

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From 2022

To 2024

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chairman of the Management Board

11.07.2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Knowledge, innovation and strategies management club - KISMC reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Dimitar Hristov

Chairman of the Management Board

Part II. Description of Actions

We hereby confirm the following actions taken by our organization, as an NGO in relation to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles:

KISMC main principle and aim is to transfer, promote and introduce novel methods, concepts, methodologies, models for business, education and research in Bulgaria. Our main focus is on innovation development and enhanced competitiveness of the organisations in our country by implementing innovations. Our mission is also to inform about the most advanced trends and challenges at global level. We distribute newsletters every three months and make regular blog posts and articles on our website and on the websites of our strategic partners – Cluster Sofia knowledge city, State university of library

studies and IT, Prof. Ivan Apostolov private high school, etc. Thus, we cover diverse type of organisations and industries.

We engage with the Global Compact Network in Bulgaria by invitations for participation in events and initiatives, news about projects, - e.g., annual smart cities conference, trainings, knowledge city topics, sustainability events.

Join and propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability – we are active in Erasmus+ projects under KA2 Strategic partnerships with the main scope of development of education and training:

1. Educate educators on the topic of climate change and the UN SDGs and equip them with interactive training instrument to embed within their trainings.
2. Upskill entrepreneurs and SMEs owners/ managers on how to use the innovation management process in developing their sustainability strategies to contribute to the fight against climate change.
3. Guide entrepreneurs and SMEs owners/ managers on becoming agents of change for their colleagues/ employees and transforming their business culture and values to eco ones.
4. Provide a user-friendly digital platform to educators, entrepreneurs, SMEs and individuals to measure their carbon footprint and provide valuable tips on how to help reduce the negative impact on the environment and support the fight against climate change.

The UN SDG are at the core of the project and we focus our work to achieve the above set objectives.

The Collective Innovation to Fight Climate Change Project, <https://fightclimatechange.earth/>, No. 2020-1-UK01-KA204-079203. The 'Collective Innovation to Fight Climate Change' project's vision is to support the successor of the European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET2020) for more ambitious benchmarks for adult education and for more social and sustainable future, where adult education can play a central role in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and combating climate change. Hence, the goal of this project is to fight climate change through collective innovation and efforts and more specifically with all our objectives through the prism of educators, entrepreneurs, SMEs, employees, and/ or individuals altogether.

ECOMODA - Upskilling clothing and textile SMEs for sustainable and ethical growth is an Erasmus + project directed for apparel and textile industry sectors. The project importance relies on the sectors' volume in terms of economic impact and employment on one hand and on the fact that the sector constitutes one of the main pollutants on the other. The project impact is also based on the interest in using its results, participation in networks, outreach in the sector and media coverage of the project partners. Textile and apparel

industries are the biggest industries and the biggest pollutants. Fashion industry accounts for up to one fifth of industrial water pollution.

ECOMODA project aims at creating knowledge, competences and skills about sustainability and ethical dimensions for all businesses involved in the clothing and textile sector. We acknowledge the need for shifting the clothing and textile industry into a more sustainable and ethical industry.

We are very much engaged with the concepts of smart city, knowledge city and Industry 4.0.

Through our projects and research, we engage companies in the above issues and tackle such challenges as environmental, educational and social inclusion. We further explore and inform about the Sustainable development goals and the Ten principles. We encourage businesses to take further and stronger steps and roles to embrace and follow activities that are aligned with the global values, goals and challenges. Business organizations are the main driver of economies and social welfare. As such they are in good position to act upon fighting common problems and provide solutions and/or encourage other to take further actions.

Join and/or support special initiatives and work streams related to innovation as our area of expertise especially in relation to new technologies, digital skills, creativity, social entrepreneurship, social inclusion, business-academia relations.

In summary, we take up actions and activities to raise awareness of our community, members, stakeholders, partners; we also have specific and particular projects and initiative to provide materials, outcomes, information and encourage people act and embrace the social responsibility.

We promote and disseminate the events, initiatives and activities of the Bulgarian Network of the UN Global Compact and participate in Global Compact local events of the Bulgarian network and initiatives like: *'Proud of my parents' work'* and *Bazaar of professions projects; The responsible choice.*

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Expertise provided by KISMC in terms of quality education, sustainability, economic growth and innovation to further the aims of Global Compact Local Network in Bulgaria.

Project partnerships formalized with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles – we have concluded 3 projects in the past two years related directly or indirectly to the UNGC principles.

We have developed also series of case studies and showcased specific approaches, social innovation and tools to improve the competitiveness and social responsibility of Bulgarian

companies through innovation and new clean and digital technologies under the development of our various projects.

We sent out newsletters – at least four per year reaching the audience of our members and stakeholders among which at least 50% are business organisations – thus we reach more than 1000 stakeholders in total.

We have raised awareness about UNGC and the local network through our social media, including our 3000 subscribers, social media followers and members of the organization.

KISMC is a member of the Cluster Sofia Knowledge city with focus on development of smart cities and knowledge cities in partnership with Vienna Knowledge city driving forward to sustainable development of cities and innovative clean technologies.

Organisation of at least three workshops per year with foreign companies in the innovation and research scope. During the past years we organized a series of webinars, discussions with stakeholders, target groups and members related to the projects and initiatives of the organization: we reached out around 500 people in total – 5 webinars in 2023 and in 2024 so far. We have an international network of partners and collaborators as well as members among educational experts, policy makers, trainers and teachers, innovation and sustainability experts and university trainers.

Signature and stamp

