We can make an enormous impact through teaching, as our students learn how to deal with social and sustainability challenges.



**Linda de Vreede**

**Team Lead and Policy Officer “Impact at the Core”**

The DIT platform organised a Summer School in 2023 for PhD students and academics titled [Design and Transitions: Emerging Theories and Practices at the Intersection](#). The aim of the Summer School was to help members of the academic community unlock the potential of research to advance fair sustainability transitions.

The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) hosted a workshop on [the impact of climate change on artisanal fisheries](#) and their experiences with technology and knowledge.

In terms of practicing sustainability in teaching, a recent graduate, Aleksander Odziemkowski, [won the Erasmus Thesis Awards 2023 for his master thesis about measuring sustainability](#): *Seeing the forest, not just the trees: semantic analysis of 'greenium' in corporate green bonds*. He completed the MSc in Business Analytics & Management programme at the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM) in 2023.

For students who want to broaden their understanding of sustainability, the Erasmus Honours Academy offers three interdisciplinary honours programmes. In 2023, bachelor students could apply for the [Grand Challenges programme](#), as part of which students organise learning experiences on urban regeneration, or for the [Leiden-Delft-Erasmus \(LDE\) Sustainability programme](#), which challenges students to assist social partners in analysing sustainability issues and solutions. Dutch master students were able to join [the new Inclusive Energy Transition programme](#), which focuses on ensuring all voices are heard regarding sustainability challenges. Due to the success of the Dutch track of the Inclusive Energy Transition programme, an English track is now being developed to begin in 2024–2025.



Through its [Redefining the Classroom](#) project, ErasmusX facilitates the co-creation of knowledge with partners from different educational disciplines, levels and cultural backgrounds and with social partners from Rotterdam. From its location in the HefHouse, it aims for learning in a real-world setting to bridge the gap between academia and the vibrant youth of south Rotterdam.

## Goal: make sure every student has a basic level of sustainability literacy

Sustainability literacy is the understanding of root causes of persistent sustainability challenges and the need for diverse, critical, inclusive and explorative ways to engage with social change. Achieving high levels of sustainability literacy among students, professors and employees goes hand in hand with mainstreaming sustainability teaching.

### Highlights and achievements

This year, an [immersion workshop series on Climate & Ecological Literacy to Action](#) was organised for employees and students. This workshop series provided insights and high-impact approaches to carbon emission reductions, biodiversity support and ecosystem harmonisation. The workshop had five two-hour sessions and 110 registered participants. Workshops like these are essential to understanding what and how we should teach to achieve sustainability literacy.

Improving the sustainability literacy of students also means our lecturers must adapt their teaching practices. Fourteen lecturers participated in a [Transformative Education Learning Programme](#). The intention of this programme was twofold: (1) to unite lecturers around the central question of how to contribute to the transformation of society through transformative education, and (2) to create a space for inner development needed to renew the old system. It was a process-oriented intervention within the organisation and a stepping stone to catalyse transformation at our university together with EUR lecturers.

Professional employees at EUR can sign up for the [Transition Academy organised by DRIFT](#). More than 600 professionals, including EUR employees, have already received post-academic transition teaching through the course. Graduates of the Transition Academy return to their (professional) setting with the capacity to think and act for radical change in their own (professional) environment, accelerating justice and sustainability transitions.

” There's no future for teaching if we teach as if tomorrow will be like yesterday. Everything will change: it's an exciting opportunity to rise to this challenge.



**Dr Ginie Servant-Miklos**  
Assistant Professor at ESSBS

## **Goal: mainstreaming – embed the concepts of sustainability and transformation in our entire portfolio of academic disciplines**

Mainstreaming sustainability teaching means embedding the concepts of sustainability and transformation in our entire portfolio of academic disciplines. Students should inevitably encounter these concepts in their programmes without having to *choose* to learn about sustainability.

### **Highlights and achievements**

EUR offers a wide range of courses and programmes related to sustainability (see the overview above). We hope to see the number of courses continue to increase across the faculties.

In 2023, the Sustainability Dialogues sparked fruitful discussions about the changes we want in education. The participants in the dialogues would like to move towards transformative education. This will require a shift from educating people within disciplinary boundaries to perform well within the existing social order, to educating students to work within a disruptively changing social context and across disciplines for structural change. The Executive Board will respond to the outcomes of the dialogues in Q2 2024 and indicate which actions will be taken.



Click on [this link](#) to see more outcomes of the Sustainability Dialogues.

## Learnings from 2023:

Based on the highlights and achievements in 2023 related to education for sustainability, the EUR Sustainability Programme has identified the following focal points for next years:

- Creating a cross-faculty sustainability course with degree-specific elements is complex, but holds immense potential for fostering unprecedented levels of cooperation.
- Many sustainability workshops and programmes require students and employees actively to seek and prioritise them alongside their other commitments. This limits participation to those already interested, while we aim to engage a wider range of EUR students.
- The EUR would benefit from measuring the sustainability literacy of its students and employees.
- We do not yet have a standardised way for schools to label a sustainability-related course within our current system, making it difficult to keep track of our offer. Finding a way to do this is important for keeping track long-term.
- Experimentation with transformative education often occurs on a small scale, as might be expected. These approaches could work differently when they are mainstreamed and scaled up.

## Reflection

Our goal is that our graduates understand the sustainability challenges that we need to overcome in our society and environment. There is a wealth of initiatives and projects, but to address sustainability challenges effectively, we require fundamental changes in the content of curricula and how education is organised. Therefore, we will work together more effectively to use valuable insights from small-scale workshops and programmes to develop courses that will help mainstream sustainability teaching across the faculties.

### 03 Researching sustainability

Creating positive social impact through research



## Introduction

It is our strategy to contribute with our research to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Sustainability research at EUR is a collective effort by researchers from every faculty and discipline. The studies and projects carried out by these academics cover a wide variety of subjects relating to sustainability, ranging from more sustainable food systems and an equitable energy transition to environmental justice and the sustainability of various sectors. All of these factors play a part in helping us achieve positive social impact. Some of our research is linked to initiatives on campus that serve as a living lab.

To provide insight into how our research relates to the SDGs, the Data Competence Hub has been working hard to produce the [Sustainability Monitor](#). This monitor, which contains data on the school and EUR levels, was successfully launched in March 2023. The monitor can be used to map our SDG profile when exploring partnerships or to steer policy decisions regarding our research focus.

This chapter presents an overview of our sustainability research initiatives, accompanied by notable highlights from 2023.

## Facts and figures

Before delving into the highlights, we present an overview of [all graduate schools, research institutes](#) and centres involved in sustainability research at EUR.

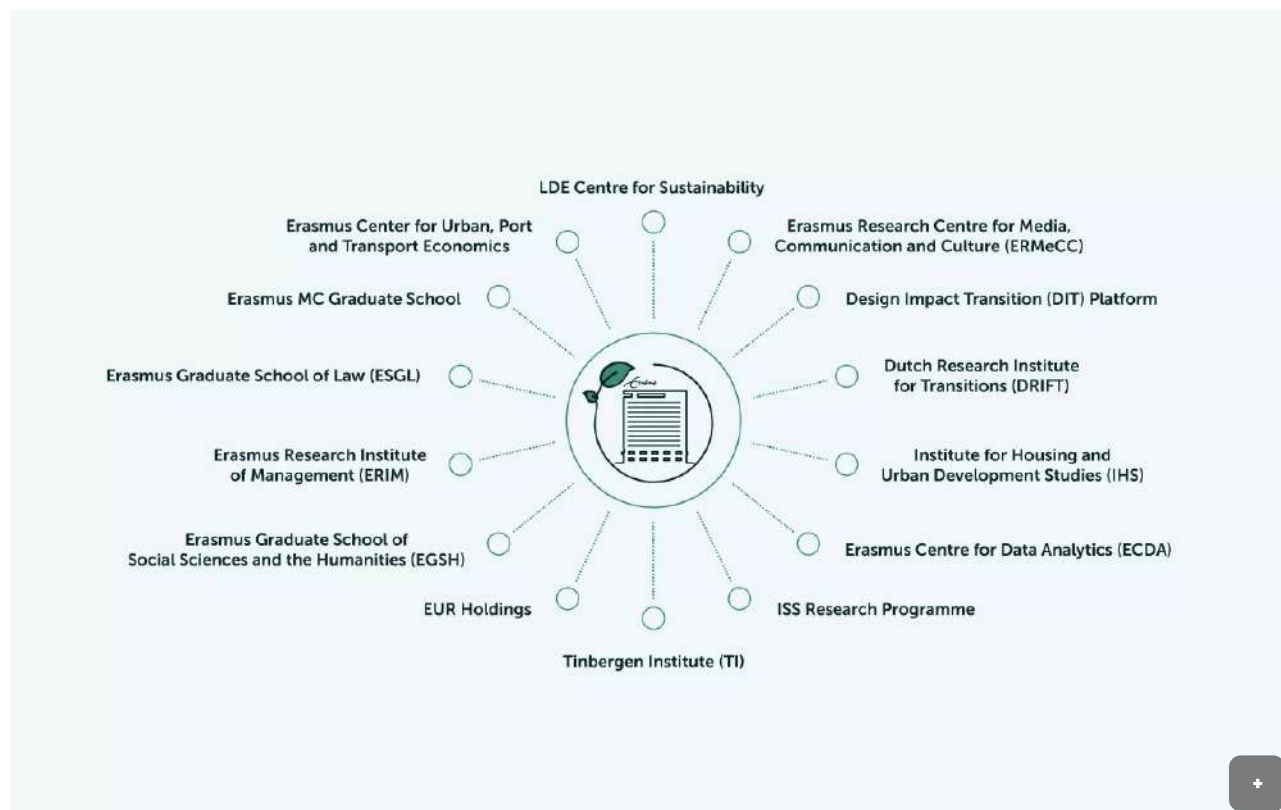


Figure 3.1 EUR's graduate schools, research institutes and centres involved in sustainability

## Transformative research into sustainability

It is impossible to discuss sustainability research at EUR without mentioning the Design Impact Transition (DIT) platform. Its activities range from researching how universities can teach students to challenge the status quo to exploring how transformative research can be embedded in academia.

In 2023, after a year of shared research, DIT completed a project with ACCEZZ. The project aimed to foster lasting transformations in the way knowledge is produced for sustainability transitions by facilitating partnerships between entrepreneurs, scientists and policymakers. As a result, [DIT colleagues produced a report](#) that explores the governance of transdisciplinary sustainability research programmes.

The report, called [Transforming Universities – Mobilizing research and education for sustainability transitions at Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands](#) and written by Derk A. Loorbach and DIT academic Julia Wittmayer, argues that the current institutional model of universities is inadequate to contribute effectively to social transitions towards fair and sustainable futures.

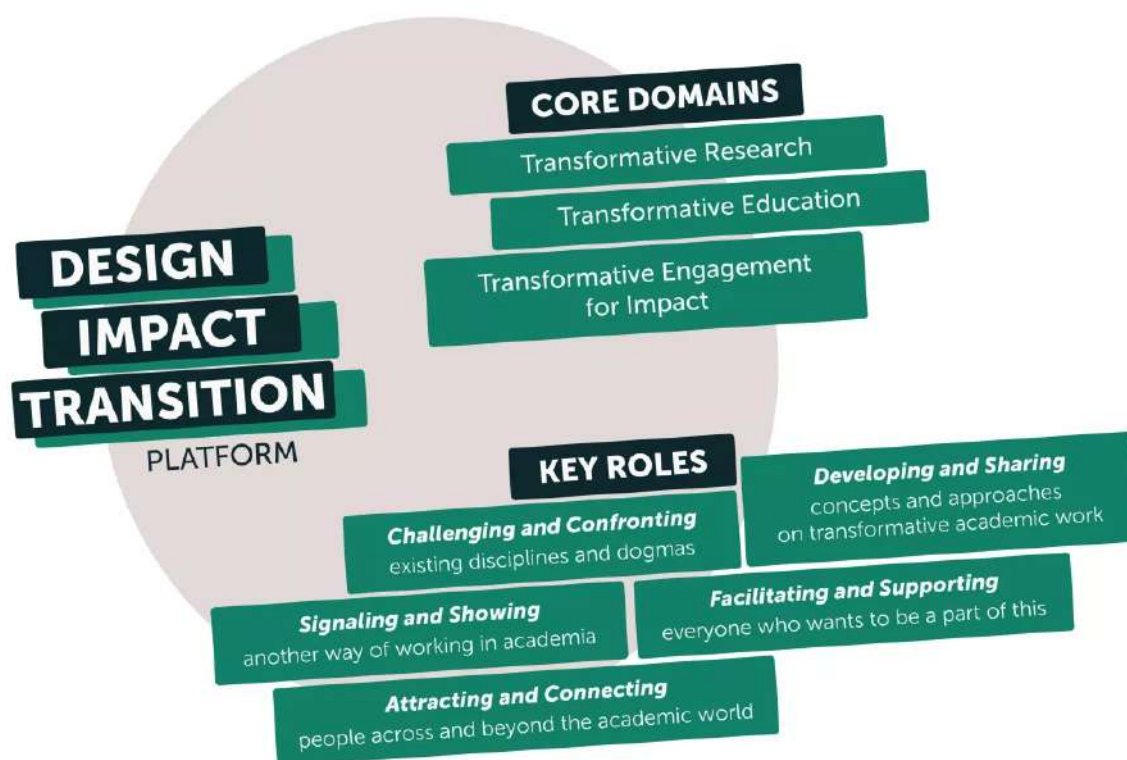


Figure 3.2 Design Impact Transition platform



## Highlights and achievements

Researchers Dr Sebastian Gabel and Dr Antonia Krefeld-Schwalb from the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM) are developing an application entitled [Empowering a sustainable future](#). Having successfully acquired [Kickstarter funding](#), the project is aimed at developing a machine learning algorithm to design personalized behavioural interventions and advance the application of behavioural sciences towards sustainability. The application was built in 2023. Results of the pilot at campus Woudestein will be reported in 2024.

” Empowering others to become more sustainable starts by empowering and changing yourself first.



**Dr Antonia Krefeld-Schwalb**  
Assistant Professor at the RSM



To address the urgent need for a sustainable food system, researchers from the Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication (ESHCC) are coordinating the [Consumers' Understanding of Eating Sustainably \(CUES\)](#) project, which was awarded a grant of 6.5 million euros by the European Commission. CUES will develop nine interventions to create and test technological, organisational and social innovations in the agri-food value chain.

The [Dutch Research Institute for Transitions \(DRIFT\)](#) leads the [European research project JustWind4All](#), supporting the acceleration of on- and offshore wind energy – including emerging wind technologies like airborne and floating – through fair and effective governance. This project includes setting up five regional wind labs across Europe: regional testing grounds that use innovative approaches to tackle the main challenges of fair and sustainable wind energy development.

The [Developing Energy Communities with Intelligent and Sustainable Technologies \(DE-CIST\) project was launched in Rotterdam](#). Led by Dr Rebecca Moody from the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSB), the project is a consortium that includes Dutch research institutions and the city of Rotterdam. The project, awarded an ICLEI Action Fund 2.0 grant, seeks to engage citizens, communities, researchers and governments in co-creating an equitable energy transition.

Prof. Harry Geerlings, an expert in the governance of sustainable mobility at Erasmus University Rotterdam, [discussed](#) the lack of progress of the energy transition in the port of Rotterdam in *Studio Erasmus*.



Prof. Albert Wagelmans of the Erasmus School of Economics (ESE) and co-authors Dr Harwin de Vries (Rotterdam School of Management) and Prof. Joris van de Klundert (Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management) [have been awarded the Paul Kleindorfer Award in Sustainability](#). They received the award for their joint paper titled [The Roadside Healthcare Facility Location Problem: A Managerial Network Design Challenge](#).

The interdisciplinary [SEISMEC project, led by Erasmus University Rotterdam in partnership with a multinational consortium of research, industry and civil-society partners](#), has been awarded 10 million euros by the European Commission as part of the Horizon Europe programme. SEISMEC aims to shape a productive and enriching future, with a focus on creating sustainable work environments that prioritise employee well-being and fulfilment.

## Erasmus Initiative "Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity"

A lot of sustainability research at Erasmus University Rotterdam has been made possible by the Erasmus initiative Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity (Doip). Through its projects, the initiative develops understanding of inclusive prosperity and exposes its drivers. It also shows how this knowledge can be used effectively to address contemporary social challenges in the Netherlands and elsewhere.

- Maria Carmen Punzi, a PhD candidate from the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM) and a member of Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity, was awarded the [2023 FAME Athena Award](#) for her contribution to worldwide gender equity, focusing on menstrual health. [Her research](#) is centred on how various stakeholders are beginning to recognise the importance of menstrual health and integrate it into their work.
- [Values in Finance is a research project of Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity, in partnership with the Erasmus School of Philosophy \(ESPhil\), the Rotterdam School of Management \(RSM\) and the University of Groningen](#). It entails a detailed methodological assessment of finance models and theories through the lens of key theories in the philosophy of science, social science and economics regarding scientific values, explanation and use of models.

- A report on floating degassing co-authored by Abdurrahman Erol, PhD Candidate at the Erasmus School of Law, and Alessandra Arcuri, Professor of International Economic Law, [concluded that banning toxic fumes from inland vessels in the Netherlands is likely mandatory](#). Their research, discussed by the Dutch government, led to interviews by [NRC](#), [NOS](#) and [Omroep Flevoland](#). Thanks to the report, [floating degassing will be banned in the Netherlands](#), which will have positive implications for both the environment and society's health. This research was made possible by a grant awarded by the Erasmus initiative Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity.

” The ban on floating degassing is an important development to realise the human right to a healthy environment in the Netherlands. We're glad to see that our report has helped to achieve this outcome.



**Alessandra Arcuri**  
Professor of International Economic Law, ESL

In 2023, [an episode of Zembla](#) presented research on the PFAS chemical contamination conducted by academics from EUR and members of Dynamic of Inclusive Prosperity. The episode closely aligns with [the research project Insights into the History and Contemporary Dynamics of PFAS Eco-toxicity, led by Prof. Lieselot Bisschop](#) (ESL), along with her colleagues Dr Abby Onencan and Sammie Verbeek from the Erasmus School of Law (ESL) and Dr Yogi Hendlin from the Erasmus School of Philosophy (ESPhil). The research project focuses on the harmful effects of PFAS chemicals.

Criminologist Prof. Lieselot Bisschop provided more information about the criminal case concerning PFAS pollution [in Studio Erasmus](#).

## Reflection

The number and range of inter- and transdisciplinary research initiatives at EUR are increasing, as the pressure for change and the need to contribute are growing. We increasingly combine knowledge from different sources, resulting in impactful research that contributes to a fair and sustainable world. What remains a challenge is defining our joint goals on sustainability or transformative research, as this will affect current practices and require institutional changes.

## 04 Operations

The EUR campus as a living lab for sustainable initiatives



## Introduction

We are ambitious in our efforts to work towards an eco-positive university by 2030. Taking [the Sustainable Campus](#) road map, established in 2020, as our guideline, we are developing our campus and operations as part of this mission. We work on energy-efficient buildings and waste management, the promotion of plant-based food, incentives for sustainable mobility and the regeneration of biodiversity on campus. In this chapter, we provide an overview of our operational efforts and activities in 2023.

## Facts and figures

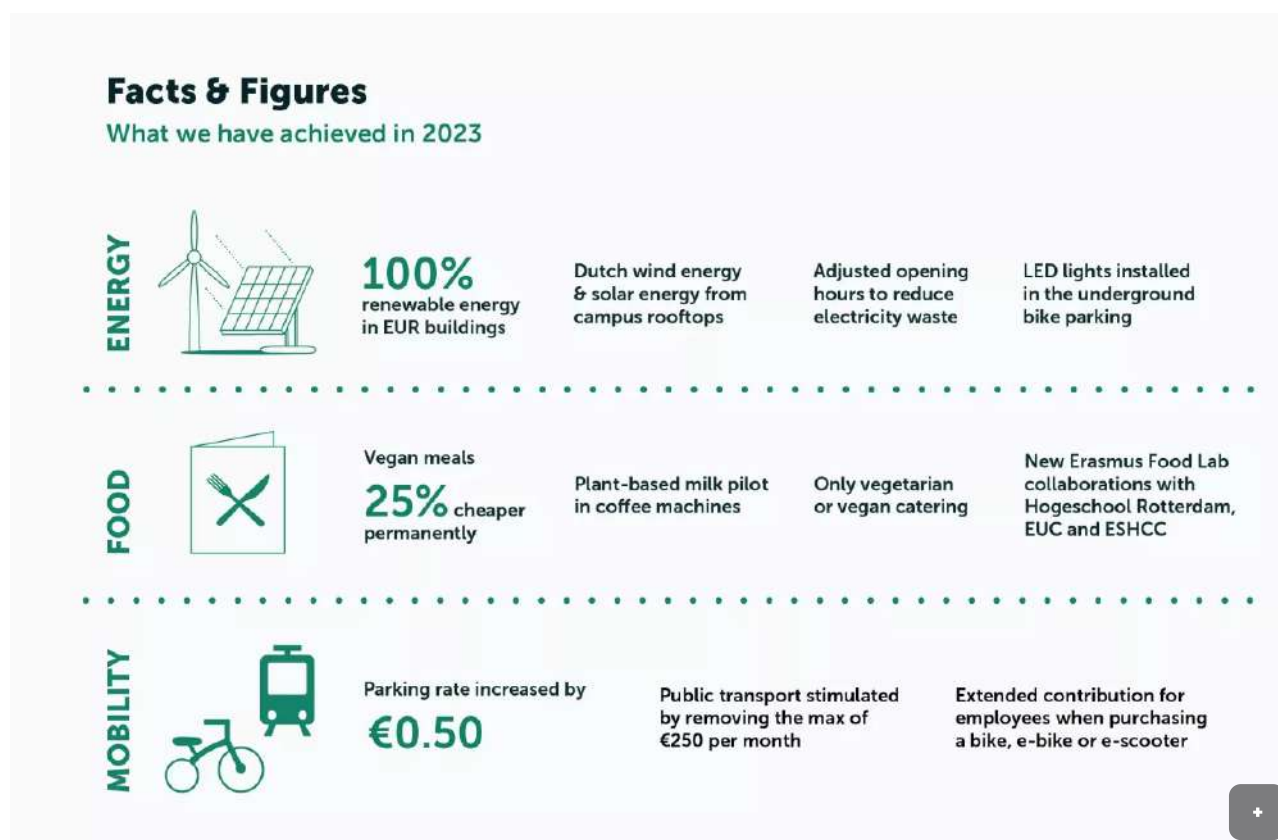


Figure 4.1. Operational sustainability highlights in 2023

## Energy Transition portfolio road map

Erasmus University Rotterdam is committed to meeting the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets set out in the Climate Agreement. Using [the Energy Transition](#) portfolio road map as a guideline, we continue to develop our campus sustainably. We aim to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 49 per cent by 2030 and by 95 per cent by 2050 (compared to 2021). We do this according to the *trias energetica*:

- Limit energy demand
- Use sustainable energy
- Use fossil fuels as efficiently and cleanly as possible

## Building Management

The [Langeveld building](#), the newest building on Erasmus University Rotterdam's campus Woudestein, has been awarded a BREEAM-NL score of 91.5 per cent by the Dutch Green Building Council (DGBC). According to the BREEAM-NL standard, this officially makes it the second most sustainable education building in the Netherlands.

As of 1 April 2023, [the opening hours of the offices on campus Woudestein have been altered to reduce energy consumption](#). By closing offices in the evenings and weekends, the university expects to save about 5 to 10 per cent energy.

More lighting has been replaced with LED lighting, which uses 85 to 90 per cent less electricity than traditional halogen and incandescent lamps. Among other areas, all the lighting in the underground bicycle shed under K.P. van der Mandeleplein has been replaced with more sustainable LED lighting.



[The renovation of the 1960s Tinbergen building](#) is an important part of improving the sustainability of campus Woudestein. In 2023, we published the tender for its renovation. The renovated building will soon have energy-efficient elevators, solar panels on the roof and water-saving toilets. The façade, floor and roof insulation will also be improved and sustainable materials such as FSC wood will be used. The Tinbergen building will re(open) its doors in mid-2027.

## Renewable energy

The university is powered entirely by renewable energy: our electricity is supplied by a combination of wind energy generated in the Netherlands and solar energy produced by photovoltaic systems mounted on nine rooftops across the campus. We rely on district heating for our heating and hot water needs, but compensate for the ensuing emissions with carbon offsetting.



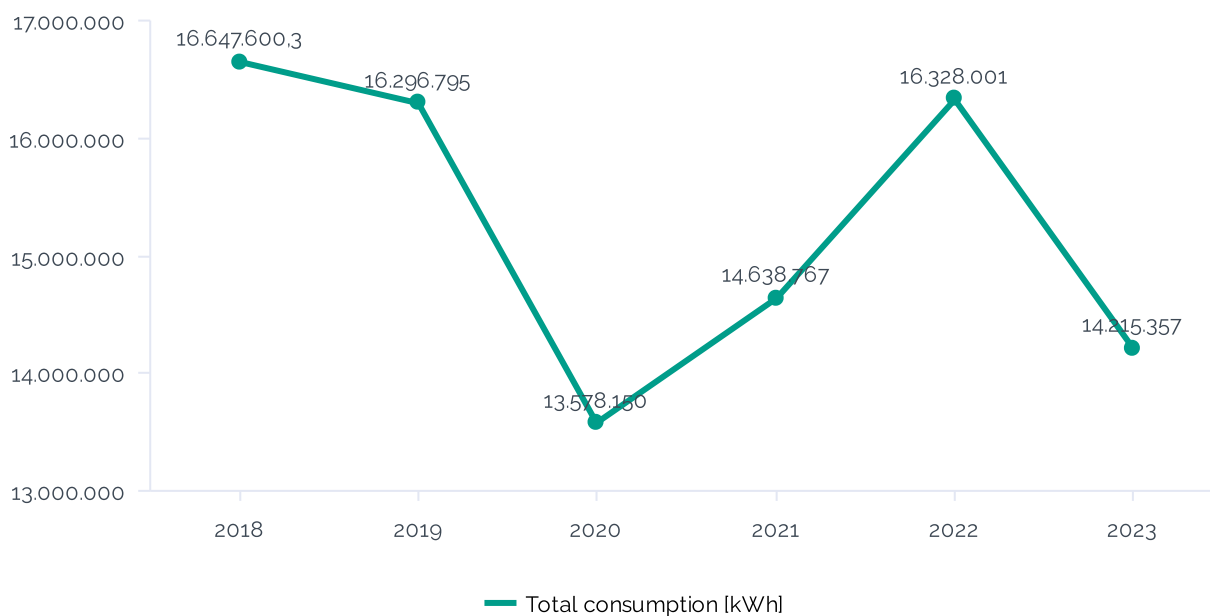
EUR generates its own electricity through solar panels on the roofs of various buildings: Erasmus, Theil, the University Library, the Erasmus Pavilion, Polak, Van der Goot, Sports, Langeveld and Mandeville. In 2023, the solar panels generated 358,613 kWh of electricity. This was 2.5 per cent of our overall energy consumption in 2023.

” The true challenge regarding sustainability is to unite our vision with day-to-day reality – to walk the talk.

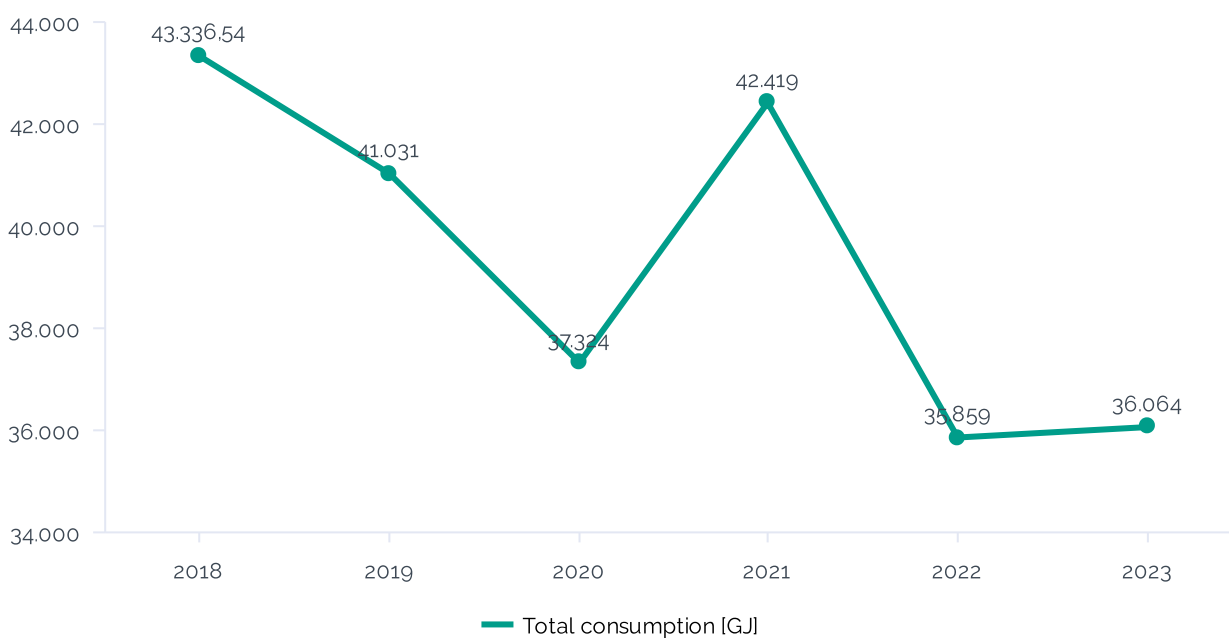


**Pepijn Bakker**  
Head of Strategy, Real Estate & Facility

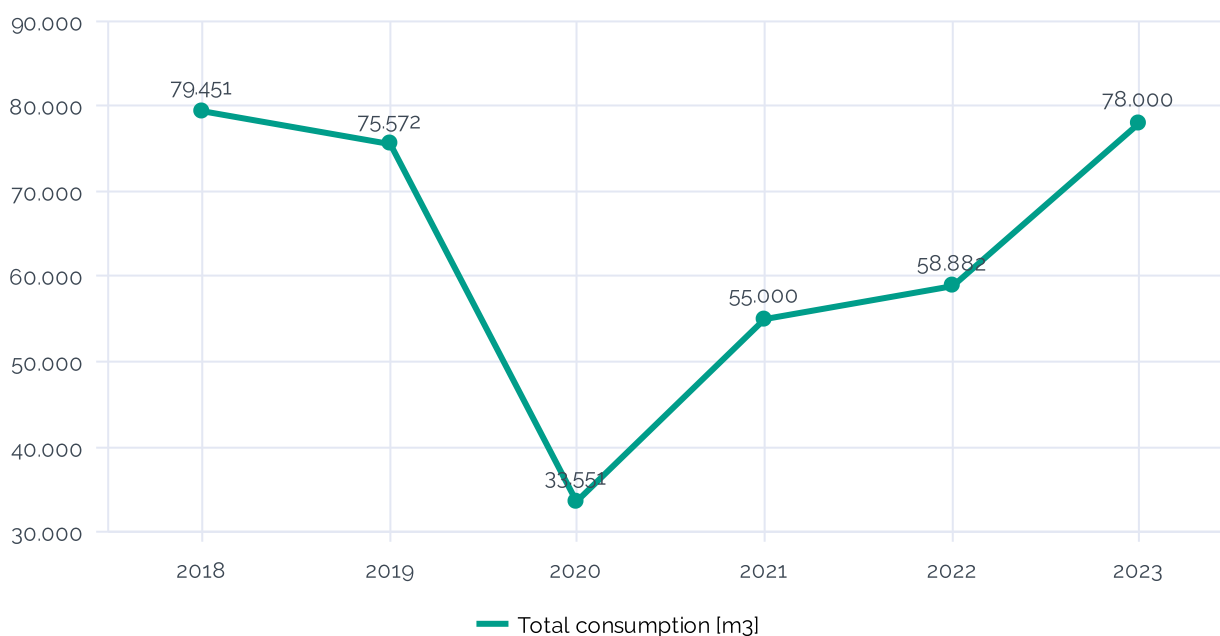
### Electricity consumption (in kWh) per year



### Energy consumption (in GJ) per year



## Water use (in m3) per year



The energy consumed by the district heating system on campus Woudestein (generated with industrial residual heat) remained stable in 2023 at 36,064 GJ, compared to 35,859 GJ in 2022. This is despite two new buildings being completed on campus in late 2022: the Langeveld building (BREEAM rating of Outstanding) and the Sports building (energy-neutral). Energy consumption is expected to decrease further after the sustainable renovation of our largest building, the Tinbergen building. This renovation will start in 2024.

Electricity consumption decreased from 16,328,001 kWh in 2022 to 14,215,357 kWh in 2023, despite increased electricity demand due to the energy transition.

The consumption of drinking water on campus increased from around 58,882 m3 in 2022 to 78,000 m3 in 2023. This was likely due to the increasing occupancy of buildings following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in the Netherlands. Since the end of the pandemic, the EUR community has been spending more time on campus, leading to an increase in water demand.

## Waste management

As part of the 'bring your own cup' initiative, [no more disposable cups are available on campus](#) as from January 2024. Students, employees and visitors can purchase cups or cutlery at specific locations on campus. They can choose to keep these items or return them in exchange for a token. The cups are then cleaned by our partner, Swapbox, and the tokens can be used later to receive a clean cup.

Even though there are highly accessible trash bins on campus, cleaners still often come across litter, such as empty cups or tea bags. To tackle this problem, cleaning company Gom worked with BIG 'R researchers and ESSB students to [develop a nudging technique to reduce littering in the Langeveld building](#). For this pilot project, they developed a series of banners, posters and table cards together with EUR's Real Estate & Facilities department. If the pilot is successful, the behavioural interventions will be used more widely at EUR.

As of April 2022, a new composting machine was installed to process a food waste generated across the Woudestein campus. However, due to technical issues, the machine was out of service across 2023, and its future is yet to be determined.

## Waste management overview

Waste stream x1000 kg	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Demolition waste	0	0	3,8	0	0	0
Electronical waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plastic	3,18	4,8	2,57	2,99	2,86	2,61
Glass	12,52	12,52	7,04	7,95	10,92	11,01
Coffee cups	0,69	0,69	1,6	1,45	1,92	0,67
Coffee residual	0,13	9,61	6,5	1,41	1,8	10,17
Paper/cardboard	164,36	102,62	64,7	66,9	71,54	77,75
Residual waste	565	516,62	250,32	202,67	317,78	362,74
Organic waste	18,7	13,7	4,67	4,52	4,62	11,32
Confidential paper	28,48	19,88	12,22	9,95	14,89	9,45
Electronical appliances	0	0,42	0	0	0,16	0,16
<b>Total ton</b>	<b>793,06</b>	<b>625,37</b>	<b>353,42</b>	<b>297,84</b>	<b>426,49</b>	<b>485,72</b>
<b>Kg/(student + employee)</b>	<b>25,94</b>	<b>21,60</b>	<b>10,56</b>	<b>9,27</b>	<b>11,95</b>	<b>12,97</b>

Waste streams are linked to the level of activity on campus. Since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EUR community has been spending more time on campus, which has led to a slight increase in waste per person—13 kg in 2023. However, the current level of waste per person is still lower than in the pre-COVID-19 years. In 2024, a new tender for waste management will start with a strong sustainability focus to improve our recycling streams.

## Highlights and achievements

### Policy proposals on a sustainable campus

In December 2023, [one of the Sustainability Dialogues was](#) focused on Sustainable Campus and Operations. The EUR community explored how EUR can reduce its environmental footprint significantly and work towards a positive impact on climate and ecosystems in different aspects of its operations.

#### Food and catering

As from 1 July 2023, [EUR has a modified catering policy for employees](#). Since then, catering orders placed with Vitam may only contain vegetarian products and no cow's milk.

In September 2023, EUR launched a three-month promotion, inviting students, employees and visitors to enjoy a [50 per cent discount on vegan warm meals at Vitam restaurants on campus Woudestein](#). The response was overwhelmingly positive: with the reduced prices, orders for vegan meals quadrupled.



Students voiced their support for the initiative through a petition organised by the [Erasmus Sustainability Hub \(ESH\)](#). They collected 1,547 signatures from EUR students advocating the indefinite extension of the vegan meal deal promotion. The students' voices did not go unnoticed. As a result of the great success, Vitam (operator of the cafeterias on campus) has decided to [reduce the price of vegan meals permanently](#). As from November 2023, [vegan meals are approximately 25 per cent cheaper than the original price](#). This milestone reflects EUR's commitment to its goal of becoming a plant-based campus by 2030.

The [Erasmus Food Lab](#) offers professional plant-based cooking classes for students and employees. The Food Lab is connected to several faculties and offers their students a place to practice theory. In 2023, the Food Lab organised special Vital cooking workshops for employees, together with the HR department and Erasmus Sport.

The University Library is very motivated to keep up with measures taken by the EUR in the field of sustainability. For example, lunches available at the library are fully vegetarian.



## Mobility

In 2022 and 2023, [we revised the sustainable mobility scheme for employees](#), extending the public transport and bike scheme while also increasing parking fees. This updated mobility plan contributes to EUR's sustainability ambitions aimed at reducing the university's carbon footprint.

Lieke Skidmore-Vencken, HR Director at EUR, [was nominated for the HRtop100 in the Sustainability category](#) because of HR initiatives contributing to the university's sustainability goals.

” Our mobility and travel policy is an example of how the EUR creates a positive social impact.



**Dr Giuliano Mingardo**  
senior EUR researcher at Urban and Transport Economics (UPT)

## Green campus

EUR is aiming to create a campus area with social, physical and ecological value, focused on the well-being of people and the preservation of the ecosystem. To achieve this, a 'green' design plan is being developed for campus Woudestein, focusing on the outside area. The plan outlines the measures related to the layout and management of the campus, which are intended to contribute to increased biodiversity and improved water management.

[EUR has partnered with an ecology agency to develop a plan to make the campus more nature-inclusive.](#) This includes planting more native species, less frequent mowing and pruning, and more green facades.



One of the nature-inclusive projects is the renovation of the campus pond, which started in 2023. The pond now features a gradually sloping bank with native plants, which will attract all kinds of insects and will also allow amphibians to enter the pond.

Unfortunately, some people still smoke on campus, despite the [smoking ban](#). In 2023, we partnered with the start-up company Peukenzee to [fight cigarette litter through clean-ups](#) and raise awareness about the impact of cigarette butts on the environment.

” Biodiversity is the fabric of life, weaving together ecosystems that provide us with clean air, shelter, water and food for liveable cities.



**Ben van der Kemp**  
Sustainable Campus policy advisor

 **ICT**

Ecosia has become the default search engine for all employee computers in 2023. This search engine compensates for the energy used by planting trees.

[EUR donated another 200 computers to the Ecoware Foundation](#), which refurbishes and donates computers to families who do not have sufficient financial resources to purchase a computer themselves. We have been working with Ecoware for several years.

## Reflection

While there are several initiatives aimed at making our campus and operations more sustainable, we need to strengthen our strategies further across the entire spectrum of the sustainability framework. This includes reducing our carbon footprint from operations (across scope 1, 2, and 3), especially by addressing sustainability concerns related to food, mobility and procurement. Also, the EUR community must act to enhance biodiversity on campus. Undoubtedly, there are several challenges and limitations on the way to make those plans possible, such as [general budget cuts at EUR](#), pressure on unlawful contracts and limited capacity. However, there are several projects already planned for 2024 and beyond (see 'Looking ahead') to continue our commitment to meeting the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets set out in the Climate Agreement and making our university a great place to study and work.

05 Carbon Footprint  
Measuring our impact



## Introduction

In line with EUR's sustainability ambitions, various carbon-reducing actions and initiatives have been implemented in 2023 (see the chapter on Operations). To better measure their impact, the Real Estate & Facility department started reporting on EUR's annual carbon footprint in 2011. Each year, we strive to enhance the quality of these reports and provide the best possible picture of EUR's impact on the natural environment. For instance, in 2015, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol framework was established for EUR, and in 2021, the construction of the new Langeveld building was included in the calculations.

## Compliant with the EU Sustainability Reporting Directive

The urgency of climate change, environmental degradation and the need for sustainable development have led to increasing pressure on companies to reduce their negative impact on the environment and society. Consequently, corporate sustainability reporting methods are continuously adapted to incorporate new insights, calculation methodologies and (inter)national policies.

The existing Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD), introduced by the European Union, fell short in providing consistent and reliable sustainability information, making it difficult for investors, customers, and stakeholders to accurately assess the sustainability performance of companies. Aligned with the European Green Deal, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), introduced in 2023, requires companies to provide detailed and standardized sustainability reports. These are essential for achieving the EU's goal of climate neutrality by 2050.

Eventually, educational institutions will also be required to report their environmental impact according to CSRD standards. Therefore, Erasmus University Rotterdam has decided to start improving our carbon footprint scope by implementing different calculation methods and using spend-based analyses to meet these requirements. As a result, the carbon footprint calculations for 2022 and 2023 available below comply with CSRD requirements.

## Facts and figures

EUR calculates its carbon footprint using methods and standards developed by the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol \(GHG\)](#). The protocol comprises three scopes, with which specific emissions are associated:

- scope 1: direct emissions, over which the university has control;
- scope 2: direct emissions from power generation, which are under the university's control, but which are emitted outside its organisational boundaries; and
- scope 3: indirect emissions, over which the university has limited control.

The image below shows the sources of the emissions.

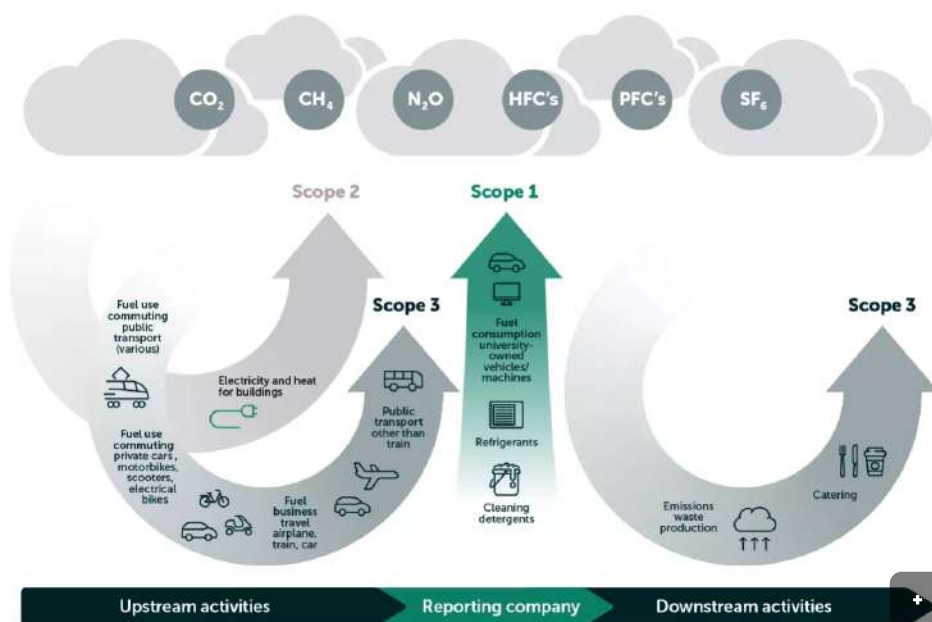


Figure 5.1 Carbon emissions and scopes explained

## Source of data

The annual financial reports served as the basis for calculating the EUR's environmental impact. Based on the university's financial reports, the relevant monetary items within its operations were identified, and the legal entities were mapped out. These monetary items were largely converted from euros to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents using a spend-based analysis. In short, the carbon footprint calculations represent the impact of every euro that EUR spent within its operations in 2022 and 2023. However, qualitative data from our stakeholders was used instead of spend-based data where available.

**Table 1. Carbon footprint (location-based approach)**

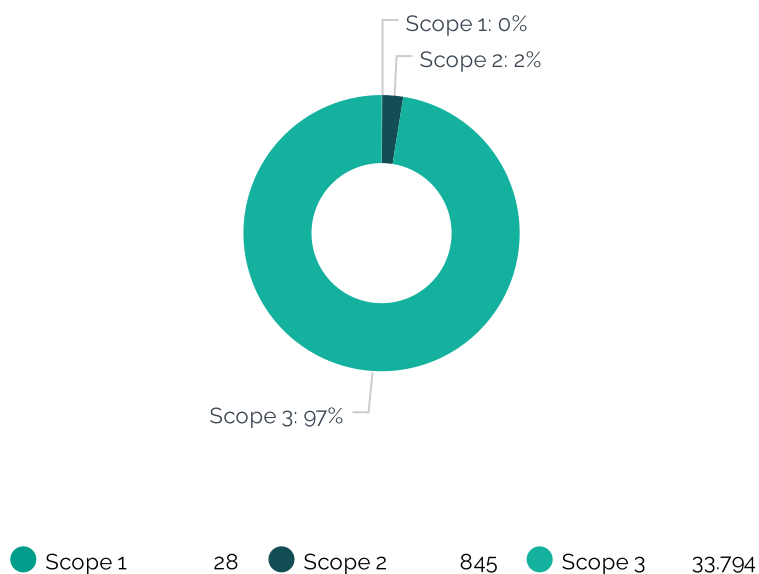
Scopes	2022	2023
<b>Scope 1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>186</b>
Fugitive emissions	7	137
Stationary combustion	20	49
<b>Scope 2</b>	<b>7,172</b>	<b>5,575</b>
Indirect emissions from the use of electricity	6,327	4,700
Indirect emissions from the use of heating	845	875
<b>Scope 3</b>	<b>33,794</b>	<b>23,356</b>
Purchased goods and services	12,011	13,686
Business travel	3,126	4,586
Fuel-and energy-related activities not included in scope 1 or scope 2	373	364
Employee commuting	928	1,286
Waste generated in operations	9	11
Capital goods	17,347	3,424
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40,994</b>	<b>29,117</b>

'Location-based approach' indicates the climate impact of the average electricity mix of the regions/countries where facilities are located. In contrast, in the 'market-based approach', it's calculated with the actual impact of specific energy supplier (if known). According to CSRD, all organizations have to report the results for both approaches.

**Table 2. Carbon footprint (market-based approach)**

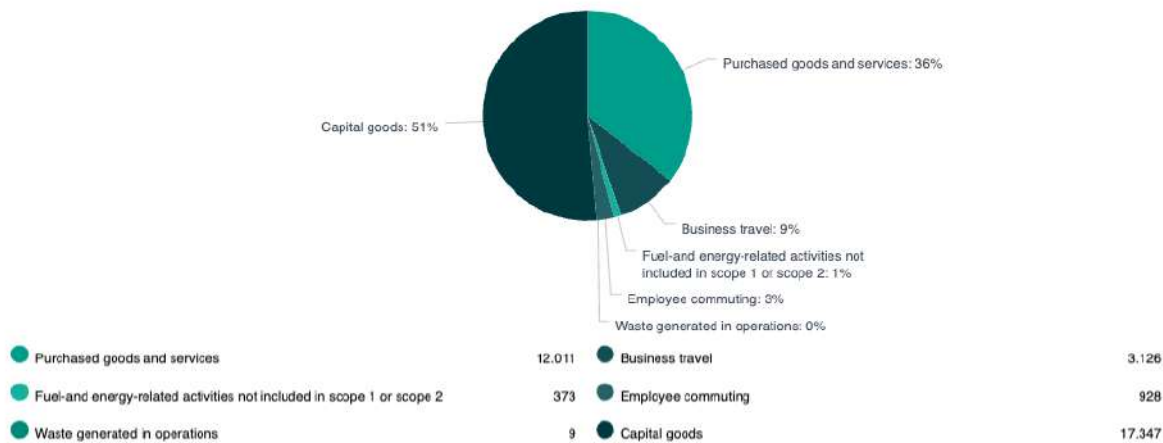
Scopes	2022	2023
<b>Scope 1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>186</b>
Fugitive emissions	7	137
Stationary combustion	20	49
<b>Scope 2</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>875</b>
Indirect emissions from the use of electricity	0	0
Indirect emissions from the use of heating	845	875
<b>Scope 3</b>	<b>33,794</b>	<b>23,356</b>
Purchased goods and services	12,011	13,686
Business travel	3,126	4,586
Fuel-and energy-related activities not included in scope 1 or scope 2	373	364
Employee commuting	928	1,286
Waste generated in operations	9	11
Capital goods	17,347	3,424
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34,667</b>	<b>24,417</b>

**Carbon emissions in 2022**

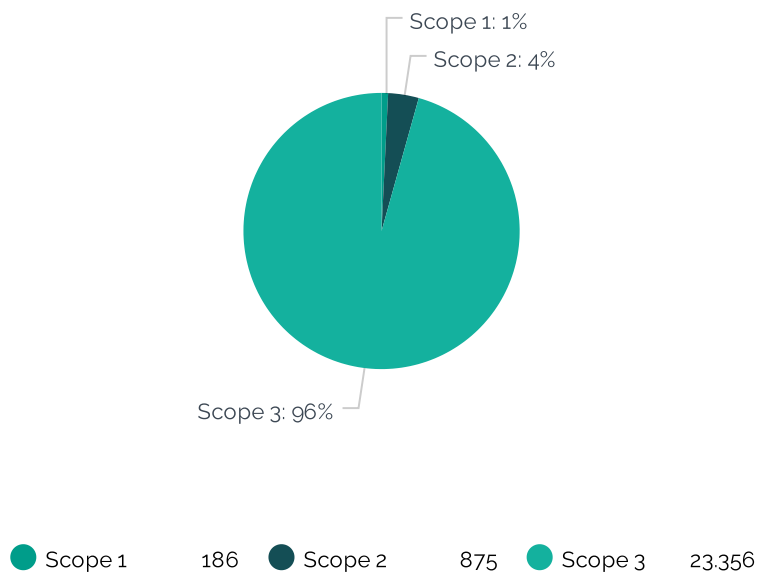


*Carbon footprint in tonnes; market-based approach.*

## Carbon emissions Scope 3 in 2022 (in tonnes)

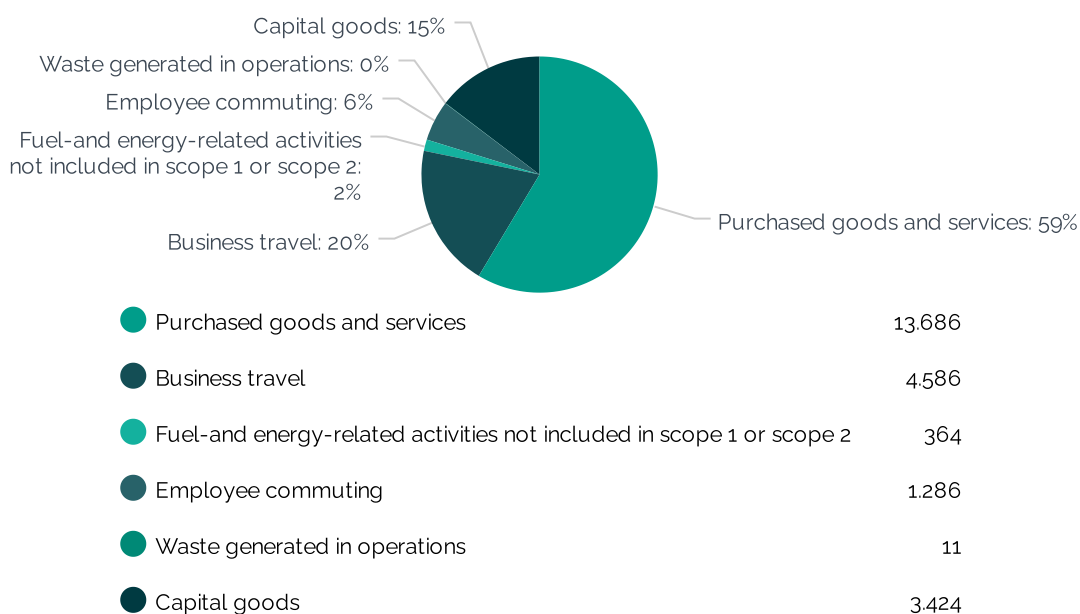


## Carbon emissions in 2023



Carbon footprint in tonnes; market-based approach.

## Carbon emissions Scope 3 in 2023 (in tonnes)



In 2022, the largest contributor to EUR's climate impact was the GHG category 'Capital Goods,' followed by 'Purchased Goods and Services'. In 2023, the latter became the largest contributor. Together, these two categories accounted for around 85% of the total (market-based) impact in 2022 and 75% in 2023. That year, the second-largest contributor to EUR's climate impact was the category 'Business Travel,' which made up around 20% of the total impact.

The category of 'Purchased Goods and Services' consists of various services such as cleaning (GOM) and catering (VITAM, Maas, JDE, Erasmus Sport). However, the impact of these services is relatively small compared to others. The categories that produce the highest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are outsourced work (primarily tasks performed by external parties or subcontractors), such as IT services involving software licenses, computer equipment, and reproduction costs.

'Capital Goods' mainly refers to activities related to newly constructed buildings and the maintenance of existing properties. The carbon footprint of capital goods varied significantly between 2022 and 2023, primarily due to the construction of two new buildings on campus: Erasmus Sport and Langeveld.

The reason 'Purchased Goods and Services' had a higher environmental impact in 2023 is likely still related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown. In other words, 2023 was a post-COVID year, during which more activities and services were conducted compared to the lockdown period and the partly closed campus in 2022.

” Decarbonization of activities is the only way to keep 1.5 degree global goal alive.



**Dr Steve Kennedy**  
Associate professor of sustainable business

## Highlights and achievements

### Eco-positive events

In 2024, the Marketing & Communication (M&C) department calculated event emissions with insights from our partner Phi Factory. Going beyond neutrality, we doubled our compensation for emissions from the Opening of the Academic Year and Dies Natalis, resulting in eco-positive events.



### Sustainable Event Checklist

Furthermore, M&C shared the [sustainable events checklist](#) with the EUR event management community. This checklist includes essential sustainable practices for event planning, and provides insights on making eco-friendly decisions throughout the planning process.

[Download the EUR Sustainable Event Checklist](#)

### Development of Sustainable Event Application

EUR employees actively working on the Sustainable Event Application, aiming to share it with the EUR event planning community and make it accessible beyond the university. The Sustainable Event Application will allow (EUR) event managers to plan CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral or even eco-positive events.

### Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> from cleaning activities

Based on national averages, about half of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from cleaning services are linked to the commuting of cleaning staff. However, EUR is a positive exception: most of the cleaning staff already use public transport, walk or bike to work, while only a small fraction drives. What's more, those who do drive frequently carpool. This is an encouraging finding from a carbon footprint perspective, allowing the cleaning company (GOM) to concentrate on other sustainability areas where further improvements can be made.



## Reflection

The results from 2022 and 2023 show that the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint is significantly higher than in 2021. One of the main reasons for this increase is the use of a different calculation method, specifically a spend-based analysis. This expanded scope has resulted in higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to previous reporting years. However, other universities and universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands will also need to report in compliance with CSRD in the coming years. This will likely reveal similar significant differences in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to previous years.

EUR will prioritise reduction efforts within the most impactful categories identified. Additionally, improving data quality is considered a foundational step for more precise decision-making. Therefore, one of the challenges in the coming years will be improving data quality for activities with the highest expenditures, such as 'Capital Goods' and 'Purchased Goods and Services.' By shifting from spend-based analyses to supplier-specific emission factors per physical unit, the impact of sustainability policies will become more transparent. This approach will also help automatically reduce EUR's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.

## 06 Diversity and Inclusion

Promoting sustainability within EUR



## Introduction

Integrating sustainability into our teaching, research and operations is an important and necessary step towards achieving our strategic goals. We are keen to ensure that the process by which this happens is fair and equitable, reflecting our commitment to SDG 10: Reduced inequalities. That is why diversity and inclusion is a priority.

### IDEA Center

As from 2023, the Diversity & Inclusion Office at EUR is called the [IDEA Center](#), with IDEA standing for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access. The IDEA Center at EUR plays a significant role in contributing to inclusive education, social safety and equitable opportunities for all our students and employees. In 2024, the first [annual report of the IDEA Center](#) was published. This lists the achievements of the IDEA Center team.

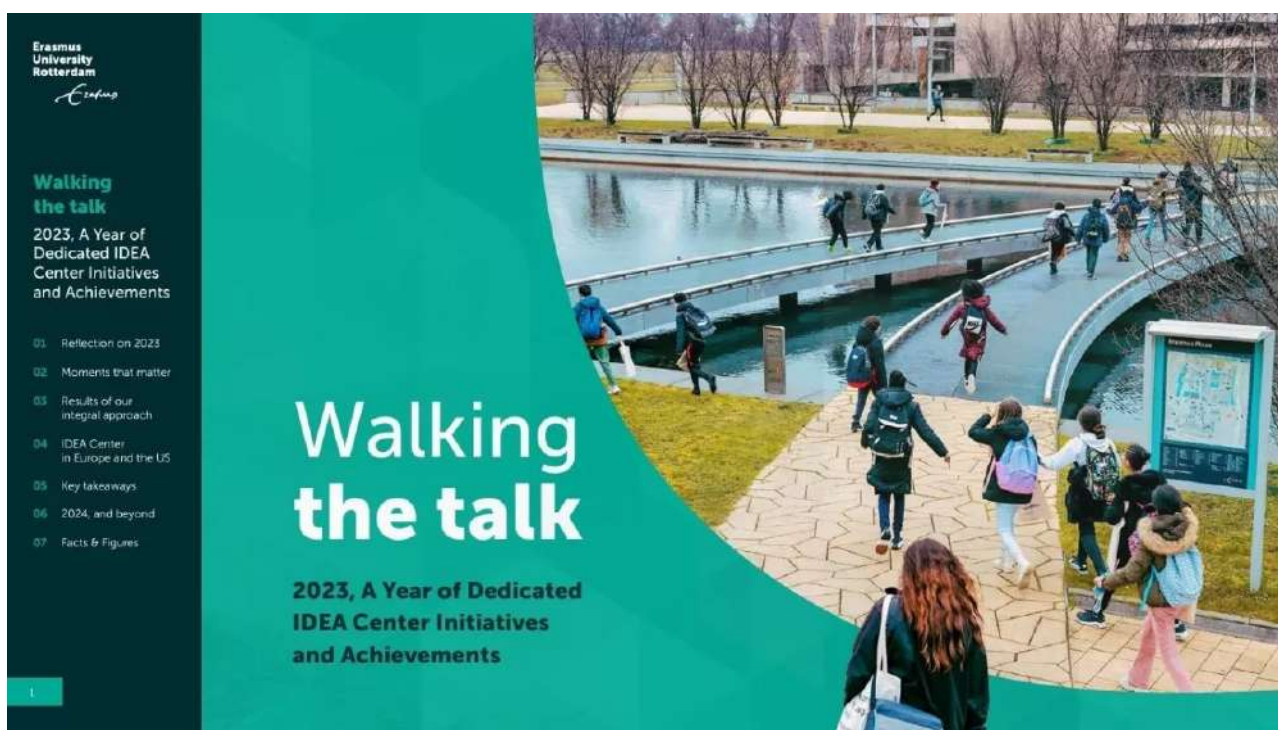


Figure 6.1 IDEA Center report

## Highlights and achievements

### Inclusive education

In 2023, the IDEA Center launched the [Knowledge Platform for Inclusive Education](#). This online repository contains a wealth of resources aimed at addressing common diversity-related challenges and serves as an inspirational resource for educators. It provides clear and comprehensive information about a variety of tools and training materials that educators can integrate into their learning environments, both for themselves and their students, to create a more inclusive educational setting.



### Enhancing diversity in academia

In 2023, the IDEA Center started Beyond 25/25, which is the second phase of policy measures dedicated to enhancing diversity in terms of gender representation and migration backgrounds in higher academic roles. [Our internal figures and the Cultural Barometer underscore the concerning trend of diminishing diversity as one ascends the academic hierarchy.](#) To address this, 63 assistant and associate professors from both The Hague and campus Woudestein enrolled in our mentoring programme, which will conclude in the summer of 2024.

## Equal opportunities

In 2023, IDEA Center implemented the [academic outreach programme 'Connecting Our Future'](#), with all sorts of interventions and activities that make a real impact on equity in education. As part of the programme, the IDEA Center developed [ten outreach programmes for children and young people](#), reached 1,819 pupils through partnership events with ten schools in Rotterdam, worked with over thirty organisations in Rotterdam to reach 750 children and youth, built a community of [62 EUR student ambassadors](#) and completed [seven Building New Blocks](#) projects.



## Inclusive organisation

In October 2023, the IDEA Center launched the book [From Words to Deeds – A Guide to an Inclusive Organisation](#) as part of EUR's official anniversary programme. The book aims to inspire employers, employees and organisations to create a diverse and welcoming workplace. The book offers practical tools for designing, implementing and evaluating new or existing interventions and policies in inclusion, diversity, equity and access.

” At Erasmus University Rotterdam, we are committed to fostering inclusion, diversity, equity and access to every aspect of university life, ensuring a better, brighter and more enjoyable and sustainable future for all.



**Prof. Jane Murray Cramm**  
Chief Diversity Officer at EUR

There are multiple teams at EUR that are working to make our university more inclusive, diverse, equitable, accessible and ultimately more enjoyable for all, such as Safe@EUR, student well-being and the Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship.

## Social safety

The [Safe@EUR programme](#) was launched at EUR in summer 2023. Safe@EUR is a central point that helps students, employees and visitors when they want to report inappropriate behaviour. People can also contact Safe@EUR if they want support or are worried about someone else, but are not sure where to turn.

## She LEADS

In 2023, the Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship created the [She LEADS dashboard](#) with various findings on female entrepreneurs.



## Student well-being

EUR emphasises the importance of student well-being and offers support in all kinds of areas. [The Living Room](#) is a place on campus that is accessible to all students, without exclusion, serving a diverse and inclusive audience, reflecting the EUR community as it is. In the Living Room, EUR students relax, play board games, play pool, knit and much more.

## Personal Support Hub

As from the 2023–2024 academic year, students can also contact a health coach in the [Personal Support Hub](#), attend interesting workshops free of charge and have peer-to-peer contact about personal matters with one of our trained student hosts.



## Reflection

Dismantling structural inequalities in academia is a critical, yet challenging, task. Our university envisions a community where everyone feels not only free to express their identity, but also truly at home. In 2024, the IDEA Center remains steadfast in its commitment to championing an inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible university.

## 07 Impact and Engagement

EUR's sustainability community and engagement



## Introduction

We aim for sustainability to become part of our DNA. To achieve this goal, we want members of the Erasmian community to be actively involved and informed about our sustainability initiatives. Empowering sustainable behaviour among our 4,100 employees and 34,000 students requires providing them with information, guidelines on sustainable behaviour, a supportive community and a space to address their concerns and propose their ideas.

Moreover, we want to practice what we preach: our external partnerships also matter in setting an example of which problems are prioritised and which solutions are supported. Together, these efforts will lead us to create a solid foundation for lasting change.

In this chapter, we introduce the communities involved in sustainability at EUR and outline the main engagement initiatives promoted in 2023.

### Sustainability Today newsletter

If you want to stay up to date with sustainability news at EUR, the Sustainability Today newsletter is a must-read. It is still possible to [subscribe!](#)



## Highlights and achievements

### Sustainability Dialogues

In 2023 and 2024, [EUR organised a university-wide dialogue series, \*Sustainability at EUR: From words to action\*](#). There were nine faculty dialogues and three cross-faculty dialogues. [Over 500 employees and students contributed their ideas to set new standards for sustainability at EUR](#). The topics discussed included advancing sustainability in teaching, research, campus operations and cooperation with the fossil industry. The outcomes of the Sustainability Dialogues will guide forthcoming sustainability strategies across the EUR schools and the university.

Click [here](#) to view the posters that present the main outcomes of the Sustainability Dialogues.



Sustainability Dialogues 2023/2024

” To keep the momentum of the Sustainability Dialogues going, we must provide incentives and opportunities for our community to realise change together.



**Emma Daanen**  
Sustainability Dialogues project manager

### EUR Sustainability Summit 2024

On 11 October, Erasmus University Rotterdam is organising the [EUR Sustainability Summit 2024](#). Together, we will explore what universities can do differently to implement new policies and foster a partnership for sustainability in Dutch academia. Find out more about the programme [here](#).



## EUR Industry Engagement Monitor

In 2023, EUR reviewed and identified its relationships with organisations that have a positive or negative impact on the climate and ecosystems. The initial results of this review are available in the [EUR Industry Engagement Monitor](#). In 2024, the monitor will be improved further into a robust measurement tool to give regular insight into how this portfolio is developing over time.

The results of the EUR Industry Engagement Monitor were also discussed during the first cross-school dialogue in October 2023. Based on the input from the EUR community, recommendations for the industry cooperation policy were developed and submitted to the Executive Board. The goal is to implement a new industry cooperation policy in the 2024–2025 academic year.



### Sustainability Award

Every year, the Sustainability Award is awarded to an individual or group that has the best existing or new initiative to make a positive contribution to the sustainability of Erasmus University Rotterdam. In 2023, [the jury decided to give the award to the Economic Faculty Association Rotterdam \(EFR\)](#) because of its special achievement in being the first CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral school/student association in the Netherlands.

In June, the Design Impact Transition (DIT) platform organised [the second edition of the DIT Day](#). The conference explored how universities like ours can play a role in accelerating transitions to fair and sustainable systems.

The [Sustainability Liaison Network](#) is a platform for exchange and learning between faculties, service departments and students. The network members are also the contact persons who can answer the questions of students or employees about sustainability in research, education or operations.

## EUR Students for Sustainability

In August, the annual introduction week for new students, the Eureka week, took place. In 2023, [the Eureka week management was awarded the Green Key gold certificate](#), which promotes sustainability in the hospitality sector. The Eureka week approach earned the highest level of certification: the gold certificate.

## The Erasmus Sustainability Hub

The [Erasmus Sustainability Hub \(ESH\)](#) is the central location on campus that forms the link between Erasmus University Rotterdam students and sustainability-minded academics, organisations, businesses and Rotterdam-based projects.



During the Erasmus Sustainability Days in May 2023, organised by the Erasmus Sustainability Hub (ESH), a showcase called [Meet the sustainability educators at EUR](#) was hosted by the DIT platform. Educators from various EUR schools presented their educational activities and engaged in meaningful conversations with both employees and students regarding the intricacies and possibilities of sustainability education.

” The Erasmus Sustainability Days (ESD) are the biggest event hosted by the Erasmus Sustainability Hub. The ESD programme is designed to blend knowledge, experience and enjoyment, ensuring that everyone discovers something meaningful.



**Natasza Ciepat**  
Chair of the Erasmus Sustainability Hub

The [Erasmus Sustainability Hub \(ESH\)](#) organised a petition among students supporting cheaper vegan meals on campus. It collected 1,547 signatures from EUR students advocating the indefinite extension of the vegan meal deal promotion. The results of the petition were shared with the Executive Board (see the chapter on operations).



The ESH has worked with the [National Park Rotterdam](#) to create the Erasmus Rangers. The Erasmus Rangers is a group of volunteers who take on various sustainable initiatives and activities around Rotterdam, [using a platform run by National Park Rotterdam](#). The goal is to bring both students and employees together to make Rotterdam a greener and more sustainable city.

In 2023, the [RSM Positive Change Initiative team continued to foster 17 SDG Ambassadors](#) that help promote the SDGs on campus through their numerous initiatives. The project started actively with Romane Gamot and Lisa Stadlmayr, the SDG 1 and 2 Ambassadors, organising a bake sale to raise money for food banks. Meanwhile, Femke de Leeuw, the SDG 5 Ambassador, created a Valentine's Day Campaign inviting students to spread messages of inclusion, empowerment and support on campus.

**We have identified several sustainable initiatives taken by EUR student organisations. Some highlights are listed below:**

- As from the 2023–2024 academic year, [FAECTOR](#) is CO<sub>2</sub> neutral. It has mapped its carbon footprint, reduced its emissions where possible and offset what was unavoidable.
- [Cedo Nulli](#) has reduced its printed material as much as possible. A sustainability committee ensures sustainability practices in all activities.
- Student association [In Duplo](#) has included sustainability in its multi-year plan. It organises at least one of its yearly trips by sustainable transport.
- The [Economic Faculty Association Rotterdam \(EFR\)](#) has reduced and offsets its carbon footprint, so that the association is fully CO<sub>2</sub> neutral.
- [STAR](#) has organised a Changemakers forum.
- [The Erasmus University College Study Association \(EUCSA\)](#) has switched to a more sustainable bank to divest fossil fuels and ensure its money supports sustainable development.
- Students from Erasmus University College (EUC) have developed a plan with the support of EUC faculty and management to remove the tiles at the rear of EUC and create a biodiverse garden for leisure and educational purposes. The plan has been discussed with the city of Rotterdam and is now waiting for the next concrete steps.

## Reflection

There is a growing interest in sustainability among students and employees. The need for a growing and dedicated community to facilitate and strengthen sustainable transitions and initiatives is greater than ever. Participants in the Sustainability Dialogues especially emphasised the importance of establishing a central space on campus to coordinate sustainability initiatives and improve transparency and communication. Additionally, EUR is working on a new ethical framework for cooperation, focusing on assisting existing partners in transitioning to sustainability and working with new businesses, social entrepreneurs and civil-society actors to advance social transitions. A Committee of Experts in the field of sustainability will be launched: staff and scientists from various faculties and services will draw up the guidelines for collaboration with the fossil fuel industry. They are scheduled to deliver their results in the autumn of 2024.

08 Looking ahead to a new sustainable year

Turning plans into action



You have reached the end of our Sustainability Progress Report 2023. Hopefully, it was able to provide a clear impression of what the EUR Sustainability Programme involves. The report is a summary of selected highlights, as it would be nigh impossible to give a complete overview of everything that is happening and the multitude of people that are involved!

Although there are many great initiatives in the field of sustainability at EUR – as this report clearly illustrates – more and faster change is needed. As a university, we have great ambitions for the future in terms of our education, research and operations. This chapter outlines our plans for 2024.

We invite all Erasmians to get involved: from here on out, let us all make sustainable choices with respect to our studies, teaching, what we eat, how we get about and what we buy, both in our personal lives and on campus!

If you have any suggestions for future editions, please contact us at [sustainable@eur.nl](mailto:sustainable@eur.nl).

” The Tinbergen Renovation in 2024 epitomises our campus's sustainability drive. As the tallest and most prominent building, a focal point of both past and future, we incorporate sustainable norms throughout the design and realisation process, ensuring its future-proof status.



**Annemiek Strijker**  
Policy Advisor Sustainability RE&F

## Looking ahead to 2024

### January

#### Bring your own cup and sustainable commuting

As of 1 January 2024, disposable cups are no longer available at the Vitam coffee corners and coffee machines on campus Woudestein, EUC and ISS. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own reusable cup to campus.

As a part of the new sustainable mobility scheme, from 1 January 2024, the parking day rate for employees was raised by 50 cents.





## February

### The last Sustainable Dialogue

The last sustainability dialogue, 'From Words to Action', took place on campus on 5 February 2024. Eleven previous dialogues were organised: two cross-school dialogues on FFI engagement and eco-positive campus, and nine school dialogues on sustainability in education, research and operations of each faculty. During this final event, the outcomes of all dialogues were shared with the EUR community.

[Continue reading](#) →

## March

### Less litter in Langeveld after the pilot

Late last year, [a pilot started in the Langeveld Building, aiming to reduce litter in the lecture rooms.](#)

Various 'nudges' such as posters and banners, grounded in scientific research, were placed throughout the building. Results show that, thanks to this method, litter in the teaching spaces of Langeveld Building was reduced by 63%!

[Continue reading](#) →



## April

### Renovation of the Tinbergen Building

The renovation of Tinbergen Building is an important part of improving the sustainability of campus Woudestein. The renovation ensures more efficient energy use through double glazing, solar panels, energy-efficient installations, natural ventilation and sustainable materials.

[Continue reading](#) →

## May

### Plant-based milk is the new standard

Now, students and employees can get coffee with oat milk by default at caterer Vitam's coffee corners on campus Woudestein and at EUC. If they prefer cow's milk instead, they need to order it explicitly. With this step, [Vitam wants to reduce its environmental impact.](#)





## June

### Inclusive Energy Transition

Due to the success of the Dutch version of the [Inclusive Energy Transition](#) Honours Programme, an English track is being developed and will start in the 2024/2025 academic year.

## July

### Developing Sustainable Event Application

The Marketing & Communication department is actively working on the Sustainable Event Application, aiming to share it with the EUR event planning community and make it accessible beyond the university's reach. The Sustainable Event Application will help (EUR) event managers plan CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral or even eco-positive events.



## August

### Fossil Fuel Industry Collaboration Guidelines

Based on input from the EUR community, the industry collaboration policy guidelines will be developed and submitted to the Executing Board. The goal is to implement a new industry collaboration policy in the 2024/2025 academic year.

[Continue reading](#) →

## September

### Sustainability Award

During the Opening of the Academic Year in September, the Sustainability Award 2024 will be awarded to a sustainable initiative. Last year, the award went to the Economic Faculty Association Rotterdam (EFR).





## October

### EUR Sustainability Summit 2024

We are very happy to announce that we will welcome higher education institutions and organizations from across The Netherlands on the 11th of October 2024 at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Together, we'll reimagine the role of universities in shaping a just and sustainable society and foster a collaborative movement within Dutch academia. Regardless of our fields of study or research, the desire to leave behind a thriving planet for future generations unites us all.

[Continue reading](#) →

## November

### Pond renovation complete

The pond needed a major overhaul. Fences have been placed; the water has largely been pumped out for access, and work has started to renew the walls and much more. This project will take until early November to complete.



## December

### Development Strategy 2025 - 2030

As the current strategic period concludes in 2024, all associated strategic programmes will also come to an end. Looking ahead, sustainability will remain a core theme in the new strategy for 2025-2030. However, the approach to implementing sustainability initiatives will be thoroughly revised to better align with emerging challenges and opportunities. This revision aims to ensure that sustainability practices are more effective and integrated across all parts of the organisation.

## Disclaimer

This report shows what Erasmus University Rotterdam is doing to realize its ambitions in the field of sustainability. We have carefully compiled this report, but our monitoring system is still under construction and, moreover, cannot map all activities.

If you notice while reading that information is missing or needs correction, please contact us via [sustainable@eur.nl](mailto:sustainable@eur.nl).

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