CONNECTIONS:
Collected short examples from all countries

There were many examples of cooperation with stakeholders from outside of the school, as these stakeholders are often necessary for the proper functioning of the school itself. This was the case in Finland, for example, where collaboration with town councils was vital, given that the schools are owned and operated by the municipalities. Collaboration with private companies was important, for instance, in the Portuguese case, where the contribution of the waste collection company was necessary for the establishment of new mutually shared rules.

The iterative deliberative processes implemented throughout the project allowed students and teachers to collectively reflect on the relevant stakeholders in carrying out sustainability projects. In the course of this process, participants repeatedly mentioned internal entities (offices, departments, etc.), external bodies (municipalities, companies, etc.) and intermediaries (families) to whom specific responsibilities are assigned and with whom specific types of relationships are required.

Several of the project's interventions have generated data on electricity and water consumption, air quality, waste generation, and more. This has allowed schools and universities to estimate certain environmental impacts and assess the effectiveness of the interventions. These data can thereby constitute a powerful means of awareness-raising, which can, in turn, foster change in behaviours and practices. Making data on environmental impacts visible can guide future action, for example by motivating the involved actors to improve or at least maintain the improvements achieved.

Some schools have strengthened their environmental commitment by increasing their participation in 'green-school' or 'eco-school' programmes. This fosters greater involvement among the school's various stakeholders, as well as stronger ties with external stakeholders (municipalities, etc.).

Schools and universities often have limited possibilities to improve their environmental performance through better management of facilities and services due to the prominent role of municipal authorities (in Spain, also regional) in decisions concerning services such as energy and water supply, waste collection and recycling, as well as the common practice of outsourcing services such as catering, cleaning and procurement.