

European Doctoral School



Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy

JUNE 2024

Our Strategy

The European Doctoral School CSR and Sustainability Strategy, which is part of our Strategic Plan, details our commitment to responsible digital practices, environmental stewardship, and impactful community engagement in doctoral education.

Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy

The European Doctoral School is uniquely positioned to advance Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability through innovative practices and engagement.

Our Strategy promotes responsible practices, environmental stewardship, and impactful community engagement. We will create a positive, sustainable impact through solutions that support environmental health, social equity, and digital inclusivity.

Our Vision

To reimagine responsible doctoral education by inspiring a global community of candidates, faculty, and partners to pursue impactful research and solutions that contribute to a sustainable and equitable future.

“ We educate our doctoral candidates to be prepared to make significant contributions in a wide range of careers in Europe and around the world. ”

Strategic Objectives

The CSR and Sustainability Strategy harnesses our strengths to promote responsible practices and cultivate a culture of environmental and social responsibility in doctoral education.

1. Integrating Sustainability into Doctoral Research and Education

- **Approach:** Embed sustainability principles in all EDS programmes, encouraging candidates to integrate CSR and environmental awareness into their doctoral research, especially in digital innovation, sustainable development, and environmental policy.
- **Initiatives:** Launch the EDS Virtual Green Research Grant, offering funding and resources for doctoral research that addresses sustainable solutions.

2. Promoting Digital Environmental Stewardship

- **Approach:** Minimise EDS's digital carbon footprint by adopting sustainable digital practices, including energy-efficient data management and reducing unnecessary activities. Implement eco-friendly digital practices within EDS's operational framework, such as promoting sustainable cloud storage, optimising server usage, and reducing data traffic where possible.
- **Initiatives:** Establish the EDS Digital Sustainability Council, a team dedicated to monitoring and reducing EDS's environmental impact, and creating policies to promote sustainability across the institution.

Innovative Approaches to CSR and Sustainability

- **Carbon Offset for Digital Operations:** Offset the environmental impact of EDS's digital infrastructure through carbon offset programmes, ensuring that online activities contribute to environmental health.
- **Partnerships with Sustainable Organisations:** Form partnerships with environmentally conscious organisations and NGOs to expand learning and doctoral research opportunities in Sustainability and CSR.
- **Inclusivity and Access:** Promote inclusivity in doctoral education by developing accessible learning materials, providing flexible digital platforms, and supporting digital literacy initiatives to reduce educational inequalities globally.
- **Evaluation through Global Rankings:** Our CSR and Sustainability initiatives and performance will be rigorously evaluated by participating in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and QS Sustainability Rankings, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.

3. Community Engagement and Social Impact

- **Approach:** Engage with local and global communities through partnerships and outreach programmes that address social, economic, and environmental issues. Encourage EDS doctoral students and faculty to participate in virtual community-based research, digital volunteer initiatives, and online mentoring, creating a strong sense of social responsibility.
- **Initiatives:** Develop the EDS Community Impact Lab Online, where doctoral candidates collaborate virtually with NGOs and community organisations worldwide to address local issues and share knowledge, co-creating digital solutions that benefit society.

4. Advancing Responsible and Ethical Digital Research

- **Approach:** Lead the way in ethical digital research standards that consider societal impact, data privacy, and inclusivity. EDS will implement training in responsible digital innovation and online research ethics, ensuring that all doctoral research upholds high standards of transparency, integrity, and social accountability.
- **Initiatives:** Introduce the EDS Responsible Doctoral Research Framework for online research, providing guidelines for ethical digital practices, data protection, and the social impact of online research.

5. Building a Culture of Digital Awareness and Sustainability

- **Approach:** Empower a digital-savvy community committed to sustainability within the EDS community by promoting awareness and education around sustainable digital practices. Through workshops, webinars, and online events, we aim to empower our community with the knowledge to make responsible digital choices in their academic and professional lives.
- **Initiatives:** Launch the EDS Digital Sustainability Challenge, an annual virtual event that invites students, faculty, and staff to propose innovative digital sustainability projects, rewarding those that achieve measurable online impact and align with EDS's commitment to a sustainable digital future.



By embedding sustainability into doctoral research, minimising our digital footprint, engaging communities both online and in person, and upholding ethical standards, EDS is committed to establishing a sustainable and responsible model for doctoral education. Through these initiatives, we aspire to inspire our global community to lead with purpose and contribute to a more sustainable future.

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Reimagine Doctoral Education
to Tackle Global Challenges

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