D09.8 - Final Report on Arqus Green Mobility Days

Work Package: 09 – Arqus on the Move

Arqus II - Arqus Erasmus + Work Plan 2022-2026

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1. Framework

1.1. Arqus II: Context and Objectives

Launched in September 2022, Arqus II marks the second phase of the Arqus European University Alliance, bringing together nine European universities with the shared vision of building a deeply integrated, sustainable, inclusive, and research-driven European University. Funded under the Erasmus+ European Universities Initiative, Arqus II aims to institutionalise and upscale pilot actions implemented during the first phase of the Alliance.

1.2. Building the Arqus Mobility Culture

Arqus on the Move is the Work Package dedicated to mobility within the Alliance. Its objective is to build and consolidate a shared Arqus mobility culture that responds to the transversal priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme (2021–2027): green transition, digital transformation, and inclusion.

1.3. Arqus Green Mobility Days

Within this framework, the Arqus Green Mobility Days were conceived as a collective awareness-raising initiative aimed at promoting more sustainable mobility practices among students and staff participating in international mobility.

The initiative was developed in response to a shared challenge identified across European universities: international mobility is still largely associated with environmentally unsustainable practices. Green means of transport are often underused, and sustainability considerations are not systematically integrated into the overall mobility experience.

The main objective of the Arqus Green Mobility Days is therefore to raise awareness among students and staff about the use of greener travel options to reach the host country and, more broadly, to promote more sustainable lifestyles during the mobility period. Crucially, this initiative frames sustainability not merely as carbon reduction, but as an active, deep integration with the local host environment. By approaching sustainability from an eco-social perspective, the Arqus Green Mobility Days emphasizes that green living includes respect for, interaction with, and support of local communities, civic associations, and urban spaces. Through this joint initiative, all Arqus partner universities committed to working together to exchange good practices, develop common approaches, and contribute to the building of a shared and sustainable Arqus mobility culture.

2. Methodological Approach and Process Design

This chapter describes the analytical and collaborative process that led to the design and implementation of the Arqus Green Mobility Days.

2.1. Context Analysis and Shared Challenges

An initial analysis highlighted that all partner universities faced similar challenges in promoting environmentally sustainable mobility. International mobility was still largely associated with carbon-intensive travel choices, and sustainability considerations were not systematically integrated into the mobility experience.

2.2. Co-Design and Planning Phases

Each year, one edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days was organised and the overall design of each edition followed a co-design approach. Partners collectively discussed the thematic focus, the general format of the initiative, common priorities and shared goals to be reached across the Alliance.

At the same time, local activities were organised in a largely autonomous manner by each partner university, in order to reflect institutional contexts, target groups, and local opportunities. Throughout the process, partners kept each other informed of planned and implemented activities during the regular meetings, ensuring coordination, mutual learning, and coherence at Alliance level.

To secure funding for the activities, the Working Group developed a proactive three-year work plan from the very beginning, successfully obtaining resources from the Innovation Fund to launch the activities and the award contest, with individual universities providing co-funding where necessary.

2.3. Timing and Format Decisions

To accommodate varying local calendars and institutional constraints, partners ultimately agreed to identify a flexible timeframe—the spring season—for the initiative, rather than sticking to the initial plan. Although the first edition in 2024 was originally intended to take place simultaneously across all campuses on April 22 (Earth Day), this shift to a broader period allowed each university to organize activities according to its specific scheduling realities. This flexible approach proved essential for ensuring broad participation and strong local ownership.

In terms of format, the Arqus Green Mobility Days are structured around a two-tier approach, combining annual local activities organised independently by the individual partner Universities with joint, common initiatives developed collectively at Alliance level. Both tracks of activities are bound together by a single *fil rouge*: the promotion and exploration of green mobility. To unify these diverse actions under a shared identity and ensure high visibility across all Institutions, a dedicated GMD logo was created. This branding strategy ensures that all local and Alliance-wide activities are immediately recognisable as part of the same cohesive initiative.



2.4. Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

At the end of each annual edition, partners completed a shared report describing implemented activities, outcomes, and challenges. These reports enabled the identification of strengths and areas for improvement, shaping the design of subsequent editions. The present document constitutes the final consolidated report.

3. Implementation of the Initiatives

The implementation of the Arqus Green Mobility Days from 2024 to 2026 represents a milestone in the Alliance's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Over its three-year rollout, the initiative successfully transformed operational challenges into strategic insights, adopting a flexible implementation window that preserved a unified Arqus identity while granting partner universities the autonomy to maximise local impact. The following sections provide an overview of each annual edition, illustrating how the Alliance systematically deepened environmental awareness, expanded its target audiences to include both student and staff cohorts, and laid a foundation for future sustainable mobility frameworks.

For a comprehensive, institution-by-institution breakdown of all specific activities and localised initiatives conducted during the three editions, please refer to the *Annex*.

3.1. The 2024 Edition: Establishing a Common Framework

The first edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days laid the foundations for a shared Alliance approach to promoting sustainable mobility. Although the initiatives differed considerably in scale and format, reflecting the diversity of institutional contexts and local priorities, they converged around a common objective: raising awareness of the environmental impact of international mobility and encouraging participants to adopt more sustainable behaviours.

Across the Alliance, universities primarily focused on introducing the concept of green mobility through accessible and practical initiatives. Awareness campaigns, information booths, workshops, public discussions, bicycle-related activities and community events enabled participants to explore sustainable mobility from different perspectives. At the same time, many institutions broadened the discussion by connecting mobility with themes such as circular economy, responsible consumption, waste reduction and environmental citizenship, demonstrating that sustainable travel cannot be considered in isolation from wider sustainability challenges.

A defining feature of the first edition was the creation of local partnerships. Student organisations, municipalities, NGOs, university services and local associations played a central role in the implementation of many activities, allowing each university to adapt the common objectives of the initiative to its own local ecosystem. Rather than pursuing a standardised model, the Alliance encouraged institutional diversity while maintaining a shared strategic direction.

The first edition therefore established the conceptual and organisational foundations upon which the Green Mobility Days would continue to develop, demonstrating the potential of local initiatives to contribute collectively to a common Alliance vision of sustainable international mobility.

Common Initiative

As part of the first edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days, the Alliance launched the *Arqus Green Mobility Days Award*, a joint initiative aimed at identifying and promoting innovative sustainability projects capable of fostering greener approaches to international mobility. The call was open to students, researchers, academic and administrative staff, as well as associations and student organisations from all Arqus universities.

Projects were evaluated according to criteria such as innovation, adaptability, impact on local communities, inclusion, and relevance to sustainable mobility. The winning proposal received a prize worth €1,000 in Interrail passes, reinforcing the connection between sustainability and low-carbon travel. A total of 16 applications were submitted across the Alliance, demonstrating a strong initial interest in sharing and recognising good practices in the field of green mobility.

The Green Mobility Days Award was awarded to Elena Della Rocca, a Bachelor's Degree student in Cultural Tourism Planning and Management at the University of Padua, for her project entitled "Better Mobility". This accolade underscores the initiative's success in recognising outstanding, bottom-up commitment to sustainability.

3.2. The 2025 Edition: Expanding Participation

The second edition marked a significant step forward in the development of the Green Mobility Days. Building on the experience gained during the inaugural year, Universities expanded both the scale and the ambition of their local programmes, moving beyond awareness-raising towards activities that actively involved participants in sustainable practices.

Experiential learning became a recurring feature across the Alliance. Cycling tours, sustainability festivals, educational visits, environmental volunteering, circular economy initiatives, workshops and interactive challenges encouraged participants to experience sustainability directly rather than simply receiving information. Green mobility increasingly became a practical experience, embedded within everyday behaviours and local communities.

At the same time, the thematic scope of the initiative broadened considerably. While sustainable transport remained a central focus, Universities increasingly connected mobility with biodiversity, sustainable food systems, health, urban planning, waste prevention, circular economy and climate action. This evolution reflected a growing recognition that environmentally responsible mobility forms part of a wider transition towards more sustainable lifestyles.

The second edition also strengthened collaboration beyond the university environment. Partnerships with municipalities, public institutions, NGOs, student associations and community organisations became more structured, reinforcing the role of Universities as local actors capable of promoting sustainability through cooperation and civic engagement. Overall, the 2025 edition demonstrated the maturation of the initiative from a series of awareness activities into a platform for active participation and behavioural change.

Common Initiative

Building on the positive experience of the previous year, the *Arqus Green Mobility Days Award 2025* was launched as a cross-alliance initiative to continue encouraging innovative and transferable sustainability practices within the Arqus community. The call sought projects capable of raising awareness about the environmental impact of individual choices, improving the sustainability of products or services, generating a multiplier effect on local communities, and supporting mobile students and staff. Particular attention was given to feasibility, reproducibility, and the potential for implementation across different institutional contexts, making the application process slightly more demanding than the inaugural year. The Award consisted of €1,000 in train passes, further promoting sustainable travel within Europe.

In total, 9 applications were received from across the Alliance. Although the number of submissions was lower than in 2024, the initiative continued to provide a valuable platform for showcasing innovative ideas and stimulating discussion on sustainable mobility among the Arqus community.

3.3. The 2026 Edition: Consolidating Good Practices

By the third edition, the Arqus Green Mobility Days had reached a new level of maturity. Rather than focusing solely on organising individual events, many universities sought to consolidate the experience gained during previous editions by embedding green mobility more firmly within their institutional strategies, internationalisation policies and sustainability agendas.

While practical activities continued to play an important role, the emphasis increasingly shifted towards long-term impact. Several institutions introduced permanent resources, institutional support measures, dissemination tools and initiatives designed to extend the influence of the Green Mobility Days beyond the duration of the events themselves. At the same time, activities encouraged participants to reflect critically on the environmental implications of international mobility, share personal experiences and develop a stronger sense of responsibility for their mobility choices.

The third edition also highlighted the growing exchange of good practices across the Alliance. Universities increasingly built upon successful initiatives developed in previous years, adapted ideas originating from partner institutions and contributed resources intended for use beyond their own local context. This progression demonstrated how the Green Mobility Days had evolved from a collection of local initiatives into a collaborative Alliance-wide framework supporting innovation, mutual learning and continuous improvement.

Taken together, the three editions illustrate a clear evolution: from introducing the concept of green mobility (2024), to encouraging active participation (2025), and finally to embedding sustainability within institutional practices and the international mobility experience (2026). This progression reflects the increasing capacity of the Arqus Alliance to translate shared strategic objectives into locally adapted initiatives while fostering a common culture of sustainable international mobility.

Common Initiatives

Organised as a cross-alliance initiative in collaboration with European University Foundation (EUF), the *Green mobility in Erasmus+: Best practices and future ambitions* webinar was specifically designed for professional staff across all Arqus universities. This online session featured expert insights from Salome Dermati (Policy and Research Officer at the European University Foundation) and Petra Šmídová (Erasmus+ Outgoing Students Coordinator at Charles University, Czech Republic).

The data and solution-oriented session focused on two main areas: analysing recent research on systemic obstacles in green student mobility, and equipping staff with practical strategies and resources to promote sustainable travel choices.

The webinar saw strong engagement with over 70 staff members participating from all Arqus universities. Attendance spanned a diverse range of university departments, attracting colleagues from sectors not strictly linked to mobility or sustainability. A post-event evaluation questionnaire revealed high interest in the topic and confirmed that the session was very well received, indicating potential for similar joint sessions in the future.

Building on the experience gained through the Arqus Green Mobility Days Award in 2024 and 2025, the Alliance decided to adopt a different approach for the final edition of the initiative. Given the approaching conclusion of the Arqus II project and the need to ensure that all activities could be implemented, evaluated and concluded within the project timeframe, the annual award was replaced by a dedicated edition of the *Tell Your Mobility Story (TYMS)* contest entirely focused on green mobility. Participants were invited to create short videos showcasing sustainable travel choices and environmentally friendly lifestyles adopted during their mobility experience, ranging from travelling by train across Europe to embracing second-hand consumption, local

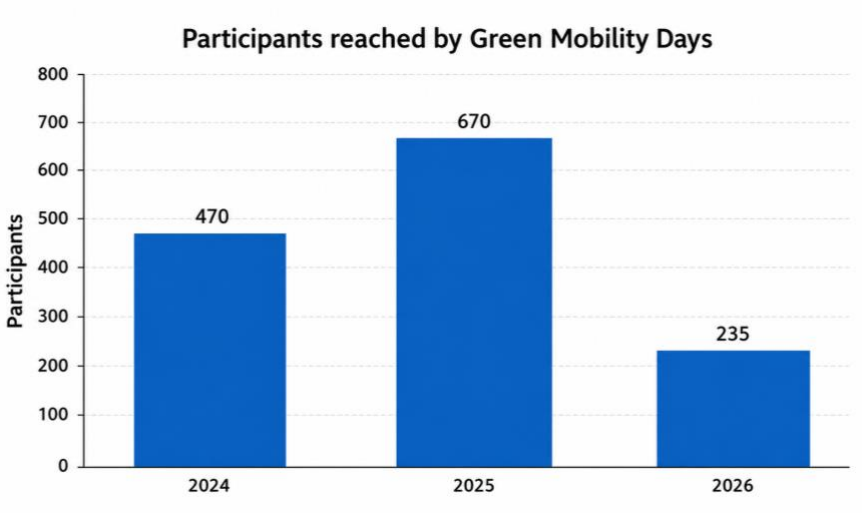
products and zero-waste practices. The videos were published on the official Arqus Youtube channel making them accessible to anyone, usable for dissemination purposes and easily votable. The public could cast their votes by liking their favourite videos directly on YouTube. The most voted video received a Eurail Pass, while the best entries were integrated into the Alliance's communication activities.

The new format proved effective in maintaining engagement while significantly reducing organisational complexity. A total of 62 students registered their interest, resulting in 18 completed video submissions. Compared to the previous edition of TYMS, which had attracted 31 registrations and 16 submitted videos, the dedicated Green Mobility edition doubled the number of registrations and slightly increased the number of final submissions. The new format also generated more than 8,400 total views, compared to more than 4,500 for the previous edition, indicating that it reached a broader audience and increased the potential to inspire viewers and raise awareness of international mobility opportunities. These results suggest that sustainability has become an increasingly relevant and engaging topic for mobile students, while also confirming the value of storytelling and peer-to-peer communication as effective tools for promoting greener mobility behaviours.

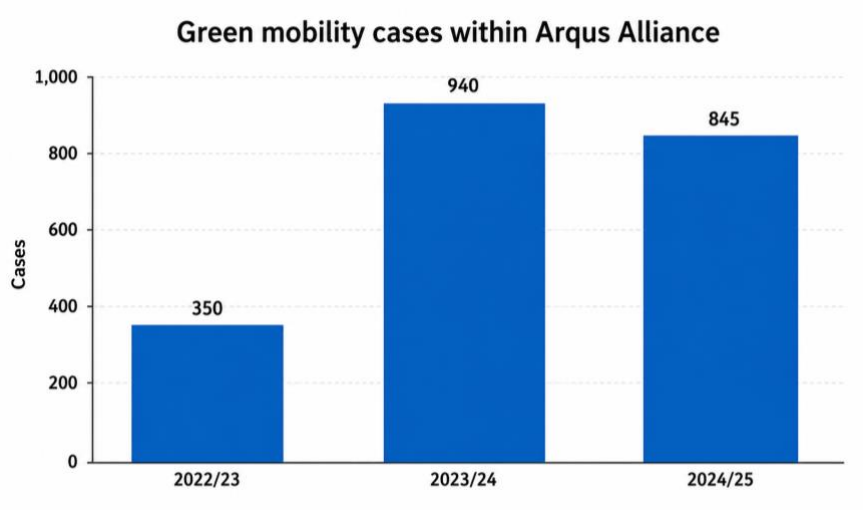
4. Results and Impact

Over the three editions of the Arqus Green Mobility Days, partner universities progressively strengthened their commitment to promoting sustainable mobility and environmentally conscious lifestyles. Approximately 80 activities were implemented across the Alliance, involving universities, student associations, local authorities, NGOs, sustainability experts, mobility offices and volunteers. Collectively, these actions reached more than 1,300 participants through workshops, bicycle tours, sustainability fairs, debates, repair laboratories, circular economy initiatives, storytelling campaigns and awareness-raising events.

One of the main achievements of the initiative was the diversity of formats adopted by partners. Activities combined practical experiences, peer learning, community engagement and institutional awareness-raising. The initiative also fostered stronger collaboration among Arqus universities, with an increasing number of partners actively contributing and sharing good practices throughout the three-year period.



Participation increased significantly between the first and second editions, reflecting growing visibility and engagement. The lower figure recorded in 2026 is largely explained by the fact that several activities were still ongoing or reported only partially at the time of drafting this report. While the overall number of participants remains modest compared to the size of the partner institutions, the initiative succeeded in reaching highly relevant target groups and creating meaningful interactions around sustainability.



The Green Mobility Days should also be interpreted within the broader context of the Alliance's efforts to promote sustainable travel. According to Arqus Mobility Reports, the number of Erasmus+ green mobility cases increased from 355 in 2022/23 to 907 in 2023/24, representing a growth of 155%. The draft data available for 2024/25 suggest a consolidation phase after this exceptional expansion, with participation levels remaining substantially higher than in 2022/23. This trend demonstrates that sustainability is becoming an increasingly important dimension of international mobility across the Alliance.

Participant feedback collected locally by several partners indicated a high level of satisfaction, particularly for hands-on activities such as bicycle tours, repair workshops, upcycling laboratories, sustainability challenges and storytelling initiatives. Participants valued opportunities to exchange experiences, discover local sustainability practices and connect environmental awareness with their mobility experience.

The long-term objective of the Green Mobility Days is to encourage behavioural change by helping students and staff make more informed choices regarding travel, consumption and daily habits. However, given the relatively recent implementation of the initiative, there is currently insufficient evidence to assess its long-term impact on participants' attitudes and behaviours. Future monitoring activities could include follow-up surveys and indicators specifically designed to measure behavioural change over time.

The initiative generated a positive institutional impact by triggering valuable new collaborations. Internally, the initiative stimulated greater cooperation and cohesion across different university sectors. Externally, it created excellent synergies between the universities and their surrounding areas, establishing active partnerships with Local Organisations, Municipalities, And Communities To Champion Environmental Transition Together.

5. Concluding: From Lessons Learnt to Recommendations

The implementation of the Arqus Green Mobility Days across its three editions has provided the Alliance with a wealth of insights, uncovering both the significant potential of shared sustainability initiatives and the practical challenges of executing them across diverse institutional realities. Reflecting on these experiences allows us to transform operational lessons into strategic recommendations for future shared initiatives.

One of the immediate lessons concerns the timeline of the initiative. The original, ambitious goal was to organise activities simultaneously across all partner universities, and it was initially proposed to hold this initiative on Earth Day (22 April). However, due to the misalignment of academic calendars, it was ultimately impossible to identify a specific, fixed day suitable for all Partners. Moving forward, it is highly recommended to maintain a flexible implementation window, rather than a single day. This approach preserves the collective,

alliance-wide identity of the initiative whilst granting individual universities the autonomy to choose the most strategic local timing.

While establishing a flexible implementation window allows for better operational alignment, it also raises a broader strategic question regarding the overall pacing of the initiative. On the one hand, concentrating the Arqus Green Mobility Days within a specific, well-defined period is undeniably beneficial: it creates a peak in visibility, makes the initiative highly recognisable across the Alliance and allows for a coordinated communication strategy that can generate a stronger immediate buzz.

On the other hand, raising genuine awareness about sustainable mobility requires continuous engagement and long-term efforts. One-off annual events, no matter how successful, risk creating only temporary spikes in interest that fade once the annual Green Mobility Days are over. Rather than remaining a single concentrated “campaign”, the Green Mobility Days have evolved into the framework for a more capillary approach aimed at fostering sustainable habits in international mobility. Consequently, smaller, low-stakes initiatives distributed throughout the academic year may ultimately have a greater, more profound impact on everyday habits.

To combine a dedicated promotional window with year-round engagement, partner universities could adopt a hybrid, dual-track approach. This relies on a sort of "anchor initiative" model, where the main Arqus Green Mobility Days window remains an annual flagship that can seed follow-up "micro-campaigns" throughout the academic year, keeping “green mobility” theme alive through smaller, recurring events. By structuring the initiative this way, the Alliance can easily secure the high-impact visibility of a concentrated initiative whilst ensuring the continuous, long-term dialogue necessary to foster effective change in students’ behaviour.

Timing is equally essential when looking at the student mobility life cycle. In past editions, we often engaged exchange students after their arrival at the host institution. By that point, however, their travel methods had already been chosen and their carbon footprints generated. To make a real difference, we must reach students much earlier in the cycle. Sustainability considerations and information about green travel alternatives must be structurally integrated into pre-departure promotion, nomination packages, and initial briefings, allowing students to plan eco-friendly routes before booking their tickets.

Furthermore, if this awareness-raising is executed effectively at an early stage, sustainability could evolve into a decisive factor when students choose their mobility destination. Rather than being a secondary thought, an institution's green credentials (such as whether a city and host campus are environmentally virtuous or if the destination can be easily and safely reached via low-carbon transport methods) could become a primary incentive for prospective applicants.

Another crucial reflection involves our target audience. The first three editions focused primarily on international and exchange students, who represent the most visible face of Erasmus+ mobility. However, restricting our focus to this group missed an opportunity for a deeper result. Future editions should actively broaden their scope to involve local students, academic staff, researchers and administrative personnel. Green mobility should not be treated as an isolated topic for exchange students, but as a shared culture that connects the entire university community, regardless of their nationality or role.

A further reflection concerns the very nature of the "Green Mobility Days" concept itself. Rather than remaining a bounded set of initiatives confined to a specific timeframe, probably it should evolve into a lasting motto embedded in the organisational culture of the Alliance and in the daily lives of both students and staff members. To achieve this, enhancing collaboration with other green initiatives and already environmentally conscious groups is essential; this synergy ensures that sustainable habits developed at home continue seamlessly when the time for mobility comes. The goal should not then be limited to reaching those already engaged in mobility initiatives (either incoming or outgoing; currently or soon to be part of), but to treat every member of the Alliance communities as potential (future) mobile individuals. By fostering a culture of

environmental awareness from the outset, green and sustainable choices become second nature — so deeply internalised that, when the moment of decision arrives, whether choosing a mode of transport, planning a trip, or navigating a new city, acting responsibly requires no particular effort or deliberation. Sustainability, in this vision, is not a campaign. It is a habit, a way of daily living.

This broader potential was clearly demonstrated by the strong participation in the webinar "Green mobility in Erasmus+: Best practices and future ambitions" organised in collaboration with the EUF (European University Foundation). Aimed at professional staff across Arqus universities, the event revealed widespread interest in sustainability themes. It was particularly interesting to notice that participation was not confined to staff directly managing student mobility, but extended to administrative staff members from various other departments, underscoring a shared attention towards green initiatives. Building on this momentum, future editions should place a stronger focus on staff mobility itself; rather than leaving green travel choices solely to the discretion of the individual, the Alliance should actively work to build institutional frameworks that support and facilitate these sustainable approaches.

To maximise our reach without multiplying administrative burdens, we should also focus on institutional integration. Instead of forcing green mobility to compete for attention as a standalone initiative, future editions should be systematically integrated into larger, high-traffic institutional events. Embedding workshops and activities into existing frameworks (such as official orientation sessions, welcome days and general study-abroad information sessions) guarantees immediate access to a large and highly relevant audience.

When analysing the formats of the activities themselves, participation patterns clearly indicate that passive informational sessions, such as static exhibitions or formal lectures, yield lower engagement. In contrast, practical, interactive, and community-based initiatives—such as hands-on bike repair workshops, sustainable city games, or peer-to-peer testimonials—have proven to be the most effective levers for attracting participants and generating genuine enthusiasm. Future efforts should heavily prioritise these dynamic formats.

Finally, the long-term development of these initiatives would benefit from continuing to strengthen monitoring and evaluation across the Alliance. Existing participation and attendance data provide a basis for assessing engagement. However these data could be complemented by more systematic information on the experience of participants and longer-term changes in mobility behaviour. The development of satisfaction measures and where feasible longitudinal indicators would add further insight into the effects of these initiatives over time. This additional evidence would build on the information already collected across partner universities, supporting the continued development of mobility initiatives and provide a picture of their contribution to the wider objectives of the Alliance.

Ultimately, the evolution of the Arqus Green Mobility Days demonstrates that sustainability is no longer just an additional feature of international mobility, but a fundamental pillar of the Alliance’s identity. By transforming operational challenges into strategic opportunities—such as moving towards a more capillary approach, embedding eco-conscious habits early in the student lifecycle, and building strong institutional frameworks for staff—the Alliance is paving the way for lasting cultural change. Armed with these valuable insights and a shared vision, Arqus is well-positioned to turn environmental awareness into an effortless, everyday reality, ensuring that the future of international education is not only globally connected but profoundly sustainable.

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LOCAL INITIATIVES OF THE ARQUS GREEN MOBILITY DAYS (2024-2026)

This Annex provides an overview of the local activities organised by the Arqus partner universities within the framework of the three editions of the Arqus Green Mobility Days (2024–2026). It complements the main report by presenting the initiatives implemented at local level, illustrating how each institution interpreted the common objectives of promoting sustainable mobility, environmental awareness and responsible lifestyles according to its own institutional context and local partnerships.
Although the activities varied in format and focus, they shared a common purpose: encouraging more sustainable behaviours through practical experiences, community engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration and peer learning.

THE 2024 EDITION

LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY

Leipzig University did not organise a dedicated Green Mobility Days event during the first edition, as responsibility for the topic had not yet been assigned within the Institution. Nevertheless, the University contributed to the initiative by publishing institutional communication promoting sustainable travel, with particular emphasis on rail transport as an environmentally preferable option for international mobility.

Although limited in scope, this initial engagement helped raise internal awareness of the Green Mobility Days initiative and laid the foundations for the University's more structured participation in the following editions.

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

Maynooth University incorporated the first edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days into its wider *Green Week* programme, combining sustainability actions with community engagement. Activities included a *Reuse Pop-up Centre*, where donated household items were redistributed to incoming students, a sustainability *Hackathon* encouraging innovative solutions to environmental challenges, and awareness-raising initiatives promoting reusable cups, waste reduction and composting.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrated how sustainability can be promoted through a combination of practical action, community participation and behavioural change. By integrating circular economy practices with environmental awareness and collaborative problem-solving, the University laid the foundations for a broader sustainability culture that would continue to evolve in subsequent editions of the Arqus Green Mobility Days.

UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

The University of Granada implemented an extensive programme in collaboration with the Vice-Rectorates for Infrastructure and Internationalisation, the Granada City Council and the local association *La Huella Verde*. Sustainable mobility was promoted through a *Sustainable Mobility Conference*, a *Green Mobility Booth* providing information on Erasmus+ funding for greener travel, and the *30 Days by Bike* challenge encouraging cycling through the Ciclogreen platform. Additional activities included the planting of a centennial olive tree, environmental workshops at the Ceuta Campus, a MOOC on climate change, a WEEE collection campaign and the *Rental Fashion Show*, which promoted clothing reuse, repair and upcycling.

Together, these activities illustrate how sustainable mobility can be successfully integrated into a wider institutional sustainability agenda. By combining academic dialogue, community participation and hands-on learning across different campuses, the University fostered a broader understanding of sustainability while reinforcing the objectives of the Arqus Green Mobility Days.

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Rather than organising a one-day event, the University of Graz established a permanent *Sustainability Swap Shelf*, creating a dedicated space where members of the University community could exchange reusable goods throughout the year. By extending product lifecycles and encouraging reuse, the initiative embedded circular economy practices into everyday campus life while providing a simple and lasting contribution to the objectives of the Arqus Green Mobility Days.

UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

The first edition at the University of Minho took place at the Gualtar Campus in Braga and brought together incoming and returning outgoing exchange students through a participatory programme centred on dialogue and peer learning. Activities included an *Arqus Green Mobility Days World Café* and the round table *Urban Sustainable Mobility for Students in Mobility in Braga & Guimarães*, where participants reflected on sustainable urban mobility and exchanged experiences from different European contexts. The event concluded with an informal networking session organised with the support of the Students' Association (AAUM), strengthening interaction within the international student community.

In this first edition, the University of Minho demonstrated the value of dialogue-based and participatory formats in promoting sustainable mobility. By creating opportunities for discussion, knowledge exchange and community building, the programme strengthened environmental awareness while fostering meaningful connections between incoming and outgoing exchange students.

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA

As part of the first edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days, the University of Padua implemented a local programme in collaboration with student organisations, local associations and external stakeholders, combining awareness-raising, experiential learning and community engagement to promote sustainable mobility.

The programme began with the University's participation in *Gran Bazar*, organised by the Xena Association and local partners, where it supported a second-hand free market promoting the exchange of pre-owned clothing and household items, introducing international students to circular economy practices while strengthening collaboration with local organisations. On 16 April, the University organised a *Green Mobility Booth* in collaboration with ESN Padova, providing information on sustainable mobility and engaging students in the co-creation of a digital map of eco-friendly places, services and green spaces across Padua. The same day, the *Green Mobility Plaza*, organised in partnership with Dott, introduced participants to shared electric scooters as a sustainable urban transport solution. The programme concluded with a *Bike Maintenance Lab*, delivered together with La Mente Comune, where incoming international students learned basic bicycle maintenance skills to encourage cycling as a safe and sustainable means of transport during their stay in Padua.

Together, these initiatives combined circular economy, active mobility, practical skills development and community engagement, strengthening participants' awareness of sustainable mobility while fostering closer links between international students and the local community.

UNIVERSITY OF WROCŁAW

The University of Wrocław implemented a diverse programme of interactive initiatives designed to promote sustainable mobility and environmentally responsible behaviours among students and staff. Through a hands-on and participatory approach, the University combined practical services, educational activities and gamification to encourage more sustainable everyday choices. A city game connecting the Grunwaldzki and

Koszarowa campuses invited participants to explore the city on foot, by bicycle and by public transport, highlighting the environmental benefits of sustainable travel alternatives to private car use.

To support active mobility, the University also established a free bicycle check-up station, providing students with basic technical assistance for everyday cycling. The programme was complemented by the workshop *Your Own Garden in the City*, which introduced participants to urban gardening and responsible consumption, and by an interactive *Wheel of Fortune* quiz promoting environmental sustainability and green mobility through an engaging and accessible format.
Rather than focusing exclusively on transport, the programme connected sustainable mobility with everyday environmental practices, encouraging participants to adopt more responsible behaviours both on and beyond campus.

UNIVERSITÉ CLAUDE BERNARD LYON 1

Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 implemented the first edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days through a broad collaborative approach involving student unions (Bee SPB and La Serre), the University Library and local organisations committed to sustainability, including Conscience et Impact Écologique, La Maison de l'Environnement, La Maison du Vélo, ESN Cosmo Lyon and Roul'Ibre. Organised on 18 April 2024 across the University's two main campuses, the programme combined educational, recreational and participatory activities linking sustainable mobility with environmental responsibility and responsible consumption.

The event featured board games and a treasure hunt focused on sustainable mobility, practical workshops on the *Fresco of Needs*, digital sobriety, reusable beeswax food wraps and confidence-building cycling sessions, as well as information booths, thematic exhibitions and a film debate promoting greener transport choices and sustainable lifestyles.

Around 215 participants took part in the event, reflecting a high level of engagement across the University community. Through collaboration between academic services, student organisations and local associations, the initiative promoted practical learning, knowledge exchange and behavioural change, reinforcing the University's commitment to environmental sustainability and green mobility.

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

Vilnius University did not implement local activities during the 2024 edition. However, its subsequent participation in later editions reflects the progressive consolidation of the Green Mobility Days across the Alliance.

THE 2025 EDITION

LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY

The second edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days reflected Leipzig University's growing commitment to integrating sustainable mobility into its internationalisation strategy. Organised as part of the University's *Arqus Day* on 16 October 2025, the event featured a dedicated Green Mobility information booth with a poster exhibition on sustainable travel and an interactive *Wheel of Fortune*, engaging approximately 50 members of the University community while promoting environmentally friendly mobility through practical information and sustainable promotional materials.

Beyond the local event, the University strengthened its institutional support through the development of the *Green Mobility Kit* for students and staff across the Arqus Alliance. The kit provides practical guidance and

recommendations to support informed and environmentally responsible travel choices before, during and after international mobility.

The University also introduced a *Green Mobility Bonus* under its internal Sustainability Fund, granting an additional €50 to students travelling by train or long-distance bus to another Arqus University for short-term mobility activities. Together, these actions combined awareness-raising, practical guidance and financial incentives, reinforcing Leipzig University's long-term commitment to promoting lower-carbon mobility within the Arqus Alliance.

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

In 2025, Maynooth University further integrated the Arqus Green Mobility Days into its wider sustainability programme, combining circular economy initiatives, community engagement and institutional measures to encourage more environmentally responsible behaviours across campus.

A central element of the programme was the *Reuse Centre*, where household essentials and kitchenware donated by students were redistributed to newly arrived students, including incoming international students, promoting circular economy principles while supporting their transition to campus life. Community engagement was further encouraged through the *MU Campus Clean-up*, which involved University volunteers and pupils from Maynooth Primary School in litter collection and the creation of environmental art installations across the town in preparation for the European Entente Florale competition.

The University also advanced its institutional sustainability agenda by completing the transition of its Estates fleet to fully electric vehicles. In parallel, the Maynooth Students' Union, together with Maynooth Green Campus and the Estates Team, launched a campus-wide *Return Scheme*, encouraging students and staff to recycle bottles and cans while supporting the Students' Union's Charity Partner of the Year.

These initiatives illustrate how Maynooth University combined community participation, circular economy practices and institutional action to promote greener everyday behaviours while reinforcing its long-term commitment to environmental sustainability.

UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

In 2025, the University of Granada further strengthened its contribution to the Arqus Green Mobility Days through a programme combining active mobility, environmental volunteering and academic reflection on sustainable urban development.

A central initiative was the *30 Days by Bike Challenge*, which encouraged members of the University community to cycle throughout April, tracking their journeys via a dedicated mobile application. Environmental engagement was further promoted through an outdoor activity at the Cubillas Reservoir, where participants combined a community clean-up with a kayaking session organised by the University's Centre for Sports Activities, highlighting the links between environmental protection, outdoor recreation and sustainable lifestyles.

The academic dimension of the programme was reinforced through the round table *Infraestructura verde para la mejora de la ciudad* at the School of Architecture, where experts in ecology, landscape planning and urban development discussed strategies for urban renaturalisation and presented successful regeneration experiences from Málaga, the Mar Menor and other European contexts.

By combining active mobility, environmental volunteering and academic dialogue, the programme strengthened environmental awareness while supporting the objectives of the *Arqus on the Move* initiative.

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

The University of Graz organised the second edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days as part of its *Nachhaltigkeitstag* (Sustainability Day) on 16 October 2025. Primarily aimed at incoming international students, the event provided practical guidance on adopting more sustainable lifestyles in Graz while remaining open to the wider University community.

The programme featured a series of interactive mini-workshops led by local experts on sustainable mobility, food, shopping, waste management and hiking, encouraging participants to explore sustainability beyond transport choices. Through practical advice on topics such as public transport, second-hand shopping and responsible outdoor recreation, the workshops highlighted how everyday decisions can reduce the environmental impact of international mobility.

Networking sessions accompanied by vegetarian and vegan refreshments complemented the educational activities, creating opportunities for informal exchange and community building. By integrating the Green Mobility Days into the University's *Nachhaltigkeitstag*, the initiative introduced incoming students to sustainable opportunities available in Graz while reinforcing the links between green mobility, responsible consumption and everyday sustainable living.

UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

The second edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days at the University of Minho took place on 7 May 2025 in Guimarães, expanding the initiative into a full-day programme centred on experiential learning. Designed primarily for incoming international students, while remaining open to the wider University community, the event brought together thirty-five participants, including approximately twenty incoming mobility students.

The programme opened with *Landscape Lab: A Mobility and Sustainability Experience*, an educational visit from the Azurém Campus to the Landscape Laboratory combining walking and public transport. Participants explored Guimarães' sustainability strategy, including its pathway towards becoming the European Green Capital 2026, while learning about the city's Flexible Transport Service and the role of sustainable urban planning in supporting greener mobility.

Participants later joined an *Eco Rally* organised across the Azurém Campus in collaboration with the *Society Loving the Planet*, the University's student association dedicated to sustainability. Through interactive challenges, the activity promoted environmental awareness, teamwork and community building among the international student cohort. The programme concluded with the workshop *Sustainable Fashion: Upcycling and the Fight against Fast Fashion*, hosted at the Textile Engineering Laboratory and led by upcycled fashion designer Diana Pereira. Combining theoretical insights with hands-on experimentation, the workshop introduced participants to clothing repair, customisation and creative reuse as practical approaches to reducing textile waste and resource consumption.

By combining sustainable mobility, environmental education, circular economy practices and community engagement, the programme provided participants with practical skills while reinforcing the role of international mobility in promoting more sustainable lifestyles.

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA

The second edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days at the University of Padua combined circular economy, sustainable mobility and community engagement through activities developed with local associations and student organisations.

The programme opened with *The Free Market*, organised in partnership with the Xena Association, which promoted the exchange of second-hand clothing and household items among incoming students while encouraging circular economy practices. Although attendance was limited by adverse weather, the initiative successfully tested a format later replicated during the University's Welcome Event. The *Green Mobility Booth*, organised near the International Relations Division, promoted sustainable travel while raising awareness of the *Tell Your Mobility Story (TYMS)* contest and the *Green Mobility Days Award*, distributing Arqus-branded sustainable gadgets. The programme concluded with the *Green Bike Route*, a cycling tour introducing international students to local environmental association Amissi del Piovego and the greener areas of the city.

The programme highlighted how circular economy initiatives, active mobility and collaboration with local stakeholders can encourage more sustainable lifestyles while strengthening international students' connection with the city.

UNIVERSITY OF WROCŁAW

The University of Wrocław organised the *Green Picnic* on 23 April 2025 at the University Meadow on the Grunwaldzki Campus, bringing together members of the University community and their families for a day dedicated to environmental sustainability and community engagement. The programme combined workshops, demonstrations and public lectures delivered by academic staff from the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Environmental Protection, alongside contributions from representatives of the Wrocław City Council and the Lower Silesian Provincial Office, fostering dialogue between research, policy and practice on sustainable development.

The international dimension of the event was reinforced through activities organised by the International Student Network (ISN), including peer-to-peer workshops promoting greener mobility for Erasmus+ participants and the presentation of the University's *Waste Corner*, encouraging the exchange of reusable items and supporting circular economy practices.

Overall, the Green Picnic demonstrated how green mobility can be effectively integrated into a broader sustainability agenda by combining scientific dissemination, policy dialogue and student-led initiatives. The event highlighted the value of collaboration between universities, public institutions and students in fostering environmental awareness, encouraging responsible behaviours and strengthening the University's contribution to sustainable development both on campus and beyond.

UNIVERSITÉ CLAUDE BERNARD LYON 1

The second edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 further expanded the collaborative approach established during the inaugural edition, bringing together student unions, university services and local organisations committed to sustainability, including AAEPL, La Serre, BeeSPB, Gaelis, RESES, ESN Cosmo Lyon, La Maison du Vélo, Récup & Gamelles, Aremacs, Tulipe and Cyclamed. Developed in collaboration with the Faculty of Pharmacy (*Institut des Sciences Pharmaceutiques et Biologiques* – ISPB), the programme linked sustainable mobility with health, environmental sustainability and responsible consumption.

Participants took part in interactive workshops and awareness-raising activities on cycling and active mobility, carbon footprint reduction, sustainable food, food waste prevention, recycling and creative reuse of materials, complemented by student testimonials on green mobility and sustainable travel experiences. Approximately 150 participants attended the event, reflecting the strong engagement generated by its multidisciplinary and participatory approach.

The programme highlighted the value of collaboration between students, academic services and local organisations in promoting green mobility alongside broader themes of health, circular economy and sustainable lifestyles.

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

As part of the second edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days, Vilnius University organised the Sustainability Festival Breathe In, Green Out on 14 May 2025. The festival combined educational activities, community engagement and networking opportunities to promote environmental sustainability and encourage more sustainable everyday behaviours across the University community.

The programme featured interactive workshops, discussion sessions, presentations and orientation games, fostering dialogue and the exchange of ideas on sustainability. Participants also met representatives of local non-governmental organisations, environmentally conscious businesses and community initiatives, strengthening collaboration between the University and local sustainability stakeholders. The festival concluded with a concert and vegetarian refreshments, demonstrating how sustainability can also be promoted through inclusive and environmentally responsible event organisation. More than 50 participants attended the event.

By combining education, community engagement and cultural activities, *Breathe In, Green Out* reinforced Vilnius University's commitment to environmental sustainability while encouraging active participation and stronger connections between the University and the local community.

THE 2026 EDITION

LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY

The third edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days further consolidated Leipzig University's institutional commitment to sustainable mobility. Organised on 7 May 2026 alongside the Europe Day celebrations, the event featured a Green Mobility information stand, a poster exhibition and an interactive *Wheel of Fortune*, engaging around 100 members of the University community. The participation of a Twinning student group from the University of Wrocław, who travelled to Leipzig by train, provided a practical example of sustainable international mobility in line with the objectives of the initiative.

During 2026, the University also completed and published the *Green Mobility Kit*, making it available to students and staff across the Arqus Alliance as a practical resource on sustainable travel. At the same time, it continued to promote the *Green Mobility Bonus*, introduced in 2025, providing an additional €50 to students travelling by train or long-distance bus for short-term mobility at another Arqus University.

The experience gained through the Green Mobility Days was further disseminated beyond the Alliance through a poster presentation, *Green Mobility from Leipzig University to Europe: A Journey within the Arqus Alliance*, prepared for the 2026 EAIE Annual Conference in Glasgow. Together, these initiatives demonstrate Leipzig University's continued commitment to embedding sustainable mobility within its internationalisation strategy while sharing good practices with the wider European higher education community.

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

For the third edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days, Maynooth University integrated its activities into the 2026 *Green Week*, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability through community engagement, environmental education and practical action. The programme combined campus-wide initiatives promoting biodiversity, responsible consumption, sustainable agriculture and climate action.

Activities included a tree-planting initiative and a campus litter pick organised by the Students' Union, encouraging collective responsibility for the campus environment and involving local schools and external sustainability organisations. Information stands hosted by BirdWatch Ireland (Kildare Branch), community partners and the Go Green Routes initiative explored biodiversity, environmental protection and sustainable lifestyles, while practical activities such as *Make a Pot, Plant a Seed* and *Healthy Campus: Environment and Health* highlighted the links between sustainability, agriculture and well-being.

Participants also visited the Aura field site to learn about the University's *Automating Regenerative Agriculture* project, showcasing the use of robotics to support more sustainable farming practices. The programme concluded with the workshop *Small Steps to Sustainability* at the MSU Information Centre, where participants explored simple zero-waste alternatives, reusable products and clothing repair techniques for everyday life.

Through this combination of community initiatives, research, innovation and practical workshops, the University promoted sustainability as an integral part of campus life while encouraging more environmentally responsible behaviours.

UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

At the time of drafting this report, the University of Granada was finalising the planning of its contribution to the 2026 edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days. The local activities have been scheduled for autumn 2026 to coincide with the start of the academic year, enabling the University to reach a larger number of incoming students and maximise the impact of awareness-raising activities at the beginning of their mobility experience.

While the programme had not yet been finalised, the University remains committed to implementing initiatives aligned with the objectives of the Arqus Green Mobility Days and Arqus on the Move.

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

The University of Graz did not participate in the local implementation of the 2026 edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days. However, the experience and good practices developed during previous editions continue to contribute to the University's broader commitment to sustainability and environmentally responsible mobility.

UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

The third edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days at the University of Minho took place on 22 April 2026, coinciding with Earth Day and its global theme, *Our Power, Our Planet*, which emphasised collective action in addressing environmental challenges. Organised at the Gualtar Campus in Braga, the event brought together around twenty-five participants, primarily incoming mobility students and outgoing staff members, for a programme combining active participation, environmental stewardship and community building.

The programme opened with a *Plogging* session, during which participants collected litter while jogging through the University campus and the nearby Parque da Rodovia, promoting both physical well-being and environmental responsibility. It continued with the planting of a European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) in the University's *Erasmus Wood*, a symbolic space celebrating international mobility and environmental sustainability. The activity encouraged participants to reflect on the environmental impact of international mobility and the importance of complementing travel with tangible actions supporting climate responsibility.

The event concluded with an outdoor picnic and the interactive activity *Drop Your Green Mobility Thoughts*, inviting participants to share reflections and personal commitments towards more sustainable mobility. By linking the Green Mobility Days with Earth Day celebrations, the programme reinforced the importance of collective responsibility and everyday actions in fostering a more sustainable culture of international mobility.

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA

For the third edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days, the University of Padua further promoted sustainable lifestyles through initiatives combining responsible consumption, active mobility and environmental awareness, developed in collaboration with local associations.

On 21 May 2026, the University organised *No Waste, Only Food* in partnership with Naturhabilis, offering incoming and outgoing exchange students a hands-on workshop on sustainable food systems and circular cuisine. Through the preparation of recipes using local and seasonal ingredients, participants explored food sustainability, waste prevention and responsible consumption. On 28 May, the *Padua Bike Tour*, organised with FIAB (Federazione Italiana Ambiente e Bicicletta), introduced participants to Padua's historic centre while promoting cycling as a sustainable way to explore the city and its cultural heritage.

A further initiative is planned for autumn 2026 as part of the University's Welcome Fair, where a dedicated information booth will provide newly arrived exchange students with guidance on sustainable mobility and everyday sustainable living in Padua while promoting the University's commitment to the objectives of the Arqus European University Alliance.

Through these initiatives, the University continued to integrate sustainability into the international mobility experience, encouraging environmentally responsible behaviours and strengthening students' connection with the local community.

UNIVERSITY OF WROCŁAW

The University of Wrocław marked the third edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days by organising *Green Koszarowa* on 24 April 2026 at the Campus of Social Sciences. Combining academic reflection with community engagement, the event brought together students, academic and professional staff to explore contemporary environmental challenges and promote sustainable behaviours within the University community.

The programme featured an expert panel discussion on the Anthropocene, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue on climate change, sustainability and the role of the social sciences in addressing environmental challenges. Interactive workshops and student-led activities included an environmental knowledge competition, educational sessions on ecology and social responsibility, and the presentation of the *Faculty Bottle Design Competition*, promoting the use of reusable bottles and the reduction of single-use plastics. The event concluded with a community picnic, providing participants with an opportunity to continue discussions and strengthen relationships in an informal setting.

By combining academic debate, practical activities and community participation, *Green Koszarowa* promoted environmental awareness and active citizenship while reinforcing the objectives of the Arqus Green Mobility Days.

UNIVERSITÉ CLAUDE BERNARD LYON 1

The third edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 took place on 31 March 2026 and focused on encouraging students to reflect on the environmental impact of international mobility. Organised in collaboration with OnTheGreenRoad, ESN Cosmo Lyon and InfoJeunes, the event combined information, dialogue and practical guidance to support more informed and sustainable mobility choices.

The three partner organisations hosted information stands where participants explored sustainable travel opportunities, international mobility programmes and practical aspects of planning environmentally responsible mobility experiences. The programme also featured the round-table discussion *International Student Mobility: A Low-Carbon Adventure—but at What Cost?*, which invited participants to reflect on the

environmental, financial and personal dimensions of studying abroad, emphasising the importance of making conscious choices from the earliest stages of mobility planning.

Approximately 50 participants attended the event. Through collaboration with local stakeholders and the promotion of critical dialogue, the initiative reinforced the Green Mobility Days as a platform for encouraging more responsible and sustainable international mobility.

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

As part of the third edition of the Arqus Green Mobility Days, Vilnius University implemented *The Journey Project*, an initiative promoting sustainable mobility through storytelling, peer learning and intercultural exchange. By encouraging participants to reflect on their international mobility experiences, the project explored how travel and cultural exchange can contribute to more responsible and sustainable forms of mobility.

The initiative centred on the collection and dissemination of personal stories about international mobility, sustainable travel and intercultural learning. Eight stories from exchange students were published on the University's Instagram platform, each reaching more than 500 views and inspiring further students to share their own experiences in future editions. A complementary story-writing workshop invited participants to explore storytelling techniques while reflecting on the links between mobility, sustainability and personal identity. Participants also received ESN × Arqus collaboration T-shirts in recognition of their contribution.

By combining digital communication, creative participation and peer-to-peer learning, *The Journey Project* strengthened intercultural dialogue while demonstrating the potential of personal narratives to promote more sustainable approaches to international mobility.