Sustainability Policy

Preamble

The EAIR defines sustainability in a broad eco-friendly way, aiming to fulfil the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care, and social well-being.

EAIR is committed to supporting sustainability across its operations and activities. We operationalize this commitment through sustainable practices that address the organization's environmental impacts. The EAIR Executive Committee (EC) is committed to safeguarding this policy principle in every activity connected to the Association. Greenwashing is not an option. In short, EAIR EC aims to walk the talk regarding sustainability and caring about the climate and future generations. In cases where the management of operations is not under its direct control, the EAIR will make known its policies to the hosts or service providers and encourage development in the direction of sustainability. This might, for example, apply to catering and transport.

The following is a listing of commitments:

1. Reducing transport use to a minimum.

There is a reasonable and understandable call to place EAIR Forums in almost every corner of Europe. It is a European association and the fact that it meets in a variety of European countries brings participants closer to the richness and historical resonance of European cultures, both at a national and regional level. Nevertheless, EAIR commits to take the options for climate friendly transportation into consideration when choosing host universities for the annual EAIR Forums.

Regarding the EAIR Forums in particular: the venue should be as close to hotels and restaurants as possible or quite easy to reach by public transport. And EAIR-facilitated sightseeing tours should not include unsustainable transportations e.g., diesel-driven buses. At its best, the type of

transportation should be as climate friendly as possible within affordability, e.g., walking, cycling and electric-driven vehicles should be preferred as a contrast to diesel-driven buses, though issues of participant health and mobility will also need to be considered. Last but not least, EAIR encourages participants to book sustainable transportation options and offset air travel when travelling to EAIR Forums.

EAIR EC also commits to considering sustainability within its internal meetings. The EC has a reasonable and understandable need to meet face-to-face, to create and maintain a close community. Nevertheless, the EC will only meet face-to-face when appropriate; it will additionally encourage board members to book sustainable transportation options and offset air travel when travelling to EC meetings. The rest of EC meetings will be online.

2. Reducing the use of unsustainable resources to a minimum

Merchandise should be avoided. This includes handing out notebooks and pencils (attendees are expected to have paper, writing implements and a personal computer or similar). Bottles for water and cups for coffee/tea should as far as possible be reusable and refillable.

3. Ensuring sustainable food & dining

EAIR will encourage its providers to a) purchase environmentally and socially preferable food and beverages (e.g., products that are Certified Organic, Fair Trade Certified, Certified Humane or sourced from local community-based producers); b) make vegetarian or vegan options available and promote low impact dining (e.g., "meatless events"); and c) minimise food waste through source reduction, donation and/or composting.

4. Reducing printing to a minimum

The need for printed books, articles, programs is not pre-eminent. Therefore, EAIR commits to distributing all types of texts online and to producing printed versions only if it is unavoidable and/or only on demand.

5. Supporting focus on sustainability in academic discussions

EAIR activities cover many topics related to higher education and institutional research. The EAIR EC commits to placing sustainability prominently in these academic discussions, e.g., as a track theme or component.

6. Evaluating sustainability

When evaluating Forums and other EAIR activities, sustainability should be a topic, e.g., an open question "Do you have any suggestions on how EAIR can enhance sustainability in future activities?" can be included in surveys.

7. Ensuring sustainable partnerships

When EAIR collaborates with publishers, universities and similar, these partners will be expected to follow sustainable policies.

Best Practices and further literature:

https://www.aashe.org/sustainability-policy/

https://www.nationalgeographic.org/sustainability-policy/

https://nonprofit.linkedin.com/blog/2022/01/how-nonprofits-can-engage-in-sustainability

Approved by EAIR Annual General Meeting

September 2023