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# Finalist's case study

## Aix-Marseille University (AMU) Student Engagement

"DD en TRANS': sustainable development is interdisciplinary"

### About the project

#### Summary

"DD en TRANS': sustainable development is interdisciplinary" is a competitive game which is educative, funny and festive: AMU students and staff acting together as part of one of the University's «Green Plan» initiatives.

This event is open to all AMU training programs up to the Masters' second years. It has given students and their teachers the opportunity to present and promote pedagogical projects completed in the course of their training years on the subject of sustainable development and/or social responsibility.

This event is based on the "Think global, act local" philosophy and is part of the interdisciplinary approach AMU is fond of.

### Project partners

Partners inside University: student life office, communication direction, sustainable development direction, logistic

Third parties : MGEN (the mutual of national education), CASDEN (solidarity bank), FONDS EPICURIEN, MAIF (assurance), MEP (the mutual of students), Council regional of PACA, Aix-Marseille University foundation, caisse des dépôts et des consignation.

### The results

#### The problem

A one-day competitive game to promote student projects on the subject of sustainable development and social responsibility.

Projects are based on student voluntary involvement, in synergy with their teachers acting as sponsors, and they may be classified into 3 categories:

- **AMU Actions:** any proposal concerning AMU as a field of study and/or implementation.
- **Local and territorial actions:** any proposal concerning the territory and neighbourhood as a field of study and/or implementation.



#### Profile

- Higher Education
- 74,000 students (includes full and part time students)
- 4,273 staff
- Urban



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- **Other actions:** any proposal promoting global, national or international actions.

## The approach

### Ranking criteria:

- The 3 dimensions of sustainable development are taken into account
- Innovation
- Student and citizen commitment
- Creativity in content and form
- Quality of support materials (posters, cartoons, film)
- Accessibility of the general public to presentation
- Special attention to inter-training and/or inter-faculty units.

27 top quality projects managed by 96 students were selected and presented to a jury under the forms of posters (12) or films/videos (6). Following proceedings, the jury selected 3 winners in each category. Laureates were awarded valuable prizes presented by AMU and its partners. All participants and their sponsoring teachers were rewarded. The day closed on a lecture, a friendly awards ceremony and cocktail.

This project proved exceptionally popular within AMU and among partners.

Preparations for the 2017 edition have already been launched!

## Our goals

Although it is part of AMU's «Green Plan» (legal obligation) the very format of the project (a competitive game) enabled students and staff to develop a learning and awareness approach to SD which is vital for all of them as citizens. The "fun" and friendly aspects are more conducive to reflection and awareness than regulatory constraints. They have led to changes in outlook and attitudes which will have a lasting impact on participants.

'DD en Trans' is part of the sustainable development policy of Aix-Marseille University («Green Plan», Sustainable Development Directorate, Vice-President for Sustainable Development, SD training programs). Training and awareness campaigns for eco-citizen behaviour and interdisciplinarity.

## Obstacles and solutions

Period: hard to have all students present on the sites.	The presence of one student of the group is obligatory
Communication	Diffusion to all teachers
The success because of small staff to organize	Restriction of candidate
Sponsoring	Lobbying

## Performance and results

The presentation of projects coming from all of AMU's disciplinary sectors initiated inter-unit exchange of views that will shortly translate into collaborations and expressions of transdisciplinarity.



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This festive approach encouraged synergies and reciprocal recognition between teachers and students, but also between academics of different units.

Students joined the competition on a voluntary basis which went beyond more pedagogical concerns. Each group aimed at high collective achievement together with its referent teacher. Presented projects revealed the determination of students to reflect on projects in line with territorial concerns, innovation, interdisciplinarity and student and citizen commitment.

Winner of French Green Gown Award in 2016 edition

## The future

### Lessons learned

This first edition brought together many participants around pedagogical projects.

It was staged over one day devoted to student life and sustainable development.

The following three key learnings can be highlighted:

- **Capacity of students and staff (academics and technical-administrative staff) to act together** at short notice to promote their project and arouse awareness in sustainable development and social responsibility.
- **Interdisciplinarity is a reality** in many training programmes; it has to be assisted and facilitated to become transdisciplinary.
- This event took place while the Spring of Student Associations was going on and at the local stage of the national "Faites de la Science" Festival. Its success is largely based on **transversal work** between various structures and services: Science Faculty, Sustainable Development Directorate, the Scientific Culture support unit and the Board of Student life.

### Sharing your project

Inside University (web, facebook, twitter, newsletter), with the headmaster of each faculty, with the headmaster of each formation.

### What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

The success of transversal work – a key component of the event – confirms that transversality must take central place in the university's policy.

A better vision of sustainable development inside the University.



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## Further information

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