

Environmental policy of the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

CSPV SAS is a scientific institution with a responsible approach to solving global and local environmental challenges. In its approach to the environment, the Centre follows the valid legislation of the Slovak Republic and the recommendations of the European Commission thus provide ecologically sustainable management.

As a scientific institution, the CSPS SAS is aware of the importance of the ecological sustainability of its activities and is committed to the continuous improvement of its activities in order to minimize its environmental impact on the environment.

Our work and our activities in relation to the environment are governed by the basic principles:

- **Environmental sustainability:** We support a sustainable and secure future through tackling climate change and research to reduce environmental degradation.
- **Social cohesion and inclusion:** We support economic opportunities for those who have been denied, and new environmentally sustainable and inclusive models of economic development.
- **Transparency:** We build on openness when setting and adhering to goals and rules.
- **Scientific integrity:** We generate original findings and results based on data while respecting ethical principles and criteria of sustainable development.
- **Environmental awareness:** We try to minimize our negative impact on the environment and increase the environmental awareness of employees through regular training.

On the basis of close cooperation with employees, we undertake specific activities in the following areas:

1. Energy consumption

- Minimize energy consumption – we draw attention of employees to efficient use of energy. We turn off computers and chargers when they are not in use, we turn off the lights in the rooms we are not using, we use sensors in frequently used common spaces, and support green light bulbs and lamps.
- Use heating smartly.

2. Print and emails

- Minimize the use of paper - when printing documents for meetings (if possible, use a data projector), at work (we print minimum number of documents), for technical support (attendance and vacation sheets, etc.) We use mainly online documents and electronic signature so that we do not waste paper.
- Use printing only when necessary (on both sides and in black and white mode). We use recycled paper and we reuse paper that has been printed only on one side for notes.
- Optimize the printing of our publications. Where appropriate, we use digital and online distribution of the publications.
- Reduce digital pollution by unsubscribing from newsletters and spam. We avoid sending unnecessary emails (2% of initial CO₂ emissions come from internet consumption).

3. Meetings and travelling

- Minimize travelling, especially by air - when possible, we create opportunities for online meetings.
- When possible, we use direct communication in the workplace (each e-mail produces 4 g of CO₂, bigger ones more than 50 g of CO₂.)
- When organizing meetings, we use public transport. If not available, we use shared transport or rent a bus for all (not individual taxis).
- When organizing meetings, we optimize the meeting place also with regard to the travelling distance of all the participants.
- In the case of ecological modes of transport (e.g. train), we give the possibility to count extra travel days (the journey by train takes longer than by air).

4. Food and catering

- Use reusable cups, cutlery and service.
- Provide refreshments, when possible, from local companies that can demonstrate a sustainable approach.
- Plastics must be overcome, when purchasing food distribution materials for events, but naturally compostable and organic products are used instead.

- Use a coffee machine that does not need paper filters or capsules. If possible, we compost the coffee grounds.
- Minimize the use of water packaged in plastic bottles.
- Carefully use tap water, both drinking and utility one.

5. Separation of waste

- Recycle bins for paper are located next to printers and copiers, recycle bins for other materials are on each floor.
- Waste bins are not in every office, but together with recycle ones. This increases the recycling rate.

6. Others

- Use cups or metal and glass bottles or mugs.
- Encourage employees, if possible, to use a staircase instead of an elevator.
- Try to have at least one large real plant in each office. These are not only a pleasant design piece, but also ensure air recycling.
- Ensure the use of environmentally friendly products, including the purchase of green cleaning products.
- Provide ecological gift items that are reusable and separable.
- Take into account environmental parameters, when procuring goods and services.

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Denisa Fedakova, PhD.

Director