



**GDA**

Green Digital Accessibility

# Green conferences for all: An approach to accessible and sustainable events

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Xarxa  
AccessCat

**GREEN  
SCENT**  
SMART CITIZEN EDUCATION  
FOR A GREEN FUTURE

TRANS  
MEDIA  
CATALONIA

# In this presentation

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1. Background: sustainability and accessibility guidelines
2. Workshops
3. From theory to practice: the GDA conference
4. Conclusions

How can we organise a hybrid conference  
that is accessible and green?

# 1. Background: Sustainability guidelines

*Guidelines on organising  
sustainable meetings and  
events at the Commission*

*Approved by the EMAS Steering Committee on*

 **30/07/2018**

**criteris i bones pràctiques ambientals**

**criteris i bones pràctiques ambientals**

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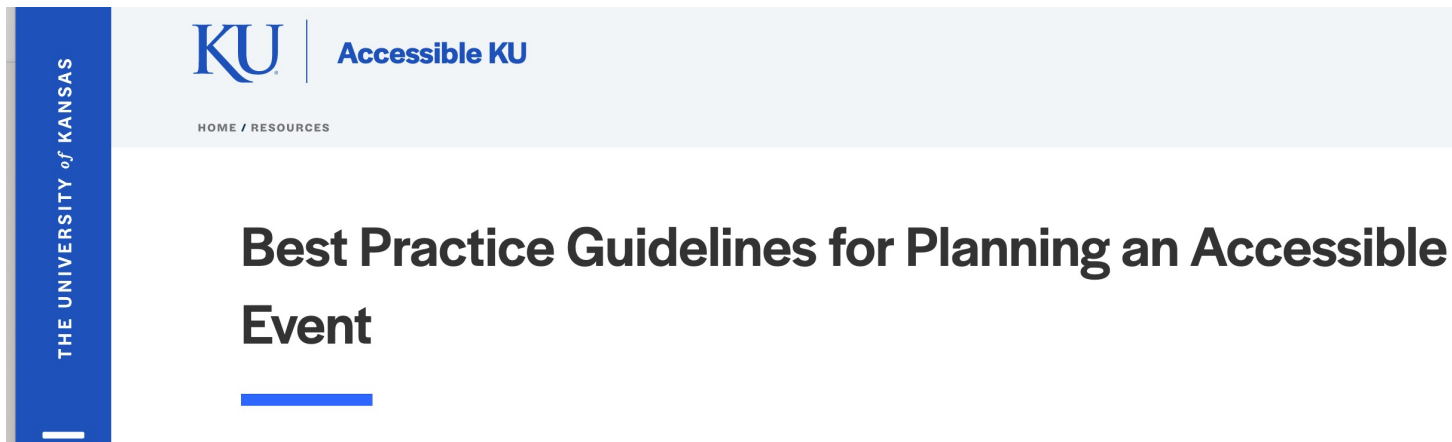
A sustainable or ‘green’ event is one designed, organised and implemented in a way that minimises potential negative impacts and leaves a beneficial legacy for the host community and all involved.

— Adapted from the UNEP Green Meeting Guide 2009 and based on the principles developed at the ICLEI Greening Events Symposium in Barcelona, Spain, September 2004

# 1. Background: Accessibility guidelines

## Making Events Accessible:

Checklist for meetings, conferences, training, and presentations that are remote/virtual, in-person, or hybrid



The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. On the left is a vertical blue bar with the text 'THE UNIVERSITY of KANSAS' in white. To its right is a light blue header area containing the 'KU' logo and the text 'Accessible KU'. Below the header is a navigation bar with the text 'HOME / RESOURCES'. The main content area features the title 'Best Practice Guidelines for Planning an Accessible Event' in a large, bold, black font, followed by a horizontal blue line.



“

Sessions that are accessible to people with disabilities are also inclusive to many more audiences. For example, people with different learning styles and people who are not fluent in the language. Accessible sessions also have additional benefits to organizations and individuals.

— W3C

## 2. Workshops: General details



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The New European Bauhaus — Brussels

“Accessibility meets sustainability: How to organise a green and accesible event”

5 participants

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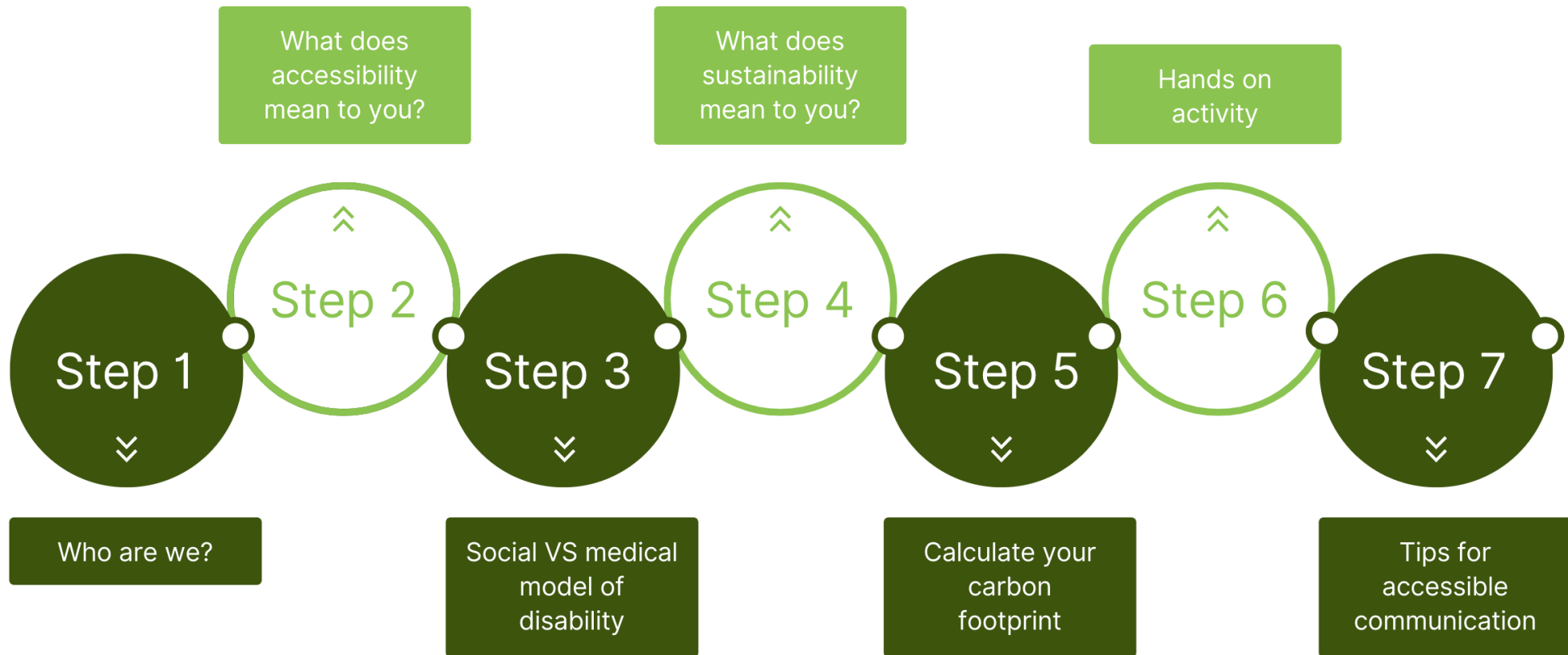
La Nit de la Recerca — Barcelona

“Go green! Cómo organizar un evento sostenible y accesible”

4 participants



# 2. Workshops: Methodology



## 2. Workshops: Mentimeter

What does accessibility  
mean to you?

awareness  
change  
equality  
inclusion  
acceptance  
for everyone  
participation  
human rightd  
accessibility

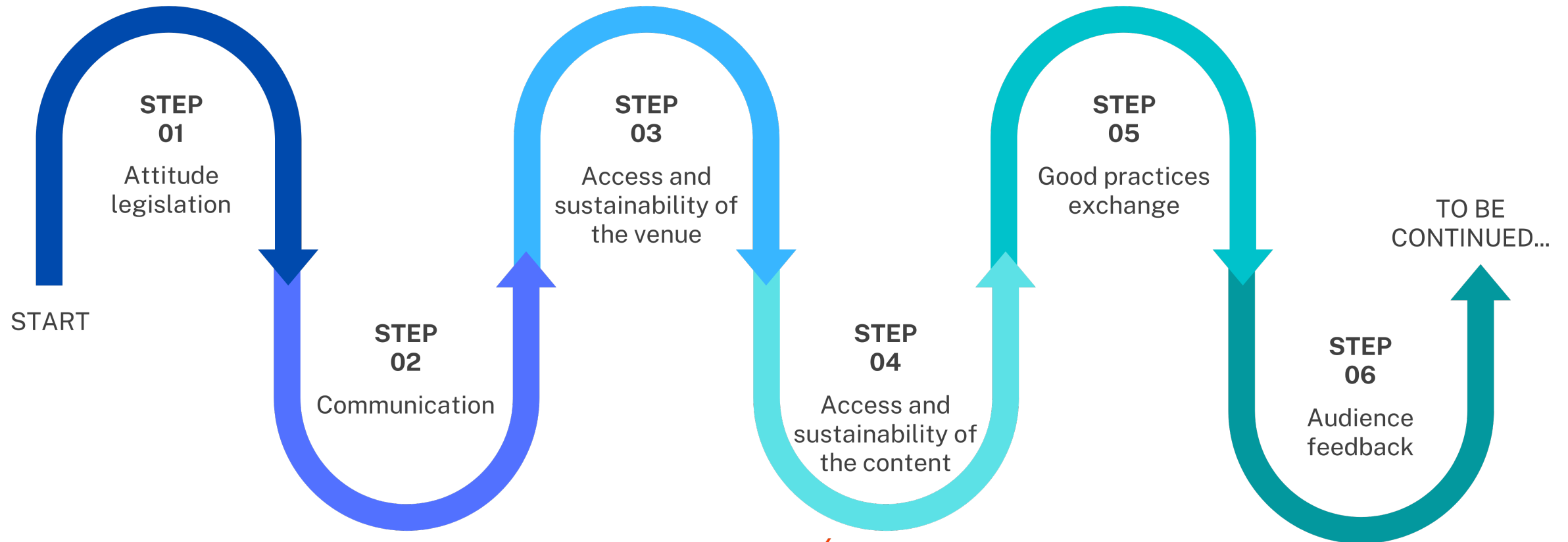
What does sustainability  
mean to you?

clean  
present  
healthy  
us  
green  
enviromental friendly  
care towards the world  
accessibility  
future  
recycle  
fairness

## 2. Workshops: Hands on activity

	BEFORE (Planification)	DURING (Celebration)	AFTER (Evaluation and dismantling)
Venues			
Waste			
Suppliers			
Catering			
Communication			

## 2. Workshops: The accessibility and sustainability chain



# 3. The GDA conference: General details

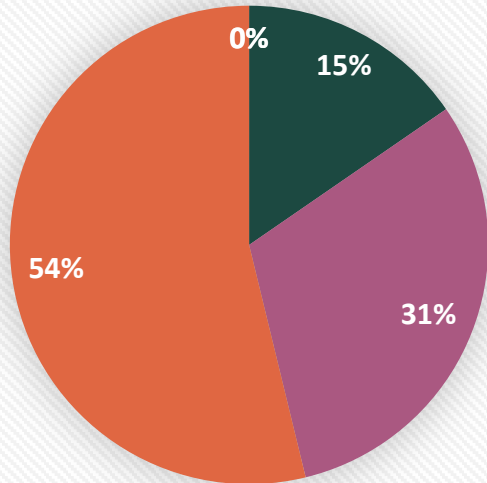
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1st GDA conference — 2nd December 2022 (Barcelona)

- Online promotion and communication
- Hybrid format
- Accessible and well located venue
- Online welcome pack
- Local suppliers for coffee and lunch breaks
- Recycling

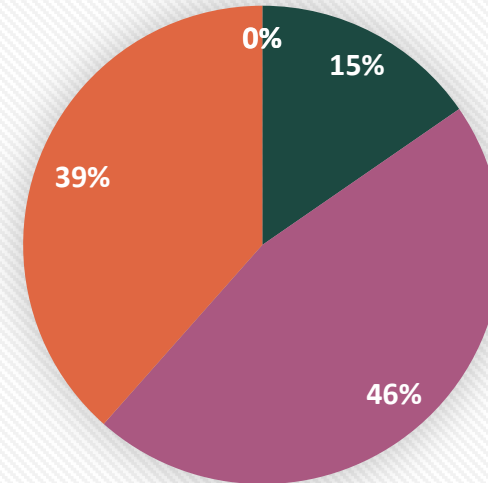
# 3. The GDA conference: Post-event questionnaires

How would you rate the sustainability of the GDA?



1 2 3 4 5

How would you rate the accessibility of the GDA?



1 2 3 4 5

1 means 'not sustainable/accessible at all'  
and 5 means 'very sustainable/accessible'

# 4. Conclusions

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1. Events should prioritize **balance between human activity, resources, and the environment**, avoiding excess and waste.
2. Achieving sustainability and accessibility in events requires **collaboration among organizers, attendees, communities, suppliers, and politicians**.
3. Event organizers can promote sustainability and accessibility through **eco-friendly practices and inclusive policies**.
4. Attendees play a role by **making informed choices and taking individual actions**.
5. Future efforts should focus on developing comprehensive carbon calculators for accurate **assessment of the carbon footprint of accessible events**.



# Thank you for listening!

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