

INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM: LATVIA CASE STUDY

Giirts BOHVALOVŠ^{1*}, Antra KALNBALKĪTE², Ruta VANAGA³, Vladimirs KIRŠANOVS⁴, Dace LAUKA⁵, Ieva PAKERE⁶, Toms PRODANUKS⁷, Krista LAKTUKA⁸, Kristiana DOLGE⁹, Zigmars ZUNDANS¹⁰, Inguna BREMANE¹¹, Dagnija BLUMBERGA¹², Andra BLUMBERGA¹³

¹⁻¹³ Institute of Energy Systems and Environment, Riga Technical University, Āzenes iela 12/1, Riga, LV-1048, Latvia

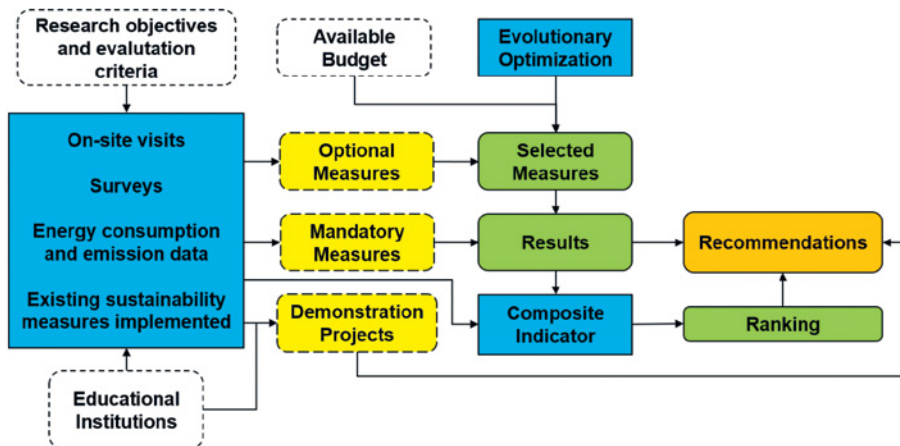
* Corresponding author. E-mail address: giirts.bohvalovs@rtu.lv

Abstract – Promoting sustainability in educational systems is crucial for preserving resources and diminishing negative impacts on the environment. A key aspect of this is enhancing energy efficiency and renewable energy use within educational institutions. This research paper aims to explore ways to increase sustainability in Latvia's vocational education system. A study of 23 educational institutions has been conducted to understand the current state of sustainability in the educational system, including data collection on energy consumption and surveying the institutions on their current energy efficiency practices, renewable energy sources, and environmental policies. The energy efficiency and renewable energy production measures have been optimized for each school. A composite indicator has been developed to rank and compare schools based on their sustainability, promoting the use of energy-efficient and renewable energy sources within a limited budget. Results of the study show that by implementing mandatory and optional measures, educational institutions can significantly decrease primary energy consumption by 39 % and greenhouse gas emissions by 34 %.

Keywords – Composite indicator; energy efficiency; environmental impact; greenhouse gas emissions; optimization; policy; primary energy consumption; renewable energy; survey

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Research methodology.