

Towards the Green Lion

Guidelines for a More Sustainable Exhibition

IUAV

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Principles and Objectives

This vademecum is part of the Global Green Lion Initiative, a project by the Global Commissioners Group of the International Pavilions at the Art and Architecture Exhibitions of the Venice Biennale. It aims to incorporate principles of environmental sustainability into exhibition design, installation, and dismantling.

The vademecum was developed by a group of students from the IUAV University of Venice during a workshop led by Professors Laura Fregolent and Giovanni Mucelli. It proposes guidelines that can be applied with respect for the city, with the goal of preserving the landscape and heritage that define it. It addresses not only artists but all those who, even indirectly, engage with the Biennale, seeking a balance between social, economic, and environmental aspects. Sustainability also offers potential opportunities to gain various forms of innovative competitiveness, bringing benefits such as cost reduction, human resource management, community integration, and several aspects related to consumption – ultimately reducing the environmental and social impact of temporary exhibitions.

Target Groups and Relations

- **Suppliers**

Goods: Companies or individuals that provide goods or products to clients or other businesses for sale or use.

Services: Companies or professionals offering services such as consulting, maintenance, technical support, or specialized activities to meet the needs of businesses or individuals.
- **Transport**

Public: Collective mobility services offering means of transportation such as buses, trams, or waterbuses (vaporetti) for urban and suburban travel, ensuring accessible and sustainable connections for residents and tourists.

Private: Companies or individuals responsible for transporting goods from one place to another, ensuring delivery to recipients.
- **Biennale Foundation**

A cultural institution that organizes exhibitions, festivals, and artistic events, promoting contemporary art and global cultural dialogue.
- **Citizens**

Individuals belonging to a community, nation, or city, with civil and political rights and duties, participating in the social, economic, and cultural life of the territory in which they live.
- **Associations**

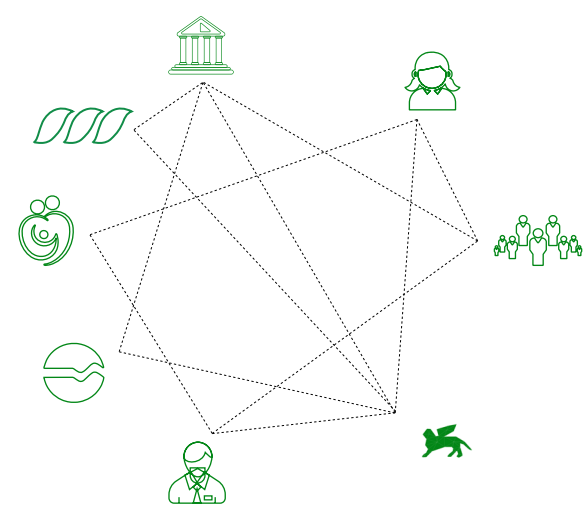
Groups of people united to pursue shared goals.
- **Commissioners**

Representatives appointed by their respective countries to curate and organize artistic or cultural exhibitions within the official pavilions.
- **City of Venice**

The local administrative authority that manages services, resources, and activities in the area, promoting the social, cultural, and economic development of the city and its islands.
- **Curators**

Professionals selected by each country to choose, organize, and present the works and artists representing their nation in the international exhibition.
- **Veritas**

A company managing public services such as water distribution, waste collection, and environmental services in the city of Venice and surrounding municipalities.



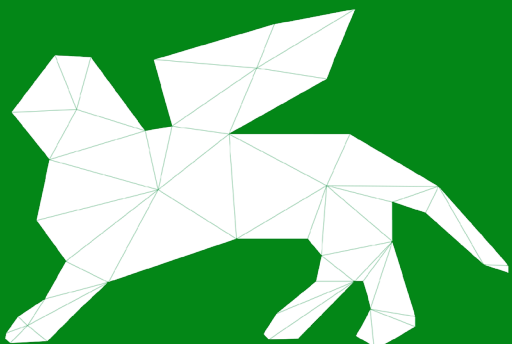
	MATERIALS	WASTE	SPACES	WORK	MOBILITY
SUPPLIERS	●				
TRANSPORT		●			●
BIENNALE		●	●	●	●
MUNICIPALITY		●	●		●
CURATORS	●			●	●
COMMISSIONERS				●	
CITIZENS			●		
VERITAS		●			

Themes and Guidelines



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Materials and Recovery



SUPPLIES

- Acquire bio-compatible materials and products derived from renewable resources
- Acquire materials and products with environmental certification (Type I, II, III)
- Acquire materials and products while minimizing packaging
- Acquire materials and products from recovery/reuse supply chains
- Acquire locally sourced materials, products, and equipment
- Acquire technological products with European certifications (Energy Star, GEEA, TCO'99 and TCO'03, Energy Efficiency Class)
- Prefer renting materials and technologies over purchasing them

MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS

- Minimize the material content of each element
- Minimize material and component scraps and waste
- Choose the most efficient systems for material and component usage
- Minimize energy consumption for production and assembly
- Minimize energy consumption for transport and storage
- Adopt systems with flexible energy resource consumption
- Choose materials with zero or minimal toxicity/harmfulness
- Choose renewable and bio-compatible materials
- Optimize the lifespan of components
- Design for appropriate durability
- Choose materials that allow efficient recovery technologies
- Facilitate collection and transportation after use
- Minimize the number of incompatible materials
- Minimize and simplify disassembly and separation operations
- Use joints to connect materials which can be easily opened / taken out
- Use materials that can be disassembled into intact and homogeneous fractions
- Ensure ease of on-site assembly/disassembly

Spaces and Accommodation



SPACES

- Acquire unused buildings and spaces near the exhibition area to support National Pavilions, in order to reduce environmental impacts and transportation costs
- Raise awareness about the importance of preserving the Giardini area, by valuing the integrity of the natural soil
- Facilitate the reuse of catalogued materials and products based on quantity, condition, and residual performance, by using storage facilities equipped with a database system to constantly monitor the types and quantities of items stored
- Establish on-site artisanal workshops for the creation of artistic works and shared exhibition installations
- Create spaces for involving the local population through workshops focused on the functional regeneration of reusable materials from temporary installations
- Minimize the use of public urban areas such as squares and streets for exhibition-related services
- Remove architectural barriers to ensure that spaces are accessible to all members of the community, fostering collaboration, social inclusion, and collective well-being
- Ensure regular maintenance of exhibition spaces to avoid costly and invasive interventions
- Design green areas to improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and increase biodiversity – urban gardens can serve as a good example

ACCOMMODATION

- Provide shared housing for artists and technicians, including shared workshops or co-working spaces that encourage collaboration and resource sharing, reducing space usage and improving efficiency
- Seek accommodation solutions such as guest housing or subsidized rental options for workers involved in the exhibition setup

WORK

- Define a minimum hourly wage
- Apply the national collective labor agreement (CCNL) for the cultural sector (Federculture)
- Minimize outsourcing of services
- Use standard employment contracts that recognize workers' rights as the reference model
- Exclude discriminatory contract types such as on-call contracts, occasional services, and false self-employment (false VAT numbers)
- Monitor the activity of freelance workers
- Ensure fair rights and compensation for freelancers
- Clearly define fixed-term or seasonal contracts, ensuring rights are recognized
- Limit excessive flexibility in working hours
- Recognize the right to breaks and provide suitable rest areas
- Monitor internships and traineeships to avoid forms of unpaid labor
- Ensure rights and fair compensation for both curricular and extracurricular internships
- Ensure compliance with the Consolidated Safety Act (Legislative Decree 81/08)
- Promote a work environment free from gender and sex discrimination

MOBILITY

- Prioritize low CO₂-emission travel, favoring collective transportation
- When possible, travel to Venice by train or bus
- If air travel is necessary, consider offsetting CO₂ emissions when purchasing the ticket
- Reach Biennale venues and pavilions on foot or via public transport such as the Vaporetto
- Consider incentives for using low-emission transport to reach the exhibition area
- Create guided walking routes to encourage moving around Venice on foot
- Promote collaboration between the Biennale, national pavilions, and companies to improve logistics and reduce water-based transportation

Work and Mobility

