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# **Regulation of the Environmental Sustainability Committee of IRBLleida (Green Team)**

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## 1. Preamble

Scientific research takes place in a global context marked by major environmental challenges. The climate emergency, the degradation of ecosystems, the scarcity of natural resources, and the growing generation of waste constitute real threats that directly affect human health, the balance of natural systems, and the sustainability of human activities. In this scenario, research centres play a fundamental role, not only as generators of knowledge and solutions to environmental challenges, but also as exemplary institutions in the implementation of responsible and sustainable practices.


Biomedical research, especially that carried out in laboratory environments, often involves high resource consumption, intensive energy use, the generation of special waste, and the use of single-use materials that can have a considerable environmental impact. The growing awareness of this impact has led numerous scientific institutions to adopt their own environmental policies and initiatives to minimise the ecological footprint of their activities. This centre, committed to research excellence while being responsible, fully assumes this need and aligns itself with international standards that promote more sustainable, efficient, and environmentally respectful science.

Within this framework, the Institute for Biomedical Research of Lleida – Dr. Pifarré Foundation (hereinafter IRBLleida) has formally adhered to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter (MSCA Green Charter), a document promoted by the European Commission that sets out a series of principles and recommendations aimed at fostering sustainability in research. The Green Charter places particular emphasis on aspects such as reducing emissions associated with international mobility, more efficient use of resources in laboratories, reducing energy consumption, responsible waste management, and promoting a general culture of sustainability in academic and scientific-technical institutions.

This adherence is not limited to a declaration of intent, but entails the adoption of a firm commitment to implement concrete measures that promote more sustainable operations. Its implementation also falls within the HRS4R Action Plan (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers), through which the centre works to improve research conditions, talent management, and institutional quality, incorporating sustainability as a pillar for the development of responsible research aligned with European values.

This institutional commitment is also framed within a broader regulatory and strategic context:

- The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with special relevance to SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure).
- The European Green Deal, which establishes the foundations to transform the European economy with the aim of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.
- Law 7/2021 on climate change and energy transition, which sets out instruments and measures to reduce emissions, promote energy efficiency, and drive a sustainable production model.
- The guidelines on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) promoted by the European Commission, which include sustainability as an essential cross-cutting element.

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In this context, the Environmental Sustainability Committee (hereinafter Green Team) of IRBLleida is established, with the aim of promoting, coordinating, and supervising the actions necessary to integrate sustainability transversally into the institution's operations.

The creation of this committee represents a fundamental strategic step towards consolidating an environmentally responsible culture and contributing, through research, to the construction of a more sustainable future.

## 2. Purpose of the Regulation

The purpose of this regulation is to govern the operating framework of the IRBLleida Green Team.

## 3. Composition, Appointment, Term, Resignations and Dismissal of Green Team Members

### *3.1 Composition, Roles and Appointments*

The Green Team shall be composed of between five and ten members, who shall be appointed by the Management of IRBLleida.

The Green Team may be made up of staff employed by the Institution as well as affiliated personnel. Members of the Green Team may join through the following channels:

- 1) Upon proposal by the Management of IRBLleida.
- 2) At the request of interested individuals.

Efforts shall be made to ensure that the composition of the Green Team is gender-balanced, maintaining representation of each sex within the equality range of 40 to 60%.


The Green Team shall be organised into a presidency, a secretariat, and between three and eight members (vocal positions). The appointment of these roles shall be carried out by the Green Team itself through an internal negotiation process. The secretariat shall be held by staff employed by IRBLleida, preferably by a person from the IRBLleida Management Office and/or from the Steering Committee/Working Group of the HR Excellence in Research.

The creation, composition, and roles of the Green Team must be ratified by the Internal Scientific Committee and/or the governing bodies designated by the Management of the centre. Any appointments or dismissals that may occur during the activity of the Committee shall be communicated to the Management of the centre and ratified by it.

The composition and roles of the Green Team shall be recorded in Annex I of the Committee's Regulations.

No member of the Green Team may delegate their functions or be replaced during the sessions.

Experts and/or advisory personnel in the subjects to be addressed on the agenda may attend Green Team sessions, with voice but without vote. External personnel shall only attend the sessions for those items that fall strictly within their area of expertise and for which they have been specifically invited.

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### 3.2 Term

The members of the Green Team commit to serving for 4 years from the moment of their ratification by the Internal Scientific Committee. After this period, the Green Team will be renewed, and those members who wish to do so may stand for selection again.

### 3.3 Resignations and Dismissal of Members

The dismissal of Green Team members may occur under the following circumstances:

- a) Voluntary resignation, at the member's own request, which shall be communicated by the Green Team presidency to the Management of IRBLleida as soon as possible.
- b) Upon completion of the term established in the section relating to the duration of the position, if the member does not express the intention to continue being part of the Green Team.

Green Team members may be dismissed for justified cause if there is unanimity among the remaining members, or if three or more members propose it and obtain the support of the Management of the centre.

Likewise, all members of the Green Team may be directly dismissed by the Management of IRBLleida.


## 4. Functions

- Design, implement and evaluate the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.
- Promote environmental sustainability in the planning, execution and dissemination of research projects.
- Minimise the environmental impact of scientific events, travel and resource use.
- Encourage the use of virtual meetings and sustainable modes of transport whenever possible.
- Promote green procurement practices and the use of reusable or biodegradable materials.
- Raise awareness among staff about sustainability in research.

## 5. Powers and Competences

The Green Team is an advisory body to the Management in matters of environmental sustainability, and under no circumstances does it hold executive functions or represent the Institution. To carry out the functions previously described, the Management of IRBLleida grants authority to the Green Team. In the event of a conflict between the Management of IRBLleida and the Green Team, the decisions approved by the Management of IRBLleida shall prevail.

The Green Team may attend events, participate in collaboration networks with other centres, and carry out other public activities related to environmental sustainability, provided that it has the approval of the Management.

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## 6. Operating Rules and Frequency of Meetings

The Green Team shall operate in accordance with the rules set out in this Regulation.

The Green Team shall be considered constituted when the individuals holding the positions of presidency, secretariat, and at least three members (vocal positions) are present, or when all vocal positions are present if this number is not reached.

The Green Team's proposals shall be approved by consensus or, if requested by any member, by vote. Decisions shall be adopted by simple majority. Voting may be conducted by secret ballot if requested.

The Green Team shall coordinate the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan and its activities with the Management of IRBLleida.

The decisions of the Green Team shall be considered proposals and shall be submitted immediately, together with detailed justification, so that the Management may adopt the appropriate decision.

The Green Team shall meet on a quarterly basis for ordinary sessions, and in extraordinary sessions whenever convened by the Presidency or requested by any of its members, duly justifying the need.

Ordinary sessions shall be convened at least five working days before the meeting date. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened at least forty-eight hours in advance.


Meetings shall be convened by the presidency in accordance with the calendar approved by the members. The date, time, and place of the meeting shall be communicated via institutional email.

The secretariat of the Green Team shall be responsible for drafting the minutes of the meetings held by the Green Team within a maximum of four days after each meeting. The minutes shall be sent to all Green Team members for their review and proposed amendments. Approval of the minutes shall be completed within a maximum of three days following their distribution to all members.

Members of the Green Team who wish their interventions to be recorded verbatim in the minutes must expressly request this and provide the written text corresponding to their statements.

The final version of the minutes must be signed by the Presidency and the Secretariat of the Green Team and archived electronically by the Secretariat on the servers of the IRBLleida Management Office.


This Regulation shall enter into force the day after its approval by the Internal Scientific Committee and shall be published on the IRBLleida website.

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## Annex I

### Composition and distribution of roles of the Green Team

- Presidency: Irene Pociño Merino
- Secretariat: Elena Moscatel Mendelsohn
- Member 1: Fernando Tortras Pastor
- Member 2: Naiara Vilagínés Joven / Marc Mariner Cortés
- Member 3: María Coronada García Hidalgo
- Member 4: Fabien Delaspre
- Member 5: Águeda Martínez Barriocanal
- Member 6: Núria Bahí Pla

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VERSION HISTORY			
Revision number	Effective date	Author	Revision's motive
1	17/11/2025	GT	Initial version