



European Students, Sustainability Auditing

Certificate in University Social Responsibility Auditing



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



nus
national union of students



KEY FACTS

Project Leader

National Union of Students of the
United Kingdom - NUSUK

Partners

The European Students' Union
The University of Edinburgh
Kaunas University of Technology
Universidade Do Porto
Edinburgh University Students' Association
Kaunas University of Technology Students Union
Student Association of Faculty of Psychology and
Educational Sciences University of Porto
University of Porto

Duration

September 2016 - August 2019



www.essaproject.eu
[#essa_usr](https://twitter.com/essa_usr)



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CONTEXT

Students are increasingly interested in university social responsibility when choosing the universities they want to study in, as well as while interacting with university staff. They want to have a positive impact on their communities, instead of replicating old models that don't work.

WHAT IS UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (USR) ?

University Social Responsibility (USR) is an emergent approach that promotes responsible everyday management. It refers to:

- ✓ Research, Teaching, Support for Learning and Public Engagement
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Environmental and Societal Sustainability
- ✓ Fair Practices

HOW IS ESSA PROJECT ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE?

Utilising the Benchmark Standards for University Social Responsibility across the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), ESSA project encourages students to be active agents of their own learning.

By using a group of trained facilitators, a cohort of 60 students drawn from the 3 participating universities will be trained as Social Responsibility Auditors in a student-centred, action-reflection learning based programme, delivered in blended mode.

This will culminate in 4 Audits of different European higher education institutions, carried out by cross-national teams of the students involved.

EXPECTED IMPACT

- ⊙ a more flexible approach to student learning, assessment and certification
- ⊙ allowing students to engage with real world issues
- ⊙ enhancing of the use of student/learner centred approaches
- ⊙ more effective integration of practical training and learning in and from real-world situations

OBJECTIVES

- ⊙ Addressing the change imperatives and the reasons for resistance to these by means of an innovative approach to the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills (including soft skills) and competences
- ⊙ Producing a significant Open Educational Resource (OER) for a ECTS 5 Credit Certificate in Social Responsibility Auditing (EQF Level 6)
- ⊙ Contribute to the wider process of developing alternative models of curriculum development

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Facilitator trainings
- ▶ Student auditor trainings
- ▶ Audits
- ▶ Learning, assessment and certification

