

Called to unity - Towards an ecology of relationships
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Experience of an 'Sustainable Hub'.

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Hello everyone, my name is Jean-Marc, I'm from Luxembourg and live in the Netherlands since 8 years. After working within the hospitality industry, I decided to do a master in sustainability science in Maastricht. I wanted to make a positive change within this world but I was missing certain skills... Starting in August last year, I came across the Sustainability Hub where I am helping out in the garden.

The sustainable hub is a mix of different association working together to make a more positive impact. It is a working space that has managed to bring together a diverse community of students whose aim is to promote sustainability in all its shapes and forms.

The beauty of this is that the hub accommodates around 20 associations that help towards the environment.

Why is this interesting: It is co-financed by the University which believes that students should get the opportunity to make their ideas happen and meet other like-minded people.

Examples are:

- ♦ A communal garden, where students without experience come together to learn how to create a garden made of pallets and discarded wood. it is a very relaxed atmosphere and the burden to overcome, which is having gardening skills, is not needed. Together everyone learns with each other to restore the biodiversity of a piece of land and get 'green fingers'.
- ♦ Precious plastic, tries to use plastic, make it melt and repurpose it.
- ♦ The circularity rooms such as
 - the re-room, with sewing machines, paper, machinery and everything which can help to reuse, recycle or repurpose;
 - the "Library of things" with appliances students can rent;
 - the Swap room: where students can bring their cloths and exchange them without costs

- Foodcoop Maastricht: farm to fork initiative, bringing once a week seasonal vegetables from Maastricht and around directly to the students with little additional costs.
- Eatly, selling misshaped vegetables directly from the market or farmers.
- Climate action Network "KAN" trying to fight for injustices related to the environment. Next week an action takes place to protest at the local airport against private jets coming for an art event.
- And many workshops such as: Fix your bike workshop: allowing students to learn how to fix themselves their bikes without costs.

The great part about it that it is informal, informative but also interactive. It allows to create a feeling of community while raising awareness about the current issues we are facing globally, from recycling, food waste, climate awareness and much more.

How can this be imitated by more youth?

The most important part here is the support from university, financially but also strategically. The goal of the university is to raise awareness and build a sustainability community within the university. This allows the hub to be a meeting point and facilitating the dialogue around sustainability issues.

With financial help, a common place or building, a vision to become more sustainable and green teams working together, it's definitely possible to imitate this project in every University around the world.