SUSTAINABILITY POLICY VERSION 1.0

OVERALL COMMITMENT

The Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research is committed to promoting sustainability as well as to upholding the reputation of academic institutions as a place of critical self-reflexion. We are striving to reduce the environmental impact – and to improve the overall societal impact – of activities deriving from or required for the accomplishment of our scientific and educational responsibilities. We are seeking to structure and manage the professional activities, administration and workplace culture of the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research in a manner that enables and empowers all staff, colleagues, partners and students to realise their potential whilst preserving the capital of the natural environment as well as the principles of social justice.

DEFINITIONS

We endorse the definition adopted by the United Nations Brundtland Commission, according to which "sustainability" is about "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"[1]. Given the concern with improving health and wellbeing, our research and teaching activities are part of the collective pursuit to meet the "basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better life"[2] in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals[3]. In addition, we take into account the environmental impact of our activities. Striving to stay within the boundaries of our ecosystem and planet (as set by, for example, environmental pollution, biodiversity loss and, most importantly, climate change) represents our understanding of ecological sustainability[4].

SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS AND TARGETS

Our Sustainability Policy comprises the following four specific commitments:

1. To incorporate sustainability considerations – encompassing environmental sustainability as well as working towards the Sustainable Development Goals – with scientific, teaching and research translation activities;
2. To reduce the environmental impact of travel and meetings;
3. To reduce the environmental impact of administrative activities and office management; and
4. To promote a sustainability mindset and to raise awareness about the Sustainability Policy.

---

[1] Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future. New York: United Nations Brundtland Commission, 1987.
[2] Sustainable Urban Development Reader. Wheeler & Beatly. Routledge: London, 2004.
[3] Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1. New York: United Nations General Assembly, 2015.
[4] Rockström, Steffen, Noone et al. (2009). Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity. Ecology and Society 14(2):32.

LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

PETTENKOFER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH – PSPH
INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION PROCESSING, BIOMETRY
AND EPIDEMIOLOGY – IBE
CHAIR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

LMU

1. Scientific, teaching and outreach activities

	Target	Action
1.1	Address sustainability as part of current and future research activities	Map research areas and projects undertaken at the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research against the Sustainable Development Goals, and, where applicable, highlight and strengthen sustainability aspects.
1.2	Incorporate sustainability considerations in grant proposals	Where possible, include sustainability considerations in grant proposals submitted by the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research, addressing sustainability topics as well as a commitment to conducting research in an environmentally sustainable manner (see 2.1-2.4).
1.3	Include sustainability considerations in teaching activities	Broaden the teaching portfolio for medical students, Master students and PhD students with content on sustainability, in particular through including aspects of environmental sustainability with existing lectures and through dedicated lectures, workshops and/or other events (e.g. on climate change and health).
1.4	Encourage the consideration of sustainability in student projects	Where applicable, encourage Master and PhD students to include sustainability considerations in their internships and research towards their Master and PhD theses, addressing sustainability topics as well as including a commitment to conducting research in an environmentally sustainable manner (see 2.1-2.4)..
1.5	Facilitate the translation of research findings of relevance to sustainability in policy and practice	Facilitate the dissemination of research outcomes produced within the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research that can contribute to environmental sustainability and to the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Monitoring performance towards target 1 on an annual basis

Highlight outputs of the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research with an explicit link to sustainability, notably

- ongoing/completed research projects by staff or students
- peer-reviewed publications
- articles in the popular press or other knowledge translation efforts
- teaching activities

LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

PETTENKOFER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH – PSPH
INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION PROCESSING, BIOMETRY
AND EPIDEMIOLOGY – IBE
CHAIR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

2. Travel and meetings

	Target	Action
2.1	Reduce the CO_2 emissions of local mobility	Promote the use of environmentally-friendly means of transport in travelling to the office, for mobility at work and for meetings within the city area, including, as far as possible, improved local infrastructure to facilitate environmentally friendly mobility such as cycling. Highlight environmentally friendly means of transport to teaching and local meeting venues among students, colleagues and visitors.
2.2	Reduce the CO_2 emissions of business travel	Promote the use of environmentally friendly means of transport in travelling to meetings or conferences among staff; in particular, avoid long- and short-distance air travel whenever possible. Where applicable, replace travel-intensive face-to-face meetings with telephone or video conferences.
2.3	Compensate the CO_2 emissions of business travel and meetings	Calculate the amount of CO_2 emissions created by business travel and meetings and, where possible, include CO_2 emission compensation with the payment for flights or compensate by investing in a sustainable climate project.
2.4	Host meetings or seminars in an environmentally friendly manner	Avoid the use of one-way cups and plates and, where their use is essential, purchase environmentally friendly products; where appropriate, favour seasonal, regional and/or vegetarian food options. Highlight environmentally friendly means of transport to meeting venues among participants.

Monitoring performance towards target 2 on an annual basis

Assess the environmental impact of travel undertaken and meetings hosted by the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research, notably

- CO_2 emissions for travel and meetings
- compensation for CO_2 emissions for travel and meetings
- organisation of "green meetings"

3. Administration and office management

	Target	Action
3.1	Reduce the environmental impact of office supplies	Promote the purchasing of environmentally friendly office supplies such as recycled paper, recycled toilet paper and fair trade coffee.

LMU

LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

PETTENKOFER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH – PSPH
INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION PROCESSING, BIOMETRY
AND EPIDEMIOLOGY – IBE
CHAIR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

		Encourage staff to minimise printing and encourage the use of double-sided printing as well as printing on recycled paper. To the largest extent possible, ensure the resourceful use, reuse and recycling of office supplies. Ensure a socially responsible and environmentally friendly waste management, notably regarding electronic devices and paper.
3.2	Reduce the environmental impact of IT systems	Ensure that staff switch off their computers when leaving work, and encourage them to switch off their monitors when leaving their office for a longer period of time during the workday.
3.3	Reduce the environmental impact of other energy-consuming devices	Actively take the life-cycle impact of energy-consuming devices, such as coffee machines or light sources, into account during acquisition.
		Encourage staff to turn off the lights when leaving the office for a longer period of time during the workday, as well as to switch off the lights when exiting the bathroom, copy room and storage rooms.
		During the cold season, encourage staff to turn down office radiators when leaving work.

Monitoring performance towards target 3 on an annual basis

Assess the environmental impact of administrative activities and office management at the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research, notably

- purchase of environmentally friendly electronic devices
- amount of paper used for printing
- degree of recycling

4. Workplace culture

	Target	Action
4.1	Promote a sustainability mindset among staff and students	Ensure that staff and students are informed about the Sustainability Policy and feel encouraged to suggest further improvements as well as to consider sustainability in their personal work-life routines.
4.2	Raise awareness about the Sustainability Policy and work with others to support sustainability	Communicate the Sustainability Policy and progress made in implementing it to broader audiences within and beyond the LMU Munich, including through the website, and engage with broader organisational efforts to promote sustainability

LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

PETTENKOFER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH – PSPH
INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION PROCESSING, BIOMETRY
AND EPIDEMIOLOGY – IBE
CHAIR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Monitoring performance towards target 4 on an annual basis

Highlight activities of the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research with an explicit link to sustainability, notably

- contributions to meetings or events addressing sustainability

IMPLEMENTATION

The Sustainability Policy of the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research is to be applied with the amount of financial and personnel resources that is feasible. The Policy is deliberately published as a version 1.0 and is open to revisions.

All staff, colleagues, partners and students associated with the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research as well as visitors are welcome to submit proposals for improving sustainability practices (i) through an email to or meeting with any member of the Administration or Management Team, (ii) as part of a team meeting of any of the Focus Areas, (iii) during the Retreats of the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research or (iv) through a questionnaire (see "MONITORING").

MONITORING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research will prepare a Sustainability Report on an annual basis.

This will draw on (i) routine data available to the Administration, (ii) outputs (e.g. scientific publications) or notes taken throughout the year, and (iii) a short questionnaire to all staff. The questionnaire will collect information on how sustainability practices have been implemented, on how satisfied staff are with the Sustainability Policy, on specific outputs or aspects to highlight in the Sustainability Report and on innovative ideas for making improvements.

The Sustainability Report will be an opportunity for the Management Team and others to assess and reflect on progress made in implementing sustainability principles, and to decide on how further improvements can be achieved.

Prof. Dr. Eva Rehfuess   20/12/2019