GHG Monitoring & Reduction of Universities 2.0

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Project Partners
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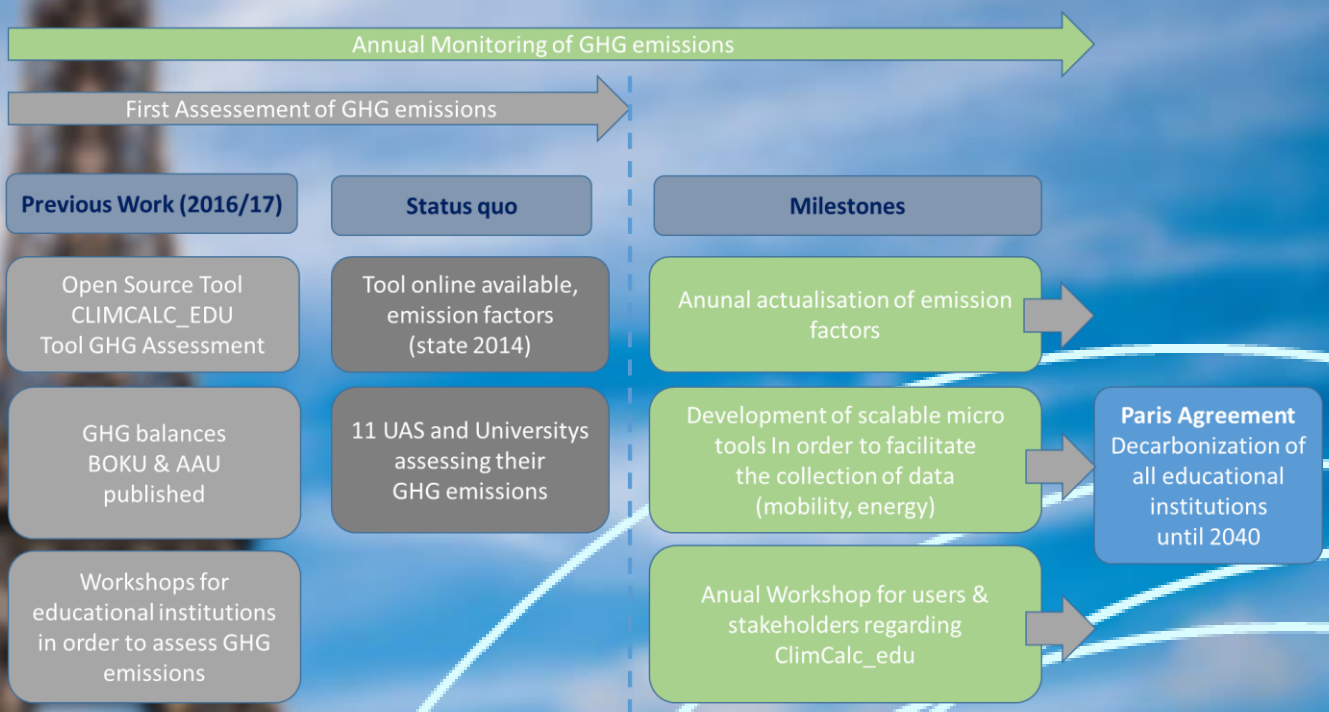
Overview of the results and aims of the previous and the follow up project



Starting Point

Within the previous project the monitoring tool „Climcalc_edu" was developed. Universities and similar institutions can therefore easily calculate their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a regular base. In Austria detailed balances are available for the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) (approx. 17.500 t CO2 eq.) and the University of Klagenfurt (AAU) (approx. 8.000 t CO2 eq.) for the year 2015.

Main Sources and Usability Options

Most of the GHG emissions originate from mobility and energy use. Regarding mobility most of the GHG emissions primarily are caused by business trips and commuting and in the energy sector the dominant sources of emissions represent electricity and heat. The GHG saving potential for universities is high and associated with financial benefits, in particular by applying energy efficiency measures. The monitoring tool can be used by universities, institutes of applied sciences, ministries, schools and research institutions for free. Austrian universities, in particular members of the alliance of sustainable universities in Austria have a vital interest in assessing their GHG emissions and applied for the application of the tool.

Challenges and Barriers

Some challenges and barriers regarding the GHG monitoring tool remain, primarily within the area of mobility (e.g. high complexity regarding the calculation of business travels), buildings (lack of proper energy assessing techniques). Furthermore, an exchange of experiences as well as a collective approach concerning the climate change mitigation by universities could help to define GHG emission reduction targets related to the EU targets resp. the Paris agreement.

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