



To: University Council
Via: university.council@eur.nl

Date

Subject

38521 Ecosia as a default search engine

Our reference

CvB/EvS/RP/275.738

Your reference

UC/LvS/38521

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Enclosure

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Department

Executive Board

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Dear members of the University Council,

Thank you for your letter and policy proposal about Ecosia as default search engine. I view your proposal in a positive way. It would be great to implement this easy win, if internally we agree on its benefits.

To make sure we do the right thing, I have consulted with our IT experts. Luckily, they state there is no technical impediment to use Ecosia as the default search engine.

The objective of EDIS (Erasmus Digitalization & Information Services) is to offer high-quality and market-compliant information provision and technology for research, education, and business operations. The importance of sustainability is directly linked to this. For example, EDIS is working on a hybrid data centre solution where smarter technology ensures less power consumption and lower emissions. By broadening digitalization in a general sense, the importance of collective thinking towards joint EUR-wide digital solutions is therefore becoming increasingly important.

The policy proposal of the University Council contributes to this direction and is therefore supported by EDIS. As you know, EDIS is collaborating in the running Ecosia campaign, and supported with the technical input for the 'how to install Ecosia on your (EUR) devices for both employees and students.

Besides the technical view it is also important to hear the voice of the representatives of the users to understand the business impact of a possible switch to Ecosia.

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This information I expect to receive by the end of May 2022.
I will keep you informed about the developments.

Warm regards,

The Executive Board of Erasmus University Rotterdam,

Dr E.M.A. van Schoten RA
Vice-president