

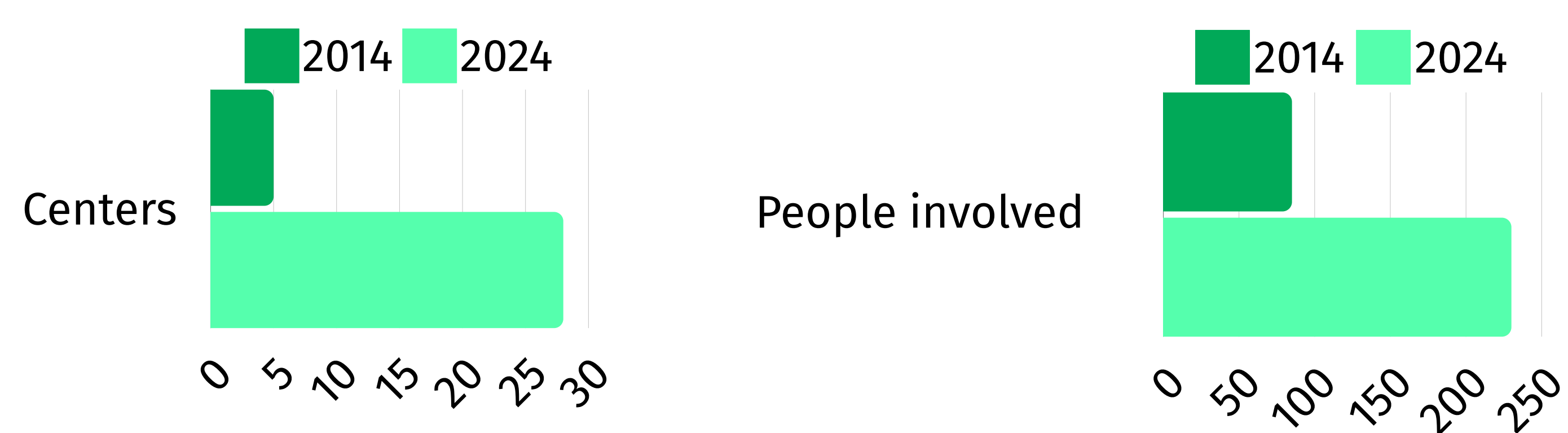
10 YEARS OF ECO CAMPUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF A CORUÑA

NETWORKING, AUTONOMY OF CENTERS AND INVOLVEMENT OF UNIVERSITY COMUNITY

Verónica Torrijos (1)*, Martina Dono (2) , Manuel Soto (3), F. Javier López Rivadulla (4), Sonia Vázquez Díaz (5), Nadisha V. Balani Mahtani (6), Xoana Ares Fandiño (7)

1,2,6,7: Office for the Environment, Ed. Xoana Capdevielle, Campus Elviña, 15071 A Coruña, Spain.
3: Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences, Campus A Zapateira, 15071 A Coruña, Spain.
4: Sustainability Representative at Vice-Rectorate. Ed. Xoana Capdevielle, Campus de Elviña, 15071 A Coruña, Spain.
5: Vice-Rector for Infrastructure and Sustainability. Ed. Xoana Capdevielle, Campus de Elviña, 15071 A Coruña, Spain.
*Corresponding autor: v.torrijos@udc.gal

In 2014, the University of A Coruña (UDC, Spain) signed up to the Eco Campus (EC) program. It progressively grew year by year, until reaching the current situation, with all UDC teaching centers incorporated, as wells as administrative and research centers, and being distributed in **15 Eco Campus programs**, of which nine have achieved the Green Flag recognition.



Images: Green Flag delivery act for the Faculty of Economics and Business.

Some centers functioned initiating actions, which over the 10 years of EC program, the UDC has been consolidating and replicating the most successful ones in terms of didactics and environmental awareness. An example can be waste campaigns during EWWR (European Week for Waste Reduction), when EC center committees study the quality of waste separation, and then issue a report with global and comparative results, coordinated by the Office for the Environment. Related to this campaign, new ideas emerged, such as "Eco-teacher badge", for those who had removed waste bins from their offices, or the recovery of the clean paper fraction in toilets. Another example is the incorporation EC center committees proposals in the Environmental March, program of workshops, lectures and technical visits open to the whole UDC, and which reaches more than a thousand participants each year.

BOTTOM-UP CHARACTER: AUTONOMY OF CENTERS

There is no a single EC program at the UDC, but rather it is distributed across as many autonomous programs as centers (or campuses) that are networked through the Office for the Environment:

- Distintive and innovative element for EC program.
- Ensures grassroots participation.
- Involvement of different disciplines and messages adapted to each one.
- Gives a strong bottom-up character.
- Successful experiences can be replicated an adapted to each center or Campus.

ENCOURAGING EC AT UDC

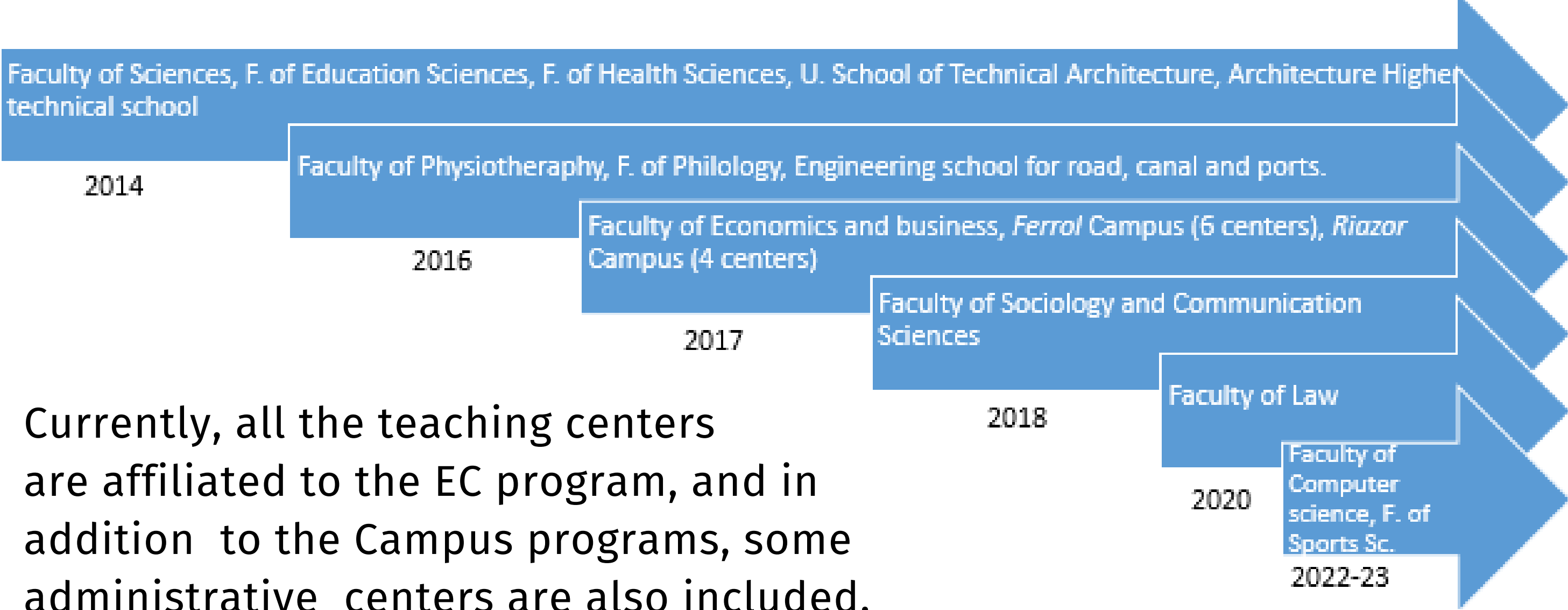
- The UDC grants up to 20 students each academic year to develop activities in each EC center.
- Recognition for coordination in each center, reducing the teaching by 10 hours/academic year.
- Assistance from the centers directions, and from specific services of the university, such as the Architecture and Urbanism Service, the Offices for Volunteering, for Gender Equality, for Healthy life.
- Assistance and coordination from the Office for the Environment, and ADEAC (Environmental and Consumer Education Association) services for external advisor and certifier, as member of the FEE.

WHICH IS THE MAIN PURPOSE IN THE UDC COMMUNITY?

Achieving social and environmental sustainability: with this program, the UDC has advanced and involved the university community, being aware of the needs for a sustainable future.



Images: (1) "Eco-teacher badge", (2) Technical visit during Environmental March, (3) Recycling theater performance, (4) EWWR waste campaign with EC scholarship students, (5) Beach cleaning with volunteering and EC center committees, (6) Workshop for bike ergonomics and mechanics.



Currently, all the teaching centers are affiliated to the EC program, and in addition to the Campus programs, some administrative centers are also included.

Acknowledgments - To all the coordinators of the EC committees at UDC, the scholarship students and the ADEAC implication.