

oikos Kit



2015

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Welcome to oikos

In the past decades we have observed a boom in the formation of new organisations and initiatives in the field of sustainability. However, almost thirty years ago, when oikos was founded at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, sustainability was not yet a mainstream concern. oikos student founders believed that there was a gap in the educational system: programmes and courses were not creating responsible leaders and not teaching future decision makers about sustainability. Since then oikos grew into an important international organisation, present in over 50 cities and universities around the world and executing more than 200 international and/or local projects a year.

From developing university courses to organizing conference and creating guides, oikos members are at the forefront of the movement to transform education and people's mind-sets. The oikos community encompasses not only students but also practitioners, members of academia and all others who are interested in achieving our mission with us. All these unique members are equally valuable in our community to enable an exchange of multiple perspectives, a realization of opinions from multiple backgrounds and prospective of what the status quo presents and what could be ameliorated.

In oikos we have all the ingredients to create a significant impact on the world and in higher education. We are committed to pursuing our work towards mainstreaming more responsible, encompassing and innovative economics and management programmes around the world and in our societies. We wish to continue our 30-year history of creating responsible change-agents and spreading knowledge on sustainability topics by continuously involving all stakeholders including our

partners who enable our activities and complete our work.

Thank you very much to all those who have taken steps towards the change we strive for with us! If you are also passionate about our mission please join our journey and experience oikos!

Sincerely,

Anita Negri
oikos President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Negri".

What we do in oikos?

oikos empowers future leaders to drive change towards sustainability and embed environmental and social perspectives in faculties for economics and management and society. To transform education and research, we serve as a platform for learning, creating and sharing solutions.

Who are we?

oikos is a global network of students, faculty, alumni, advisors and partners that turn ideas into action. We work as a non-for-profit international organization based in Switzerland with around 45 Chapters operating around the world.



oikos Milestones

1987 – Students at the University of St. Gallen start oikos St. Gallen

1990 – The oikos Foundation is established to promote academic programs on sustainable economics and management

1998 – Students at 4 other universities in Europe: Cologne, Prague, Stockholm and Vienna join their colleagues in St. Gallen to put oikos on the international map

2000 – PhD students for the first time join oikos PhD Summer Academy

2005 – oikos Winter School is introduced to oikos Community

2006 – oikos launches the PhD Fellowship Program

2007 – oikos Paris hosts the first oikos Spring Meeting

2011 – oikos welcomes representatives from the entire oikos community in 21 countries to the first oikos FutureLab

2015 – oikos introduces Learning Circles and has more than 40 chapters with more than 1000 members at universities all over the world

Why oikos?

We are a student-inspired organisation that was born out of a desire to create a sustainable world and out of a necessity to address a gap in higher education. When oikos was first established, in 1987, sustainability was a topic that was almost non-existent in management and economics curricula at most universities. Thus, a group of conscientious, like-minded students got together and formed a student association to supplement their education by developing initiatives and projects that would better integrate sustainability into higher education, and make a positive impact in the worlds of business and policy development.

Still today, we observe that universities are producing graduates who are functionally very capable, but lack the ability to think critically and responsibly as managers, leaders, and policy makers. We believe that without adequate and relevant education, that is able to address the complexities of our current situation, future graduates will continue to perpetuate problems rather than actively re-inventing solutions or working for ones that ensure higher sustainability.

Our focus

Sustainability – sustainability is, currently, an extremely stringent matter. It is on everyone's mouths and it concerns us all. Sustainability has many different definitions and connotations. Due to the fact that oikos is a global network, we deal with sustainability in its broadest definition to include the views of every region. In oikos, members have the opportunity to express themselves and their passion for sustainability through actions and projects in this field. They are empowered to make a difference at their faculties and in their communities.

Youth leadership – oikos members become responsible leaders by realizing and executing their projects. oikos provides platforms and academies to support the learning-by-doing attitude and complements it with insights from experts, faculty and change-makers. Our world depends on its leaders and they are the people we invest in. Moreover, university students are at a stage in their lives in which they understand what they are passionate about, most easily grasp new knowledge and turn it into action to drive change. Students both have the power to change education and support change in their communities. They, moreover, have the capacity to reach out to both the younger generation and the older generation, raise awareness and encourage a change in mindset.

Education – oikos aims at changing education by encouraging students, faculty and business professionals to explore alternatives to the current system. Our community is comprised of strongly engaged young people, who are confident about the important role of education in the formation of responsible and all-rounded decision makers.

Economics and Management – amongst others, management, finance, supply chain and economics are the most addressed topics in our community. The majority of projects are executed within these fields. Faculties of economics and management are also the ones in which oikos focuses on changing curricula.

Inspiring and reaching out – whilst reaching our above-mentioned points, oikos wishes to inspire students and faculty to take action in their field of interest. Whilst striving for inclusiveness, equality, respect, multi-culturalism, open-mindedness and the preservation of the environment, we aspire to lead by example and have an impact on as many individuals as possible for a better future.

oikos Governance

The core of oikos are our chapters. Each chapter is a member of oikos International - a Swiss association that serves as an umbrella organisation.

Chapters are supported by an international management team based in St. Gallen. Chapters also elect an executive board of oikos International which decides on the overall strategic direction of the organisation together with the Board of Trustees.



Chapters

We distinguish between two types of chapters: chapters in accession and full chapters. Every chapter, after submitting a successful application, receives a status of oikos Chapter in Accession. After some time of operations, it can be elected as an official full oikos Chapter at the Legislative Meeting of oikos International. If two-thirds of the full oikos chapters vote in favour, we proudly welcome the chapter as a full member of the organisation. Each full oikos Chapter is eligible to decide on a future development of the organisation, such as the election of the international President or the Executive Board.

The Board of Trustees

Within oikos, the Board of Trustees focuses on providing financial and institutional support for oikos. Together with other oikos employees, the trustees organise oikos Young Scholars Academies and the oikos PhD Fellowship programme. The Board of Trustees and the oikos International Executive Board regularly meet to develop a common organisational strategy and goals.

Executive Board

oikos international Executive Board Members (so called EB members) develop strategies for, support and develop the oikos community, bring fresh ideas and implement new projects. The Executive Board facilitates and estimates new chapter applications, evaluates Project Development Fund applications and gives feedback and advice to the oikos President. EB Members are also responsible for the communication between chapters and oikos international and encourage and support collaborative projects. Each EB Member is responsible for one regional chapter group.



oikos Projects & Programmes

oikos Winter School

oikos Spring Meeting

oikos Presidents' Meeting

oikos FutureLab

oikos Regional Meetings

CEE Meeting

Asia Meet

Germany Meeting



oikos model WTO

oikos Cases Program

oikos Learning Circles

oikos Young Scholars Academies

Development

Economics

Energy

Entrepreneurship

Finance

oikos PhD Fellowship



Keep in Touch with oikos

Website

www.oikos-international.org

or

Chapter websites

oikos Newsletter

If you want to receive our newsletter, subscribe via the oikos International website. If you wish to publish content on the newsletter, send an email to newsteam@oikos-international.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/oikosinternational

oikos Chapters Presidents [Group](#)

Every chapter has a facebook page

Twitter

@oikosworld

LinkedIn

[General LinkedIn](#) and for [oikos Alumni](#)

Flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/oikosinternational

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For legal purposes, oikos is an association under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code.