

Appendix no. 2  
Submission form  
Student and PhD Student Participatory Budget  
Edition 2026 – “Ecological innovations”

<b>Project title:</b> Reusable Cup program for students
<b>Applicant(s):</b> Miltiadis Boufidis – Konrad Trapkowski
<b>Why is the project important? (no more than 100 words)</b> Single-use cups remain a universal real-world issue, both in plastic and paper form. This program increases students’ awareness of the issue and supports habit creation of eco-friendly practices, while actively reducing the waste generated from in-school consumption. This token-based scheme reduces the friction of environmentally friendly action, that initiatives like “bring your cup” innately have (remembering to bring, carrying it dirty all day, washing effort). Additionally, this pilot serves as a basis for the blueprint of a sustainable operating model for the school cafeteria, while making the University’s sustainability efforts practical and visible.
<b>Project description (no more than 250 words)</b> The project introduces a pilot reusable takeaway cup program. Students and staff may join the scheme by paying a one-time fee that includes a reusable cup. When buying a drink, the user receives it in a reusable cup and may either keep the cup for future use or return it later at a cafeteria in any campus building. When a used cup is returned, the user receives a token. At the next purchase, the token can be exchanged for a clean reusable cup, which removes the inconvenience of carrying a dirty cup or remembering to bring one from home. The scheme will also be able applicable to students opting for the available self-service options. The project includes procurement of reusable takeaway cups and lids, initial onboarding incentives, and coordination with the cafeteria operator. The pilot will allow the school to test waste reduction, student participation, and operational feasibility within 1 semester. Assumptions for the balancing of operating costs such as: 1. The lifetime value of reusable cups exceeds the recurring cost of single use cups for equal usage.

2. The one-time fee covers the unit cost of reusable cups (so losses are financially acceptable).
3. The onboarding incentive is of substance for the user, minimal for the provider (ex. 2 free hot drinks).

**Simplified cost estimate:**

Simplified cost estimate (for 1 semester pilot)

Reusable Cups + Lids (600 pcs): ~1450 PLN

Delivery cost: ~1700 PLN

Tokens: ~200 PLN

Total: ~3350 PLN

Considerations:

1. Cup unit price is based on preliminary market checks; a competitive procurement and volume discounts could reduce cup and delivery costs or allow modest branding/customization.
2. Each cup is designed to last at least 150 times (as a cost comparison for 150 single-use cups).
3. Depending on the coordination cafeteria operator and established additional costs could occur for onboarding incentive, washing/operating costs. This could have the form of cup ownership, and/or subsidized onboarding incentive -at cost (more common) or lost revenue (unusual).
4. The one-time participation fee is intended to cover the cup unit cost for each participant; in that sense the cup procurement is largely self-funded and the university's direct spend is mainly for launch and coordination.