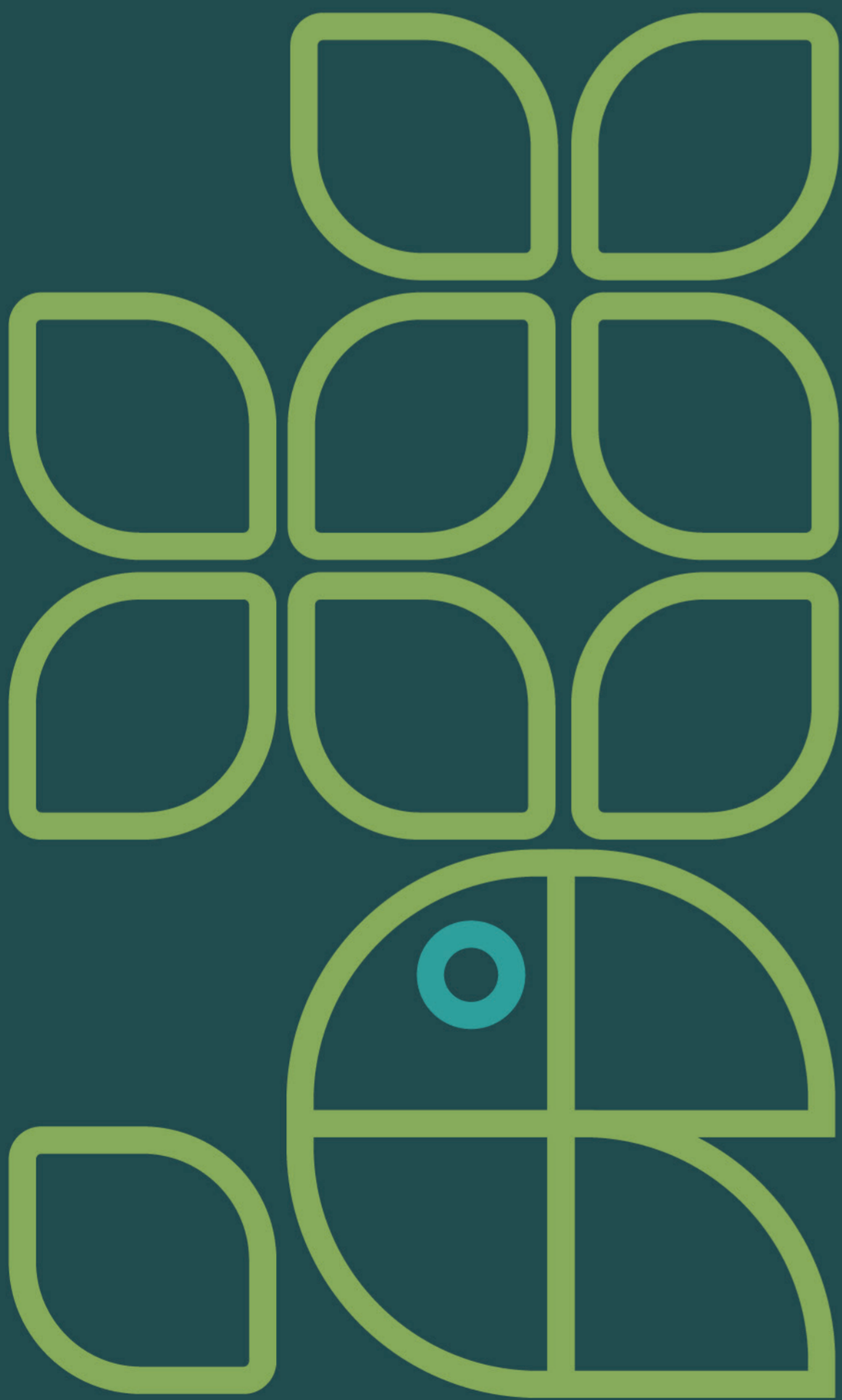




GREEN
THREE
SEAS



FOR THE



YOUTH



Green Three Seas for the Youth

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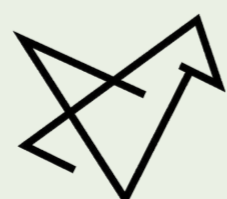
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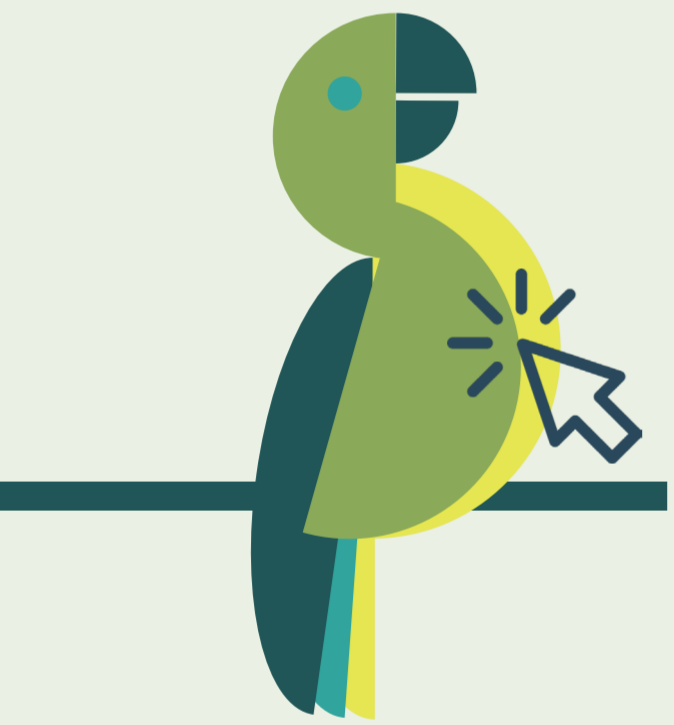
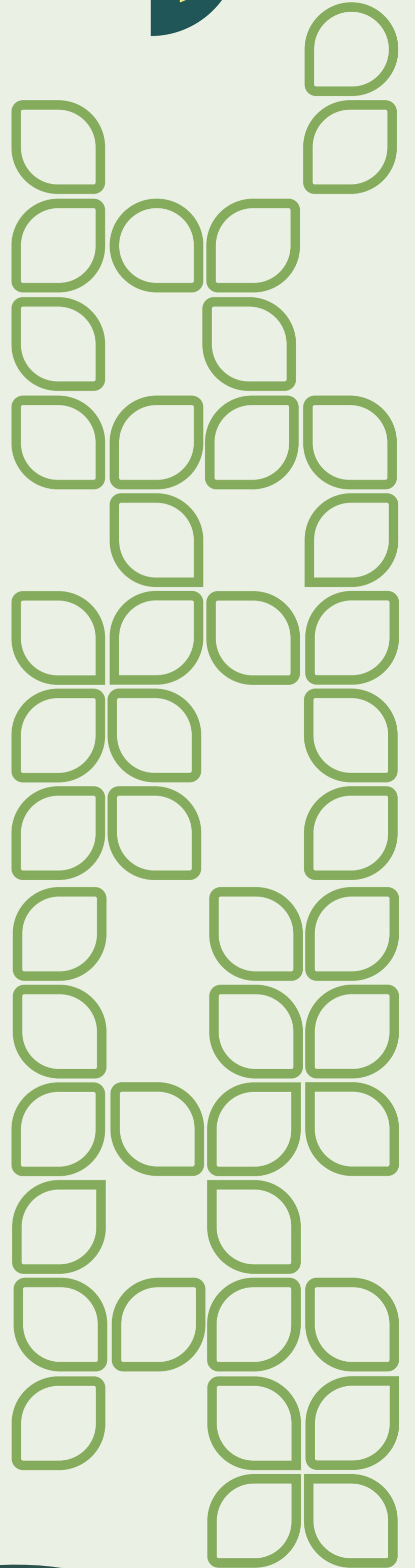
Click here to go back to contents

Contents

GREEN THREE SEAS FOR THE YOUTH	2
About the Green Station	7
The Trilateral Initiative, European Green Deal and the Youths.....	14
DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF THE TRILATERAL INITIATIVE	15
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	16
CHAPTER 1: Green Labor Market.....	43
1. DEFINITION OF A “GREEN JOB”	44
2. EU GREEN LABOUR MARKET	47
3. FAIR PAYMENT AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS	49
4. THE ROLE OF MINORITY GROUPS.....	52
5. EXPLORING GOOD PRACTICES.....	53
6. GREEN IDEAS ARE USED AS PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES.....	55
7. GREEN LABOUR MARKET: DEFINITION AND NECESSITY.....	57
8. GREEN YOUR EDUCATION FROM SCHOOLS.....	58
9. GREEN JOBS PROMOTION IN SOCIAL MEDIA.....	59
10. ENHANCE GREEN PROMOTION IN MASS MEDIA	60
11. SWITCH GREEN ON EXISTING COMPANIES	61
12. GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT	63
13. GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) IN GREEN JOB MARKET.....	64
14. GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON NATIONAL LEVEL IN HUNGARY	65
15. ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT GREEN ENTREPRENEURS	67
16. GREEN FORMAL EDUCATION.....	71
17. INTEGRATION OF GREEN PRACTICES IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION	74
CHAPTER 2: Just Transition.....	76
1. EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL.....	77

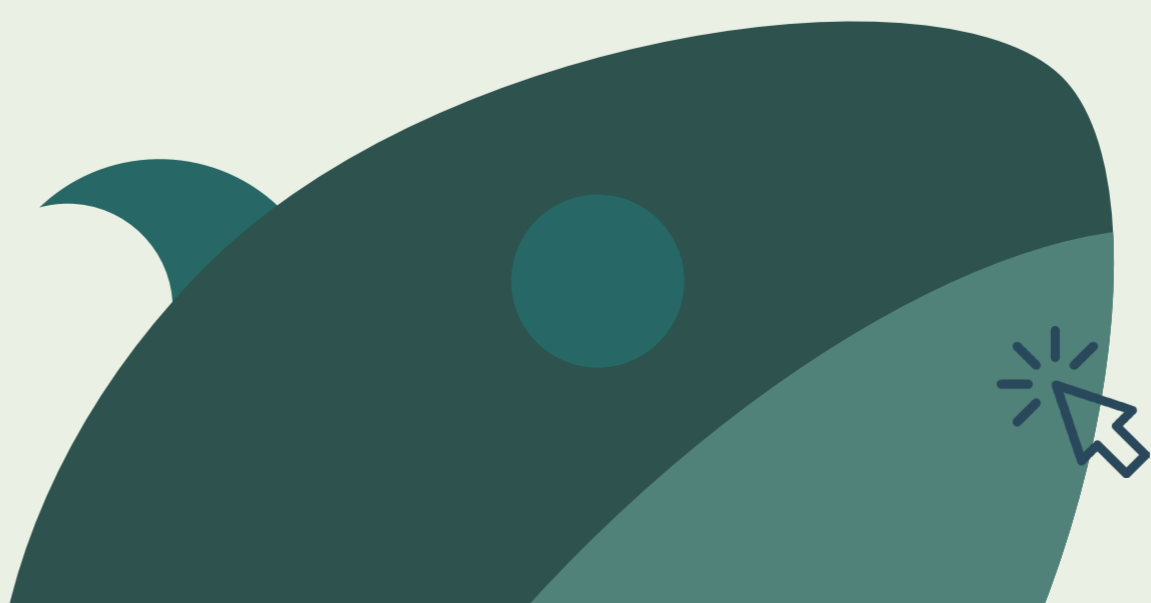
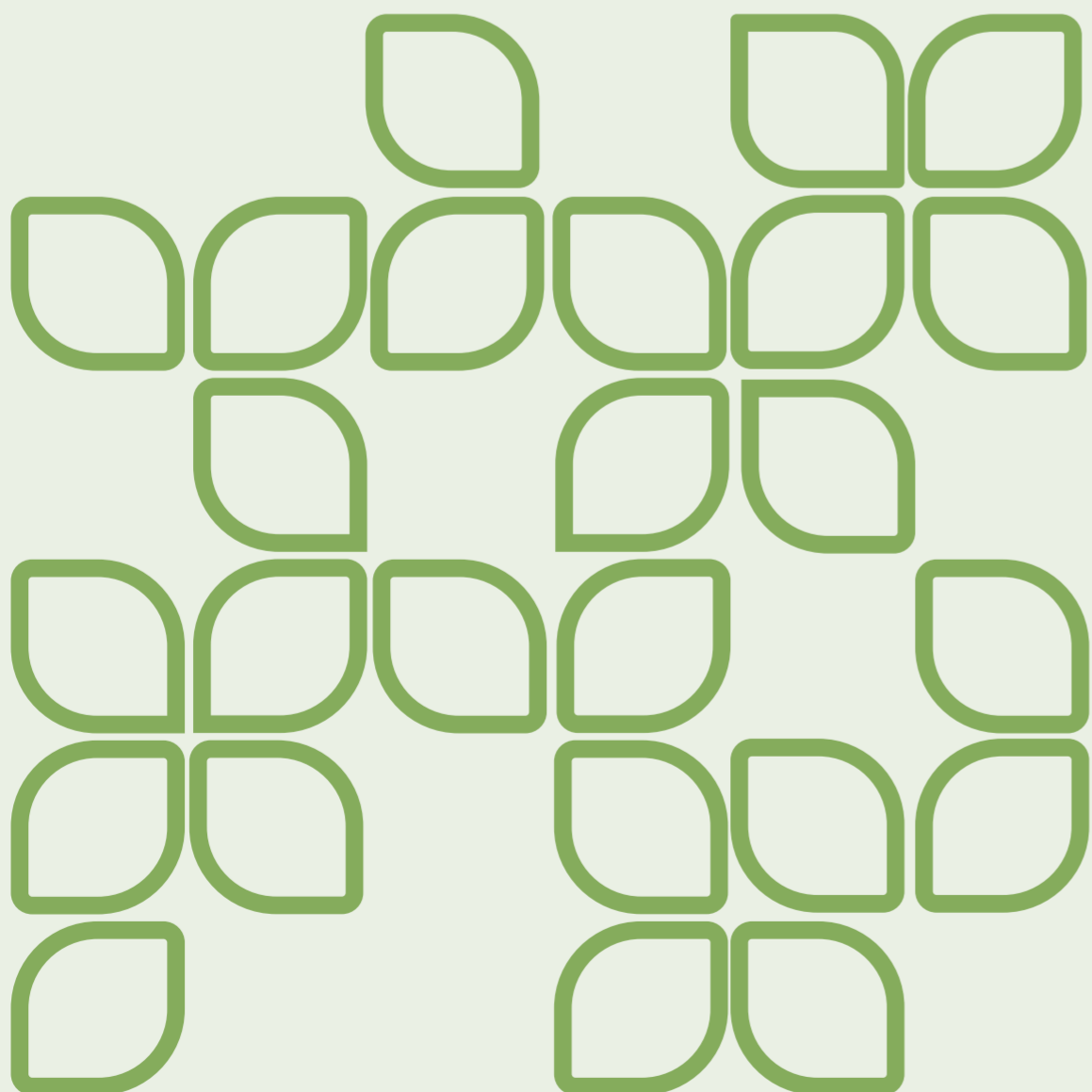
2. GREEN TRANSITION.....	78
3. DIGITALIZATION IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY	80
4. 6 RS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF GREEN TRANSITION	81
5. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR GREEN TRANSITION.....	82
6. RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION FOR GREEN TRANSITION.....	83
7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR GREEN TRANSITION.....	85
8. CLIMATE NEUTRALITY STRATEGY ON BUSINESS LEVEL.....	87
9. GREENWASHING AS A BARRIER IN GREEN TRANSITION	88
10. SUPPORTING SMES IN GREEN TRANSITION.....	90
11. GREEN TRANSITION - 0 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.....	92
12. CIRCULAR ECONOMY - 6R.....	94
13. CLIMATE NEUTRALITY STRATEGY	96
14. CREATION OF QUALITY JOBS.....	98
15. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY	100
16. TAX BENEFITS FOR MIDDLE-INCOME AND SMES.....	102
CHAPTER 3: Inclusive climate policies.....	104
1. SOCIAL CAMPAIGNS PROMOTING ECO-AWARENESS.....	105
2. EXPLORING GOOD PRACTICES.....	107
3. ONLINE EDUCATION ABOUT ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT	110
4. ONLINE SOURCES FOR SELF EDUCATION.....	112
5. EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS FOR ENVIRONMENT KNOWLEDGE	114
6. EXPLORING NON-FORMAL METHODS FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ...	116
7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH TO LEARN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND GET INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS	119
8. INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES.....	123
CHAPTER 4: Environmental education.....	126
1. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEFINITION	127

2. CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE	128
3. RURALIZATION OF EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL	129
4. TRANSFORMING FOOD AND LAND USE THROUGH FARM TO FORK STRATEGY	130
5. EGD FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION SECTOR	131
6. CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE EGD.....	132
7. CARBON PRICING IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE EU	133
8. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE EGD	134
9. POTENTIAL PROS AND CONS OF THE EGD FOR DIFFERENT REGIONS AND SOCIAL GROUPS WITHIN THE EU	135
10. THE IMPACT OF THE EGD ON ENERGY SECURITY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE EU.....	136
FINANCING FOR ENVIRONMENT.....	137
FINANCING ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.....	144
EU FUNDS FOR GREEN SLOVENIA	145
GREENWASHING.....	147
SUMMARY OF THE CONDUCTED SURVEY	151
QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANALYSIS	154
SUMMARY IN EACH COUNTRY.....	166
Czech Republic:	166
Bulgaria:	166
Slovakia:	166
Poland:	167
Hungary:	167
Lithuania:	167
Latvia:.....	168
Austria:	168
Romania:	168
Slovenia:	169
Summary of the Strategy:.....	170



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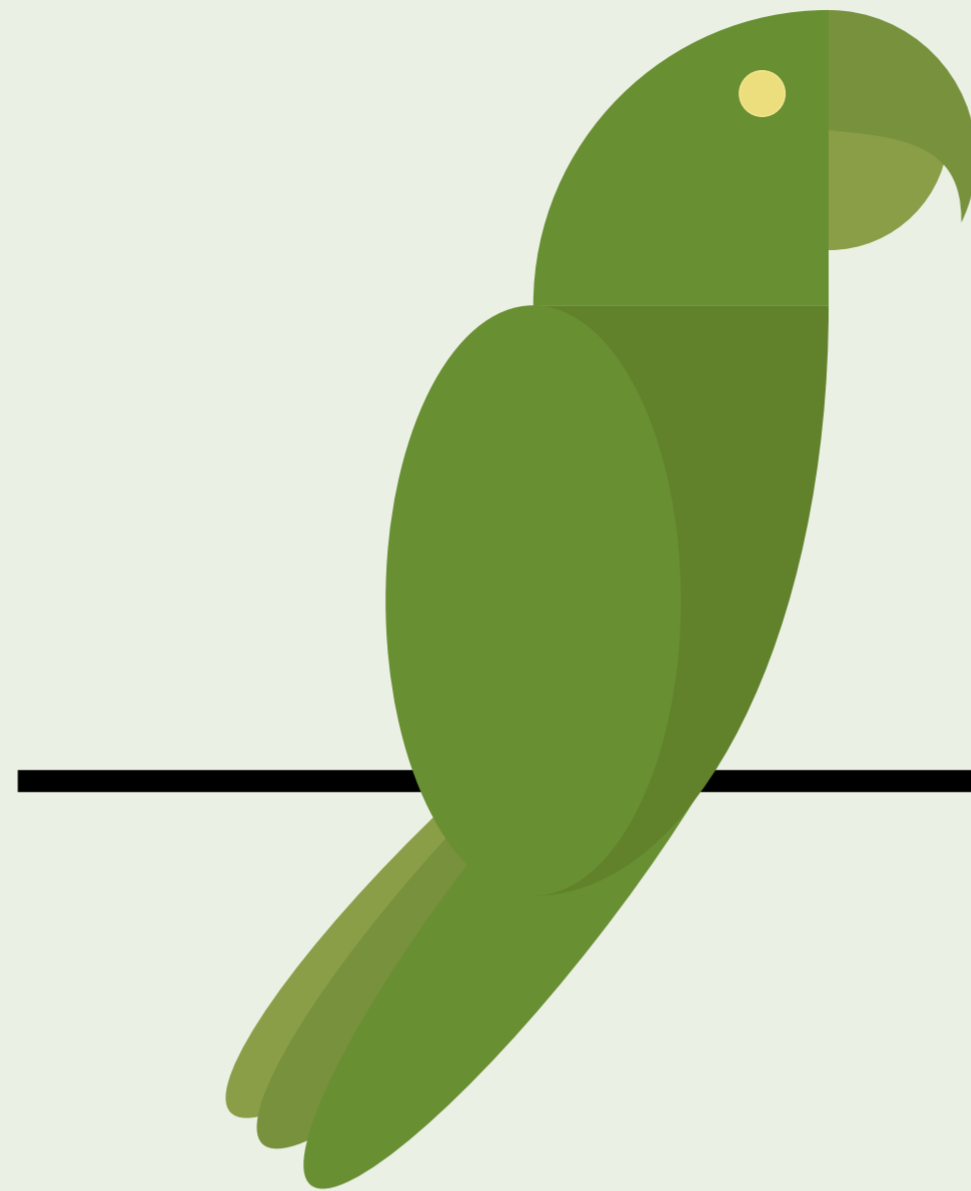
About the Green Station Cooperative

Speaking of the idea of educating young people in the field of ecological attitudes, developing knowledge in the field of sustainable development or an integrated approach to climate change, at the beginning we must mention the Green Station Cooperative, which is the main implementer of the project, and its activities focus on supporting the implementation of the European Green Deal strategy, and in particular on promoting more sustainable food consumption and healthy eating, as well as environmental education.

The Green Station Cooperative has been operating continuously since 2014, implementing over 30 large projects for nearly 1,700 participants. These projects are addressed in particular to children, youth and people with fewer opportunities, including people with disabilities. The implemented projects concern ecological, social, digital issues and healthy eating in the spirit of bio and zero waste.

The goal of the Cooperative is to run a joint ecological enterprise based on the personal work of members and acting for their social and professional reintegration. At the “Green Station” we use the social economy to act for the benefit of local communities and the natural environment. We attach great importance to environmental protection, we support the idea of a circular economy, i.e. minimizing waste and maximizing the use of resources. We are involved in social and environmental education through numerous projects that we implement. We try to make the society aware of the importance of healthy eating and caring for the environment. Educational activities include e.g. learning about the cultivation of organic vegetables and fruits, workshops on cooking healthy dishes, as well as learning about energy saving and proper waste segregation.





At the Green Station, we pursue goals such as:

- 🌀 Environmental education of young people,
- 🌀 Promotion of healthy eating, organic food and zero waste
- 🌀 Creating interpersonal bonds
- 🌀 Rebuilding and maintaining the ability of members of the Cooperative to participate in the life of the local community and perform social roles in the place of work, residence or stay
- 🌀 Rebuilding and maintaining the ability to work independently on the labor market
- 🌀 Conducting social, cultural and educational activities for its members and the local community, as well as socially useful activities in the field of public activities specified in the Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work.



The most important projects and initiatives implemented by the Zielona Stacja Cooperative include:

1. GREEN 3 SEAS FOR YOUTH - The aim of the project was to strengthen cooperation under the Three Seas Initiative for climate, environment, sustainable development and the European Green Deal. Building a strong partnership of organizations and institutions for the climate contributed to increasing the Initiative's potential by increasing social capital within participating organizations from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Austria. Thanks to the initiative, young people were able to improve their competences, especially language skills, in cooperation with organizations with an international reach. We created a strategy, workshops shaping pro-environmental attitudes and a social campaign that reached over 100,000 young people.

2. GREEN STATION - SOCIAL FRANCHISE MODEL - as part of the initiative, we have created a network of shops with organic and natural food from local producers. The project was aimed at raising awareness and reducing the problem of food waste and shaping pro-ecological attitudes. Shops were run by social economy entities in Gliwice, Zawiercie, Nysa, Głucholazy, Cieszyn and Żywiec. The Green Station is a model of social franchise aimed at creating stable jobs for socially excluded people. We started cooperation with local suppliers who provided us with healthy and organic food from their own crops. The packages were prepared by disabled people who, under the watchful eye of assistants, were picking orders, which were then delivered to the ordering parties.

3. SCHOOL ECOLOGICAL INCUBATORS

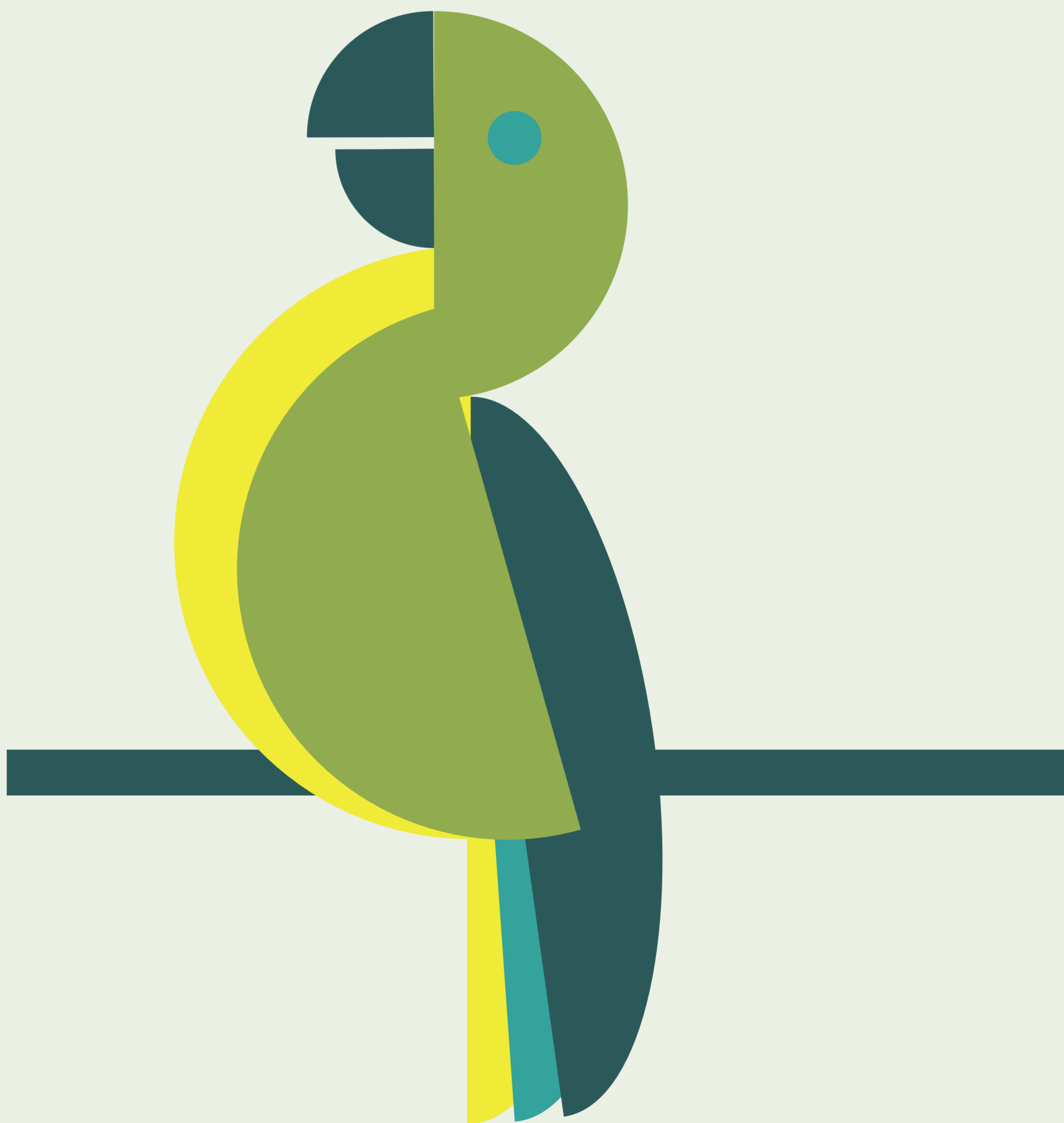
As part of the project, we conducted a competition to create 10 school eco-workshops, to which we invited students from all 1,315 primary schools in the Śląskie Voivodeship. Primary school students increased their awareness of the basic principles of nature protection and biodiversity, developed practical skills related to environmental protection, and increased their activity and responsibility in solving environmental problems. After creating the eco-workshop, the educators designed model workshops that fit into the concept of its operation. A special training was conducted for students participating in the creation of the workshop, thanks to which they became eco-ambassadors.

4. SILESIA SOLIDARITY YOUTH IN ACTION

the aim of the project was to support young people in a particularly difficult situation, including young people staying in institutions and people with disabilities, in acquiring and improving social skills important on the labor market. As part of the project, workshops for young people on soft skills were conducted, and then, thanks to microgrants, the group carried out its own social activities. Young people carried out their projects on their own, which gave them the opportunity to use the acquired knowledge and skills in practice, thus increasing their involvement in social matters. It also showed their creativity and willingness to actively participate in social life. In total, as part of the project, we supported 195 young people aged 15-19, each of whom took part in 15 workshops.



The above activities allowed us to gain experience in the implementation of ecological projects that use the goods of nature and local resources, as well as in promoting and raising the level of environmental education among children, youth, seniors, and the local community, and motivating them to care for the natural environment, as well as shaping pro-ecological attitudes among the inhabitants of the province Silesian.





In the world marked by rapid climatic changes, emerging environmental problems, and the urgent need for sustainability, the “Green Three Seas for the Youth” strategy presents a roadmap to empowering the youth to actively contribute to the sustainable future of our planet. This strategy underlines the necessity of an integrated approach towards climate change and environmental education, encouraging the active participation of young individuals in the environmental decision-making process. We believe in empowering the youth today to be the leaders of tomorrow, to forge a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.

Chapter I, “ Green Labor Market,”

Focuses on the myriad opportunities available for young people in green industries and sectors. From renewable energy to sustainable agriculture, the Green Labor Market is evolving and expanding, offering a wide range of career paths for the youth. This chapter provides insights into the various ways the younger generation can make a meaningful contribution to the fight against climate change through their professional choices.

Chapter II, “ Just Transition,”

Addresses the equitable shift towards a sustainable economy that ensures the well-being of all citizens, particularly the youth. It emphasizes that this transition must be fair, protecting the rights and interests of workers and communities while making sure that no one is left behind. The chapter will delve into the policies and strategies required for a Just Transition, and how young people can contribute to and benefit from this shift.

Chapter III, “Inclusive Climate Policies,”

Outlines the necessity of inclusive and democratic decision-making processes in shaping climate policies. Recognizing the diverse impact of climate change on different communities, this chapter underscores the importance of ensuring that all voices are heard, particularly those of young people. It will explore the crucial role youth can play in the creation, implementation, and monitoring of climate policies.

Chapter IV, “Environmental Education,”

Emphasizes the role of knowledge and awareness in fostering a green mindset. It advocates for comprehensive environmental education as a means to equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to face the environmental challenges of the 21st century. This chapter will discuss various educational strategies, approaches, and resources that can help inculcate a deeper understanding and appreciation of our environment among the youth.

“Green Three Seas for the Youth” is an invitation to young people everywhere to actively engage in creating a sustainable future for themselves and generations to come. This strategy reaffirms the integral role of the youth in achieving a balanced and harmonious coexistence with nature, offering a clear pathway to make a significant impact.



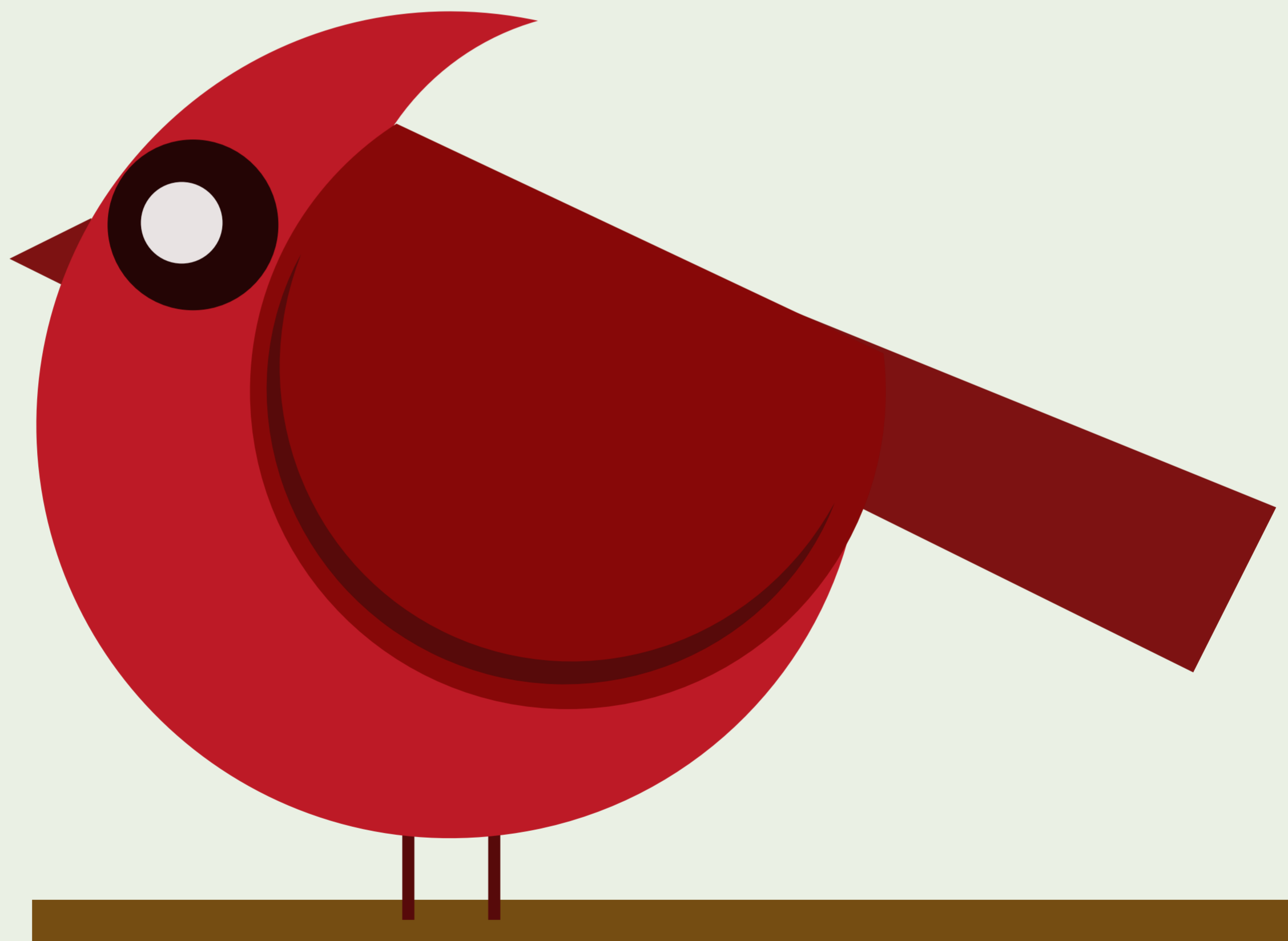


Key findings of the report



- 🌀 **The Closed Circuit Economy:** The report talks about the importance of us wasting less and reusing more things. That means we should repair broken items, recycle waste and find new ways to use old things.
- 🌀 **Environmental Science: Environmental Education** devotes much space in the report. The authors point out that we all need to know more about how to protect our planet.
- 🌀 **Climate Policy for All:** The report stresses that climate policy must take into account different groups of people so that everyone has a stake in it and that it is fair.
- 🌀 **Fair Change:** The authors stress the importance of making sure that changes in the economy are fair to everyone. This means that as we transition to a greener economy, we need to keep workers in mind and leave no one behind.
- 🌀 **Small steps for the environment:** The report lists simple things we can do at work to help the environment, such as turning off lights when no one is in the office or using fewer disposable cups. It shows that even small changes can help a lot.
- 🌀 **Helping vulnerable groups:** The report points out that laws must also protect those who are disadvantaged so that they have equal access to justice and can have a say in decisions that affect them. (Page 78)
- 🌀 **Caring for natural resources:** The document talks about the importance of us managing natural resources responsibly, that is, making sure we don't waste anything and use everything with our heads.
- 🌀 **Economic Growth and the Environment:** The report says we need to look at how our economy grows, but also how that affects the environment. That is, we can't just think about money, but also how our actions affect the planet.
- 🌀 **Fighting Greenwashing:** The report underscores the need to combat greenwashing, or practices that mislead consumers about the true environmental impact of companies' products and actions. The conclusion is that stricter regulations and standards are needed to help distinguish true sustainability efforts from empty marketing promises
- 🌀 **Promoting green jobs:** the need to create green jobs that not only contribute to environmental protection, but also promote sustainable socioeconomic development. The proposal suggests that the future of the job market should focus on employment in sectors that promote energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, sustainable waste management and biodiversity conservation.

The Trilateral Initiative, European Green Deal and the Youths



Definition and purpose of the Trilateral Initiative

The Trilateral Initiative is a political, economic and cultural project that was launched in 2015 by the presidents of Poland and Croatia. It encompasses European Union countries located between the Baltic, Black and Adriatic Seas - Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The Initiative's main goal is to strengthen economic, infrastructure and energy cooperation, as well as to increase political cohesion among member countries, which is expected to lead to faster development of the region and equalize disparities with the western part of the continent.

Cooperation in the framework of the European Green Deal

🌀 The European Green Deal is an ambitious plan by the European Commission to transform member countries into a climate-neutral economy by 2050. With diverse energy sources and uneven levels of economic development, the Trilateral countries can make a significant contribution to this goal by:

- 🌀 Sharing experiences and best practices in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.
- 🌀 Cross-border cooperation in the development of power grids and infrastructure for transporting renewable energy.
- 🌀 Coordinate activities on innovative projects such as smart grids, energy storage and clean transportation.
- 🌀 Increasing potential in renewable energy production through joint investments and infrastructure projects.



Challenges and opportunities

Challenges:

🌀 **Heterogeneity of economies:** Trilateral countries differ in their degree of economic development and in the structure of their energy sector, which can hinder a unified approach to the Green Deal.

🌀 **Financing:** The high cost of the transition requires access to significant financial resources, which is a challenge, especially for less wealthy countries in the region.

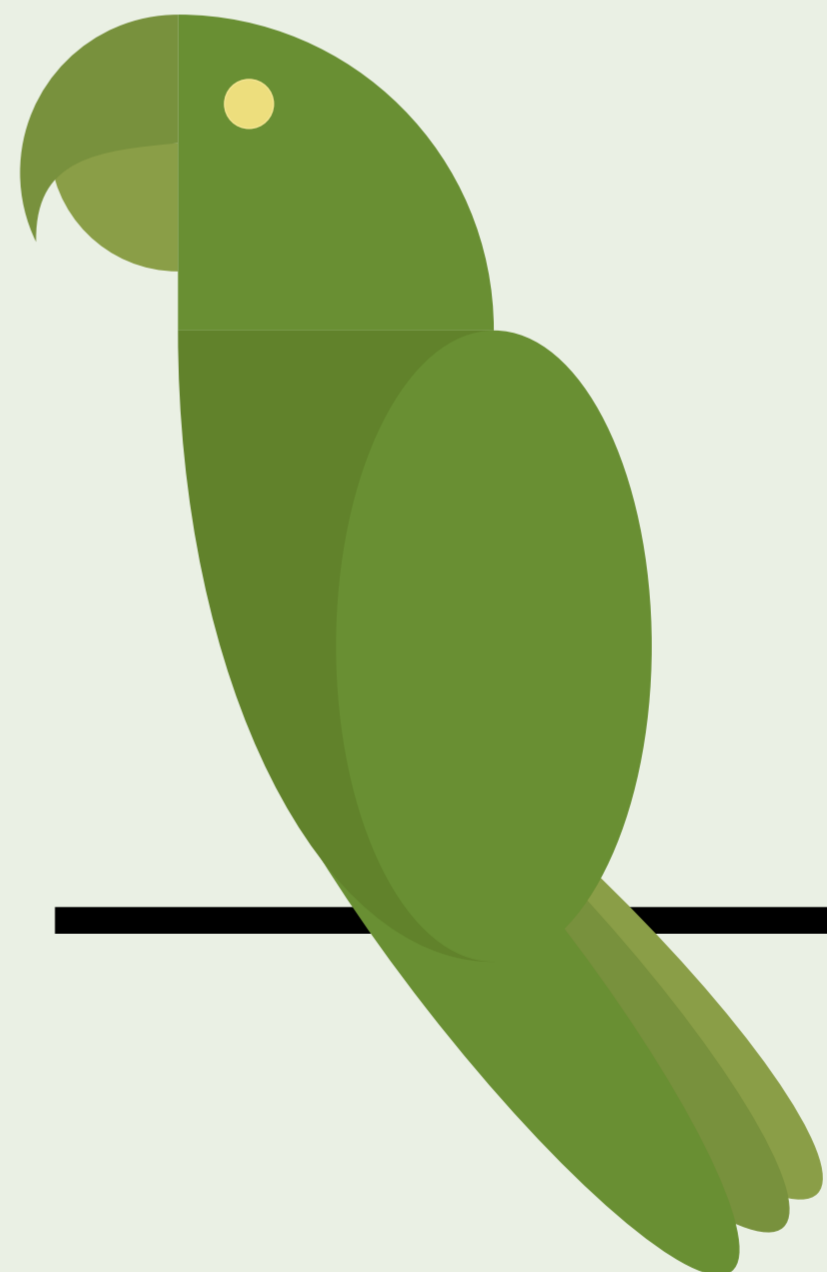
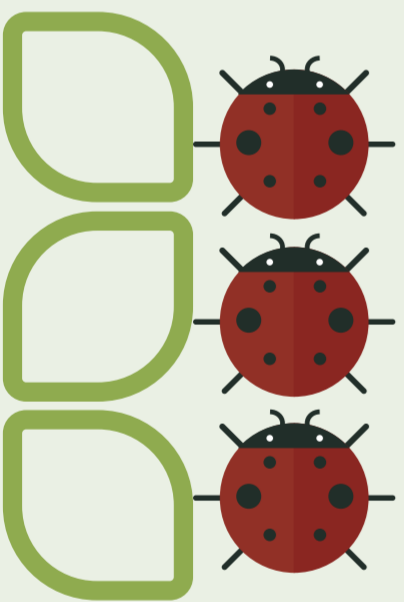
🌀 **Public acceptance:** The energy transition also requires changes in societies' consciousness and behavior, which is a long and challenging process.

Opportunities:

🌀 **Regional cooperation:** the Trilateral Initiative provides an opportunity to coordinate activities, which can accelerate the implementation of innovations and more efficient use of EU funds.

🌀 **New technologies:** The region has the opportunity to become a leader in certain technological areas, such as technologies related to CO₂ capture and storage or the development of electromobility.

🌀 **Attracting investment:** Green transformation policies can attract new investment, both domestic and foreign, including from the private sector.



In conclusion, the Trilateral Initiative has the potential to become a key element in achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal. Through effective cooperation and exchange of technological knowledge, the countries can help accelerate the energy and environmental transition in the region. Mutual support among member states can also strengthen the position of Central and Eastern Europe on the map of EU climate policy.



The future of the Trilateral in the context of the Green Deal

The future of the Triangle in the context of the European Green Deal looks like an opportunity for synergies of action on many levels:

🌀 **Integration of energy markets:** Cooperation can bring integration of energy markets, enabling more efficient management and distribution of energy resources.

🌀 **Clean technology development:** The Triangle countries can become an innovation hub for clean technologies, especially when it comes to energy storage, biofuels or energy efficiency solutions.

🌀 **Infrastructure construction:** upgrading and expanding infrastructure that would support green energy sources and contribute to reducing emissions is also an important aspect.



The Triangle Initiative, in the face of the European Green Deal, faces the opportunity to turn challenges into development opportunities. With the right governance, investment, and political and social commitment, the Tri-Portuguese countries can play an important role in achieving the EU's climate and energy goals, while boosting their economies and increasing their international competitiveness. The transformation to a sustainable future is a challenging process, but with cooperation and determination, the Trilateral Initiative can contribute to building a green, innovative and prosperous Europe.



The role of youth in implementing the European Green Deal

In the face of the global challenges of climate change, the European Green Deal is an ambitious initiative to transform the European Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy that achieves climate neutrality by 2050. Achieving this goal requires commitment at many levels - from policymakers to businesses to individual citizens. A particularly important role in this process is played by young people, whose enthusiasm, innovation and determination to achieve sustainable development are invaluable. Young people, being not only beneficiaries of future changes, but also active participants in them, bring fresh insights and innovative ideas that can significantly contribute to the success of the European Green Deal.

Young people are the future of Europe. Their involvement is essential for a successful energy and environmental transition. Young people have new ideas and a fresh perspective on the world. Their involvement can help find new solutions and spread environmentally friendly attitudes. Here are some arguments for involving young people in the implementation of the European Green Deal:

- 🌀 Young people are more aware of environmental and sustainability issues - Studies show that young people are more aware of the risks of climate change and sustainability than older generations.
- 🌀 Young people are more willing to act - Young people are more willing to get involved in environmental activities.
- 🌀 Young people have new ideas and a fresh outlook on the world - young people can help find new solutions and spread environmental attitudes.



The role of youth in implementing the European Green Deal

1. Youth as a catalyst for change

Young people, with their energy, creativity and openness to news, are natural catalysts for change. It is young people who often spearhead protests and demonstrations, demanding action on behalf of the environment. An example is the global climate strikes inspired by Greta Thunberg. Such actions mobilize society and put pressure on decision-makers, accelerating the implementation of green solutions.

3. Innovation and green technologies

Young people are often pioneers in new technologies. They support the development and implementation of green innovations, such as applications for monitoring energy consumption, platforms for exchanging things or urban mobility solutions. In this way, they contribute to the creation of a sustainable economy based on green technologies.

5. Intergenerational cooperation

While young people play a key role in the implementation of the European Green Deal, it is also important to build bridges between generations. Collaborating with experienced experts, activists and policymakers makes it possible to combine the fresh perspective of young people with the knowledge and experience of older generations.

2. Environmental education and awareness

Young people are the generation that benefits most from access to information. Thanks to environmental education in schools and access to knowledge on the Internet, young people are increasingly aware of environmental risks. This awareness translates into everyday choices - from consumption to the way they travel.

4. Activism and community involvement

Young people are involved in a variety of social initiatives, from local projects to global campaigns. By volunteering, being active in NGOs or creating environmental start-ups, young people are contributing to the goals of the European Green Deal at various levels.

6. Youth in leadership and decision-making roles

Increasingly, young people are involved in decision-making processes at various levels - from local youth councils to advisory panels to EU institutions. Their perspective, fresh outlook and incorruptible stance on environmental issues make them invaluable partners in the dialogue about the future.



7. Youth and the economy

Young people are not only consumers, but also entrepreneurs. Increasingly, they are founding start-ups and companies based on sustainable development principles. Through their business activities, they are innovating solutions that contribute to the goals of the European Green Deal.

9. Youth and science and research

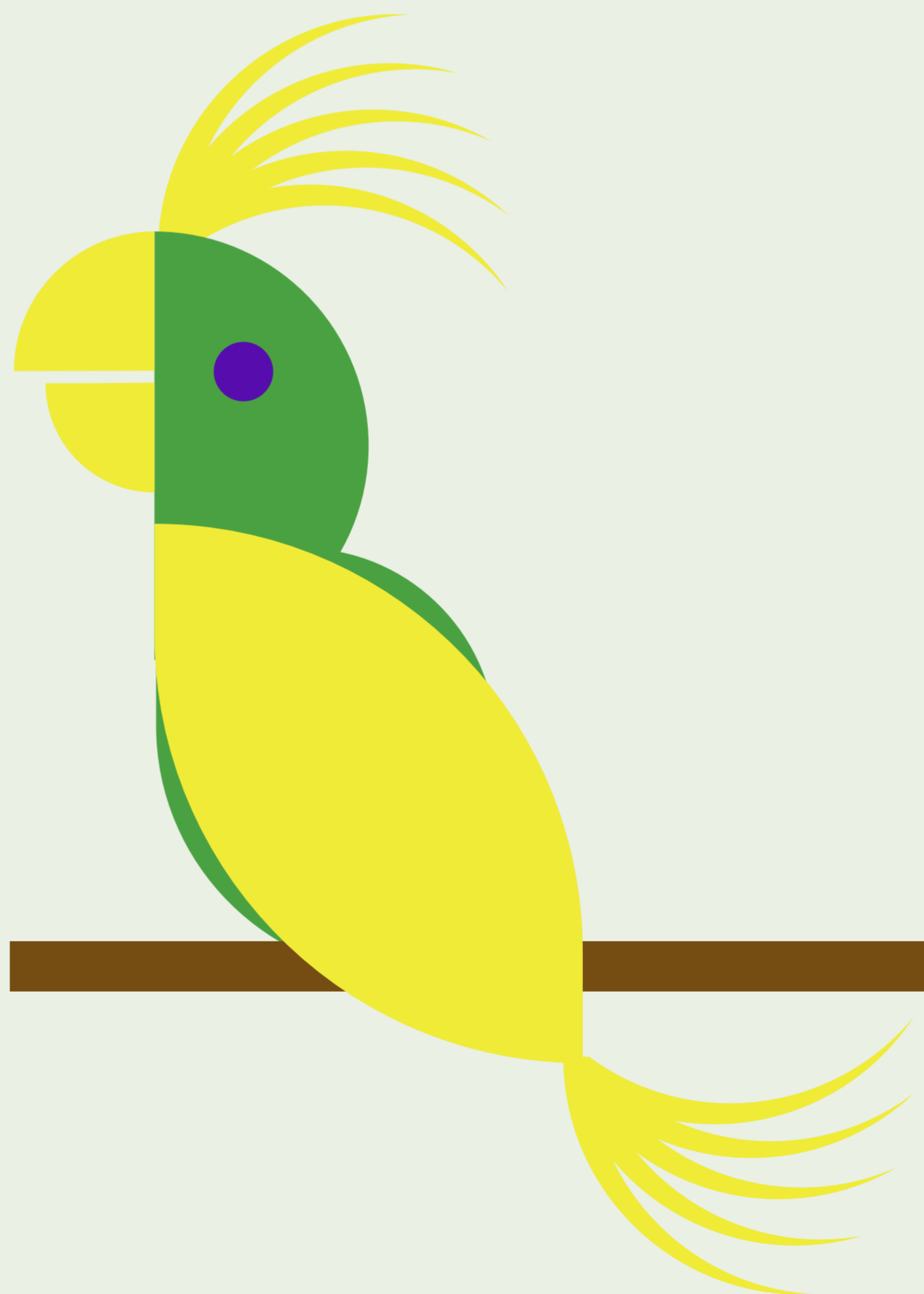
Young scientists, students and doctoral students conduct research that contributes to the understanding of complex ecological and climate processes. Their work often informs policy decisions and strategies for implementing the European Green Deal.

8. Youth and culture and media

Young people have a huge influence on popular culture and the media. Through the creation and consumption of content, they promote environmental values, influencing the perception of the general public and shaping social attitudes toward the environment.

10. youth and peer education

Youth have a unique ability to reach out to their peers. Through peer education, workshops and campaigns run by youth for youth, the environmental message reaches a wide audience in an authentic and compelling way.



Examples of youth involvement in the implementation of the European Green Deal:

Participation in public consultations

In 2022, the European Commission held a public consultation on the ETS reform proposal. More than 200,000 people participated in this consultation, including many young people. The youth expressed their support for the reform and made a number of proposals that could improve it.

Promoting pro-environmental attitudes

Young people promote environmental attitudes among their peers. They share their knowledge and experience to encourage others to act to protect the environment. Young people organize information campaigns, social campaigns, or educational events.



Engage in NGO activities

Young people are actively involved in environmental NGOs. There are many such organizations in Poland, such as Greenpeace, WWF, or Klub Gaja. Young people get involved in their activities in various ways, for example, by participating in protest actions, volunteering, or educational activities.



Examples of youth activities in the European Green Deal:



Youth Climate Council at the European Commission

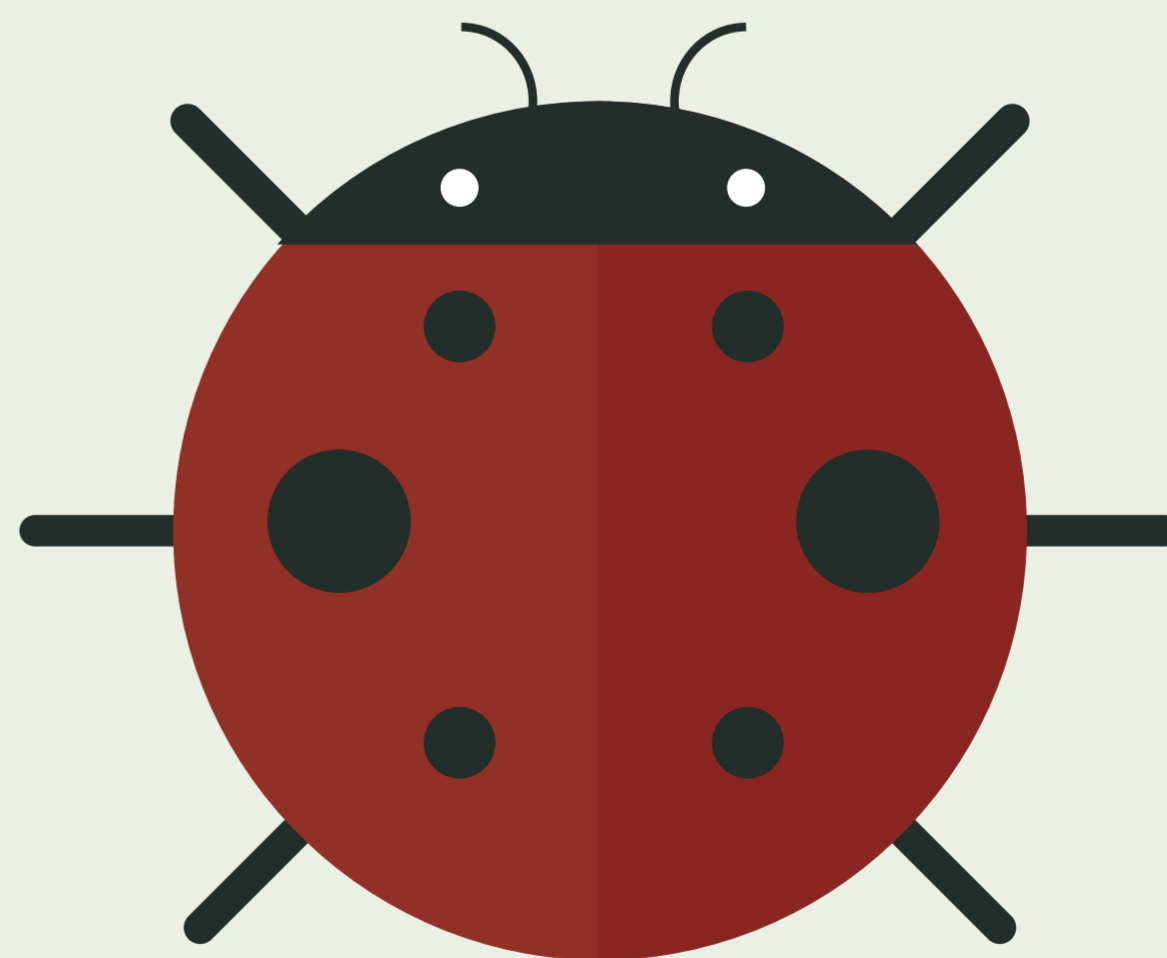
The European Commission's Youth Climate Council is a group of young people who advise the European Commission on climate and sustainability issues. The Council was established in 2020 and consists of 20 young people from across Europe. The Youth Climate Council is a platform that enables young people to actively participate in shaping EU climate policy.

Youth Climate Strike

The Youth Climate Strike is an international social movement that organizes protests for climate action. The movement was founded by Greta Thunberg in 2018 and quickly gained popularity among young people around the world. The Youth Climate Strike is an expression of youth dissatisfaction with the lack of climate action. The movement has led to increased public awareness of climate change and increased pressure on policymakers.

The "GenerationEU" initiative

The European Commission's Youth Climate Council is a group of young people who advise the European Commission on climate and sustainability issues. The Council was established in 2020 and consists of 20 young people from across Europe. The Youth Climate Council is a platform that enables young people to actively participate in shaping EU climate policy.



Importance of youth involvement

- 1. Green clubs and organizations** - By starting environmental clubs, young people can inspire others, creating a community based on shared environmental values. Such activities promote sustainable attitudes among peers and influence entire communities.
- 2. Local initiatives** - Cleanup campaigns or tree planting directly affect the local environment, making it cleaner and friendlier for residents. Such actions teach responsibility for the world around us.
- 3. Green transportation** - By choosing green modes of transportation, young people are not only taking care of the environment, but also promoting a healthy lifestyle and encouraging others to make similar choices.
- 4. Sustainable consumption** - Conscious shopping can significantly reduce our carbon footprint. By promoting such attitudes, young people are influencing the direction of the consumer market.
- 5. Green initiatives in the workplace** - Even small changes, such as waste segregation, can have significant environmental benefits. Young people, as a new workforce, can make these changes in workplaces.
- 6. Digital activities** - In the digital age, young people have a huge impact on social media. By promoting environmentalism online, they can reach a wide audience.
- 7. Green events** - By holding green events, young people educate the community and promote sustainable solutions in practice.
- 8. Eco Volunteering** - Working with environmental organizations, young people gain experience that can turn into future career paths.
- 9. Green fashion** - By promoting sustainable fashion, young people can influence the garment industry, which is one of the main sources of pollution. Repairing, recycling and reusing clothing reduces the need to produce new clothes, resulting in less resource consumption and less waste.
- 10. Green cooking** - By promoting local and seasonal produce, young people can influence the development of local farms and reduce the CO2 emissions associated with transporting food over long distances. In addition, avoiding food waste has a direct impact on reducing waste.
- 11. Green travel** - By choosing ecotourism or more sustainable travel, young people can support local communities and protect the environment. This approach to travel emphasizes protecting the nature and culture of the places they visit.
- 12. Green education** - Taking part in courses and training in ecology allows young people to gain knowledge that can then be put into practice, both in their professional and private lives.



13. Green politics - By getting involved in politics, young people have a chance to influence environmental policy-making at various levels of government.

14. Green spaces - The creation of green spaces, such as rooftop gardens and green walls, not only contributes to improving air quality, but also affects the psychological well-being of residents.

15. Green energy - By promoting renewable energy sources, young people can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the development of environmentally friendly technologies.

16. Green challenges - By organizing and participating in various challenges, such as “Plastic Free Week,” young people can raise environmental awareness among their peers and inspire them to take action.

17. Green community - By building communities based on green values, young people can work together to protect the environment and exchange experiences.

18. Green art initiatives - Through the arts, such as music, painting or theater, young people can convey important environmental messages, reaching a wide audience in an emotional and inspiring way.

19. Green entrepreneurship - By establishing green businesses, young people can offer products and services that are not only profitable, but also environmentally friendly.

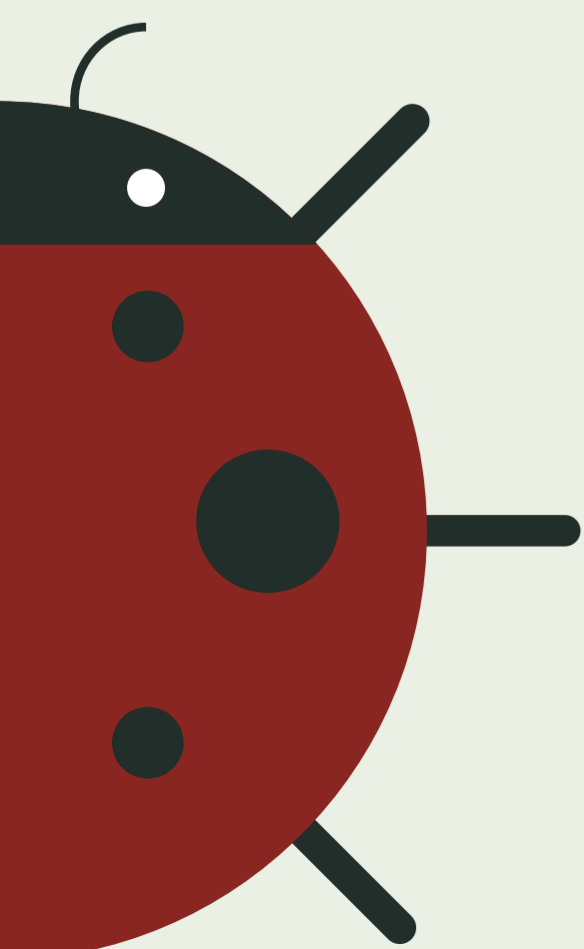
20. Green educational initiatives - Creating and promoting educational programs aimed at children and young people that focus on ecology helps shape environmental awareness from an early age.

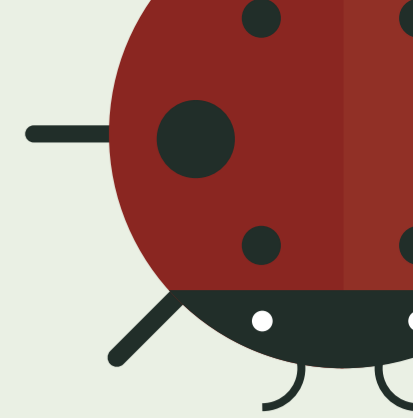
21. Green sports - Organizing and participating in green sports events, such as running or bicycle rallies, which promote healthy lifestyles and care for the environment.

22. Green living spaces - Adapting homes and apartments in a sustainable way, using solutions such as composting, rainwater harvesting or installing solar panels.

23. Green social action - Organizing social campaigns to raise public awareness of environmental risks and encourage action to protect the environment.

Young people, with their activism, passion and determination, are not only beneficiaries of the European Green Deal activities, but also one of the main actors in the process. Their commitment, innovation and ability to mobilize communities make them indispensable in the fight for a sustainable future for Europe. Supporting their initiatives, listening to their voices and incorporating their perspectives into decision-making processes are key to success in achieving ambitious green goals.





The role of Erasmus+ in the implementation of the European Green Deal

The Erasmus+ program is one of the European Union's best-known and most successful programs aimed at promoting educational mobility and international cooperation. Although its main focus is on education and youth development, Erasmus+ can play a key role in the implementation of the European Green Deal. How? Let's take a closer look.

1. Environmental education

Through Erasmus+ student exchanges and training, young people have the opportunity to learn about environmental practices in different countries. The knowledge gained on such trips often translates into local environmental initiatives and projects when they return to their home countries.

2. International cooperation

Erasmus+ promotes cooperation between universities, NGOs and other institutions from different countries. Joint projects and initiatives can focus on environmental solutions, sharing experiences and best practices in sustainable development.

3. Promoting sustainable mobility

While Erasmus+ encourages travel, there is a growing emphasis on sustainable mobility. Travel by train instead of airplane is promoted, public transportation and bicycles are encouraged, and trainings and workshops on green lifestyles while abroad are organized.

4. Increase environmental awareness

Erasmus+ participants have the opportunity to observe how different countries and communities deal with environmental challenges. Such experiences increase environmental awareness and motivate environmental action.

5. Erasmus+ and green innovation

The Erasmus+ program funds research projects and innovative initiatives focusing on ecology and sustainability. Students, researchers and experts collaborate to create new solutions that support the goals of the European Green Deal.

6. Building a network of green leaders

Participants in the Erasmus+ program often become ambassadors of the idea of sustainable development in their communities. The time spent abroad together, the exchange of experiences and the relationships established foster the creation of a network of young leaders who will collaborate in the future on ecological projects on a European scale.



7. Introducing a green agenda in universities

Many Erasmus+ participants become activists at their universities upon returning to their home countries, promoting green initiatives such as recycling, sustainable transportation or reducing plastic consumption. This makes universities greener and more responsible.

8. Erasmus+ and local communities

It is not only students who benefit from the Erasmus+ program. Many projects are aimed at teachers, trainers or youth workers who, upon their return, bring the knowledge they have gained to their local communities, contributing to the goals of the European Green Deal at the local level.

9. Promoting the green economy

Thanks to the Erasmus+ program, young people have the opportunity to learn about companies and organizations working on green technologies, renewable energy sources or organic agriculture. Such experiences can inspire them to choose a career in the green economy sector or start their own green start-ups.

10. Erasmus+ as a tool for climate diplomacy

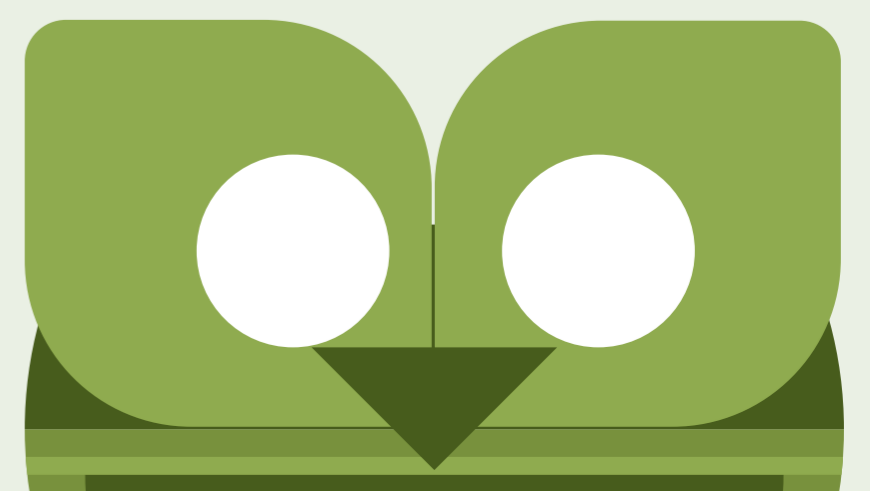
Erasmus+ can serve as a platform for discussion and cooperation on climate policy at the international level. Joint projects, conferences and workshops focusing on ecology can contribute to building consensus and a common approach to global climate challenges.

11. Green initiatives on college campuses

Erasmus+ cooperation leads to the exchange of best practices between universities. Many universities are implementing innovative green solutions, such as rainwater harvesting systems, green roofs or solar panels. Thanks to Erasmus+, these ideas are being rapidly disseminated and adapted in different parts of Europe.

12. Erasmus+ and the culture of sustainable consumption

While abroad, students are encouraged to explore local markets, enjoy local and seasonal products and avoid excessive consumerism. Such experiences shape eco-friendly attitudes, which program participants take home with them.



13. Networking and community building

Erasmus+ not only enables individual experiences, but also fosters international networks of people interested in environmentalism. These communities often initiate joint projects, campaigns or start-ups to promote sustainability.

14. Environmental education for teachers and trainers

Students are not the only ones benefiting from the Erasmus+ program. Teachers, trainers and youth workers participate in special courses and trainings that focus on environmental education. Upon returning to their home countries, they pass on the knowledge they have gained to their students and mentees.

The Erasmus+ program is evolving in response to the global challenges of our time. Erasmus+'s role in realizing the European Green Deal is not limited to education and mobility. It is a comprehensive program that can help accelerate Europe's green transformation on many levels. Thanks to the commitment of young people, their passion and determination, Erasmus+ is becoming a powerful tool in the fight for a green and sustainable future for the continent. Supporting and developing this program is an investment in the future that will benefit not only the participants, but Europe as a whole. The Erasmus+ program is an excellent example of how educational initiatives can contribute to green goals.

The Trilateral Initiative is a platform for cooperation between Central and Eastern European countries, stretching from the Baltic to the Adriatic to the Black Sea. The initiative includes: Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria. Implementing the European Green Deal in these countries poses various challenges due to their unique economic, social and geographic conditions. Here are some of them:

15. Erasmus+ as a platform for global sustainable development goals

Erasmus+ is fully aligned with the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By promoting environmental education, sustainable consumption and production, and climate action, Erasmus+ contributes to these goals at the European level.



Poland

🌀 **Decarbonization of heavy industry and power generation:** Poland is heavily dependent on coal, which poses a challenge in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

🌀 **Modernization of energy infrastructure:** Replacing outdated power plants and transmission networks with modern and technologically efficient ones.

🌀 **Development of sustainable transportation:** Improving air quality by reducing emissions from the transportation sector.



Czech Republic

🌀 **Reducing dependence on coal:** Like Poland, the Czech Republic needs to reduce its dependence on coal and increase the share of RES in the energy mix.

🌀 **Energy efficiency:** Retrofitting buildings and industry to increase energy efficiency.

Slovakia

🌀 **RES development:** Slovakia has renewable energy potential that needs to be better utilized.

🌀 **Transportation Modernization:** Developing infrastructure for electric vehicles and making public transportation more efficient.

Hungary

🌀 **Water resources management:** Hungary is particularly vulnerable to climate change affecting water resources.

🌀 **Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency:** Challenges to Modernize the Energy Sector and Improve Energy Efficiency.



Romania

🌀 **Modernizing the energy sector:** Romania faces the need to modernize its energy sector, including the development of RES.

🌀 **Infrastructure development:** Improve transportation and energy infrastructure to support sustainable development.

Bulgaria

🌀 **Air Pollution:** Bulgaria is facing an air pollution problem, especially in cities.

🌀 **Energy efficiency:** Upgrading buildings and energy infrastructure to increase efficiency.

Baltic countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia)

🌀 **Integration of energy markets:** The countries are working to integrate into the European energy system and enhance energy security.

🌀 **RES development:** Wind energy and biomass in particular are areas for development.

All of these countries also need to find ways to finance the necessary investments, both from domestic and European sources, such as the Just Transition Fund. This requires effective policy, innovation and international cooperation.

Croatia and Slovenia

🌀 **Sustainable tourism development:** Protecting the coast and natural resources while developing tourism.

🌀 **Energy efficiency and RES:** Infrastructure modernization and renewable energy development.

Austria

🌀 **Innovation and green technologies:** As a developed country, Austria is focusing on innovation and technologies to support the green transition.

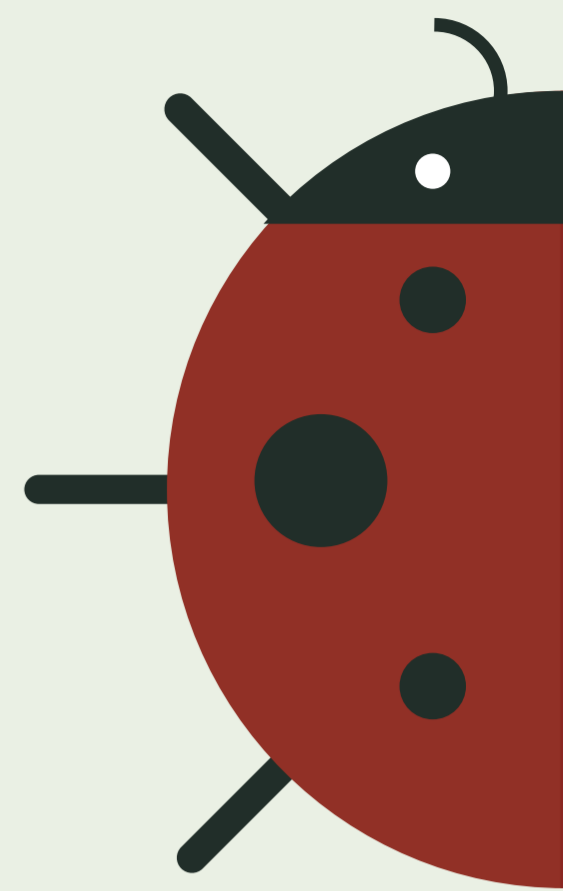
🌀 **Development of urban mobility:** Development of sustainable urban transportation and infrastructure for electric vehicles.



Recommendations of the youth towards EGD

In the face of the growing challenges of climate change, the European Green Deal is not only a political response, but also an expression of the aspirations of the younger generation, which is determined to demand a sustainable future. This report reflects the young people's deep desire to live in a world that respects and protects the natural environment while providing equality, health and development opportunities for all. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting renewable energy sources, environmental education, sustainable transportation, protecting biodiversity, and more - these are just some of the expectations that young people are placing on leaders and policymakers. In this report, we focus on these expectations to understand and underscore how important it is for young people to be heard and have a say in shaping policies that will directly affect their future and the future of our planet.

1. **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions:** Greenhouse gas emissions are the main cause of global warming. Reducing them is key to stabilizing the climate and preventing the catastrophic effects of climate change.
2. **Support for renewable energy sources:** Renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and water, are clean and non-depleting. Their development reduces dependence on fossil fuels and contributes to reducing CO2 emissions.
3. **Environmental education:** environmental awareness is key to changing attitudes and behavior. Education in this area allows the younger generation to better understand and appreciate the value of the environment.
4. **Sustainable transportation:** Transportation accounts for a significant share of global emissions. The development of green transportation modes contributes to reducing air pollution and improving the quality of life in cities.
5. **Biodiversity conservation:** Biodiversity is key to the health of ecosystems. Its protection ensures environmental stability and protects species from extinction.
6. **Green jobs:** The transition to a green economy creates new jobs that are more sustainable and more resilient to crises.
7. **Reducing plastic consumption:** Excessive plastic consumption leads to ocean pollution and harms marine life. Reducing plastic helps protect aquatic ecosystems.
8. **Support for young innovators:** Young people are a source of new ideas and innovations. Supporting their initiatives accelerates the development of sustainable solutions.
9. **Sustainable consumption:** Excessive consumerism leads to resource depletion and environmental pollution. Promoting sustainable consumption helps maintain environmental sustainability.
10. **Adapting to climate change:** Climate change is already a reality. Adaptation allows societies to better cope with its effects, such as extreme weather events.
11. **Urban Green Spaces:** Green spaces in cities improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect and increase the well-being of residents.



12. Increasing community involvement: Active community participation in decision-making processes ensures that policies are more relevant and effective.

13. Sustainable food: Organic farming and local food sources reduce carbon footprint and support local economies.

14. Water conservation: Water is a key resource for life. Its conservation ensures access to clean water and protects aquatic ecosystems.

15. Recycling: a closed-loop economy reduces the need to exploit new resources and reduces the amount of waste going to landfills.

16. Green technologies: investment in new technologies contributes to sustainable development and the creation of innovative solutions for the future.

17. International cooperation: climate change is a global problem. International cooperation is the key to effective action.

18. Transparency: Open communication of progress builds public trust and allows the public to monitor and evaluate government actions.

19. Funding: In order to achieve environmental goals, it is necessary to adequately fund initiatives and projects.

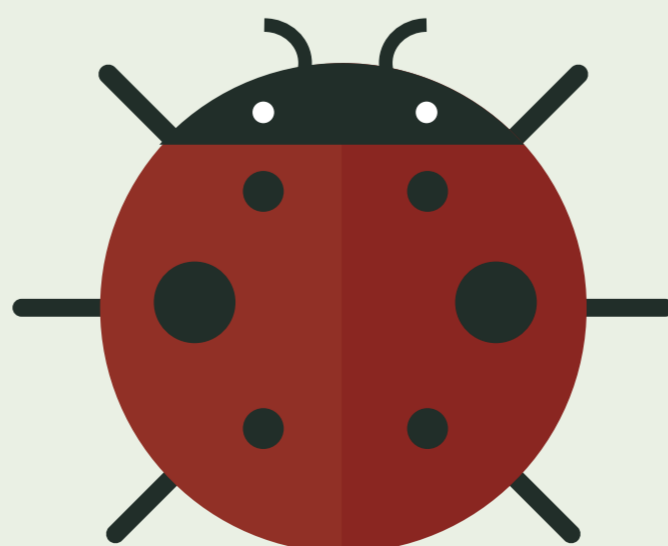
20. Long-term vision: long-term planning allows for more effective action and ensures that decisions made are sustainable and well thought out.

21. Access to education: Young people expect access to quality education that will prepare them for the future.

22. Employment opportunities: Young people expect stable and rewarding jobs after graduation, especially from the green jobs sector.



- 23. Access to health care:** Young people want to make sure they have access to health care when they need it.
- 24. Equality and acceptance:** They expect a society that accepts diversity and promotes equality.
- 25. Security:** They want to feel safe in their environment, both physically and online.
- 26. Participation in decision-making processes:** Young people want to be actively involved in decision-making processes regarding their future.
- 27. Access to technology:** Expect access to modern technology that facilitates learning, communication and personal development.
- 28. Mental health support:** With mental health issues on the rise, young people expect access to mental health support and services.
- 29. Opportunities for personal development:** They want to be able to develop their passions, talents and interests.
- 30. Access to culture:** Expect to have access to a variety of cultural forms, such as music, art, theater and literature.
- 31. Sustainability:** They want to live in a society that cares about sustainability and the future of the planet.
- 32. Travel opportunities:** young people want to be able to explore the world, cultures and people.
- 33. Space for self-expression:** They expect to be accepted for their self-expression, whether it is their style of dress, sexual orientation or views.
- 34. Access to information:** They want access to reliable and up-to-date information on a variety of topics.
- 35. Friendly residential environment:** Expect access to affordable and comfortable housing.
- 36. Healthy relationships:** They want to build healthy and satisfying relationships with family, friends and partners.
- 37. Language learning opportunities:** In a globalizing world, young people want opportunities to learn different languages.
- 38. Support in difficult situations:** Expect support from society and institutions in difficult life situations.



39. Understanding from older generations: They want to be understood and respected by older generations, despite generational differences.

40. Opportunity to influence the future: Young people want to have a real say in shaping the future, both their own and that of society as a whole.

41. These expectations reflect the needs and aspirations of young people in today's world. Many young people want to take an active role in shaping their environment and future.

42.Reducing fossil fuel consumption: Young people want to see a reduction in dependence on fossil fuels, which are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Recognizing their impact on climate change motivates the search for alternative energy sources.

43.Increasing recycling: Young people understand the need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. Effective recycling reduces pressure on natural resources and reduces pollution.

44.Forest conservation: Forests are crucial to the ecological balance, performing functions such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. Their protection is essential to the health of the planet.

45.Reducing air pollution: Air pollution affects human health and ecosystems. Young people want clean air for their health and well-being.

46.Sustainable fashion: The fashion industry is one of the most polluting. Young people want more responsible production and consumption of clothing.

47.Reducing water consumption: Water is a precious resource, and its excessive use leads to water crises. Young people understand the need for sustainable use of this resource.

48.Reducing food waste: Food waste is not only a waste of resources, but also an unnecessary emission of greenhouse gases. Young people want a more efficient food production and distribution system.



49. Green mobility: pollution caused by transportation is significant. Young people want green alternatives that are more sustainable and healthy for the environment.

50. Support for organic farming: Organic farming has less impact on the environment and promotes healthy food. Young people want to support practices that benefit people and the planet.

51. Protecting marine life: The oceans are vulnerable to pollution, overfishing and acidification. Young people understand their crucial role in the global ecosystem and want to protect them.

52. Environmental education: knowledge is the key to change. Young people want to be educated about ecology so they can make informed decisions.

53. Green innovation: Technology and innovation can help solve many environmental problems. Young people want investment in green technologies.

54. Reduce the use of disposable products: Disposable products, especially plastic ones, pose a serious threat to the environment. Young people want to reduce their consumption in favor of more sustainable solutions.

55. Increasing community involvement: Young people want to be heard and participate in environmental decision-making processes that will affect their future.

56. Protecting endangered species: Species extinction is alarming. Young people want action to protect biodiversity.

57. Promoting sustainable consumption: Excessive consumerism leads to resource depletion. Young people want to promote and practice sustainable consumption.

58. Green spaces in cities: Green spaces improve the quality of life, clean air and biodiversity in cities.

59. Reducing chemicals in the environment: Chemicals can affect human health and ecosystems. Young people want to limit their presence in the environment.

60. Increasing the transparency of corporations: Young people want to know what practices companies are using and expect them to act in an environmentally responsible manner.

61. Promoting local initiatives: Local initiatives often have a direct impact on communities. Young people want to support and participate in local environmental activities.

62. Green technologies in education: Young people want to incorporate green technologies into education, such as digital textbooks and solar panels in schools. Recognizing their impact on reducing paper and energy consumption motivates their implementation.

63. Local energy sources: Promoting local energy sources, such as solar panels, can reduce dependence on fossil fuels, which contributes to reducing CO2 emissions.

64. Green recreational spaces: Green zones in cities not only improve the aesthetics of a place, but also contribute to improving air quality and the health of residents.



65. Sustainable tourism: eco-tourism respects the environment and local culture, which contributes to the sustainable development of destinations.

66. Green building: Green buildings use less energy and resources, resulting in a smaller carbon footprint and lower operating costs.

67. Noise reduction: Noise pollution negatively affects people's health and well-being. Young people want a quieter and more harmonious environment.

68. Green public transportation: Green transportation, such as streetcars and electric buses, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in cities.

69. Soil Conservation: Soil is a key resource that provides food and raw materials. Its protection is essential for a sustainable future.

70. Sustainable farms: Local organic farms support local economies and provide healthier food without chemicals.

71. Green initiatives in the workplace: Employers who promote green practices can help reduce their carbon footprint and create a healthier work environment.

72. Green events and festivals: Green events have a lower environmental impact and promote sustainable practices among participants.

73. Sustainable packaging: Reusable or biodegradable packaging reduces waste and pollution.

74. Limiting light: Light pollution affects nocturnal ecosystems and the human diurnal rhythm. Young people want more responsible use of lighting.

75. Sustainable communities: Ecologically based and cooperative communities can contribute to sustainable development and improved quality of life.

76. Education about sustainability: Knowledge of ecology and sustainability allows young people to make informed decisions and act responsibly.

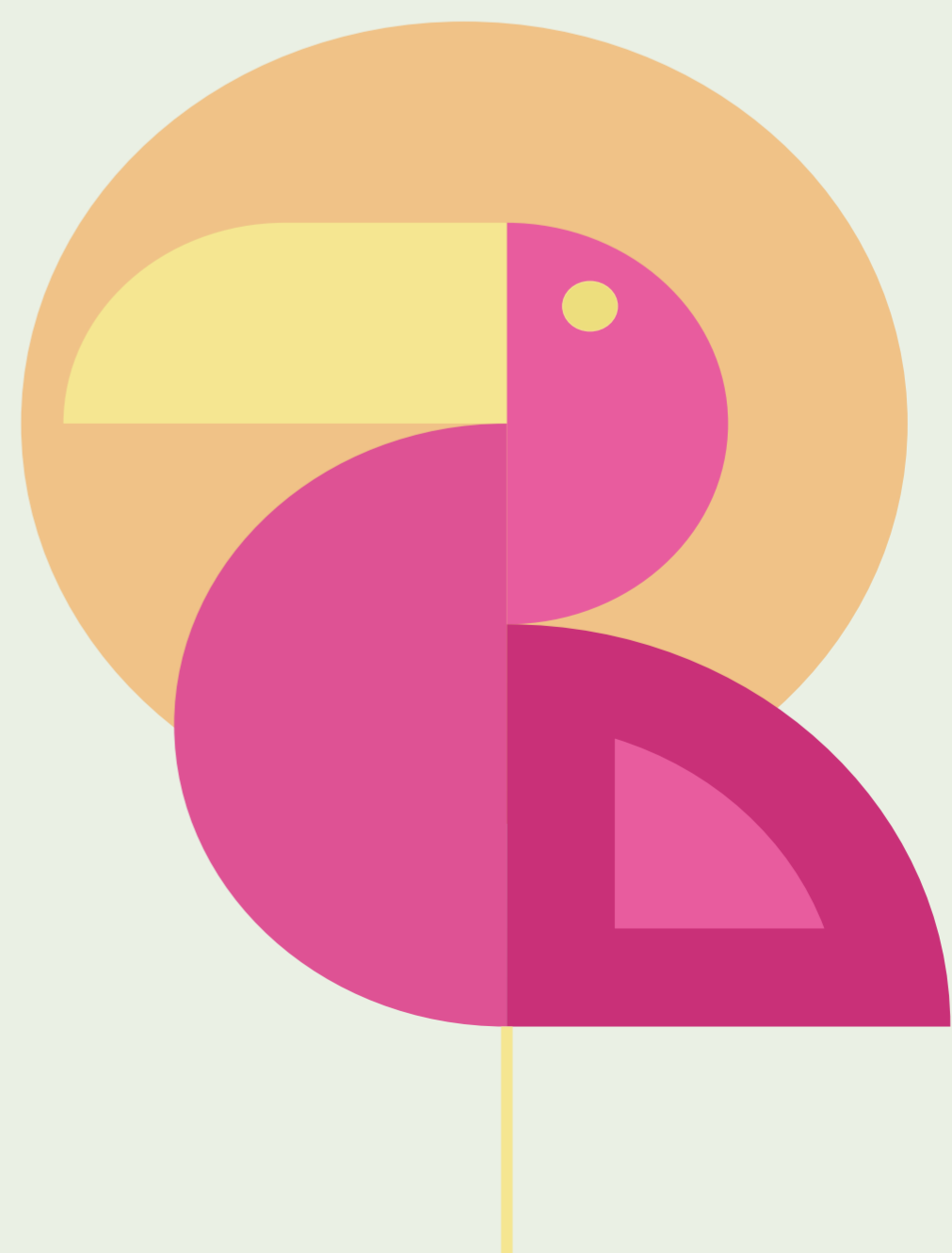
77. Green investments: Investment in green projects contributes to sustainable development and job creation in the green sector.

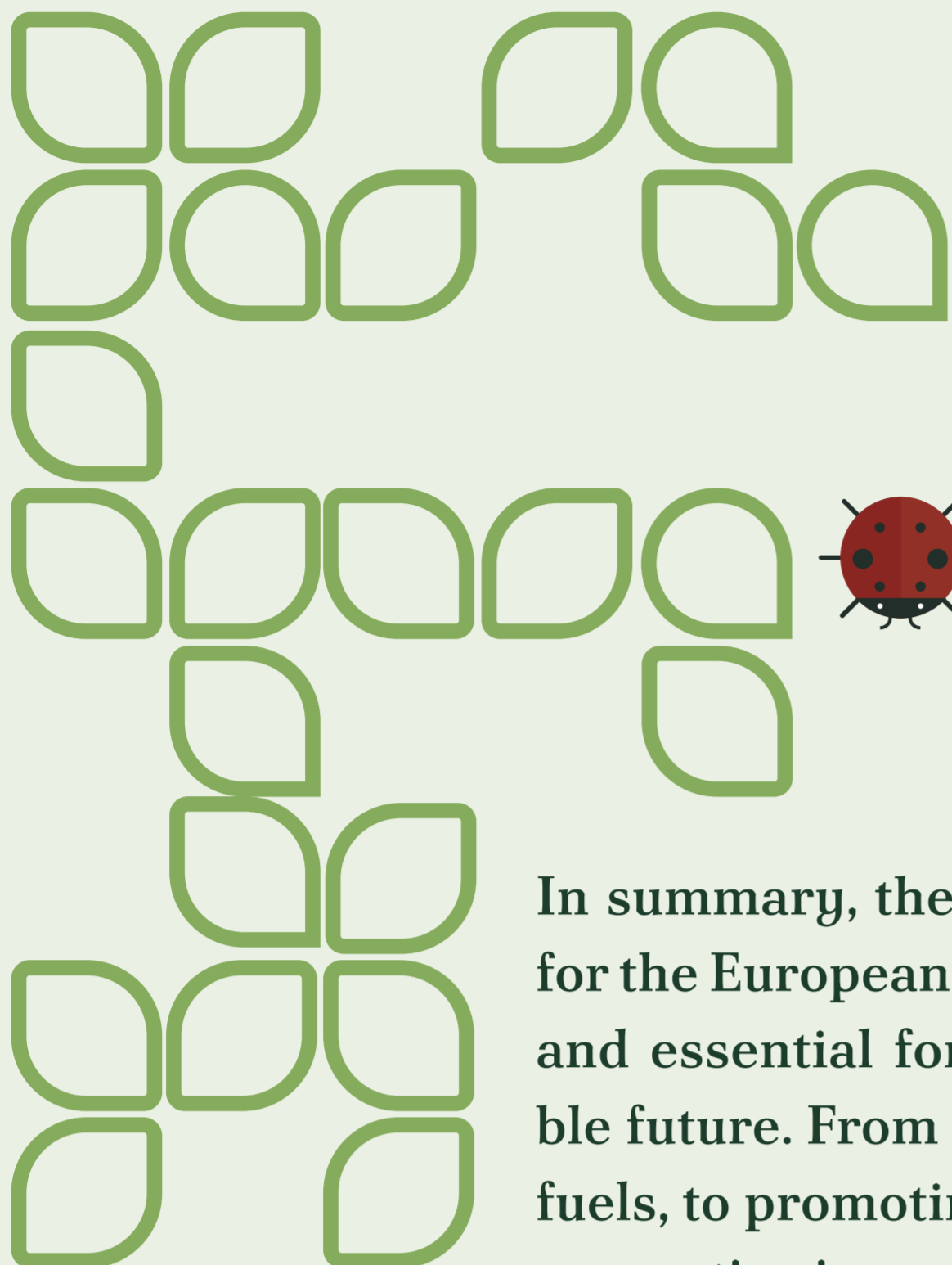
78. Sustainable consumer products: Sustainably produced products have less impact on the environment and are often healthier for consumers.

79. Wetland protection: Wetlands are crucial for biodiversity and water regulation. Their protection contributes to ecosystem health.

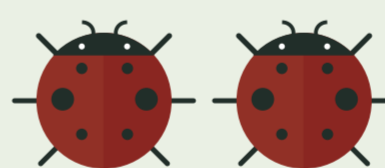
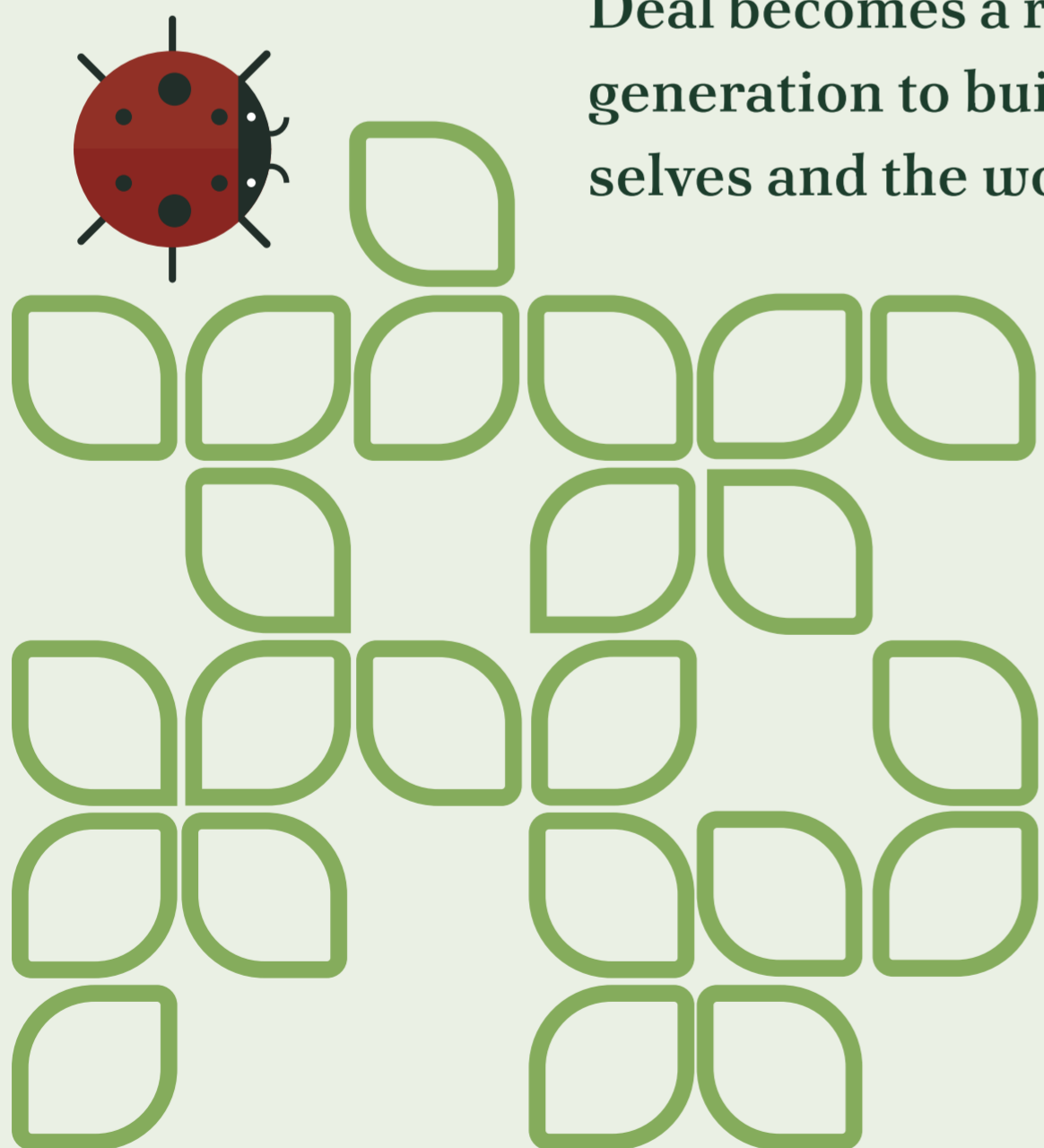
80. Green preschools and schools: Educational institutions that promote green practices can shape the attitudes and behaviors of future generations.

81. Sustainable water consumption: Responsible use of water resources ensures their availability for future generations and protects aquatic ecosystems.





In summary, the expectations of young people for the European Green Deal are both ambitious and essential for a healthy, just and sustainable future. From reducing dependence on fossil fuels, to promoting sustainable consumption, to supporting innovation and environmental education, young people are clearly showing the way forward. Their voices, full of hope and determination, should be a compass for action at all levels of governance. This report not only underscores these expectations, but also serves as a call to action for current and future leaders. We must work together to ensure that each of these expectations is met and that the European Green Deal becomes a reality that enables the younger generation to build a better tomorrow for themselves and the world.



Ecological daily practices as each resident's contribution to EGD implementation

Green everyday practices play a key role in achieving the goals of the European Green Deal, which aims to transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, eliminating net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, decoupling economic growth from resource use, and leaving no one behind. Our daily choices matter no less than the political decisions made in Brussels or our national capitals. Here are some reasons why individual action is important and how it contributes to these goals:



🌿 Promoting Sustainable Consumerism

Everyday purchasing decisions, such as choosing local, organic or sustainably packaged products, reduce the carbon footprint and promote a circular economy. Through informed shopping, consumers can pressure manufacturers and retailers to offer greener products and services.

🌿 Saving Resources

Practices such as conserving water, reducing energy consumption by turning off unnecessary electrical appliances, using energy-efficient light bulbs, and insulating homes all contribute to reducing overall demand for energy and natural resources.

🌿 Education and Environmental Awareness. Practicing sustainable lifestyles and sharing knowledge of green practices among family, friends and the community can lead to changes in attitudes and behavior on a larger scale, which is essential to achieving the goals of the European Green Deal.

🌿 Reduction of CO2 Emissions

By choosing public transportation, biking or walking instead of driving, as well as by reducing air travel, each of us can contribute to a significant reduction in carbon emissions. Small changes in urban and intercity mobility have a big impact on the overall balance of greenhouse gas emissions.

🌿 Improving Air Quality and Health

By choosing public transportation, biking or walking instead of driving, as well as by reducing air travel, each of us can contribute to a significant reduction in carbon emissions. Small changes in urban and intercity mobility have a big impact on the overall balance of greenhouse gas emissions.

🌿 Promoting Biodiversity

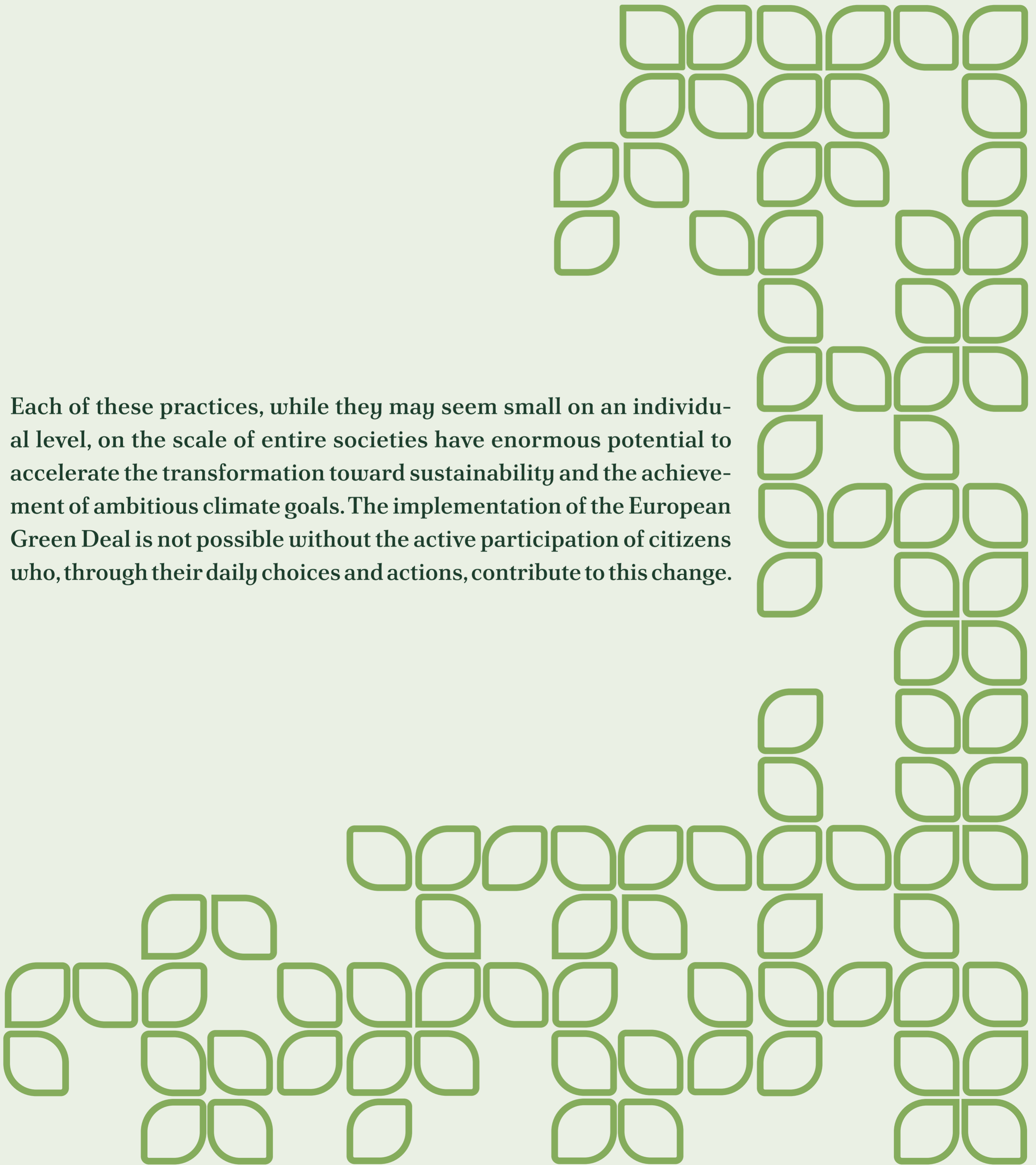
Actions such as establishing home gardens, protecting local ecosystems, and avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides all contribute to protecting and promoting biodiversity, an important element of the Green Deal.



🌀 Reducing the Amount of Waste
Recycling, composting and avoiding single-use plastics help reduce the amount of waste going into landfills and oceans, supporting the goals of a circular economy.

🌀 Supporting Green Innovation
By using environmentally friendly products and technologies, consumers can stimulate the market to innovate and develop green technologies.

Each of these practices, while they may seem small on an individual level, on the scale of entire societies have enormous potential to accelerate the transformation toward sustainability and the achievement of ambitious climate goals. The implementation of the European Green Deal is not possible without the active participation of citizens who, through their daily choices and actions, contribute to this change.



In addition, during the workshop we created a catalog of Ecological Everyday Practices: why are they important and how to implement them?

1. Waste segregation - Correct waste segregation allows waste to be processed more efficiently. This allows materials such as paper, glass and plastic to be reused, reducing the need for new raw materials and reducing the amount of waste going to landfills.

2. Water conservation - Water is a precious resource whose availability is limited. Saving water not only reduces bills, but also helps maintain the balance of aquatic ecosystems.

3. Energy-efficient bulbs - They use much less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs, resulting in lower CO₂ emissions and lower electricity bills.

4. Avoiding disposables - Disposable items, especially those made of plastic, are a huge burden on the environment. Their production, transportation and disposal generate large amounts of CO₂ and other pollutants.

5. Composting - Converts organic waste into valuable compost that can be used to enrich the soil instead of going to the landfill.

6. Buy local - Support the local economy and reduce emissions associated with long-distance transportation of products.

7. Use eco-bags - Reusable bags significantly reduce the amount of plastic bags going into the environment, which can pollute the soil and water for hundreds of years.

8. Reduce energy consumption - Saving energy at home translates into lower greenhouse gas emissions and helps fight global warming.

9. Cycling or walking - Helps reduce emissions while being good for health.

10. Reduce food waste - Food production requires significant resources. Food waste is not only a waste of produce, but also of water, energy and labor put into its production.

11. Use green cleaning products - Protect water from contamination by chemicals that can be harmful to aquatic life and people.

12. Reducing paper consumption - Helps preserve forests, which are crucial to the planet's environmental balance.

13. Shopping in second-hand stores - Counteracts waste of resources and overproduction, while giving a second life to clothes.

14. Reduce plastic consumption - Plastic is one of the main pollutants on our planet, permanently contaminating the soil and oceans.

15. Encourage green practices in the workplace - Offices and workplaces can significantly reduce their carbon footprint through simple changes such as recycling or energy conservation.



16. Planting trees and plants - Trees absorb CO₂, provide oxygen and provide habitat for many species.

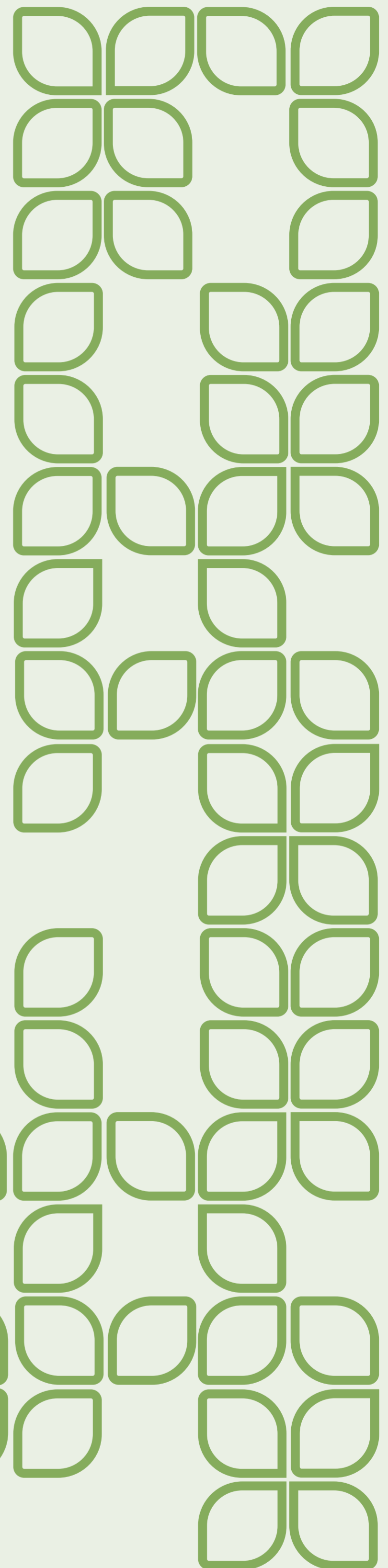
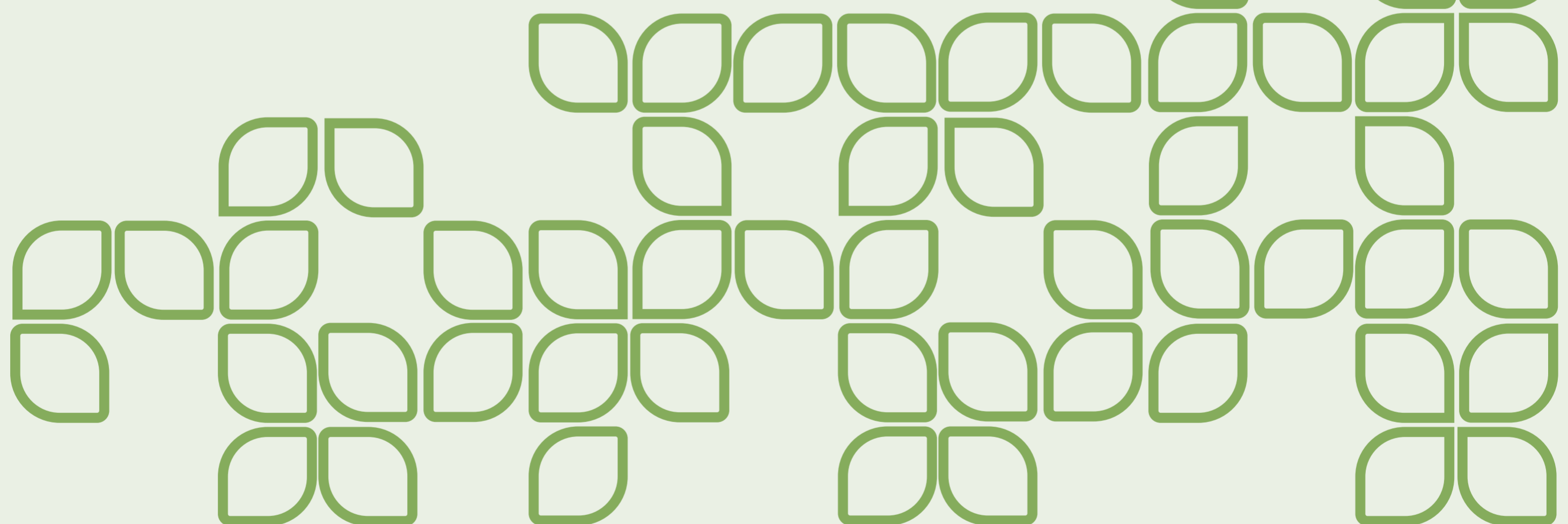
17. Using a thermostat - Allows you to control the temperature in your home, preventing unnecessary energy consumption.

18. Reduce hot water consumption - Water heating is one of the main sources of energy consumption in the home.

19. Participate in local environmental initiatives - Work with the local community to improve the environment in the immediate area.

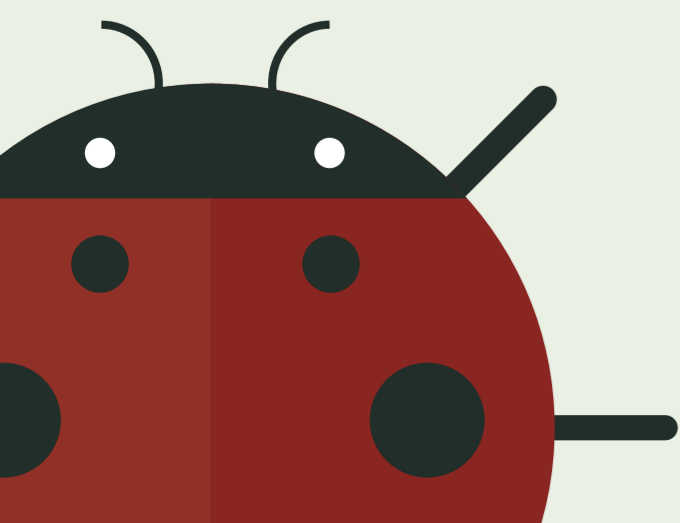
20. Education and knowledge sharing - Environmental awareness is key to making lasting changes. Sharing knowledge and experience can inspire others to take action.

Each of these practices, while they may seem small, has a huge impact on a global scale. Each person's daily green habits add up to create a significant impact on the planet.



Ecological practices of everyday life: a deeper look

1. **Use of solar energy** - Installing solar panels on the house allows for clean energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. This not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also lowers energy bills.
2. **Choosing products with organic certification** - Installing solar panels on the house allows for clean energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. This not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also lowers energy bills.
3. **Using water filters** - Bottled water generates huge amounts of plastic waste. Water filters allow you to use clean water without having to buy bottles.
4. **Participate in exchange programs.** Installing solar panels on the house allows for clean energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. This not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also lowers energy bills.
5. **Using natural cleaning products** - Natural products such as vinegar and baking soda are effective and do not introduce harmful chemicals into the environment that can threaten aquatic ecosystems.
6. **Choosing low-emission modes of transportation** - Installing solar panels on the house allows for clean energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. This not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also lowers energy bills.
7. **Using reusable batteries** - They reduce waste because they can be recharged multiple times instead of being discarded after a single use.
8. **Turning off appliances from the outlet** - Leaving appliances in standby mode consumes energy. Turning them off from the outlet helps save energy and lower bills.
9. **Using eco-friendly cosmetics** - These cosmetics are produced without environmentally harmful chemicals and often in packaging that can be reused or recycled.
10. **Building and living in green homes** Leaving appliances in standby mode consumes energy. Turning them off from the outlet helps save energy and lower bills.



- 11. Establishment of rain gardens** - These help to naturally collect rainwater, reducing the burden on drains and the risk of flooding.
- 12. Participate in tree adoption programs** - Trees absorb CO₂, helping to fight global warming. By supporting tree planting programs, we contribute to climate protection.
- 13. Choose eco-friendly gifts** - Such gifts are often more durable, sustainably produced and have a smaller carbon footprint.
- 14. Use eco-friendly diapers** - Reusable diapers significantly reduce waste compared to disposable diapers.
- 15. Choosing sustainable building materials** - Materials such as bamboo grow quickly and are renewable, making them a more sustainable choice than some traditional materials.
- 16. Participate in energy conservation programs** - Through these programs, you can access resources and information to help reduce energy consumption at home.
- 17. Use of natural light** - This reduces the need for artificial lighting, which translates into energy savings.
- 18. Use eco-friendly toys** - These toys are often made of recycled materials or biodegradable materials, reducing their impact on the environment.
- 19. Participate in local environmental groups** - Working with others to promote sustainable practices in the community can bring significant benefits to the local environment.
- 20. Using natural methods of pest control** - Instead of toxic pesticides, natural remedies such as predators and pest repellent plants can be used.

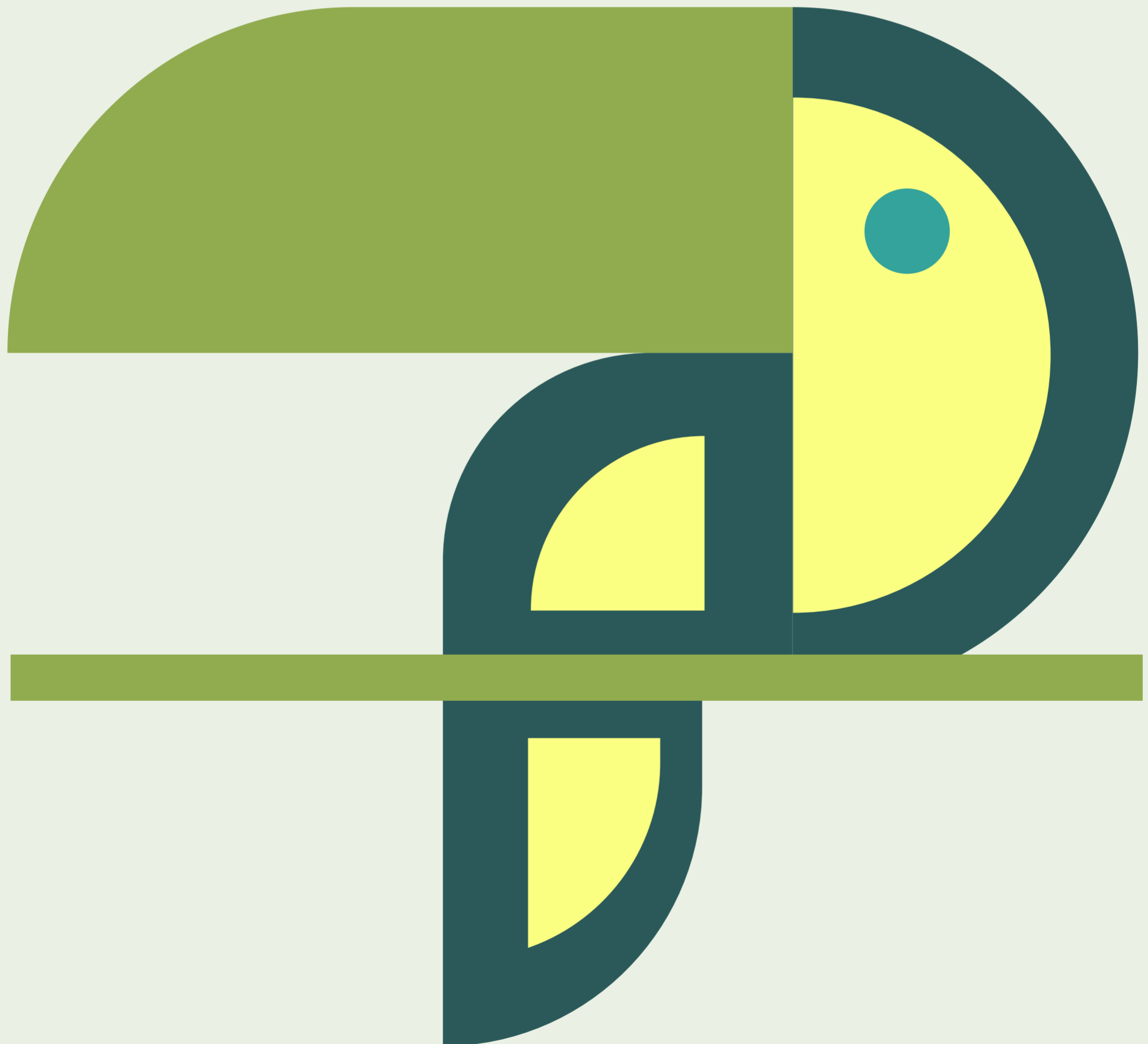


Each of these practices has an environmental rationale. Introducing them into everyday life can benefit not only the environment, but also the health and well-being of each person. By acting together, we can contribute to creating a more sustainable future for our planet.





CHAPTER 1: Green Labor Market



1. DEFINITION OF A “GREEN JOB”

Background: In recent years “green jobs” policies were proposed as a remedy for the environmental challenges associated with global climate change and the unemployment issues observed in industrialized countries. But what is the definition of a green job? According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) green jobs are “decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.



Green jobs help:

Improve energy and raw materials efficiency

Limit greenhouse gas emissions

Minimize waste and pollution

Protect and restore ecosystems

Support adaptation to the effects of climate change

Goals: At the enterprise level, green jobs can produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment, for example, green buildings or clean transportation.”

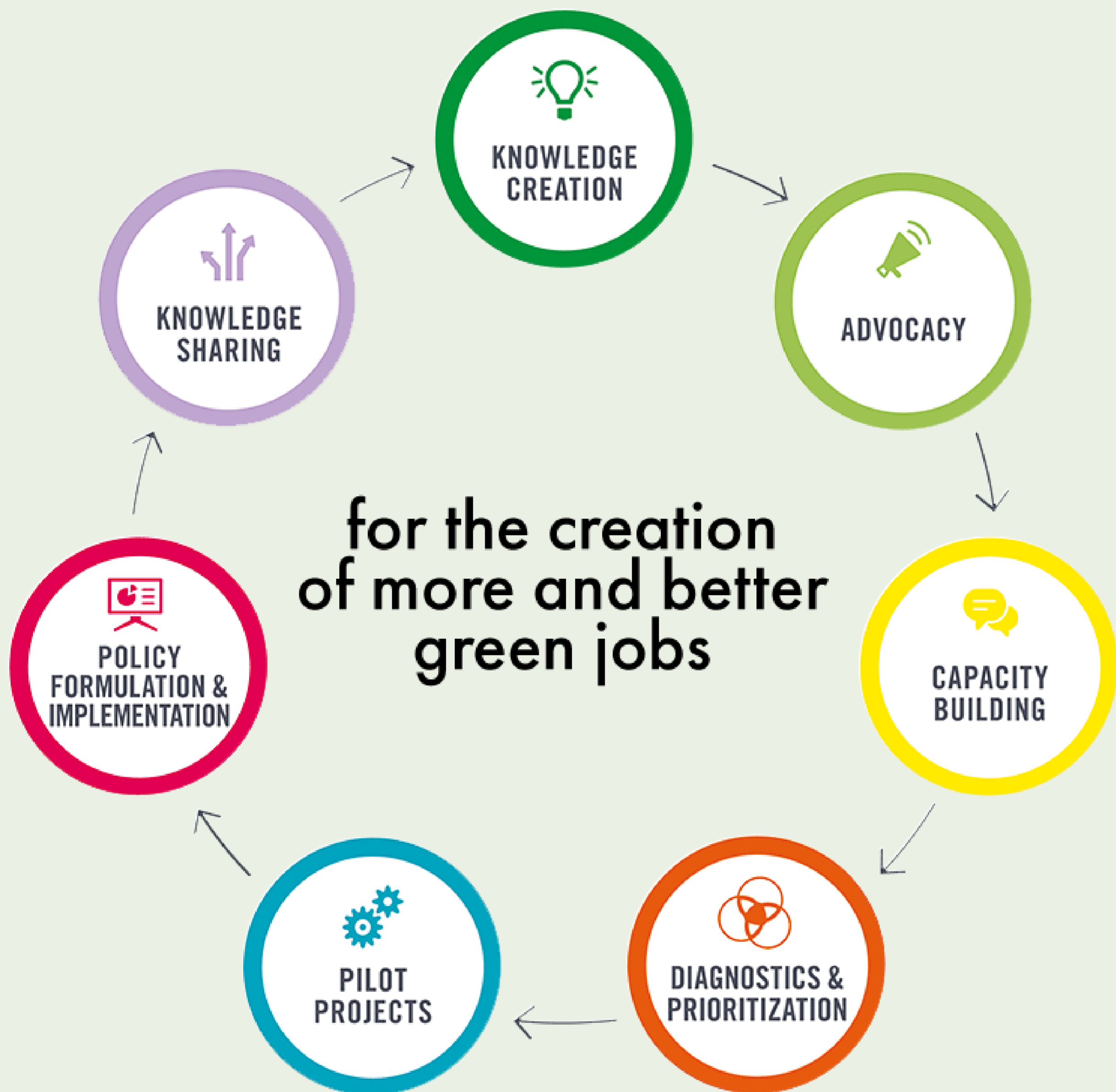


Targets



- ⌚ When we talk about green jobs, their definition is often generalized. The list of economic activities that are financially supported by the state (for unemployed people in Bulgaria) is also with no specific job positions. This can be a hindrance as to how everyone reads the law.
- ⌚ Sustainable agriculture (the opposite of monoculture in many cases) is not included in most definitions, which should be one of the priorities nowadays in relation to the climate changes that are taking place.
- ⌚ The definition of a “green job” in EU countries can vary from country to country. An example of Bulgaria is that the law about it has not been updated since 2012.
- ⌚ We need to unify definitions and create workable support systems for “green” workers and processes to regulate it all. Synchronizing regulations in all member countries with European ones.
- ⌚ How are “green” workers supported? There should be a financial stimulus (from the polluting companies or the governmental institutions) if we want to accelerate “green growth”. We must do so because of the rapidly occurring climate change.
- ⌚ The topics of “green growth” and “green jobs” should be prioritized in all universities in order to direct students to develop their bachelor’s and master’s theses in the fields. Prioritization by schools should also be included here so that more students are familiar with the subject before taking a step towards their careers.
- ⌚ The EU needs to promote green jobs more and build processes with details related to the regulation of green jobs.
- ⌚ How are EU statistics about supporting “green jobs” calculated? Germany, France, and Belgium are on the first places but how are other countries doing and how EU is taking care of it?





2. EU GREEN LABOUR MARKET

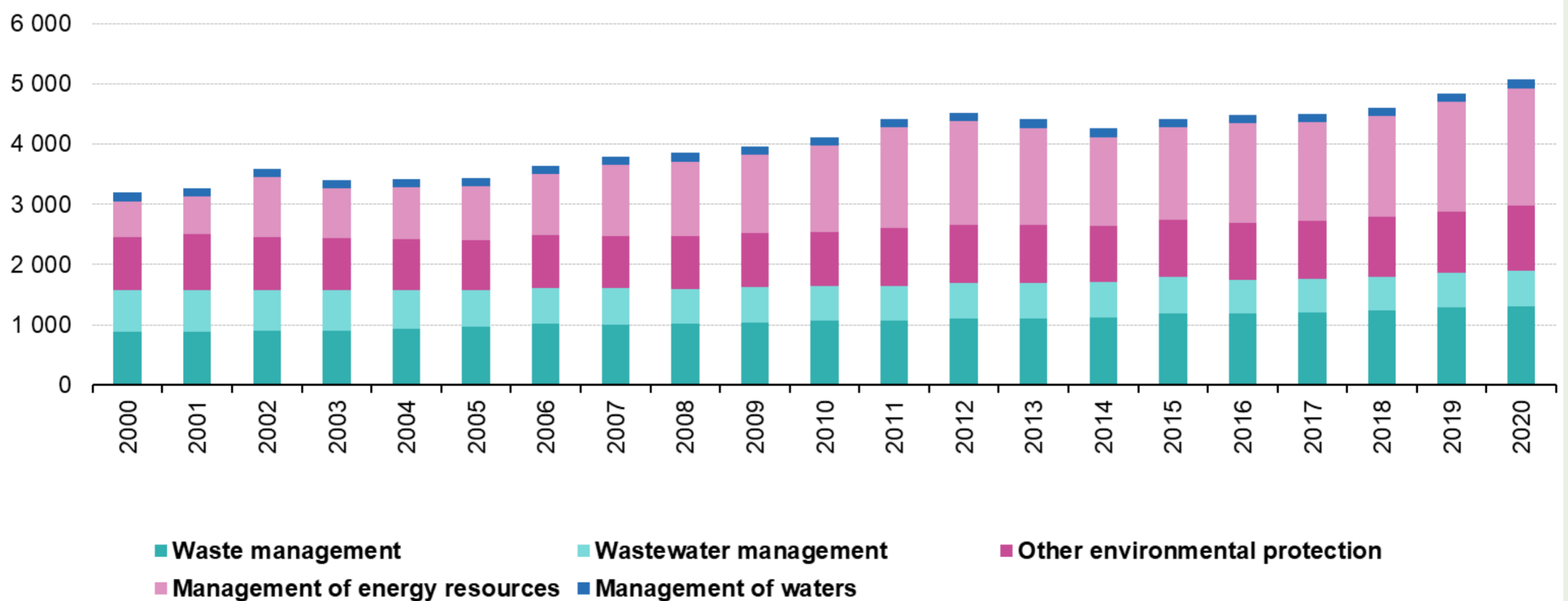
Background: The EU's environmental economy is tiny (2.2% of GDP in 2017), but it is expanding faster than the general economy (3.2% annual growth vs. 1.4% from 2000 to 2017).

- In 2000, there was 3.1 million green employment; by 2017, there were 4.2 million.
- Energy management accounts for 39% of the green sector's value contributed, 27% for waste management, and 13% for wastewater, with energy also driving the creation of green jobs. In 2019, the EU-27 spent EUR 269.1 billion on environmental protection (households, businesses, and governments), accounting for 1.9% of GDP, with EUR 51.5 billion spent on capital (investments).

Green employment rose largely in the energy sector between 2000 and 2017: renewable technologies (wind, solar) and heat/energy saving created 0.9 million jobs throughout the time, with another 319,000 gained positions in waste management and a slight decline in other environmental protection (-29,000 jobs). Wastewater jobs fell by 162,000, but water management occupations remained consistent (about 130-140,000 FTEs). Energy management was the most common green job domain (35%), followed by waste management (28%), other environmental protection (21%), and wastewater (13%).

Employment in the environmental economy, by domain, EU, 2000-2020

(thousand full-time equivalents)



Note: Data for EU are estimated by Eurostat.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_eggs1)

eurostat

In 2017-18, the EU employed 1.2 million people in renewable energy. Solid biomass and wind power produced the most jobs, with 387,000 and 314,000, respectively. The EU has 208,000 employees in liquid biofuels and 96,000 jobs in solar PV. Germany, France, and Belgium were among the top ten nations in the world in terms of new capacity addition in 2017. Broader definitions of green jobs, with indirect employment in other sectors producing intermediate goods for the eco-industry, organic farming, and eco-tourism, predict a greater level of green employment, up to 20 million jobs, accounting for 5% of the working population.

In 2019, total environmental protection spending was 269.1 billion euros. Despite more ambitious environmental rules, current amounts have remained consistent at around 2% of GDP, owing to innovation and efficiency in reacting to law. In 2019, companies (mainly wastewater and waste specialists) accounted for 57% of environmental protection spending, governments (22%), and households (21%). In 2019, capital investment in the EU-27 amounted to 51.5 billion euros (1/5 of the total), while operational expenditure and final consumption are each around 40%. Firms invest 57% of their capital, whereas governments invest 43%. Environmental protection investments account for just 1.7% of total corporate investments in 2019, compared to 4.9% for governments - primarily without resource management (energy, materials, etc.).

Targets:

The green labor market in the EU mostly focused on the energy sector. It is important to aid the growth of the green labor market in different sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, hospitality, and financial services. Investing more in capacity building in eco-industry, organic farming, and eco-tourism, predict a greater level of green employment, up to 20 million jobs, accounting for 5% of the working population. Therefore, some workshops about organic farming should be more targeting students of agriculture faculty. Eco-industry such as zero waste shops and other types of eco-friendly products should have been given more priority for the research and development funding in order to know how to make eco products can compete more in the market.



3. FAIR PAYMENT AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS



Background:

Unemployment is one of Europe's most acute problems. More than 25 million Europeans – over 10% of the working-age population - are unemployed. The situation facing young people is even bleaker, with almost one in four young people under the age of 25 being unemployed. The ecological crisis is another huge problem facing our and future generations. But by introducing “green” and ecologically mindful practices in our economy, we can provide high-quality green jobs to fight unemployment and at the same time counteract climate change and natural degradation. The introduction of Green jobs and the transition towards the Green labor market has been going on for several years, but our research showed that there are still much-needed improvements in order to reach the goals. Starting with the creation and implementation of inclusive policies which will help green jobs to be more accessible to companies and workers alike.

The current situation represents that critical raw materials are the source of value creation in industry and therefore have a significant impact on downstream sectors.

A comprehensive raw materials management strategy is of utmost importance and should include high environmental and societal standards because the EU currently provides only 1% of raw materials for wind energy, less than 1% of lithium batteries, less than 1% of fuel cells, only 2% of raw materials relevant to robotics, and only 1% of silicon-based photovoltaic modules (Forecast study of the Commission since 2021).

Energy savings and more efficient use of resources help reduce production costs and save factories from closing while ensuring workers are adequately compensated. Unfortunately, the reality is that more companies prefer to reduce their working costs than to focus on the energy savings of the working place.

In its opinion of 25 March 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) “underlines the importance of broadening the definition and paradigm of critical raw materials. Traditionally, critical raw materials have been considered to be materials coming mainly from the mining sector. This is too narrow a scope and limits the growth of green energy types. Today, wood-based materials can be used effectively for many more applications than in the past. From the textile sector to new technologies to produce lighter and greener batteries, this is an area where progress is being made at great speed. The bio-economy has unique opportunities to increase the sustainability of the EU economy and to ensure geopolitical stability for our continent. The use of renewable materials will also help mitigate the effects of climate change by allowing fossil fuel emissions to be trapped in the ground, creating environmental sustainability in the fossil fuel sector;

Goals:

Encourage innovation and sustainable investment

Update the needs for spending funds on outdated projects and ideas

Invest in new technology with more sustainable outcomes



Targets:

The achievement of ambitious and binding goals can be possible through the approval of a legal and financial framework that ensures sustainable investment and encourage innovation. The most impressive factor is that the successful implementation of energy efficiency measures can create or preserve 2 million green jobs in Europe.

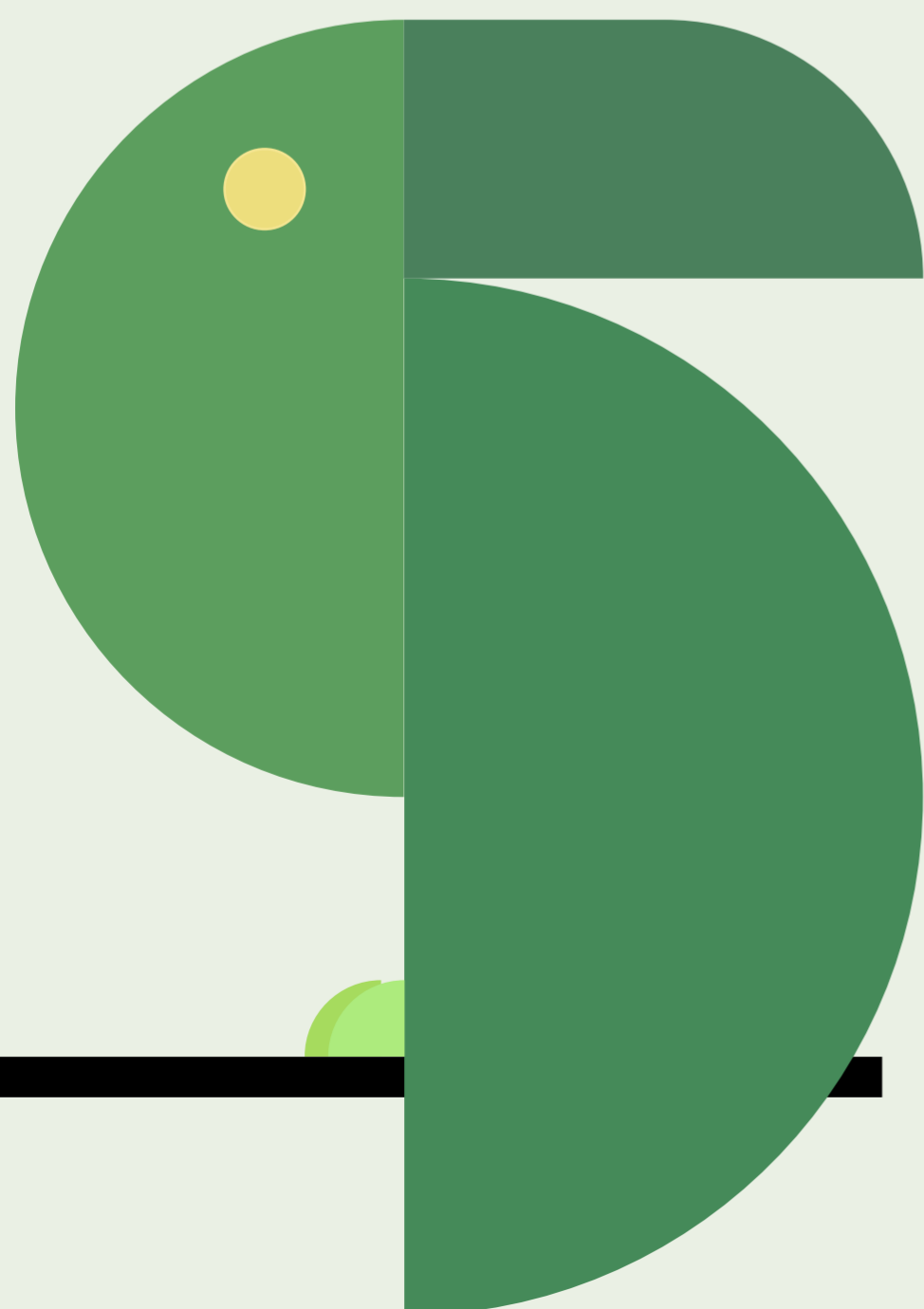
Stronger focus on the mandatory investments by European regions in energy saving and renewable energy sources, which contribute to job creation.

Poorer member states in particular will be able to spend more European funds than before on measures aimed at protecting the environment and the climate.

Spending European regional development funds on green investments will help generate more jobs than spending the same funds on the types of activities funded in the past.

It is of strategic importance that the EU reduces its dependence, preserves its flows, value chains, and supply chains, and supports, promotes, and digitalizes ecosystems, as this is the new core capacity within international (industrial) competition;

The transfer to green practices in the companies can help achieve reducing business costs while maintaining decent pay



4. THE ROLE OF MINORITY GROUPS

Background: Common practice is for companies to employ people from minority groups in less developed positions and offer them unfair treatment. For example, many Roma people from Bulgaria are employed in less-paid jobs, with the worst conditions. In reality, green jobs promote decent work condition, that provides adequate social protection, sufficient income, healthy working conditions, and respect for the rights of workers and their participation in decision-making, especially those that affect their lives.



Since education is the starting point for change, we call for a broad education initiative and retraining program targeting green jobs in all fields. The transition to a green economy must offer opportunities to all: young and old, men and women, highly skilled or less skilled, unemployed and/or employed. The inclusion of such vocational training programs should ensure that a worker can acquire the skills necessary to be employed in a green workplace regardless of his previous experience. Education programs are absolutely essential to develop the full job-creating potential of the transition to a green economy.

Identifying new and future skills needs is the first step towards change, identifying worker skills gaps and developing educational curriculum.

Goal: Invite workers from minority groups to the green labor market on equal and fair working conditions by providing them with all necessary documentation and compensation.

Targets:

Promote green job opportunities in the labor offices around the country

Allow equal access to a job application to all candidates regardless of their statute and origin

Create a unified system for providing adequate support to workers from minority groups

Organize workshops and trainings to educate the minority workers about their rights and responsibilities and where to signalize in case of an arising issue.

Provide continuous support to the workers during the first period of their new job in order to achieve an easier transition of the workflow.

5. EXPLORING GOOD PRACTICES

BURGENLAND, AUSTRIA:

Local green Energy and new Workplaces.



Burgenland becomes the first region in Europe to meet its electricity needs through renewable local energy sources, including wind, solar, and biomass energy.

Much time, effort, and a large number of resources have been spent on communication campaigns and raising public awareness in order to inform citizens how can contribute to Burgenland's energy independence and how a sustainable environmental approach benefits them. This is a great example and proof of the previous connection between the importance of education and the success of transferring to green jobs.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

New working places and energy savings

In this example the government promotes energy saving in private households by providing a direct subsidy in the amount of 30-75% of the costs incurred. The changes made through this program save households up to €1.5 billion a year in heating costs alone.

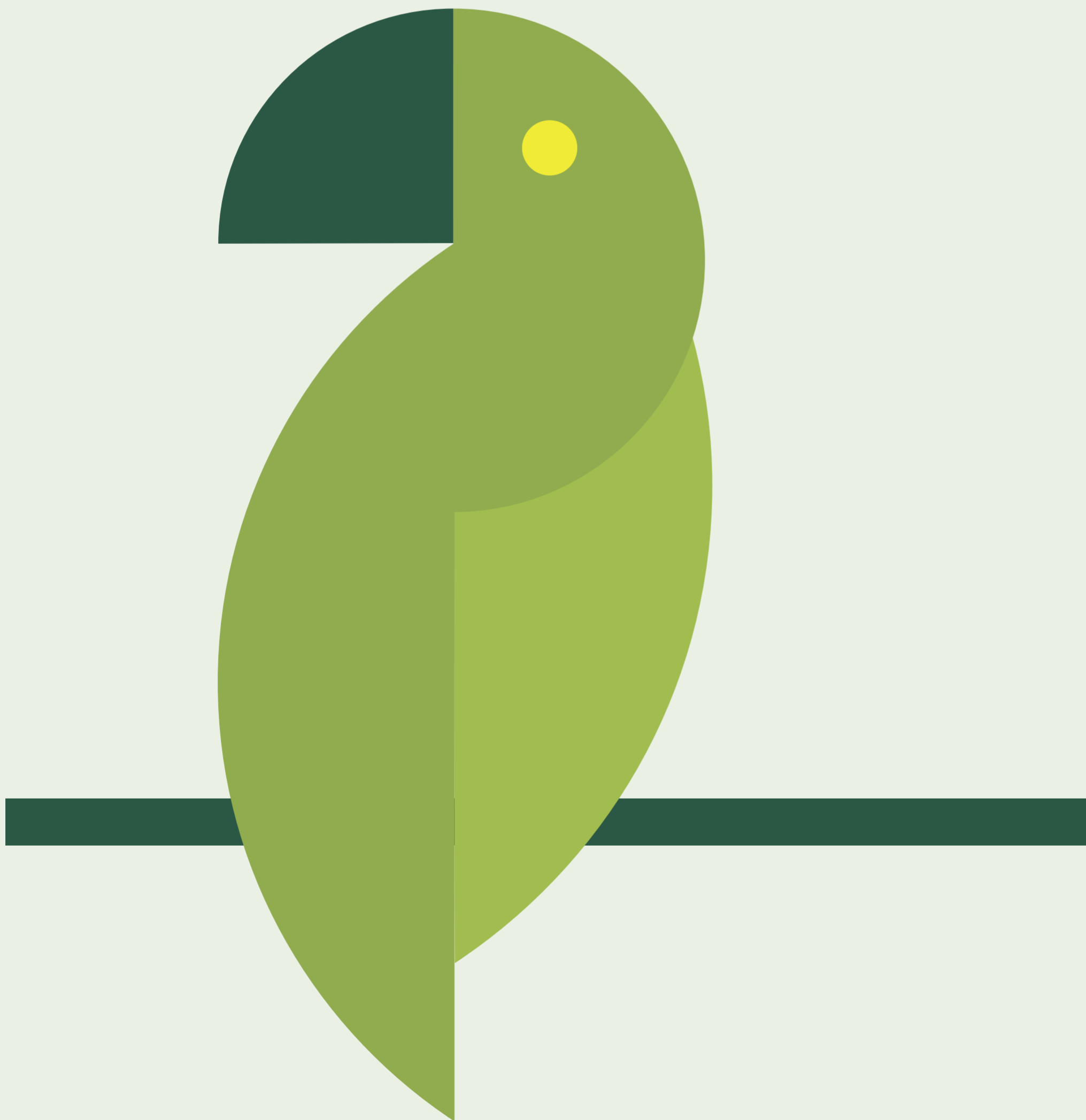
And one example outside of the partnership for this project, but with an extremely successful story and implementation.



THE VILLAGE OF ANAVRA IN SOUTHEASTERN GREECE

is an example of how a poor, isolated village can become a model of sustainable local development.

Between 2000 and 2010, the municipality recorded a drop in the unemployment rate to zero, and the population doubled - from 300 to 550 inhabitants. Traditional livestock farmers are moving towards integrated, organic farming, creating three farms with a total of 25,000 animals. A public slaughterhouse has also been established, which has a certified organic section and meets relevant international quality standards. In an effort to achieve energy independence for the village, a wind farm consisting of 20 turbines capable of powering 12,500-13,000 homes was built in Anavra. In addition, an ecological and cultural park “Goura” has been created, which supports the development of eco-tourism. Apart from all this, the villagers have built plazas and water pumps, a medical center, educational and sports facilities, a home for the elderly, and a homeless shelter.



6. GREEN IDEAS ARE USED AS PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES



1. Are valuable products/projects being promoted? Green ideas as a marketing strategy.

Recently, the topic of “green living” has been very prominent, giving rise to the development of many marketing strategies aimed at satisfying the public need. But is society capable of “judging” which projects are feasible? Massive campaigns for grandiose schemes occur every day on social media but rarely do any of them achieve their goals. It would be much more helpful if instead eco-friendly practices were shared – that everyone could implement on the local ground (and so this movement could be much more popular).

Another issue is bioproducts, for which is not entirely clear whether they are bio because they are not “flavored” with a rich palette of chemicals, or because some other natural object has not suffered during their production. Whatever the truth, their growing popularity is a fact and is due precisely to the keyword “green” (bio, eco, etc.). Bio products are just one example of the many industries have been able to profit thanks to the marketing strategy to look for tangents with similar “green ideas”.

2. Are green ideas being used as a means to profit rather than to improve the environment?

Green ideas play an important role in environmental protection. But do all of them have such a purpose? In addition to being passionate and genuinely concerned about nature organizations, the green idea is shared also by others... just because of its popularity and the profit from it. Here we can distinguish two categories – commercial, but preserving nature, and commercial, seemingly “bio”, but which do not contribute to the environment (on the contrary).

As mentioned in the previous topic, keywords are extremely important in promotion, which is why there are many organizations/businesses/companies that use the green idea and the enthusiasm around it to build seemingly compliant policies and goals, but have them remain only an image of something completely different. It is known that there are many programs

that fund various environmentally supportive projects and enterprises, so this is a good opportunity to invest public money in projects that are unlikely to have the intended outcome, as the (actually non-environmentally oriented) companies that organize them are not fully prepared and usually have a lack of competent people from this field.

This is why the control of such investments needs to be stricter and public opinion needs to be created and expressed – this would be possible if people received more education (at school, university, and work ...) about environmental problems and their solutions.

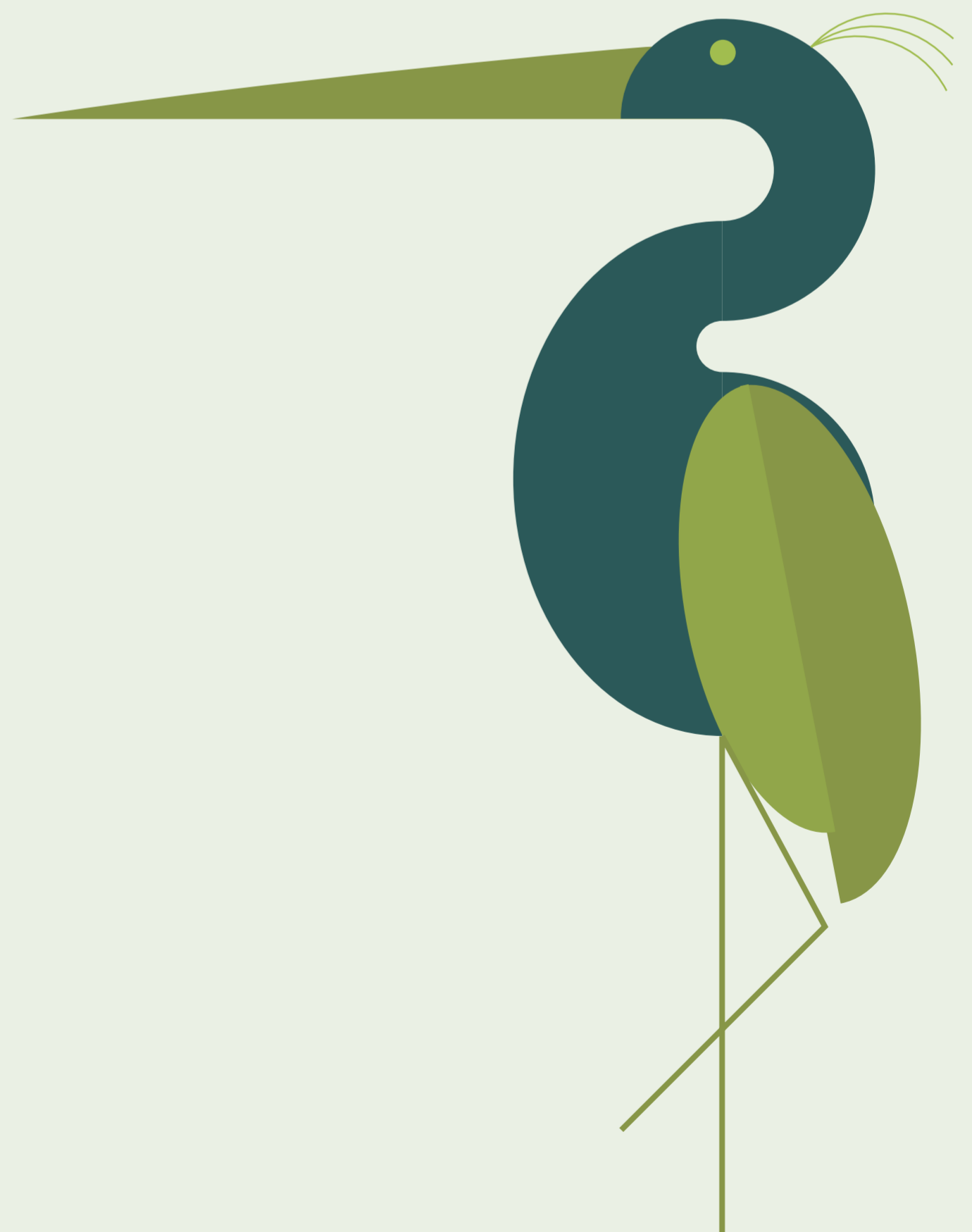
3. How can we make people aware of green ideas and their importance? Ways to distribute?

We can take a look at different ways in which people can be introduced to green ideas and their relevance to our future. Everyone's life affects the environment, so all age groups are an important part of the process to improve it.

- Children who are just starting kindergarten or school can be introduced to simple practices they can do at home, such as not wasting water or electricity and recycling household waste.

- Workshops can be organized for school/university students where experts can discuss with them current environmental issues as well as their resolution. It is also important to mention that social networks are an almost inseparable part of the lives of today's youth and in this case, they can serve as a great intermediary for this type of partially educational information.

- Older audiences can be reached most easily through the mass media – newspapers, television, radio, and so on. Topics such as the environment and ways to improve it should be discussed more often. Everyone's participation is important to make the change visible.



7. GREEN LABOUR MARKET: DEFINITION AND NECESSITY

Background: Nowadays one of the most discussed topics among researchers and policymakers is related to climate change and the most efficient response to its detrimental consequences. According to the European Commission (2019), the global atmosphere is warming and that may cause the extinction of no less than 1 million out of 8 million species. In this context, it has become more evident than ever that there is an urgent need to move forward with a mature initiative — “The Green Jobs”. Green jobs are any decent work that contributes to maintaining and restoring the quality of the environment, whether it is agriculture, industry, services, or administration. Because creation of the green labour market is not a choice, but an obligation.

Targets

Achieve sustainable living and working, and thus to the accompanying social transformation.

Make a vital contribution towards implementing the measures from 2030 Climate & Energy Framework of the European Commission.

Reduce energy consumption and raw materials, minimise pollution and waste, protect and restore ecosystems.

Enable companies and communities to adapt to climate change and to its unavoidable impacts.

Provide a high-quality education in various green profession courses, such as eco-designers, green financialists, waste management, wind turbine and bicycle mechatronics engineering.

Build stakeholder dialogue between representatives of different social and economic Chambers playing a crucial role in the direction of transition towards green economy.

Create online platforms serving to raise awareness, motivate, and inform more potentially interested young people to move further to be the future stakeholders and multipliers.



Goal: The main goal of the Green Labour Market is the promotion of opportunities, equity, and a fair transition to sustainable economies.

8. GREEN YOUR EDUCATION FROM SCHOOLS

Background: For a greening world, there is great potential in strengthening the links of environment, energy, education, and employment. Because the shortage of human capital with the technical solutions results in a skill mismatch on the labour market. Skills mismatch leads to unemployment, decreased productivity and lost investment and job creation opportunities. It is necessary today to have a good grasp of the skills demanded of tomorrow. Initial or continuing education and training provided by schools, trainers or enterprises that impart the skills, knowledge and attitudes required for employment in a particular occupation is necessary in any field of economic activity (ILO, 2013).

Goal: Educating the green job skills at regular schools, vocational schools, and other learning centres based on green programs can smooth transitions to greener economies and ensure that new opportunities benefit a broader share of society.



Targets:

Having a dedicated curriculum subject serving to increase awareness and forming attitudes related to environmental protection during basic education.

Promoting the fact there is a wide variety of green jobs for all levels of experience and education.

Addressing skills gaps while transitioning to a green economy by forging synergy across formal education and extra curricular activities in schools, such as theatre groups.

Training of the teachers and relevant professionals, especially in sectors directly related to green labour through free workshops to learn thoroughly about green labour.

Consulting to a teacher, guidance counselor, or other professionals for tips on how to find the career that's right for the students.

Understanding a green career that requires a college degree and a green career that does not.

Looking for internship and volunteer opportunities, which can allow the students to gain experience, learn more about a particular job, and online research potential jobs.

Building the capacity of schools for lifelong learning to understand and promote sustainable development policies and practices.



9. GREEN JOBS PROMOTION IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Background: The study held by UNICEF and UNESCO in collaboration called “Action for a Greener Economy with Children and Youth” (2021) confirms that most of the youth use social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to share their concerns of contemporary issues, including environmental degradation and climate change. They agreed that social media is one place where they can be vocal about their concerns and also start and follow a trend or movement. Because such channels brought issues and topics to them, rather than them actively seeking opportunities where there were no obvious networks. As we see clearly, online social networking is sewn into the fabric of our daily lives, and companies that promote their green initiatives with social media are doing good for the planet while engaging in effective marketing communications. That is why we consider social media and online marketing as key factors to promote our green ideas in the online world.

Goal: Promoting green jobs to a wide audience through the use of social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram to extend their reach to young people on green jobs and opportunities.



Targets

Using the channels and faces of celebrity figures and ‘influencers’ popular with young people on different social media platforms as multipliers to promote green skills and green jobs.

Developing a unique green promo strategy for each platform based on the network audience and metrics.

Implementing a social media calendar to plan posts in advance while ensuring we stay organised when to post, post caption, post visual, and which platforms to post on can help marketers keep track of the various moving parts of social media.

Being up to date by asking questions relevant to the green market, creating a Facebook group for our audience, using GIFs, videos, and emojis to spice up our delivered messages, and utilising live Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Youtube Live Functions to hold discussions on the Green Job Market and its relevant areas.

Promoting environmental documentaries on online streaming platforms, such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and social media platforms to make green issues and skills fun for everyone, and in particular, for young people to reach and understand.



10. ENHANCE GREEN PROMOTION IN MASS MEDIA

Background: Vast media coverage has the potential to make our society gain more awareness on different aspects of the environmental issues and to take actions to protect the environment. The media is very important in shaping public awareness about global climate change and associated actions, such as the promotion of the green job market. Here the main focus is on three key issues: to inform, to educate and to employ.

There are 4 prominent mass media channels – newspapers, magazines, radio and television - which have been playing an important role for spreading awareness among the people for climate change and environment protection at a faster rate than the personal contacts. Further they have been enriched by the production and distribution of printed materials such as books, magazines and brochures.

Goal: To encourage and benefit from the power of mass media in order to promote appealing employment brands and job opportunities in the field of different green job areas for the attention of a great number of the population of the society.

Targets

To meet with the media professionals to learn how they prefer to get communications from us (e.g., by email or phone).

To convince the mass media representatives that we have information and stories that will be of interest to their audience.

To get in touch with particular reporters who have a personal passion for the environmental issues and promotion of the green job market.

To generate and present information and stories that resonate with the editor or producers who lack any passion for green issues.

To identify the media outlets our audience uses, especially but not exclusively for green-related information.

To appeal to a wide heterogeneous audience communicating a public message on the availability of Green Job Market and its benefits for the world.

To create a long-lasting relationship between the target audience and the promoters of the green values.



11. SWITCH GREEN ON EXISTING COMPANIES

Background: Many of the biggest companies are failing to meet their own targets on tackling climate change, according to a study of 25 corporations “The Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor” by Thomas Day. World known corporations such as Apple, Sony, Amazon, Google, Ikea, BMW Group, Carrefour, Nestle, Unilever are under pressure to cut their environmental impact as more consumers want green products. Just 3 out of the 25 companies are clearly committed to removing 90% of carbon emissions from their production and supply chains, namely Maersk, Vodafone and Deutsche Telekom.

Here in the below table we can see the ratings of companies’ climate change strategies:

Integrity rating	Company name
Reasonable	Maersk
Moderate	Apple
Low	Amazon
	Google
	Ikea
Very low	Nestle
	Unilever

Liu (2013) shows that the main reason for this is that companies are often organised as corporations and therefore enjoy the limited liability of the corporation. To the extent that the harm caused by the corporation is larger than the corporate assets, a liability suit may result in insolvency as a result of which the liability mechanism is unable to fulfil its compensatory and preventive functions. For these reasons, there is therefore a danger that the effectiveness of the liability regime under the e European Union environmental liability regulated in Directive 2004/35/EC of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (ELD) could be jeopardised to the extent that operators are not able to meet their obligations.



Goal: To assist the companies by consulting action plans that all companies can put in place to do their part in the fight against global warming.



Targets

- 🌀 To measure and analyse their Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) as the first step to reduce its impact on the planet and the environment, and therefore help to reduce climate change
- 🌀 Reducing energy consumption by simple common sense actions, e.g. turning off the lights in the office in the evening, slightly lowering the heating or the air conditioning or taking devices off the plugs when it's not needed.
- 🌀 Reducing the amount of waste generated, no matter it is the industrial waste of a large company or the paper waste of a SME of the tertiary sector by avoiding disposable cups, stirrers, and capsules for the coffee machine and giving kitchen crockery instead, reducing the number of prints, reusing papers as drafts, sort waste for recycling correctly, and many more practical options.
- 🌀 Utilising equipment and devices properly to avoid them getting deteriorated faster and to repair gadgets when they break down instead of replacing them with new ones.
- 🌀 Encouraging employees to take public transit, to carpool with other colleagues living closeby or by giving them discounts on public transportation, to volunteer for environmental fundraisers, or community cleanup and renovation projects.
- 🌀 Choosing more environment-friendly infrastructures and equipment by selecting the most efficient energy-wise and ethical regarding the production standards.
- 🌀 Working with supplier companies who demonstrate they have good environmental practices.
- 🌀 Raising awareness of their employees, consumers, media and other stakeholders via organising in-house contests, hackathons or campaigns on sustainability issues.
- 🌀 Promoting environmentally friendly ways of working which are more ecological than others: telecommuting, video conferences, email communication, etc.
- 🌀 Mobilising for the Climate Change Challenge in their local, regional and national level by pushing politicians and public actors to act on global warming.

12. GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Targets

Background: At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the role of entrepreneurship was highly appreciated in solving the climate crisis and 2022 was declared a year of business action. Businesses need both to build a strategy and set targets, and also to deliver against them in cooperation with each other and with governments in order to support systemic change. Climate action has started a chapter of accelerated action, and business needs to be ready. Many businesses have set net-zero targets, and keep announcing every day. However, the punchline is that they need to shift focus to reducing their emissions today through regular actions from setting missions which might take to be possible to achieve after many years in the future.



Goal: The main goal is to combine various good practices used to support the smooth and sustainable green transition of the entrepreneurs maintained by the from the action plans of different governmental bodies across the world.

☞ Greening of industries by access to finance and strengthening the financial capacity of the sector.

☞ Removing environmentally harmful subsidies through subsidy components of the nationwide subsidy system.

☞ Providing infrastructures to support the greening of industries (e.g. wastewater treatment, recycling facilities, and sustainable energy supplies).

☞ Supporting local action through collaborations, resources, capacity building, and institutional support.

☞ Improving the legal, fiscal and governance framework for green labour, and making sectoral policies and systems compatible with local government and community empowerment.

☞ Granting tax deductions for the entrepreneurs who are:

a) eager to train young people applying to get employed in green jobs through training and preparatory workshops.

b) supporting their experienced employees to move towards the green practices at their daily work practices.

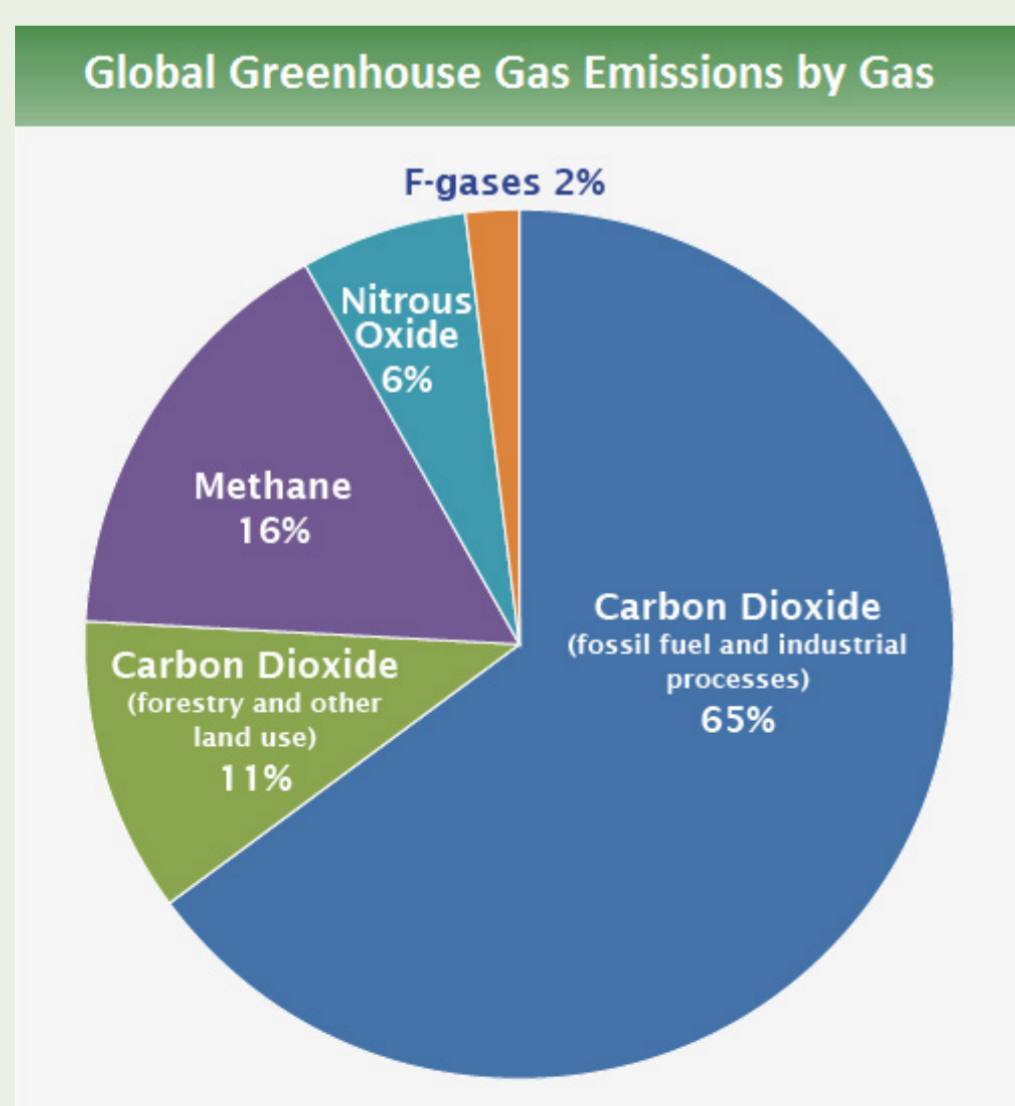
c) adding up supportive bonus payments in the wages of their internal green labour educators.



13. GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) IN GREEN JOB MARKET

Background: In the “Agriculture and Green Growth” publication by Candice Stevens it is highlighted that modern farming has become very energy intensive and the use of fossil fuels accounts for 10% of agricultural emissions in the form of carbon dioxide. In contrast, there is a set of green agriculture methods and green farming practices, as well as organic and ecological agriculture, to be implemented. This would be possible by certifications such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), which represent the various forms of “green” agriculture activities, such as conservation tillage, crop rotations, agroforestry, integrated plant-animal systems and rehabilitation of degraded crop and pasture land.

Goal: The main purpose is to focus on and promote the potential of sustainable agriculture in creating green jobs as a pivotal issue in the 21st century in fostering social development and sustainability.



Sours: www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-data (26.07.2023)

Targets

Managing natural resources sustainably, especially land, water and biodiversity, and reducing adverse environmental impacts; and

Dissociating economic growth from environmental degradation and to support the expansion of commercial eco-industries and eco-services.

Diversifying green jobs and activities and contributing to rural development.

Supporting reform to relieve environmental stress which can promote more equitable farm incomes.

Achieving food security, poverty reduction, and rural development through the growth of green labour capacity.



14. GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON NATIONAL LEVEL IN HUNGARY



Background: Hungary is a developed post-industrial Central European country. Its post-socialist past related to environmental issues has a significant impact on how far eco innovation can advance. The country has made great strides in the areas of environmental protection, land reclamation, and eco-innovation since the constitutional amendment in 1989, but new challenges in the twenty-first century demand even more advancement, particularly in green entrepreneurship and the related business development and support. By developing the National Environmental Technology Innovation Strategy, the government has acknowledged the significance of the green economy. Even though due to a lack of political will, this approach was unable to be implemented, but the economic situation actually constrains the government's ability to direct business development support. In several national and international appeals, the terms "energy efficiency", "renewable energy sources" and "innovation" are frequently used; yet, "green entrepreneurship" is still relatively new and unheard of in Hungary. Platform2020Redesign. (2020) online platform on sustainable and resilient recovery from Covid-19, an initiative supported by the Ministry of Environment Japan, UNFCCC and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, reports that only 12.5% of companies in Hungary have adjusted their work principles in the direction of green mindset.

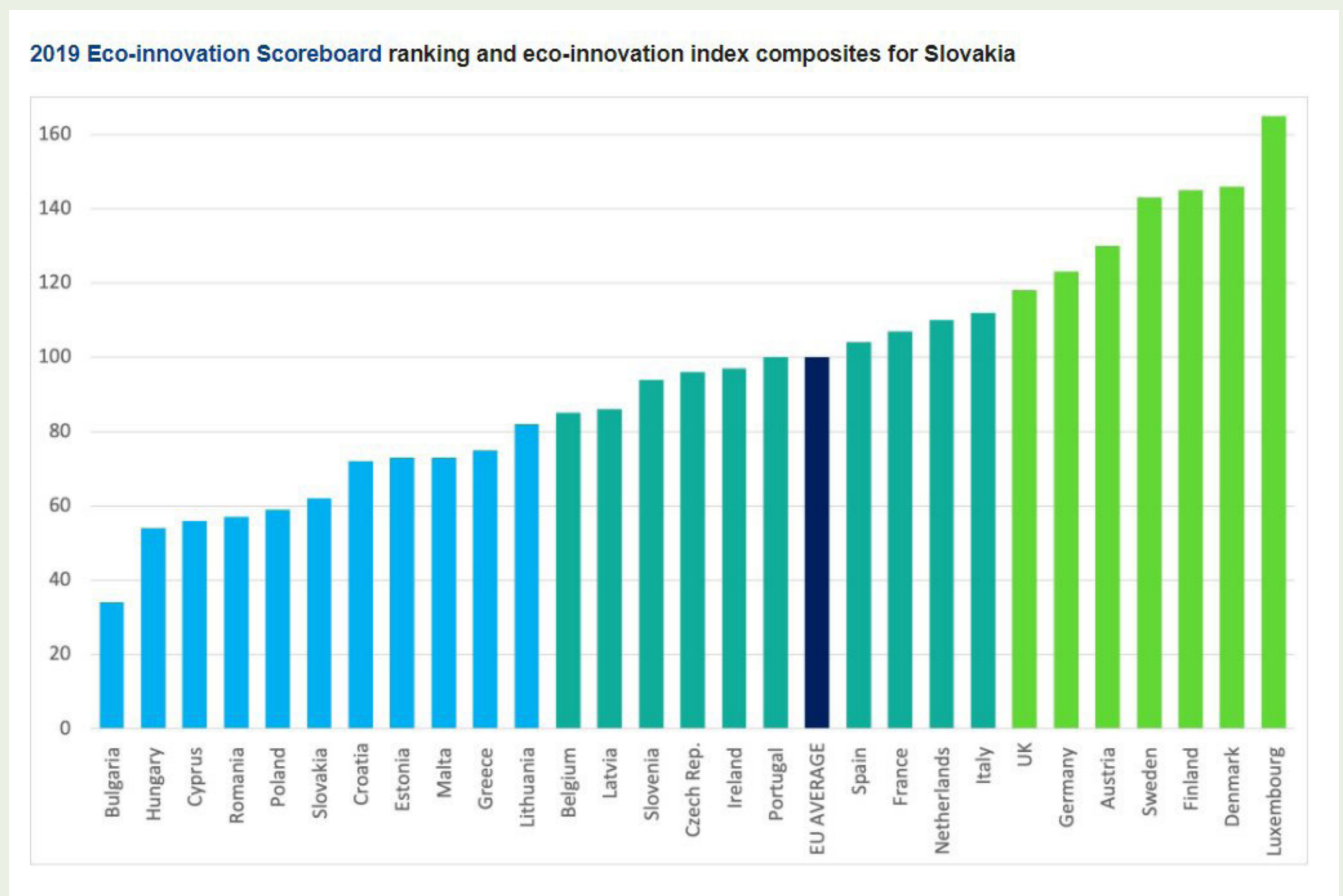


Figure Source: 2019 Eco-innovation Scoreboard

Goal: The main goal is to expand the awareness on green entrepreneurship on national level in Hungary, while utilising various good practices to support the smooth and sustainable transition of the entrepreneurs through respective action plans of relevant Hungarian governmental bodies.



Targets

Transforming a variety of state assistance programs into green sector-specific and may be viewed as horizontal policies, on which Hungary scores 5th among the OECD countries with 0,9% of the GDP spent for similar policies and schemes.

Developing further National Operational Programs that are carried out in line with national, territorial, and sectoral goals and plans, such as the “Green Entrepreneurship Strategy in Hungary” in order to distribute various European funds in a structured manner.

Extending operations into new fields through direct professional trainings, training allowances, and assistance, all of which are crucial for specialised workforce advancement and lifelong learning of the green business operators.

Handling easy to access employment subsidies by the County Employment Center including wage subsidies possible to be claimed by any business which guarantees the employment of the green labour market workers for a certain period of time.

Including green businesses in the category of “High value-added business operators” which can sustain the below benefits for the green entrepreneurs in Hungary:

- The IP (Intellectual Property) box regime will allow businesses to decrease 50% of profit from royalties from their corporate income tax payments.

- The R&D (Research & Development) expenses will be deducted from the corporate income tax base up to 200% of the direct costs of fundamental or applied research or experimental development.

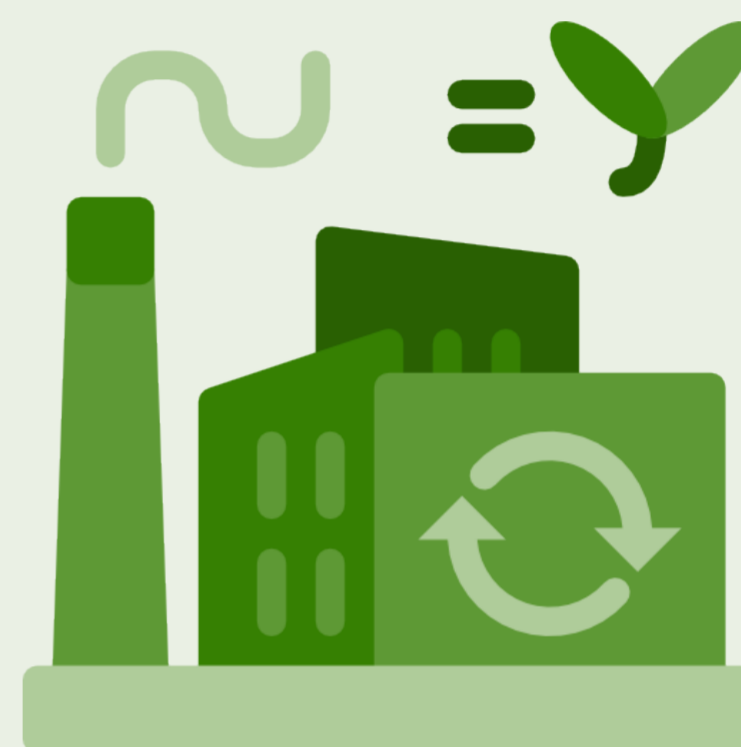
- Energy efficiency investments will be rewarded with tax credits equal to 30% of the investments present value (maximum 15 Million EUR) which can be used in the following five years.

15. ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT GREEN ENTREPRENEURS

Background: Entrepreneurship and initiative refer to an individual's ability to perceive the world around him, to strive to improve it and to turn thoughts into actions. They require creativity, innovation and risk taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects with the intention of achieving objectives.

Entrepreneurship is the ability to:

- 🌀 understand your life as a unique opportunity with potential;
- 🌀 manage projects, people and organizations;
- 🌀 turn problems and obstacles into opportunities;
- 🌀 build your own company or business.
- 🌀 understand economics and finance;
- 🌀 survive in a competitive environment.



The field of green business thus represents an excellent market potential. Support for business entities from this area should be offered by each of the major institutions and programs aimed at supporting small businesses. Entrepreneurs who decide to “green” their existing company or come up with a new business idea in the field of green business, should receive national support from relevant institutions as well as receive support from selected European Union funds. Green business represents the future of business. Such innovation has a large market potential, with still relatively little competition, but increasing interest from potential customers.

Therefore, if you have a green project in mind, or are considering “greening” your existing business, now is the right time.

According to the European Climate Pact, there is an urgent need to:

- 🌀 promote and support green entrepreneurship,
- 🌀 address the skilling and reskilling of workers and,
- 🌀 anticipate changes in workplaces of the future.

The sector of sustainable and environmental goods and services helps to control pollution and natural resources which contains waste management, air pollution, soil control, as well as recycling, renewable energy and water supply. However, green jobs are not only important in green industries; occupations such as organic farming, sustainable agriculture and ecotourism are highly dependent on a healthy environment, while many other jobs are affected indirectly. Green growth is a challenge and an opportunity at the same time for the labor market and skills, which in turn are key enabling factors for green growth.

This is at the heart of the Green Employment Initiative, which addresses the employment challenges and opportunities of the current transition to a green, low-carbon and resource-efficient economy. This transition will bring fundamental changes throughout the economy and in several sectors: more jobs will be created; some jobs will be replaced, and others redefined. In this context, better targeting and coordination of labor market policies and instruments is essential to create the necessary conditions to support green jobs, fill skills and labor shortages and anticipate changes in human capital needs. The individuals as well as society need to focus on areas with the greatest potential, such as electronics, batteries and vehicles, textiles, construction and food. It is important to highlight that the environmental challenges do not stop at borders. More action will be needed to keep air, water and oceans clean, land and ecosystems to be used sustainably, and climate change to remain manageable, thereby, all the businesses within the member state countries do share the same responsibility to act.

There are the following models and concepts applicable on businesses ensuring green growth.

a) Circular economy

In order to achieve the EU's climate neutrality goal by 2050 and to halt the loss of biodiversity, it is essential to become a circular economy in which the value of products and materials is preserved for as long as possible and in which waste and use of resources is minimized.

The circular economy is a sustainable development strategy in which humankind cooperate with nature, not against it. It is a model where waste as such does not actually exist. All raw materials, products and packaging are closed in long-lasting cycles. The entire cycle is designed to be sustainable. All raw materials are reusable, all products repairable, modifiable, recyclable, reusable and processable. Therefore, in the context of our strategy, business models should be based on re-using principle, both directly and indirectly. In order to make this theoretical notion work in practice, higher extent of political support which would lead towards the enabling environment is needed.

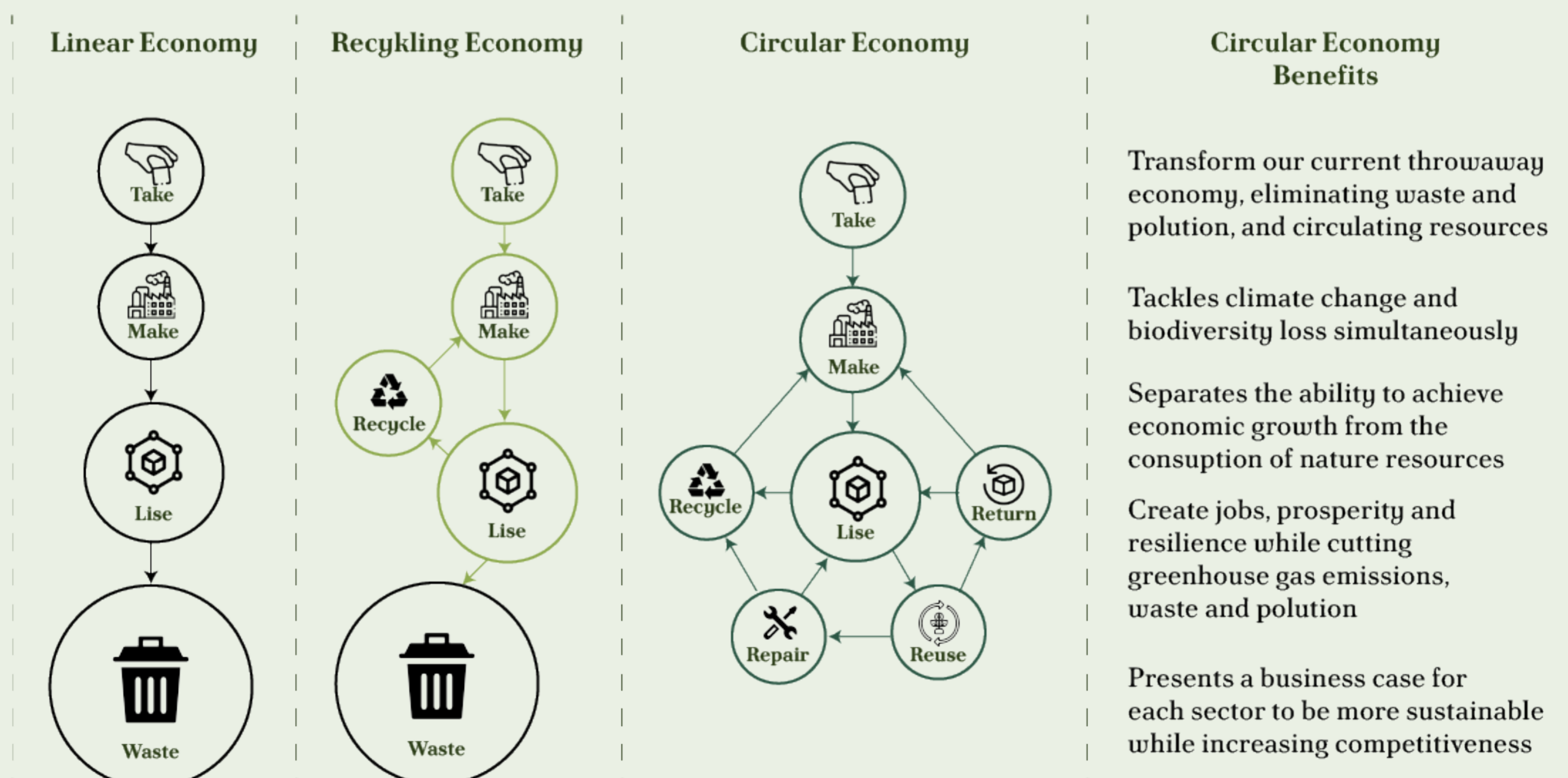


b) Linking businesses to permaculture

Permaculture is a concept that is not yet well known. It is a style of creating not only gardens, but the entire environment in which people live, in a way that is sustainable and constantly renewing. Permaculture can basically be applied on any scale for gardens, human dwellings, farms, cultivated land, balconies, water bodies, production processes, amongst others. It is a new way of thinking. When applying the main principles of permaculture, one applies creative, intelligent and conscious designs, changing the current inefficient and environmentally detrimental designs. The main goal is to ensure human well-being and level of consumerism that it is not at the expense of other people, the environment, plants and animals. As for the strategy, the permaculture is immensely important concept as it allows businesses to act in compliance with nature, especially in regard to food production and consumption. For example, food chains and restaurants could purchase the ingredients locally from sustainable permaculture supply, and in exchange could provide their organic waste as a base for sustainable farming.

c) Regenerative Business

Hahn and Tampe define the term of regenerative business as “businesses that enhance, and thrive through, the health of socio-ecological systems (SES) in a co-evolutionary process” (Hahn and Tampe, 2021) In other words, regenerative business acknowledges its place in the entire system in which it operates – it connects community, industry, resources in one working unit – and uses this knowledge of interdependencies in its strategic decision-making. Regenerative business could be compared to the plant, which only thrives when the soil provides the best nutrients it needs. Therefore, the same principle can be applied in a business sphere, a healthy work environment enhances an employee’s potential and behavior as wealthy nutrition fuels flowers’ growth. Hence, businesses should be encouraged to use this model in their internal and external affairs in effort to promote more sustainable future.



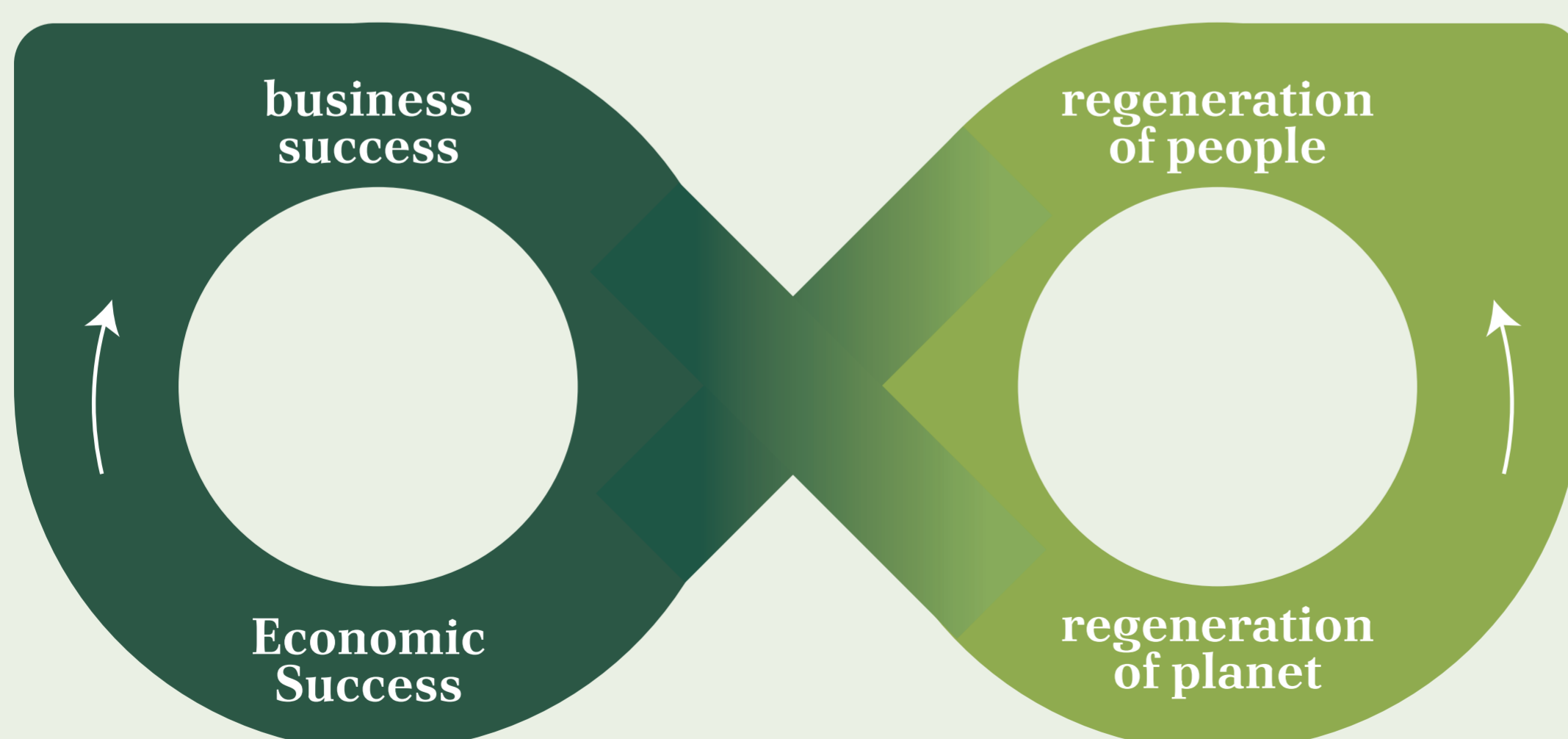


Targets



- 🌀 Provide support and education (training) on the green practices and main aspects of the green transition for businesses and other actors in corporate environment.
- 🌀 Create a handbook enshrining all the green practices which could serve as a guideline for the businesses upon their transition.
- 🌀 Promote the main sustainable concepts, such as blue economy, circular economy or regeneration business.
- 🌀 Ensure the high extent of accessibility of the green jobs in effort to increase the workers' integration to the green labor market.
- 🌀 Establish a dialogue with the Municipality and government regarding the promotion of green transition, such as reforming the taxation norms or subsidy the green salaries.

REGENERATIVE VALUE CREATION



16. GREEN FORMAL EDUCATION

The school system does not provide education regarding green skills nor sustainability or environmental issues and its urgent nature caused by climate change. Whilst the change of environmental and green needs were shifting and were formed during the years, the curriculums of the high school education remained systematically the same. With the transition of labor market as a solution to increase sustainable value, the need for gaining new skills of hard skills as well as soft skills is rising. Everybody is aware of the problems linked with climate change from an early age, nonetheless children and youth are not aware that they have power to contribute to major changes. As far as the Slovak youth concerned, although the awareness of climate change has significantly risen, only 24 percent of Slovak youth believe that they can actively participate in order to mitigate the effect of climate change. In comparison with their peers from the UK, France or Australia, they became the most skeptical group towards the effectiveness of any climate-orientated restrictions or green activities. When it comes to their individual contribution of their environmental impact, they do not believe in limiting their consumption of meat, becoming less materialistic and thereby, reducing their consumption or taking 'green' action for their sustainable living. Furthermore, as the data revealed, the engagement and interest in the environmental matters amongst youth is very low. (Ministry of the Environment, 2021) Therefore, one might observe the urgent need of reforming the education system as it is essential to tackle this issue systematically by empowering individuals.

Based on the European Commission, the green education within the European Union could be divided into two basic categories, Education for Climate Coalition embedding the main principles and detrimental consequences of climate change as well as the Learning for green transition, mostly depicting the training policies contributing towards the green and digital transition of the European Union. Firstly, as for the Climate Coalition, there are numerous activities for students, teachers, but also other educational stakeholders to act collectively on innovative education solutions for environmental sustainability. The main objective of this project is to train teachers, bridge education with science, develop green skills and competences, raise awareness, and change social behaviors related to consumerism and sustainable practices. Secondly, the Learning for Green Transition belongs to the essential policies which could immensely contribute towards approaching the European Green Deal fulfillment. As stated by the European Commission, "Education and training must respond to the challenges and realities of the 21st century, meet learners' needs and help them to deal with the feelings of stress and anxiety experienced in the face of a planetary crisis. To equip learners with the competences needed to shape a more sustainable economy and society, learning for the green transition needs to be transformative and interdisciplinary." (European Commission, 2022)

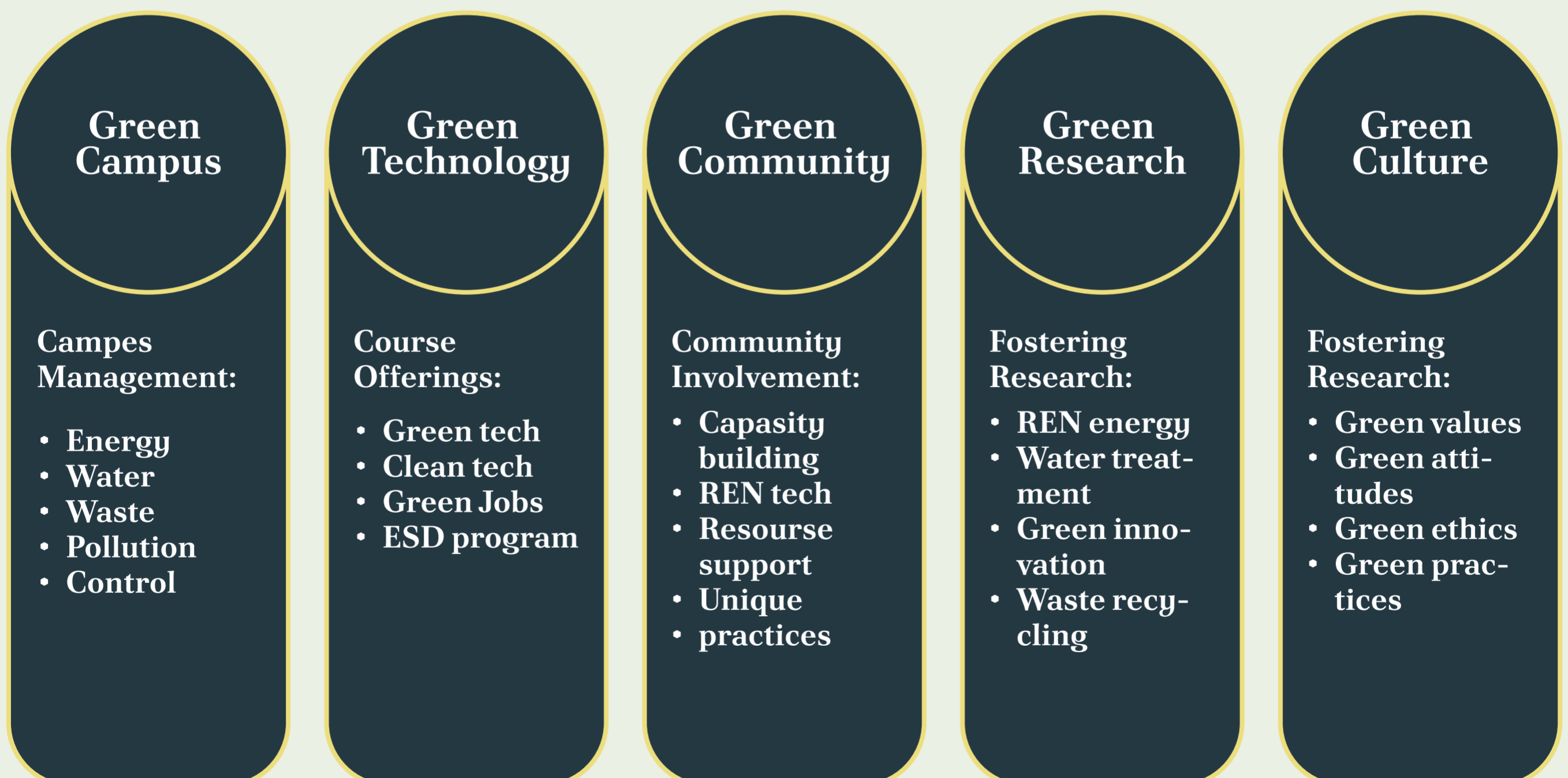


Furthermore, another potential solution besides “greening” of curriculum could lie in adding a “Environmental Sustainability” module to the curriculum. Such module would consist of the following themes:

- 🌀 Introduction to the Sustainability
- 🌀 Climate change and its impact on our society
- 🌀 Sustainable water management, the role of groundwater, water management and hygiene
- 🌀 Energy and its role in sustainability- how to manage energy at home
- 🌀 Green transition: the future of green employment
- 🌀 Greening industry
- 🌀 Urban sprawl: Recreating cities
- 🌀 Responsible consumption and production
- 🌀 Sustainable waste management
- 🌀 Life below water
- 🌀 Life on land

All these problematics should be represented duly in the curriculums and should provide a solid base for children and their skills and knowledge development which would be adequate and required for their future.

Aside of the aforementioned, it is essential to also ensure the green infrastructure of the school environment, such as implementing green practices (recycling, sustainable energy use and others) in the school soil.



Goal: Within the school curriculums (kindergarten to higher education) it is needed to raise the awareness about the environment, nature and how to develop the green skills.



Targets:

- 🌀 Creating and supporting the forest kindergartens and schools which would promote and deepen the relationship between children and nature and make them more environmentally aware.
- 🌀 Educating teachers in environmental topics and sustainability by formal and non-formal education methods as teachers are the drivers of change and education for next generations.
- 🌀 Update the curriculum by adding (interactive) lectures on green transition, sustainability, and environment.
- 🌀 Integrate more practical rather than more theoretical workshops to curriculums which would encourage children to experience the environmental and other related issues.
- 🌀 Collaborate with various stakeholders in implementing this strategy, such as Municipality, businesses amongst others.
- 🌀 Reconstruct facilities in order to make them more green and more digital.

17. INTEGRATION OF GREEN PRACTICES IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

According to the European Commission “the transition to a climate-neutral economy will trigger a fundamental transformation across a wide range of sectors. New jobs will be created, while some jobs will be replaced, and others redefined.” Therefore, there is an urgent need to promote and support green employment, address the skilling and reskilling of workers, as well as to anticipate changes in workplaces in the future. Whilst this statement is underpinning the importance of the issue and need for transition, is it more than essential to apply these practices and development of key and soft skills in the non-formal education environment, where the participants will be learning and building their capacities by means of playing, rather than “talking” and “learning passively”.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND ITS ROLE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Generally, non-formal education takes place outside of the traditional school setting, although this may not be always the case. The difference between formal and informal education is not where the pupil is acquires the non-formal education, sometimes the pupil can acquire non formal education at school as well, however, it is the style and nature of how the individual is being educated. In non-formal education environment, the participants (pupils) should feel secure and should deem this environment as friendly and trustworthy. Non-formal education often times uses the most interactive tactics of learning, via

games, role plays, discussions, job shadowing amongst others. All these aforementioned activities are vital in fulfilment of particular learning, e.g. in this case green and green skills learning.

Functions of means of non-formal education:

- 🌀 Learning by means of games and entertainment
- 🌀 Socialization and inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups
- 🌀 Raising the awareness regarding important (environmental) issues
- 🌀 Encouraging pupils to be active in the sphere and to take further action in their free time activities and therefore, make them “drivers of change”
- 🌀 Depicting the problematic by more visual and interactive means

Goal: Raising the extent of green skills of children, youth and adults via non-formal education means



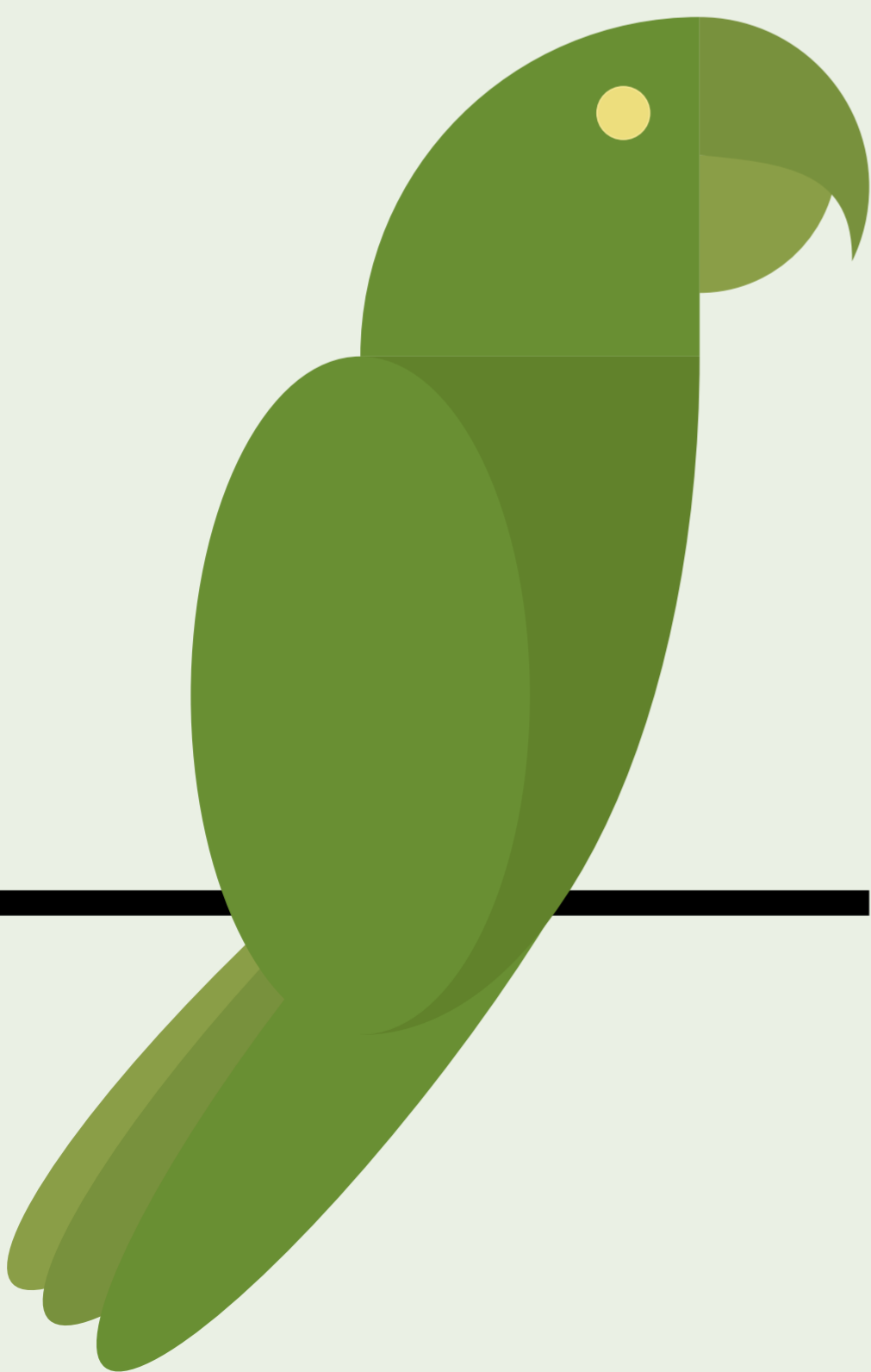
Targets:

🌀 Creation of ecological and sustainable programs for students, teachers, educators, youth workers.

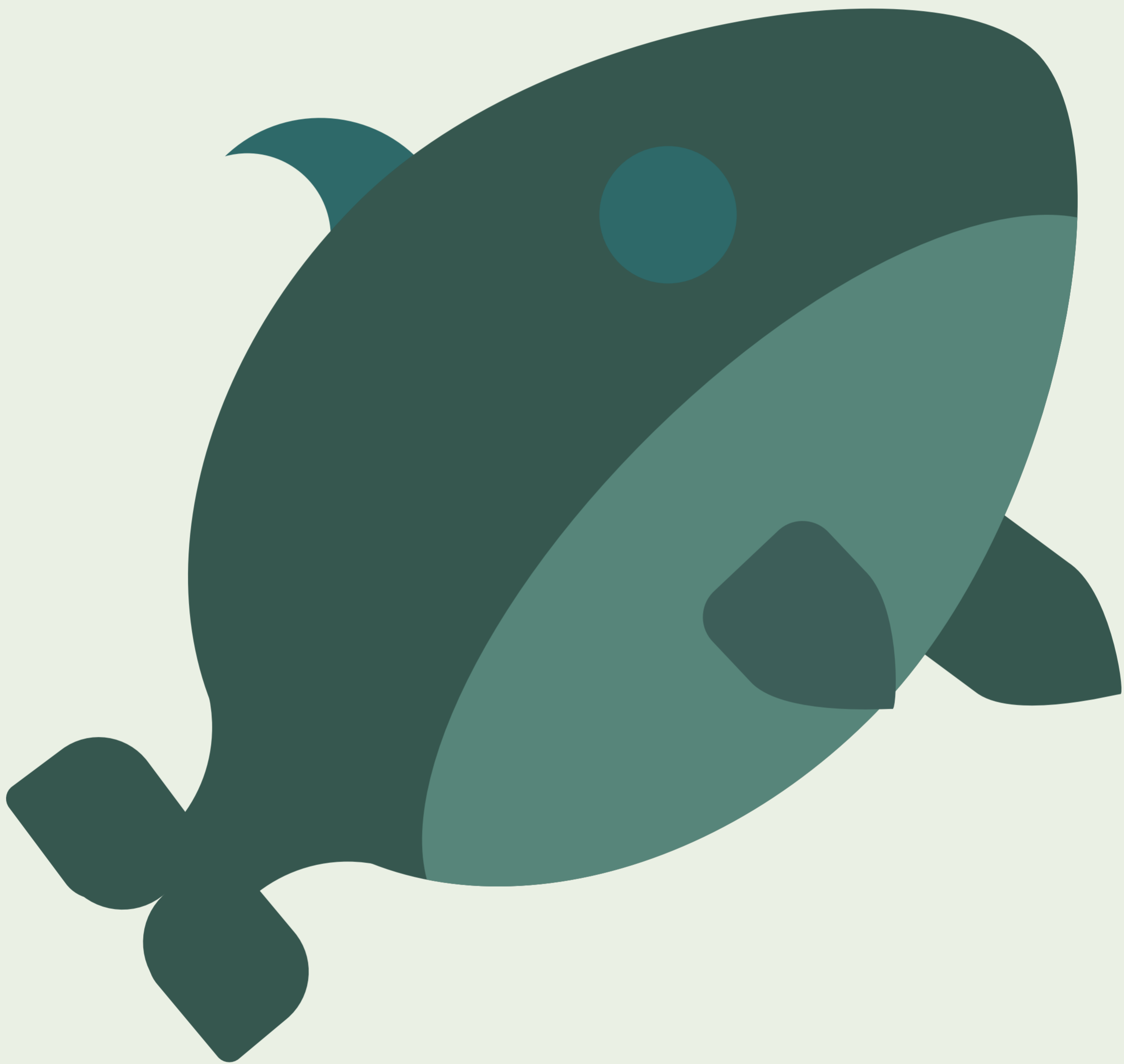
🌀 Partnerships between educators and businessmen - create a pool of trainers from different businesses which will provide regular activities with NGOs, activists, etc. o Implement study visits to the companies which went through green transitions. o Organize international training aiming to change daily non-green practices. o Partnership-building meetings and sessions. (Amongst green entrepreneurs but also non-green entrepreneurs)

🌀 Implementing national and international training courses for the vulnerable actors in labor market, such as fresh graduates and unemployed.

🌀 Internships in companies running the green practices.



CHAPTER 2: Just Transition



1. EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Background: The European Green Deal was adopted by the European Commission in December 2019 as a set of initiatives that define EU policy for taking action in sectors including trade, energy, biodiversity, and industrial policy. The main goal is to make Europe a viable, green continent that is climate neutral by 2050.

EGD is a dynamic tool, thus it is still being continuously developed. During most of 2020–2021, strategies, plans, and the legislative framework for implementing the EGD will have been developed and adopted. However, due to the urgency of taking action in response to COVID-19, the speed of adopting EGD went a little slower.

Goal: The main goal of the European Green Deal is the achievement of solutions that are advantageous for both the environment and the economy in the design of a more green, digital and sustainable Europe following the “green” route and adhering to the schedule for deploying crucial EGD components.



Targets

To lead the way in global action against climate change with the participation of the allies and trade partners of the European Union worldwide.

To take a fair and inclusive approach to achieve a just transition of some regions, industries and workers that find it more difficult to make a green transition.

To achieve the “Farm to Fork” strategy of a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system.

To put the Circular Economy Action Plan into more consistent action through the mobilisation industry for a clean and sustainable economy.

To replace toxic substances with clean, affordable, and safe energy supply in order to achieve zero pollution in the natural environment.

To use energy and resources in construction and renovation in an efficient way for preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity.

To speed up the transition to sustainable and smart mobility.

2. GREEN TRANSITION

Background: Human civilization has advanced steadily and quickly for more than 10,000 years to the point that the stability of the Earth's climate, which enabled that growth, is now under danger. Around the world, both the social effects of a changing climate and their physical expressions are becoming more obvious. Until the world shifts to a net-zero economy and until it adjusts to a changing environment in the meantime, both will continue to expand, most likely nonlinearly. So it makes sense that an increasing number of countries and businesses are pledging to quicken climate action. Additionally, the majority of these intentions are still unsupported by concrete plans or unfulfilled. Execution would also be difficult since achieving net-zero requires promoting inclusive growth and economic development. The hazards of poorly planned or disorganised action in the short term would need to be carefully weighed against the dangers of inadequate or delayed response over the long run.

Goal: The main goal of net-zero emissions is to achieve a universal transformation of seven energy and land-use systems which act as direct sources of global emissions

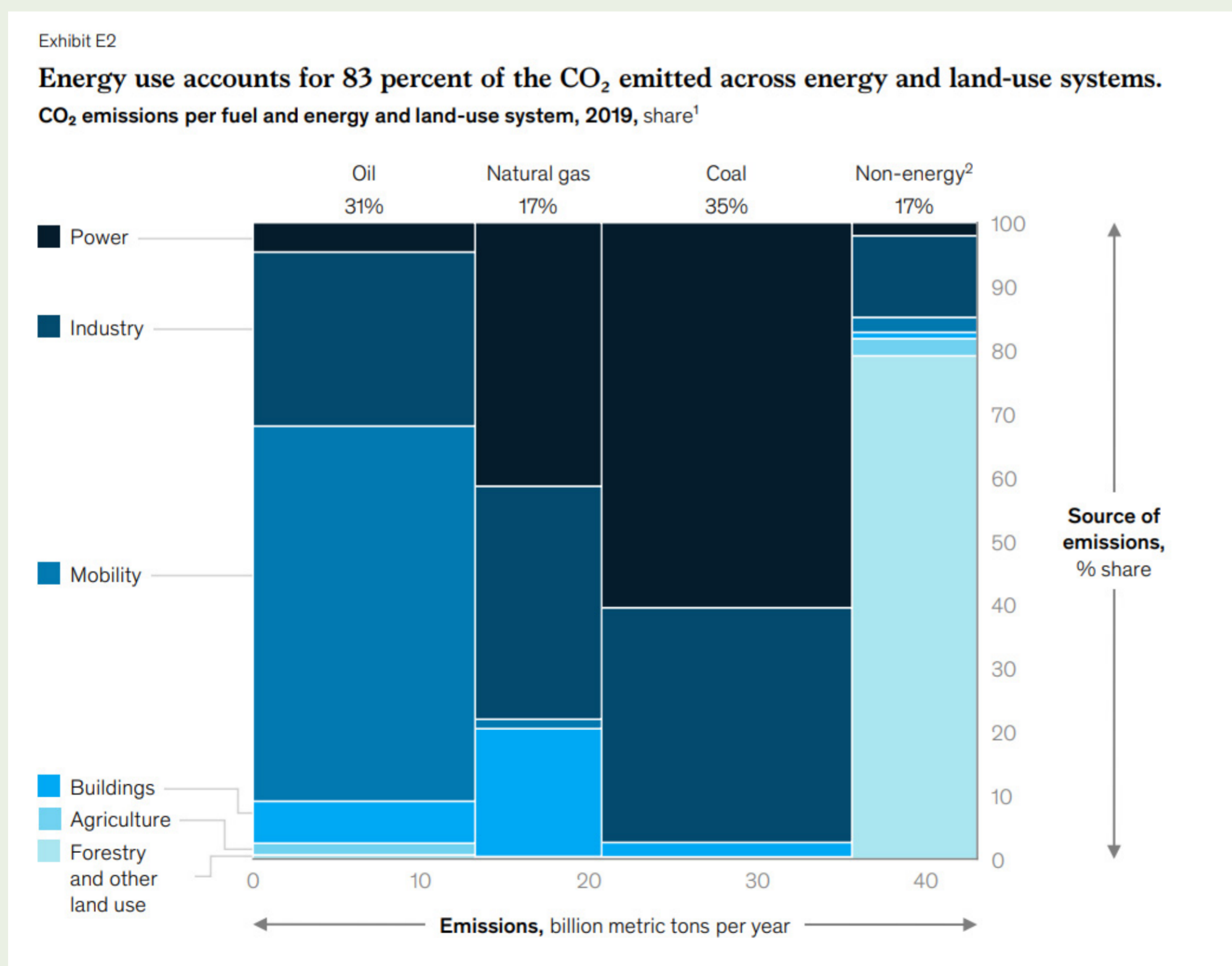


Figure Source: McKinsey Sustainability Insights (September 2021, data for 2019)

Targets

To electrify the majority of processes and equipment that currently use hydrocarbons, as well as to switch to renewable energy sources for the electric grid.

To modernise and decarbonize the power grid by accomplishing three main subtasks:

Accelerating the construction of renewable energy infrastructure; to follow a 1.5°C roadmap;

Enhancing energy-storage capability to control solar and wind energy's erratic output;

Accommodating additional front and behind-the-metre assets by expanding the transmission and distribution network.

To utilise hydrogen at a larger scale as a versatile source of clean energy or fuel thanks to its combustion with a high energy density and no carbon element.

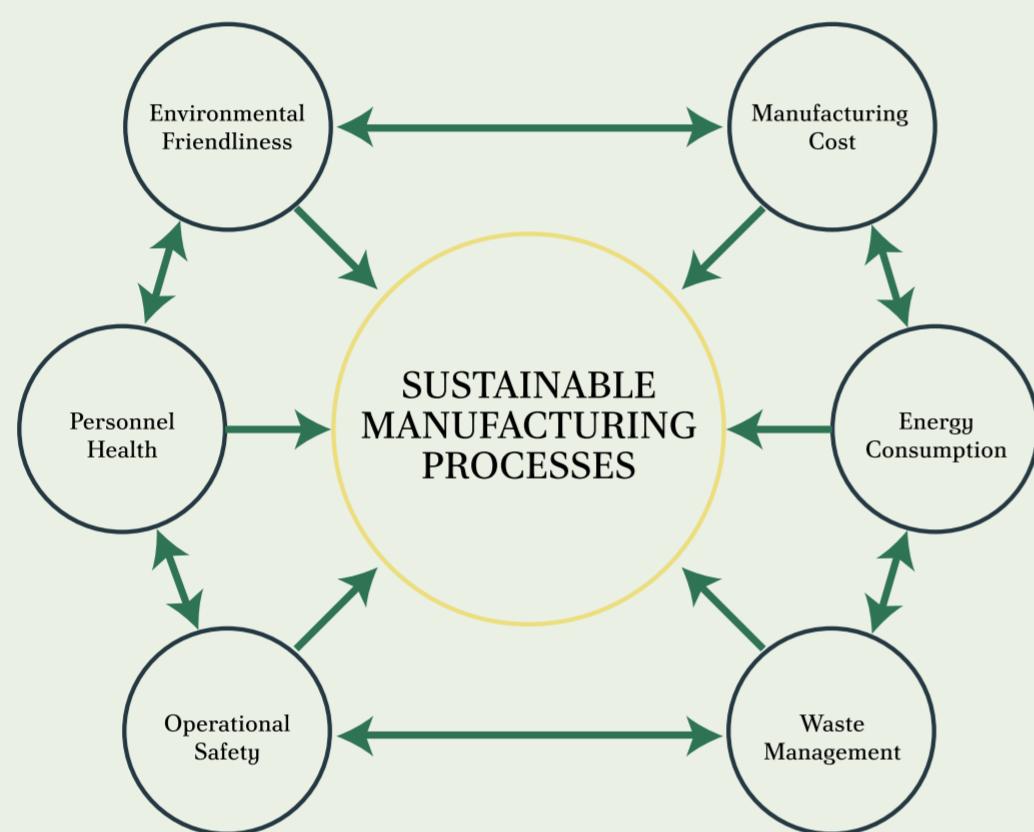
To reduce CO₂ emissions and to decarbonize difficult-to-abate industries, e.g. Steel mills, refineries, and power facilities that use coal or gas, by enlarging the scope of carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS).



3. DIGITALIZATION IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Background: Since the traditional linear economy, based on the “take-make-dispose” model, has consistently failed to meet the sustainability challenges of a world that simultaneously requires economic progress, ecological sustainability, and social prosperity, the circular economy concept has gained significant momentum globally. While the opportunities and socio-political aspects of the circular economy are being explored and encouraged globally for economic growth, the technological aspects needed in creating the circular economy functions are not being well thought out or planned due to the political scene being driven to the top level without any technological implications.

Goal: The key objective is to acknowledge that the technology capacity for sustainable value generation is what propels the circular economy.



Targets

- 🌀 To actively involve important audiences and players in the exploration of circular economy solutions via technology.
- 🌀 To stimulate regenerative production which offers resources in forms that promote favourable effects on the environment, including but not limited to nutritious and stable lands, increased biodiversity, enhanced quality of air and water.
- 🌀 To gain from an ecosystem that is more digital while defending against a centralised digital platform controlled by a dominating operator.
- 🌀 To create a common digital infrastructure for the circular economy that quickens the process of change and lowers the time, cost, and risk involved in putting circular business concepts into practice.
- 🌀 To shift the attitude and internal biases away from a limited longer-term emphasis on ecosystem-centric collaboration and toward a restricted company-centric concentration on transaction-based relationships.

4. 6 RS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF GREEN TRANSITION

Background: When commodities are disposed of in landfills, hazardous byproducts from the dump are released into the environment in addition to the loss of embodied energy in the products and materials. The quantity of land required to house the waste also grows as the quantity of landfill expands, damaging the ecosystem. The material mass would cause landfill space to grow as household appliance usage grew over time. This implies that as time goes on, raw material resources will become more and more limited, and landfill emissions would rise exponentially. According to the study “Sustainable manufacturing: Modelling and optimization challenges at the product, process and system levels” by Jayal et al. (2010), reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, redesign, and remanufacture are the 6 R’s of sustainability.

Goal: The main goal of applications of life cycle sustainability to goods is to help in the conservation of raw materials and in lowering other negative environmental effects because there are only a limited number of resources accessible on Earth.

Targets

To make improvements to a waste management system that reduces trash generation, collection, transport, and processing to avoid dumping untreated municipal solid waste in landfills.

To dispel perception that reproduced products are substandard in order to develop a market for them.

To support businesses in public awareness campaigns by national governments promoting remanufactured products for their quality and environmental advantages as well as their parity with brand-new products.

To make more specialised training in the remanufacture of replicated items available so that remanufacturers may work on a specific product.

To provide facility managers, property owners, renters, and other partners with the most recent tools and information to boost sustainability, cut expenses, and optimise waste management in respective properties.

To create an updated set of targets based on the institution’s strategic plan on annual base using the target-setting tool. The method for creating goals will alter as new technology and possibilities become available.



5. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR GREEN TRANSITION

Background: With transportation accounting for nearly 64% of worldwide oil consumption, 27% of total energy usage, and 23% of global carbon dioxide emissions (Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (2020)), transportation is at the heart of many social and economic development concerns. According to the EU Transport Council, a sustainable transportation system is accessible, runs fairly and effectively, offers a variety of mobility options, encourages a competitive economy, and promotes the growth of an area in a balanced way. At the same time, sustainable transports utilise renewable resources at or below their rates of generation, while minimising the impact on the use of land and the production of noise, limits emissions and waste within the limits of the planet's capacity to absorb them. However, the 2020 UN Sustainable Development Goals Report notes that just half of the world's urban population has easy access to public transportation, based on 2019 data from 95 countries.

Goal: The main goal is developing sustainable transportation options in order to fulfil the global rapidly rising transportation needs, especially those for mass transit systems and services.

Targets

To increase usage of public transportation and active transportation, such as walking or cycling.

To promote hydrogen vehicles as a new mode of transport in cities, especially for buses to be equipped with fuel batteries which creates electricity.

To direct government subsidies away from fossil fuels and toward environmentally friendly transportation methods on a nationwide scale.

To tackle issues related to urban growth by utilising space-efficient mobility initiatives when creating new residential areas in cities.

To use Smart Transport Management Systems, which enable the monitoring and control of traffic, the prediction of traffic conditions, and the balancing of road congestion with current traffic patterns.

To program a local level customised mobile travel management application that combines the many transportation options in a location to provide consumers a seamless journey.



6. RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION FOR GREEN TRANSITION

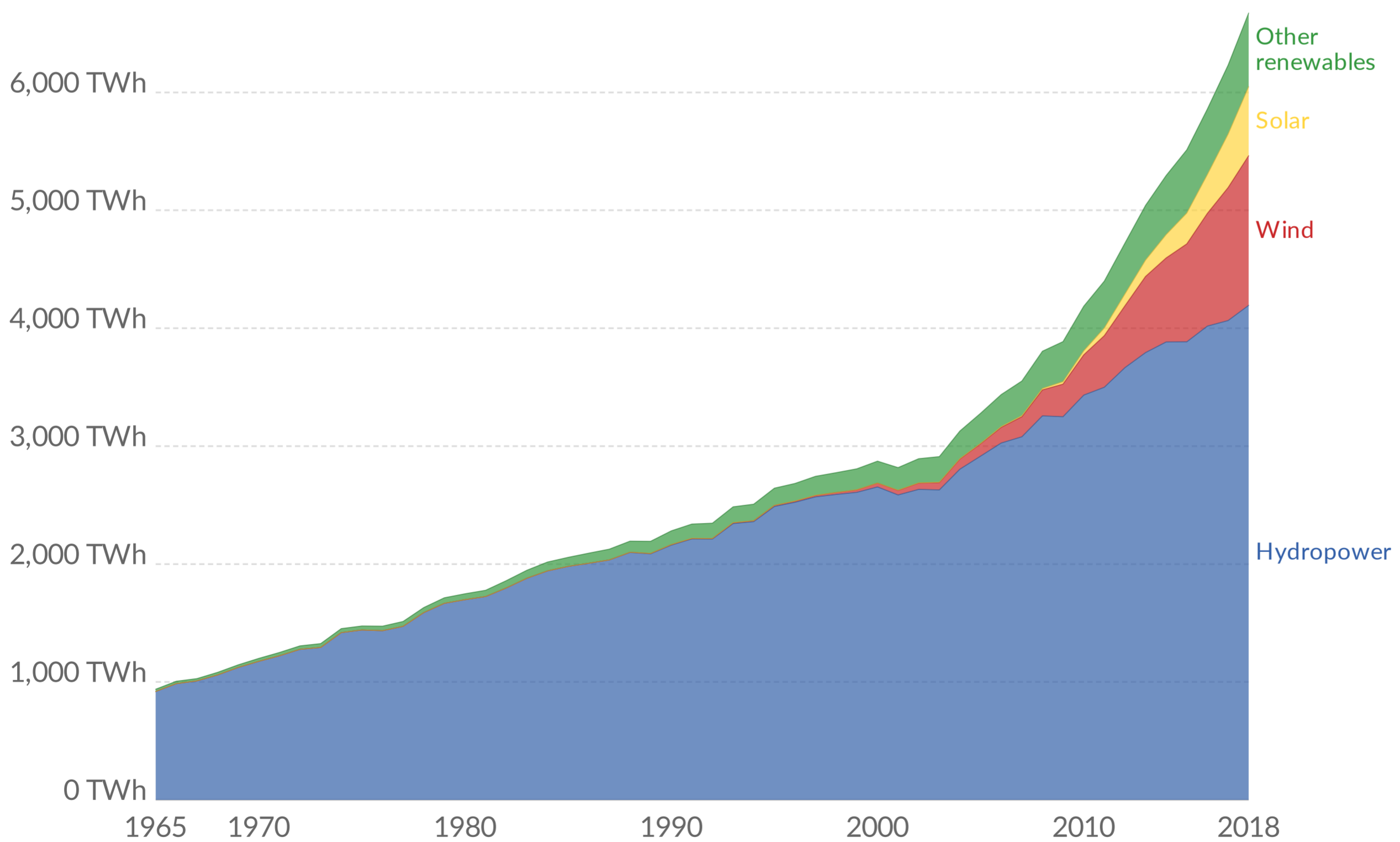
Background: Renewable energy and energy efficiency account for the biggest portion of the carbon reduction potential up to 2050, although all low-carbon technologies are important. It is technically conceivable to transform the energy system to meet the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping global warming below 2°C, but doing so would need considerable legislative changes, robust carbon pricing, and more technology advancement. In 2050, the components of the world energy supply would have to be around 70% low-carbon.

The below chart shows the renewable energy generation tendency in the world since the past century.

Goal: The main goal is to replace our reliance on destructive and unsustainable fossil fuels, that we manufacture and use, with renewable energy sources by making the latter one more affordable, reliable, and efficient every day usage.



Renewable energy generation, World



Source: BP Statistical Review of Global Energy (2019)

OurWorldInData.org/renewable-energy • CC BY

Note: 'Other renewables' refers to renewable sources including geothermal, biomass, waste, wave and tidal. Traditional biomass is not included.

Chart Source: BP Statistical Review of Global Energy



Targets

☞ To encourage the use of a standard set of strategic indicators for sustainable development to track the diagnosis, development, and future perspectives of national, regional, and global energy systems.

☞ To support systems that measure quantitatively economic growth, fuel supplies, physical asset utilisation, and environmental repercussions among other open national and global energy evaluations.

☞ To evaluate potential for improving the macroeconomic effectiveness of the system, particularly, but not only, when these support advancements in end-use energy efficiency.

☞ To create plans and associated structures to assist the world's poorest nations in gaining appropriate, cheap access to cutting-edge energy services and avoiding the yearly mortality toll from combusting fuels in inadequately ventilated homes.

☞ To build approaches for the comprehensive examination of addressing the world's simultaneous demands for food, water, and energy - considering how each is crucial, may compete for the same natural ecosystems, and may have an impact on one another.

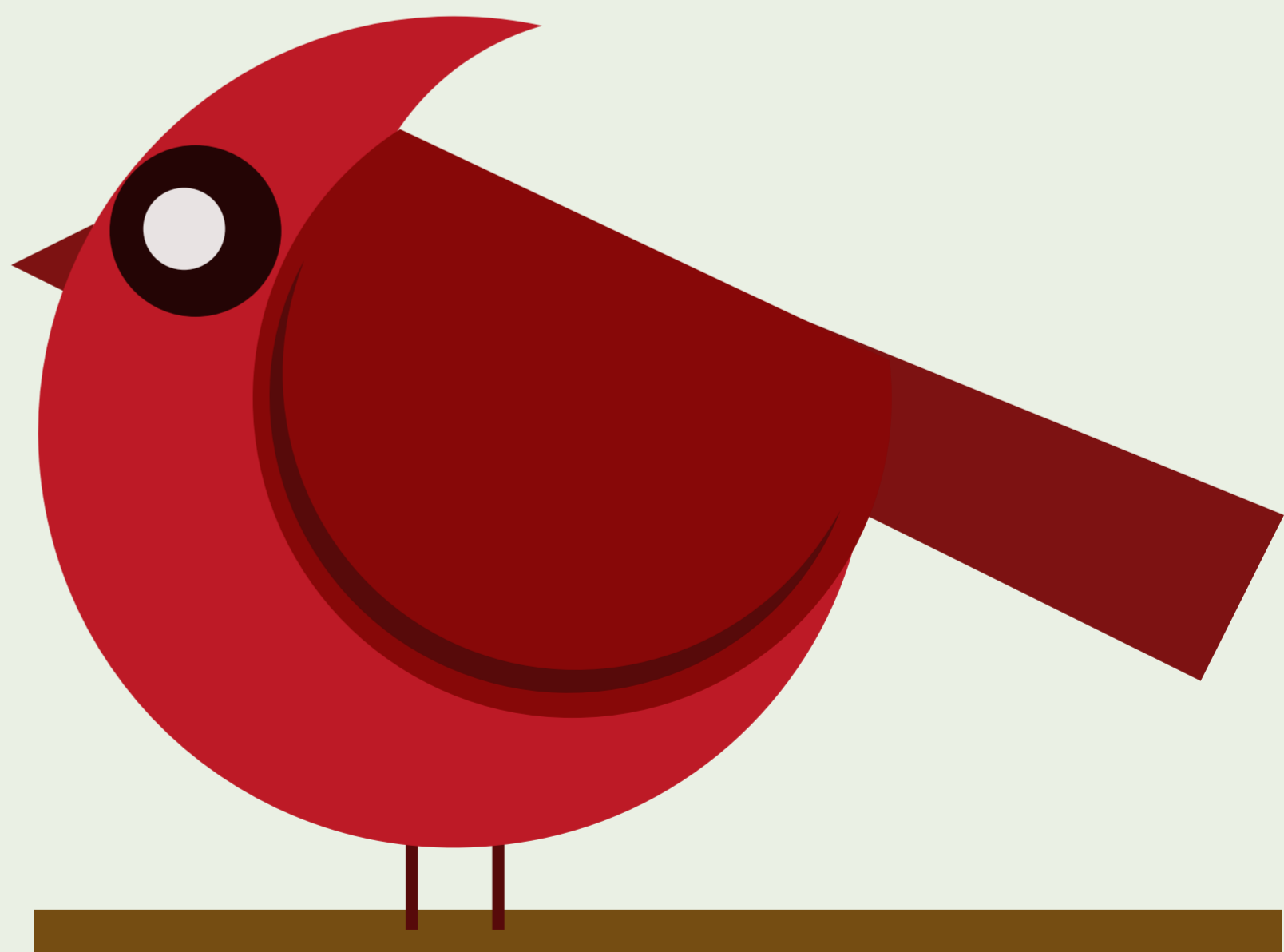
☞ To carry out public assessments of ecosystem functions and their limitations, in order to promote communications about their use.



7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR GREEN TRANSITION

Background: The housing sector that has already gotten into trouble in several European countries is being further strained by the effects of the COVID-19 and increasing inflation after the war in Ukraine. Social inequality is being exacerbated by a persistent lack of access to cheap housing, and long-term issues are being brought about by a failure to prioritise sustainability. Globally, residential housing is responsible for 17% of energy- and process-related greenhouse gas emissions. Average level regulations, according to the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), may cut emissions by 42% until 2030. Emissions might be reduced by 60% with more advanced measures encouraging extensive rehabilitation in conjunction with renewable energy objectives.

Goal: The main goal is to replace our reliance on destructive and unsustainable fossil fuels, that we manufacture and use, with renewable energy sources by making the latter one more affordable, reliable, and efficient every day usage.



Targets

☞ To attract more finances into adequate and affordable housing in order to safeguard low-income or vulnerable members of society while also increasing the housing supply and reducing rising strain on home prices.

☞ To assist local leaders who can advocate for affordable housing among community stakeholders, supporting green sustainable development projects.

☞ To spread awareness among the populace of the long-term financial benefits of sustainable development, as well as its advantages for the environment and human health.

☞ To examine the local plan, land use rules, zone ordinances, parking restrictions, and construction codes in order to incorporate more “green friendly” options.

☞ To embrace a wide range of policy alternatives, such as fee exemptions, accelerated review, and funding for energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy, and other cost-cutting initiatives.

☞ To evaluate the real estate by examining the physical state of the settlement assets and looking into how greening these buildings may fit into the environmental grand plan.



8. CLIMATE NEUTRALITY STRATEGY ON BUSINESS LEVEL

Background: European Climate Law defines the carbon neutrality term as achieving a net 0 carbon footprint. To be carbon neutral, a balance between generating carbon and absorbing it in carbon sinks is necessary. All global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be offset by carbon sequestration in order to reach net zero emissions. The path for reaching climate neutrality rightly places human activity origins of greenhouse gases in the centre. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions alone are not sufficient to achieve climate neutrality. The European Commission recommended that carbon sinks be taken into account in its projections for meeting the set 2030 climate objective. Most businesses and people are unable to totally remove all GHG emissions linked to their operations and output.

Goal: The goal of a successful climate neutrality strategy is to change existing regulations and to enact new ones which will assist achieve the 2030 objective of a 55% reduction in emissions.

Targets

To achieve complete climate neutrality in accordance with the defined 2030 emission reduction objectives by reducing their own company emissions.

To establish a corporate reduction objective for distribution network GHG from products and services, while considering all supplier layers through supplier discussion and purchasing decisions that are climate-conscious.

To lessen the impact on the environment along the whole value chain, with an emphasis on assisting their partners and clients in reducing their emissions and meeting their climate goals.

To make it simpler for their consumers to stay informed and make decisions that are both economically advantageous and environmentally responsible for their consumer demands in order to smooth green transition within a generation.

To continue expanding their line-up of decentralised energy products, such as water heaters, solar energy, and battery packs.

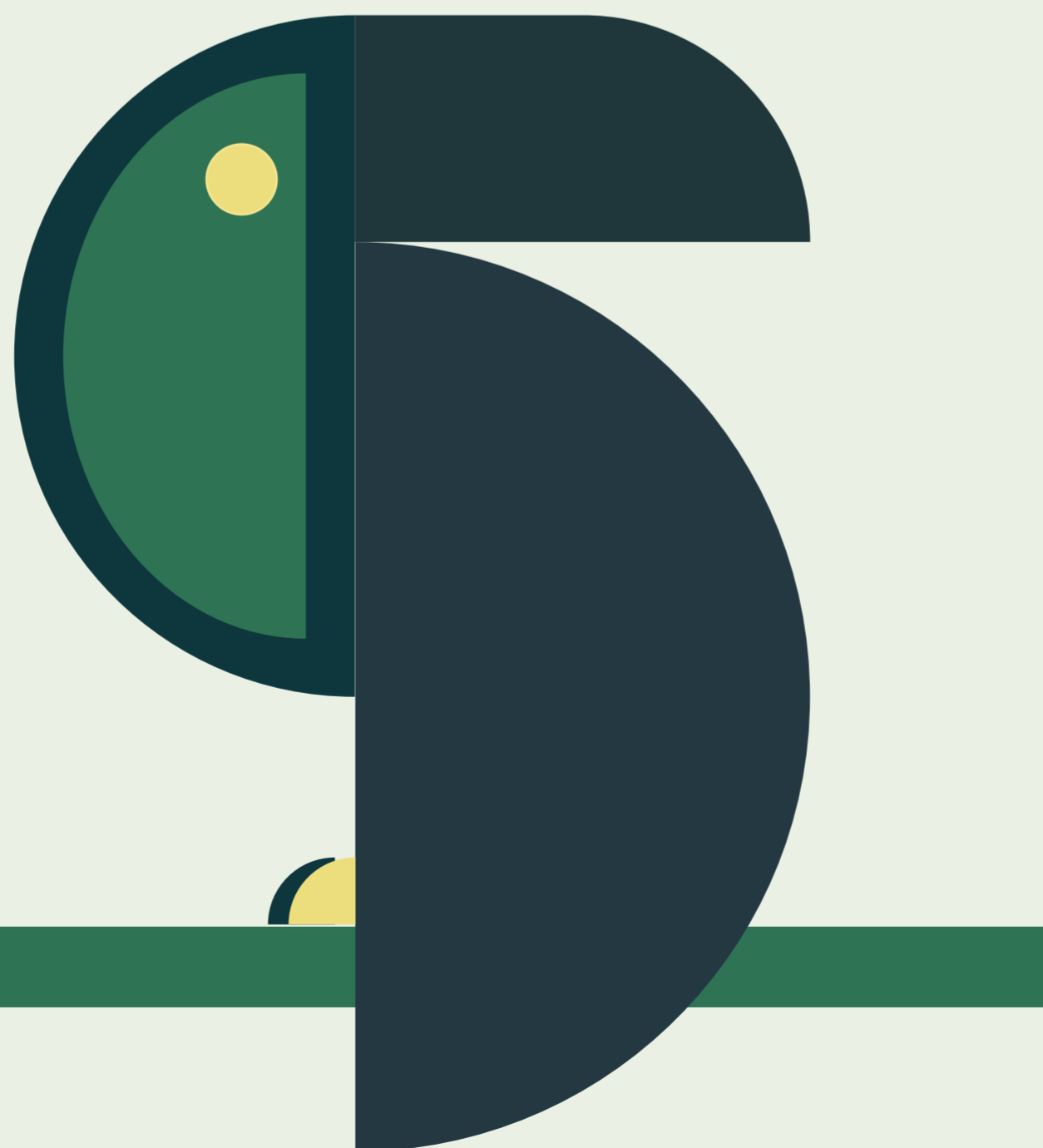
To research viable alternatives with lower footprints, maximise resource usage, minimise emissions in their supply chain, and contribute to a larger decarbonization of society by incorporating climate measures and reward programs.



9. GREENWASHING AS A BARRIER IN GREEN TRANSITION

Background: According to the definition of environmental claims given by the OECD, environmental claims are actions that suggest or give the impression that a product is more environmentally friendly than similar ones, or at least has a less negative impact on the environment, through marketing or advertising. Claims that a product is more ecologically friendly due to its composition, how it was produced, how it may be disposed of, and the anticipated decrease in energy usage or pollution are some examples, which are referred to as “greenwashing” when they are untrue or cannot be confirmed. Only trustworthy information that has been supported by science should be provided to consumers to help them make informed purchasing decisions. It is impossible to achieve when the false green claims and the few enforcement measures are being taken to safeguard consumers only after the damage has already happened.

Goal: The goal of fair green transition for the consumers must be to guarantee false and unsupported claims never enter the market and a fair market from the start is through an ex-ante regulatory method.



Targets

To develop, taking into consideration the lessons learned from a comparable system in the regulation, a clear, quick, and effective pre-approval process for green claims;

To appoint an EU authority (for example, the European Environment Agency) with the responsibility of examining the scientific support for claims submitted for pre-approval;

To establish a registration desk where all authorised claims, together with the requirements to utilise each claim specifically and any applicable limitations on its use, should be published;

To enter the supporting documentation into the specific product information database before using the claim;

To conduct inspection inside the item information system by the compliance monitoring agencies;

To found a centralised accreditation system for green labels;

To identify a certain amount of reliable and recognised ecolabels with no further accreditation requirement.





10. SUPPORTING SMEs IN GREEN TRANSITION

Background: Generally speaking, green SMEs support the preservation of the environment, biodiversity, and the climate through their goods, services, and commercial activities. However, they do it in a variety of ways. According to the 2017 GIZ report on Green and Inclusive Business Toolbox, some SMEs concentrate on lowering the environmental impact of their manufacturing process (for example, through resource-efficient procedures), while others concentrate on green outputs and provide green goods and services. OECD (2013), “Green Entrepreneurship, Eco-Innovation And SMEs” supports that SMEs support inclusive growth by creating jobs, but there is less research on employment quality. Additionally, through eco-innovation, eco-adoption, and eco-entrepreneurship, SMEs may support sustainable growth. SMEs face a variety of obstacles when trying to enter desirable industries, despite their recognised potential for economic growth and social reform. Such obstacles are connected to unhelpful legislation and regulatory frameworks, restricted access to credit at reasonable rates, confined firm management capabilities, and inadequate marketing platforms.



Goal: The main goal is to replace our reliance on destructive and unsustainable fossil fuels, that we manufacture and use, with renewable energy sources by making the latter one more affordable, reliable, and efficient every day usage.



Targets

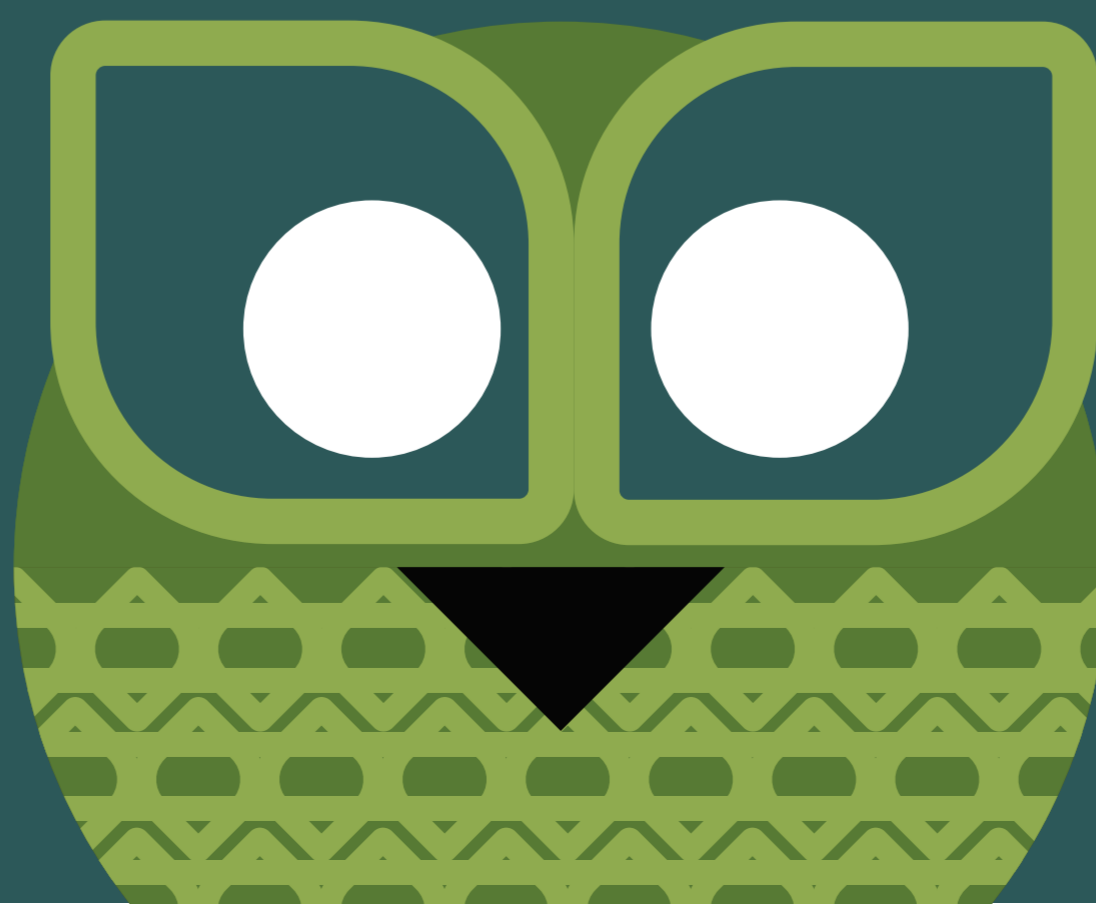
To introduce government scale-up initiatives aimed at assisting medium-sized businesses in realising their potential and accelerating growth.

To offer complete assistance, making it easier for SMEs to obtain funding, connections, advising, and coaching.

To build a sizable database and community of business angels to assure regional growth of the venture capital sector and the start-up market.

To give startups greater consideration in an effort to encourage innovation and economic significance with venture financing.

To foster an entrepreneurial attitude and capacities in young people living in low-income neighbourhoods and to instil entrepreneurial skills via formal education in order to promote fairness.



11. GREEN TRANSITION - 0 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Background: The aim of the European Green Deal is to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent, by 2050, while maintaining economic growth and prosperity. It is Europe's growth strategy. The transition to a climate-neutral economy with net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) over the course of just 28 years represents an industrial revolution at unprecedented speed, with significant impacts on gross domestic product (GDP), investment, employment, competitiveness, distribution, public finances and monetary stability. Outlining the expected impact of transition to a climate-neutral economy on economic indicators on the basis of analysis by academics and think-tanks and the Commission's impact assessment (IA) of the climate target plan, this briefing focuses in particular on economic output (GDP), public debt, competitiveness, labour markets, energy prices, inflation and distributional effects. Climate mitigation policies affect economic output. According to the IA, transition towards net zero is expected to have only

limited impacts on aggregate output (GDP), but its composition will shift from consumption towards investment. Moreover, the impacts on sectoral output, investment and the labour market are likely to be significant, creating a need for policy measures to ensure a just transition. There is a risk of negative short-term impacts if consumption and production decrease, e.g. as a result of carbon pricing. However, increased investment, for example in low-carbon technologies, would potentially boost productivity and economic growth in the long term. Transition to climate neutrality demands solid economic governance to manage the risk to macroeconomic and financial stability. The Commission's sustainable growth strategy in the European Semester framework is built around four aspects of competitive sustainability. Parliament has called for the addition of a climate indicator and coordinated efforts to implement the digital and environmental transitions, alongside the current approach to fiscal and budgetary policies.



Goal: To assess the green transition's impact on competitiveness, it is important to consider national differences in climate policy. Generally, higher national climate ambitions result in a higher cost for business. The EU is committed to an ambitious climate policy, aiming to become the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050.



Possible consequences:

Impact on economic growth. The European Green Deal could be either a modest contributor, or a limited impediment to GDP growth.

Impact on public debt. The transition to climate neutrality is likely to include substantial public expenditure.

Impact on employment. The Just Transition Mechanism is designed to ensure that the transition happens in a fair way, by facilitating employment opportunities and supporting the reskilling of citizens.

Impact on distribution and competitiveness. The transition towards climate neutrality involves significant distributional effects.

Impact on energy prices and inflation. The transition towards a greener economy will have its structural influence on general price development and energy prices in particular.



12. CIRCULAR ECONOMY - 6R

Background: The concept of circular economy (CE) has gained significant momentum world-wide, as the traditionally-known linear economy, based on the “take – make – dispose” model, continues to fall short of being able to meet the sustainability challenges of a world that concurrently requires sustained economic growth, environmental protection, and societal wellbeing. The planet earth has only limited and finite resources, and with the continually depleting resources at an alarming rate, and the difficulty and concern with replacing natural materials with synthetic substances, the world is in serious trouble as we continue to use and abuse the “perceived to -be- abundant” earthly resources for never-ending human needs through extraction, processing, manufacturing and use activities, with a vast majority of end-of-life products/materials continue to be heading to landfills. The 6 REs are: Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Remanufacture, Recycle, and Recover. The sustainable manufacturing approach focuses on a broader, innovation-based 6R methodology for products over multiple life-cycles. This 6R approach offers a closed-loop, multiple product life-cycle system as the basis for sustainable manufacturing. This waste hierarchy is actually a part of the EU’s waste framework (Directive 2008/98/EC) and EU countries all have policies to prioritise their waste management according to this order. Unfortunately we still see most waste is treated with lower ranking methods and much work still has to be done to move to the best Circular methods.

Goal: The idea behind the Circular Economy is that we stop discarding what we consider waste until we reach a society that doesn’t heap up waste at all. The conceptual message of circular economy is very powerful as it is based on reducing wasteful resourc-



es through effective design and implementation of products and processes for improved resource-efficiency with circular material flow involving recovery, reuse, recycling and remanufacturing of products.

Implementation of circular economy and 6Rs method in various aspects:

Nothing is wasted; every “waste” becomes an asset, and no value goes unrecovered.

All products at the end of their primary use are recovered and either reused, remanufactured, or recycled for multiple generations, has become more than a reality, but a necessity.

The idea behind Reduce is that what never is, can never be wasted.

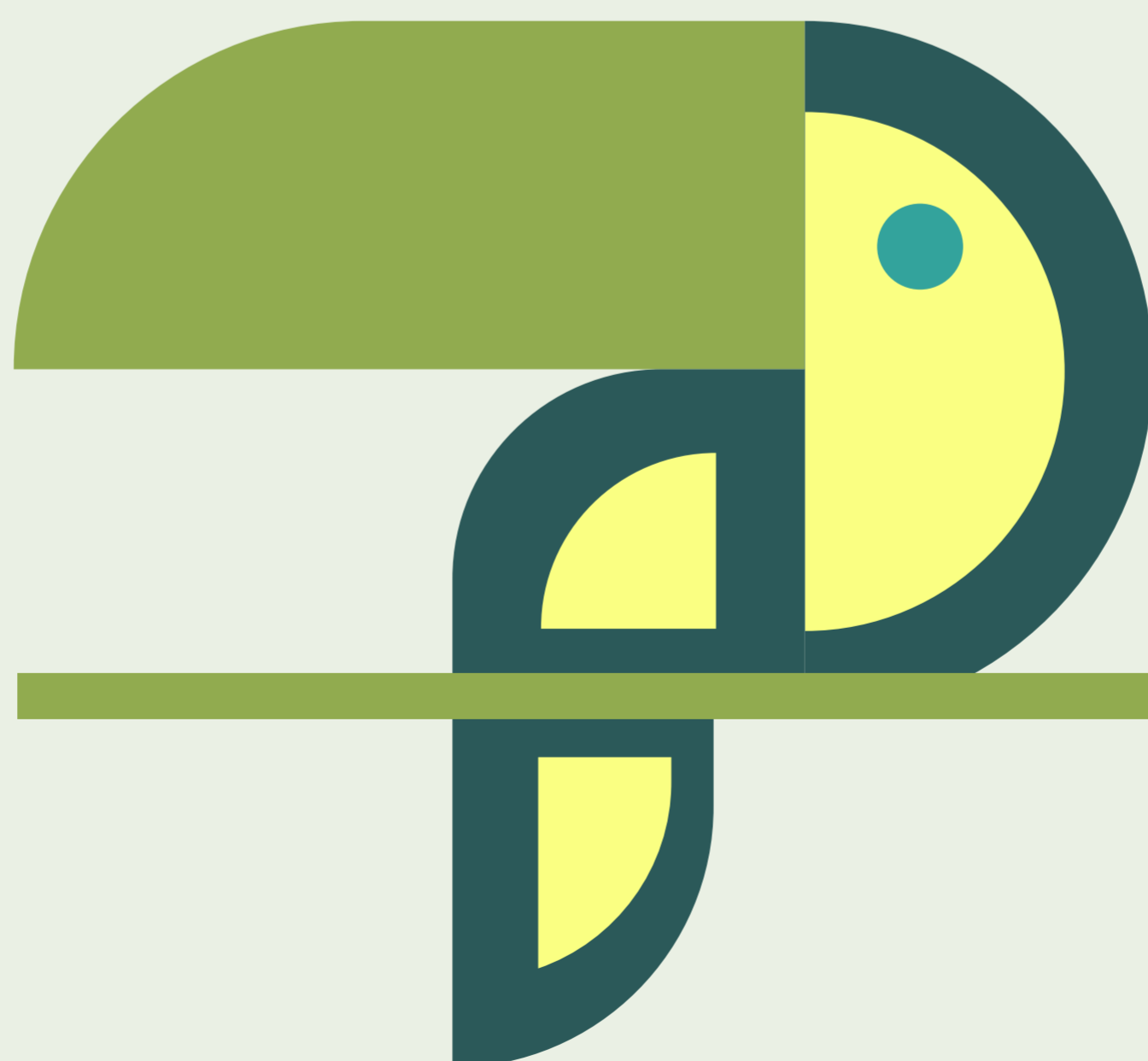
If we do really need something, it's best to make use of it as best as we can.

If things break, and we can't use them anymore, we should consider if we can fix it.

Instead of repairing what is broken, it is also possible to take the well-working parts of a broken device and use them for something new.

If you really can't get good use out of a product or its parts anymore, often the best option is to Recycle.

The last RE of the Circular Economy is Recovery. When it's too difficult to recycle something into its resources, or those resources are simply not required anymore, most things can be turned into energy by incineration or other (bio-)chemical processes.



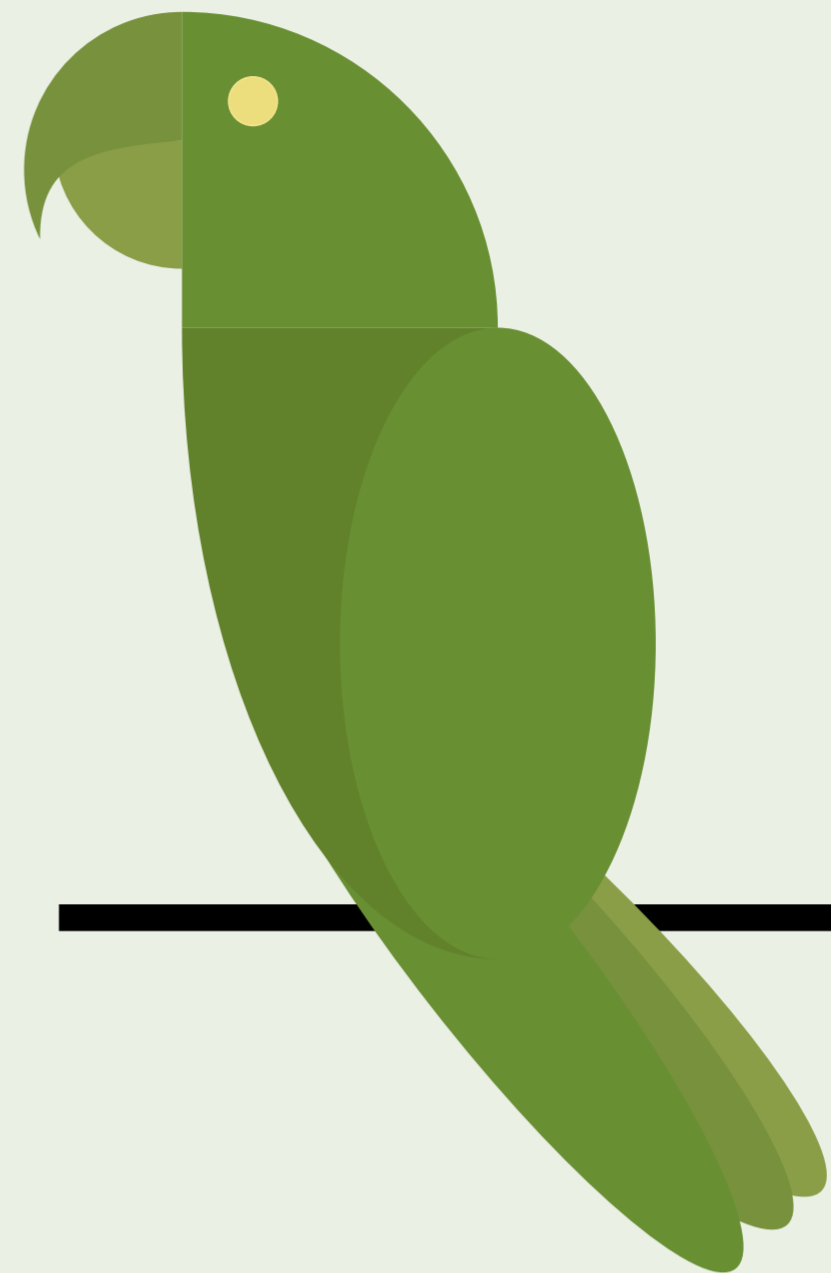
13. CLIMATE NEUTRALITY STRATEGY



Background: Becoming ‘climate neutral’ means reducing greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible, but it also means compensating for any remaining emissions. This is how a net-zero emissions balance can be achieved. A net-zero emissions balance is achieved when the amount of greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere is neutralised. This can be done by carbon sequestration, i.e. by removing carbon from the atmosphere, or through offsetting measures, which typically involve supporting climate-oriented projects. What is truly new about the EU’s climate-neu-

trality goal and the Green Deal is that they require action from all sectors of the economy and integrate climate and environmental considerations across all EU policy areas. This is known as climate mainstreaming. The energy sector in particular is one which requires substantial transformation. Energy production and use is currently responsible for 75% of EU greenhouse gas emissions. It is a part of every aspect of our lives, from our walls and windows and our electrical appliances to the way we travel and methods of production.

Goal: Implement the climate-neutrality goal and the Green Deal. It will require action from all sectors of the economy and integration of climate and environmental considerations across all EU policy areas.



Targets:

People and communities most vulnerable to the transition: facilitate employment opportunities and offer reskilling while improving energy-efficient and fighting energy poverty.

Companies and sectors in carbon-intensive industries: help make the transition to low-carbon technology attractive to investment and provide loans and financial support, while also investing in research and innovation and in the creation of new firms.

Member states or regions which have a high dependence on fossil fuels: invest in new green jobs, sustainable public transport, renewable energy, digital connectivity and clean energy infrastructure.

Investing in environmentally-friendly technologies.
Helping the development of cleaner forms of transport.

Ensuring buildings become more energy efficient.

Working internationally to improve standards around the world.



14. CREATION OF QUALITY JOBS

Background: There is no one widely accepted definition of a “quality job.” At a minimum, as noted on the Workforce Development page of the Ford Foundation’s website, “good jobs are those that pay sustainable wages and offer career advancements, allowing workers to accumulate financial assets.”

Job creation remains a key measure of success for economic development efforts. But the time in which all jobs were “good jobs,” to a certain extent, is over. Growth in the economy is becoming increasingly bifurcated, featuring high-tech, high-wage jobs on one hand and low-wage jobs in the service sector on the other. Many “middle class,” medium-wage jobs have been downsized, automated or have gone off shore. Economic developers find themselves struggling to create jobs that deliver the kinds of wages and benefits that were standard in the industrial era. As the role of economic developers has expanded to include everything from technology transfer to attracting retail to expand a community’s tax base, the profession must examine the types of jobs it is creating and how well they meet the needs of individuals and communities in a globalized, skill-based economy. In this context, the success of in-



dividuals equals the success of business and communities. Yet relatively little research has gone into exploring the issue of quality job creation from the economic developers’ viewpoint; most literature on the subject of quality jobs comes from the fields of workforce development or poverty eradication. It aims to fill that gap and identify the role of economic developers in creating quality jobs and improving the quality of existing jobs. Equally important, this report also documents how economic development itself is transforming in response to a changing economy. To create quality jobs and rebuild the middle class in a global, knowledge-driven economy requires new strategies, new partners, new goals and new metrics of success. It is a map to the emerging practice of economic development – which, as the case study research shows, must be more inclusive, strategic, adaptive and system-driven.

Goal: The goal for economic developers is to provide opportunities across a spectrum of skill levels and industries to build advancement into a community’s economic structure.



Targets:



☞ Create quality jobs that benefit people, companies and places. They are the seeds from which broader prosperity grows, providing workers with the opportunity for self-sufficiency, economic security, and a sense of control over their lives.

☞ Create quality jobs that can be consistent with economic competitiveness.

☞ Quality jobs that benefit local economies. Per the definition of a quality job, workers are paid higher wages, which they then spend on housing, goods and services.

☞ Providing services to low-skill or hard-to-employ individuals as a means of poverty eradication.



Picture Source: <https://www.nga.org/news/commentary/defining-job-quality-for-reemployment-and-recovery/#9>

15. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY

Background: When discussing fairness, the first conceptual challenge arises because of the difficulty of translating it from English to other European languages. Indeed, many languages do not have a direct word for ‘fairness’ but rather translate it as ‘justice,’ ‘justness,’ ‘appropriateness,’ ‘equity’ or ‘equitableness’. In some European languages, ‘fair’ or ‘fairness’ has become a loanword, incorporated into the language without translation (Gulyas 2018). Fairness and equality are related but are not at all synonymous. Fairness relies upon certain normative criteria, whereas equality refers to the quality of being identical in status, value or quantity, which does not strictly require any normative criteria. Europeans are, on average, better educated and live healthier, longer and more prosperous lives today than at any point in the past. However, this view on average achievements obscures large disparities, both within and between European countries. The income of the richest 20% of households in Europe is on average 5 times higher than that of the poorest 20%, and up to 8 times higher in some Member States. Most indicators of well-being

Goal: Social justice, fairness and relative equality can be important drivers of competitiveness, especially at the regional and city level. Equal and fairer societies exhibit higher levels of life-satisfaction, happiness and, more broadly, improved social outcomes. This can be achieved without necessarily incurring efficiency costs.

display a social gradient according to education level, occupation, income and social status. The Great Recession has reinforced existing socio-economic divides. Vulnerable groups – those with low education levels, the unemployed and individuals with a migrant experience – have largely borne the brunt of the resulting economic downturn and austerity programmes. Southern European countries were hit particularly hard. Growing disparities on multiple socio-economic dimensions have contributed to a sense of unfairness and discontent in Europe. Recent data show that 38% of Europeans do not believe that they are treated fairly and 41% do not agree that they have enjoyed equal opportunities in life. Fairness is a subjective phenomenon, but the far-reaching consequences of perceptions of unfairness warrant a closer look at its drivers and underlying dynamics. The present report analyses some of the most pertinent dimensions of fairness in relation to the agenda for a fair, inclusive and social European Union (EU).



Targets:

- 🌀 Create jobs opportunities to raise access to paid employment, as it is a key determinant of income inequality.
- 🌀 Create fiscal policies, such as progressive taxation systems and transfers that tend to reduce inequality in household incomes, to compensate (to some extent) for inequality in the labour market.
- 🌀 Reduce wage inequality and gender pay gap. As recent research suggests, governments have considerable space for using minimum wages as a policy tool.
- 🌀 Extending minimum wages and collective bargaining to low-paid workers will generally be helpful in reducing inequality among women, migrants and vulnerable groups, who are over-represented among these workers.



16. TAX BENEFITS FOR MIDDLE-INCOME AND SMEs

Background: Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) are the lifeblood of any economy. They are a critical engine of growth and innovation. They provide jobs, support local communities, and drive innovation.

An SME, or small and medium-sized enterprise, is a company that employs fewer than 250 people. They are also responsible for creating two out of every three new jobs. SMEs are often referred to as the backbone of the economy because they are so important for growth. They are nimble and can quickly adapt to changes in the market. SMEs also tend to be more innovative than larger businesses, which can lead to new products and services that can help drive the economy forward. They are an important part of the financial landscape, too. They are a vital part of the economy because they drive innovation. SMEs are more nimble and agile than larger businesses, which allows them to respond quickly to changes in the market. They also have a lower overhead, which gives them a competitive advantage. SMEs are often at the forefront of new trends and technologies, and they are more likely to experiment with new ideas.

They also play an important role in supporting local communities. They provide jobs and tax revenue, which helps to sustain local businesses and services. SMEs are often involved in community projects. They also contribute to the local economy by buying goods and services from local businesses. In most countries, SMEs account for the majority of all businesses and provide the majority of all jobs.

SMEs form the vast majority of businesses in most countries and contribute strongly to employment and economic growth, but they face distinct challenges, particularly as concerns access to finance and relatively high tax compliance costs. Governments have a range of policy levers - including tax policies - that can support the growth and development of SMEs.

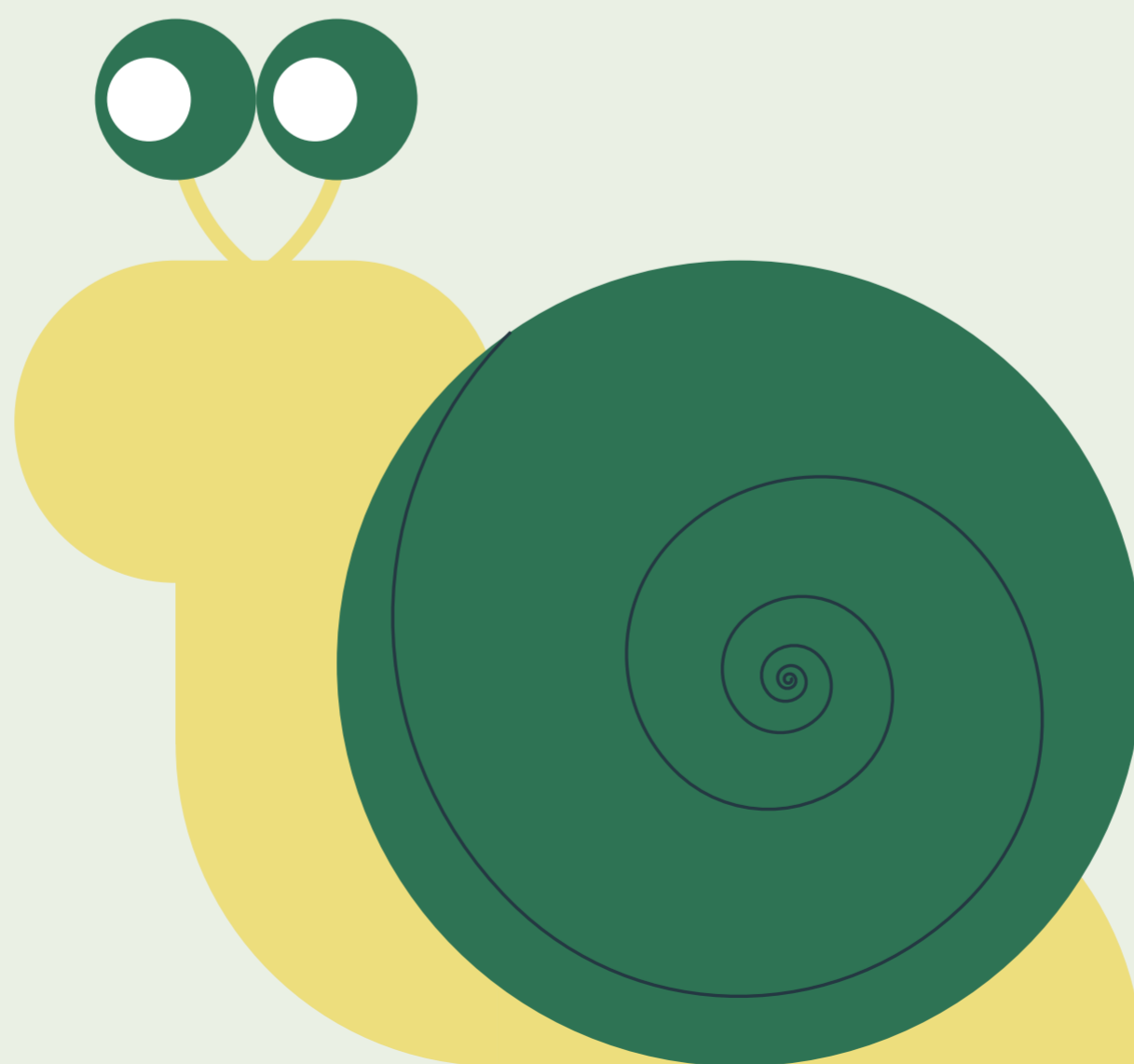
In the European Union, they account for 99.8% of all businesses and 67% of total employment. Moreover, SMEs are widely perceived to be the engine of growth and innovation for the economy. Accordingly, the European Commission (EC) regards the “capacity to build on the growth and innovation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises” to be incremental for the future prosperity of the European Union (EU). The creation of a “world-class environment for SMEs” has thus become a major goal of the European Commission.



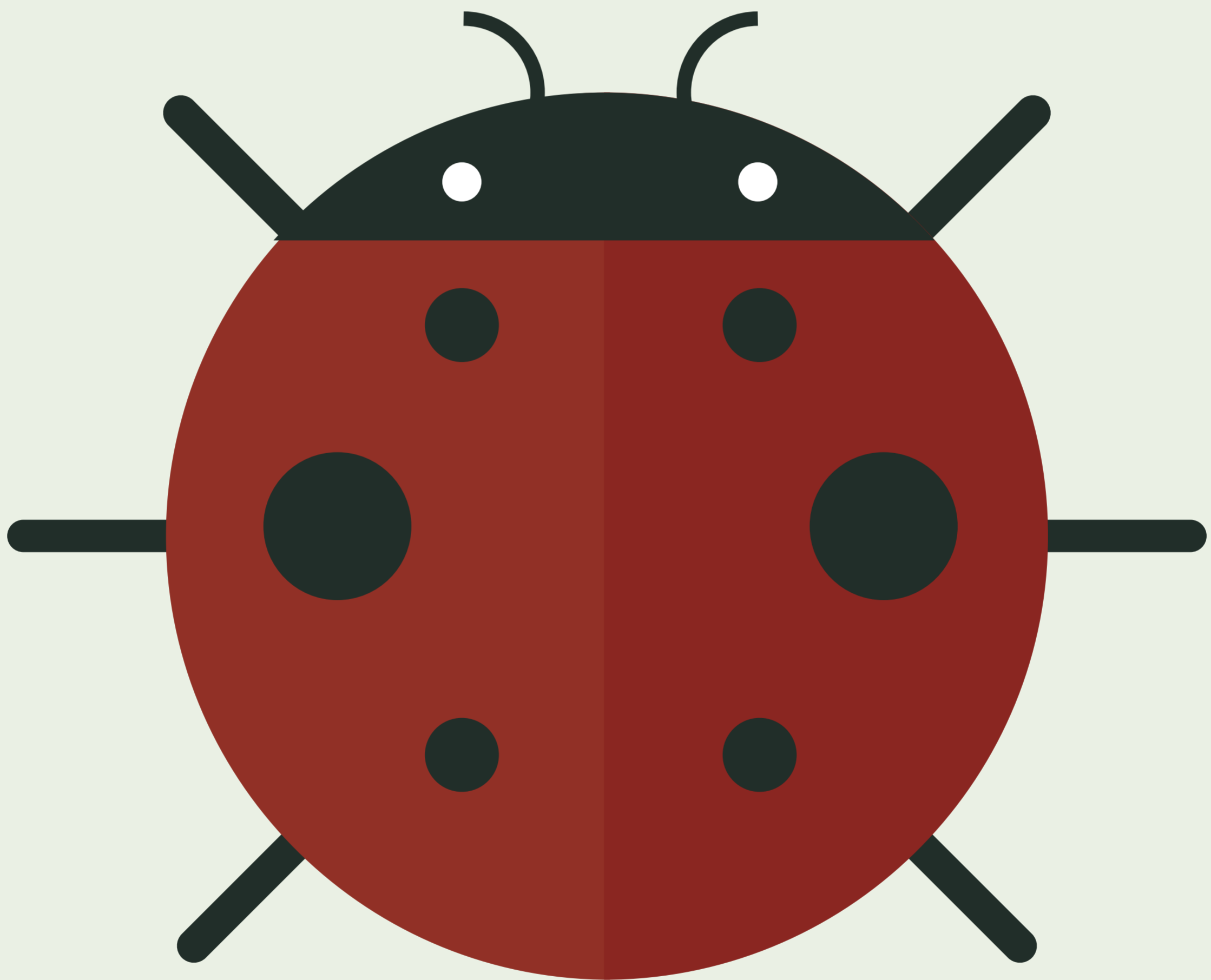
Goal: Europe emphasizes on the importance of generally fair, simple, predictable and transparent tax codes. This is an incremental part of an attractive business environment for all enterprises (including SMEs) and it has the advantage that disproportionately high compliance burdens for SMEs are reduced. Each tax incentive needs to fulfill basic requirements such as transparency, effectiveness and neutrality. All tax incentives need to fulfill basic requirements such as transparency, effectiveness and neutrality.

Targets:

- 🌀 To provide stimulating levers of the taxation of profits for small and medium enterprises (stimulation of investments and innovations, support for financial state of enterprises and stimulation of production, and the use of accelerated depreciation in the taxation accounting).
- 🌀 To perform taxation stimulation of innovation and investment processes by using investment tax credits and discounts.
- 🌀 To provide stimuli on paying profit tax by decreasing the profit tax rate down to 5% for small enterprises that maintain or increase the number of their employees if the accrued employees' salaries are not lower than the average salaries for respective branches.



CHAPTER 3: Inclusive climate policies



1. SOCIAL CAMPAIGNS PROMOTING ECO-AWARENESS

Background: Increased public awareness is necessary to boost enthusiasm and support, inspire self-activation and action, and mobilize local expertise and resources. Raising political awareness is crucial since politicians and policymakers play a crucial role in the process of adjusting policy. In order to raise awareness for larger groups of people, good communication tactics are needed when raising awareness.

An “awareness raising campaign” can be broadly defined as the combination of several communication tactics for a specified audience over a specific time period. Although the objectives of awareness-raising efforts vary depending on the context, they typically involve educating the intended audience about the particular issues at hand and offering behavioral changes that could help resolve or lessen these issues.

Although raising awareness is frequently thought to be crucial in the early phases of the adaptation process, research (Manuti, 2013) demonstrates that awareness levels change throughout time as a result of external factors. Therefore, increasing awareness is crucial not just in the beginning but also during the entire process.

Based on information from the Lloyd’s Register Foundation World Risk Poll 2020, Figure 1 compares the proportion of survey respondents who consider climate change to be a major danger across Europe. Respondents in Eastern Europe are, on average, less concerned about climate change than those in Western Europe, despite the fact that there is a large variance in climate risk perception within each region. We notice a similar pattern in Eastern Europe, both within the EU and outside of it.

Share of people who see climate change as a threat?

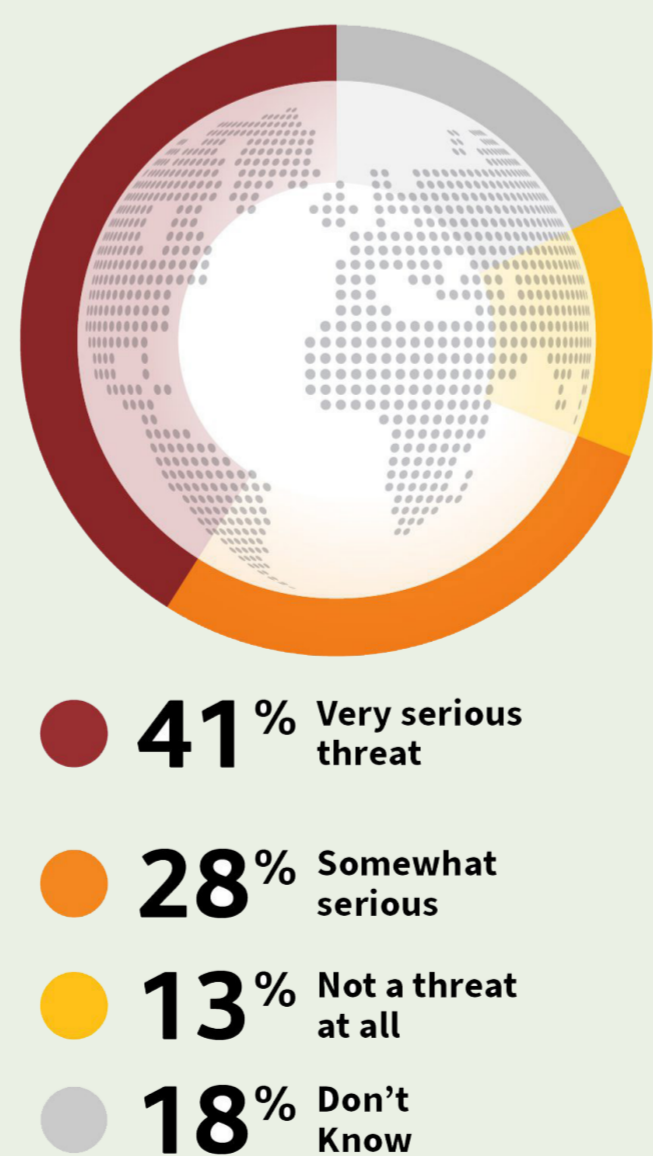


Figure 1: Authors’ calculations based on Lloyd’s Register Foundation World Risk Poll 2020

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Targets:

- 🌀 Raising the level of awareness of general public, public institutions and private sector regarding the environment problems;
- 🌀 Encouraging public authorities to organize awareness campaigns in order to raise the level of awareness and to enhance people to greener practices and behavior;
- 🌀 Encouraging young people to take action regarding the environment problems through different initiatives;
- 🌀 Promoting environmental resources to the general public, such as guides, articles, documentaries and e-platforms;
- 🌀 Make sure everyone, especially youngsters, are conscious of how their behavior affects the environment.
- 🌀 Take into account the environmental impact of every policy and life decision while making sure that young people are involved in sustainable development policy-making on all levels.
- 🌀 Empower the entire society, especially young people, to act as agents of change for environmental and sustainable development.
- 🌀 Boost intergovernmental collaboration to stop manufacturing and consumption that harms the environment.

2. EXPLORING GOOD PRACTICES



Travel and Transport

- ‘Tubeway’ - future mobility system and eco-wall modules (Austria) - The worldwide energy crisis has sparked the need for alternative means of transportation and eco-living. Tubeway is a concept for a solar energy public transport system engineered to connect to current transport networks, while eco-wall modules help build sustainable homes that utilise renewable power. Combined, these projects can provide efficient future solutions for mobility and green living.
- 100 Bikes for 100 Families (Italy) - Trips within a city are often spent needlessly in traffic or car parks. The collective buying initiative ‘100 Bikes for 100 Families’ aims to help participants replace their cars with a low-carbon alternative that has no restrictions on where to park. With a canopy for all seasons, the bike allows families to travel in a safe, fun and environmentally friendly manner. The bike also comes with an electric motor to assist drivers whether they are transporting children or going shopping.
- ‘Austria saves energy’ campaign (Austria) - In 2013, the Austrian Environment Ministry launched a broad information campaign as part of its climate protection initiative. The aim is to raise awareness about reducing heating, fuel and electricity consumption, and to change habits by highlighting the associated cost savings. An online energy saving coach and a practical pocket booklet give citizens tips on energy savings, allowing them to track their energy use reduction in euros and CO₂.

Building and living

- Solarstromerzeugung.de web portal (Germany) - Solarstromerzeugung.de is a German information portal on solar power. The website explains how to install, clean, maintain and finance solar modules. It also allows users nationwide compare prices of solar panels from different companies. So far, the project has responded to more than 5,000 requests for photovoltaic systems from climate conscious individuals.
- Social electricity (Cyprus) - Social Electricity is a fun and educational Facebook application that aims to make citizens aware of their energy consumption by comparing their behaviour with their friends, neighbourhood, city or country. Consumers use the application to improve their energy consumption and reduce their carbon footprint. After 6 months, the project had more than 1,000 users signed up and over 1,450 friends on its Facebook page.
- Energy savings in school buildings (Latvia) - Skaistkalnes high school is developing an energy audit and heating system replacement project to help lower its carbon emissions. It is installing more efficient heating systems in three school buildings, replacing 84 windows, insulating attic space, and converting boiler rooms and radiators into a water circulation system that does not burn fossil fuels. Reducing both carbon emissions and total heating costs, the project also improves the school environment and the surrounding climate.

Reuse & Recycle



- CO₂ Diet (Bulgaria) - CO₂ Diet is an innovative and interactive online platform to encourage people to reduce their CO₂ emissions. Through this platform, the CO₂ emissions generated by people's daily activities can be calculated easily. The CO₂ Diet includes tips to reduce the impact on the environment by, for example, unplugging appliances that are not in use. Set up in 2009, CO₂ Diet has already organised several public events as well.

- Expressing ideas, performing actions (Greece) - The second experimental primary school of Rhodes initiates ongoing environmental projects that aim to protect local forest, seas, flora and fauna. Based in Rhodes, a main resort island in Greece, the school has successfully implemented recycling, energy saving and water resource management projects in recent years, helping to raise environmental awareness among students, teachers and parents alike. Such actions are further publicised on school blogs, magazines and brochures.

- A Better World - Geresnispasaulis.lt (Lithuania) - The Geresnis Pasaulis (A Better World) project promotes the reuse and restoration of throwaway items to encourage sustainable consumption, sharing, cooperation and community building for mutual benefit. The Geresnispasaulis.lt website shows how to reduce excessive consumption by getting better use out of items, extending their life as much as possible, or giving them to others who can use them. The site provides ideas, advice and inspiring examples on how to do this.



Shopping and eating

- Agarden for the future (Belgium) - Rethinking the way we grow our fruit and vegetables could be the key to sustainable food production. 'A garden for the future' is a permaculture project that helps reduce CO₂ emissions by removing the need for industrial fertilisers, pest control, irrigation and heavy machinery. It also contributes to a local food system that can store tons of carbon in the ground. In Belgium, 'A garden for the future' has paved the way for similar projects with 25 permaculture initiatives now existing throughout the country.

- Looking to the future - ECOCENTRE (Poland) ECOCENTRE is an environmental education centre to promote environmentally-friendly solutions that combine traditional and modern technology. The project shows how green technologies that use renewable energy sources like solar work in practice in rural areas. The aim is to demonstrate that ecological solutions work well in local conditions, are cost effective and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The award-winning centre attracted 30,000 visitors in the years 2002-2013

- From farm to fork the sustainable way (Malta) - Bad farming practices, long food chain and the need to widely transport food are among the biggest contributors to climate change. In response, the Malta Organic Agriculture Movement (MOAM) is developing local organic agriculture to promote sustainable food production and increase environmental awareness. Its organic farming programme contributes to biodiversity protection, land conservation and water conservation, and reduces the need for transport.

Producing and innovating

- WWF Climate Group (Austria) - The WWF Climate Group is a leading platform for companies in Austria to actively engage in voluntary CO₂ emissions mitigation efforts. By reducing their emissions and promoting climate-conscious behaviour, the participating companies make a contribution to achieving global climate change goals.

Current members include IKEA, Allianz, Pfanner, Fronius, Erste Group and SPAR Austria who have all helped the WWF Climate Group avoid a total of 400,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

- Box – innovative eco-design (Belgium) - This project aims to create an interior object that is simple, timeless, ecological and multifunctional. Made out of ecoboard, a material with a negative carbon footprint, the Box can be used as a chair, table, cupboard, storage element, moving box and much more. And it's easy to build in any local workshop, reducing transport emissions and further minimising the carbon footprint of this innovative eco-designed object.

- BIOMASA – low-carbon pellet boilers for public buildings (Slovakia) - The BIOMASA project helps upgrade old fossil fuel boilers to modern low-carbon pellet alternatives. The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Slovakia's public buildings. So far, the project has replaced more than 114 coal boilers, created over 33 jobs and provided 12,000 tonnes of locally produced pellets



3. ONLINE EDUCATION ABOUT ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Background: Education from online sources and e-courses has grown rapidly over the past few decades, and online enrollments have been growing substantially faster than overall higher education enrollments. Some studies and anecdotal evidence indicate that attrition rates for online courses are frequently much higher than face-to-face campus-based courses. Also, Social Media started to play an important role in learning especially for young people.



Problem: Although mandatory in curricula, environment education is not compulsory in teacher education and professional standards. The context of learning is unstructured and does not have clear objectives of learning and this makes it difficult for young people to have certain knowledge and competencies developed by the end of the learning process. In the study, Learn for Our Planet, that analyzed educational plans and curricula frameworks in close to 50 countries across all regions. More than half make no reference to climate change while only 19% speak about biodiversity.



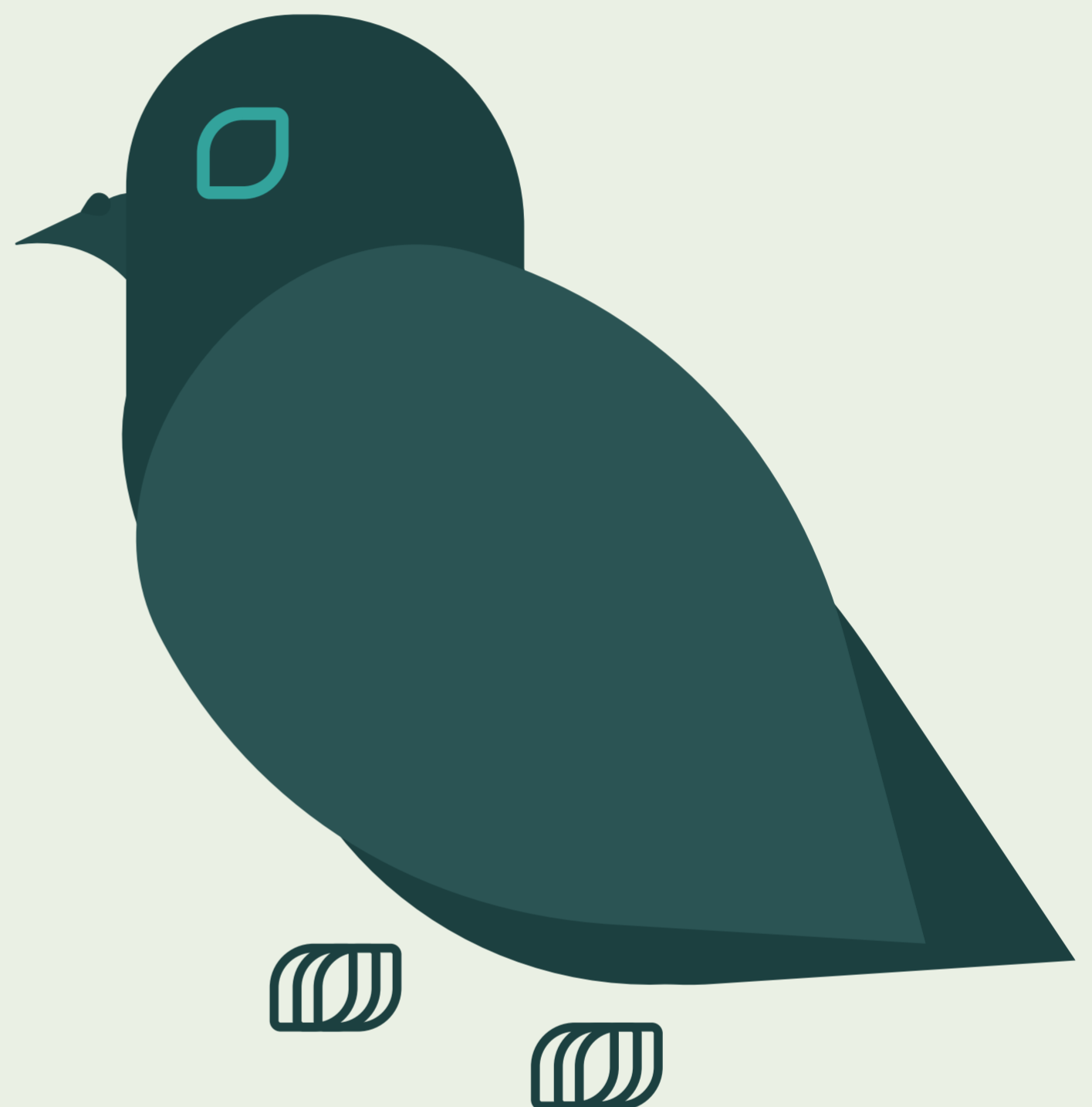
Goal: UNESCO has therefore urged to make environmental education a core curriculum component in all countries by 2025. At the World Conference, more than 80 ministers and vice ministers and 2,800 education and environment stakeholders adopted the Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development, which outlines a range of policies to transform learning encompassing teaching, learning, professional training and civic engagement. Encouraging the development of tools and methods of learning is crucial for developing an environment curriculum that will support the development of competencies in the domain for young people. Also, the promotion of online learning methods is important for young people and future generations in order to fulfill the needs of young people that are not accomplished by formal education.





Targets:

- 🌀 Raising the level of awareness about the importance of learning about environment and sustainability;
- 🌀 Support the development of core environment curriculum in the Eastern European Countries;
- 🌀 Promoting the existing resources for learning about environment and climate change;
- 🌀 Support online education methods in order to fulfill the needs of young people that are not accomplished by formal education.
- 🌀 Promoting the online learning methods as sustainable and appropriate for young people needs;
- 🌀 Promoting and understanding the concept of environment literacy;



4. ONLINE SOURCES FOR SELF EDUCATION

Articles:

🌿 **Earth Times** is an independent international nonpartisan newspaper on the environment and sustainable development, including interrelated issues of population, human rights and trade.

🌿 **EcoWatch** informs its audience with essential science-based news on a wide range of topics including climate change, energy, oceans, animals, food, politics and health.

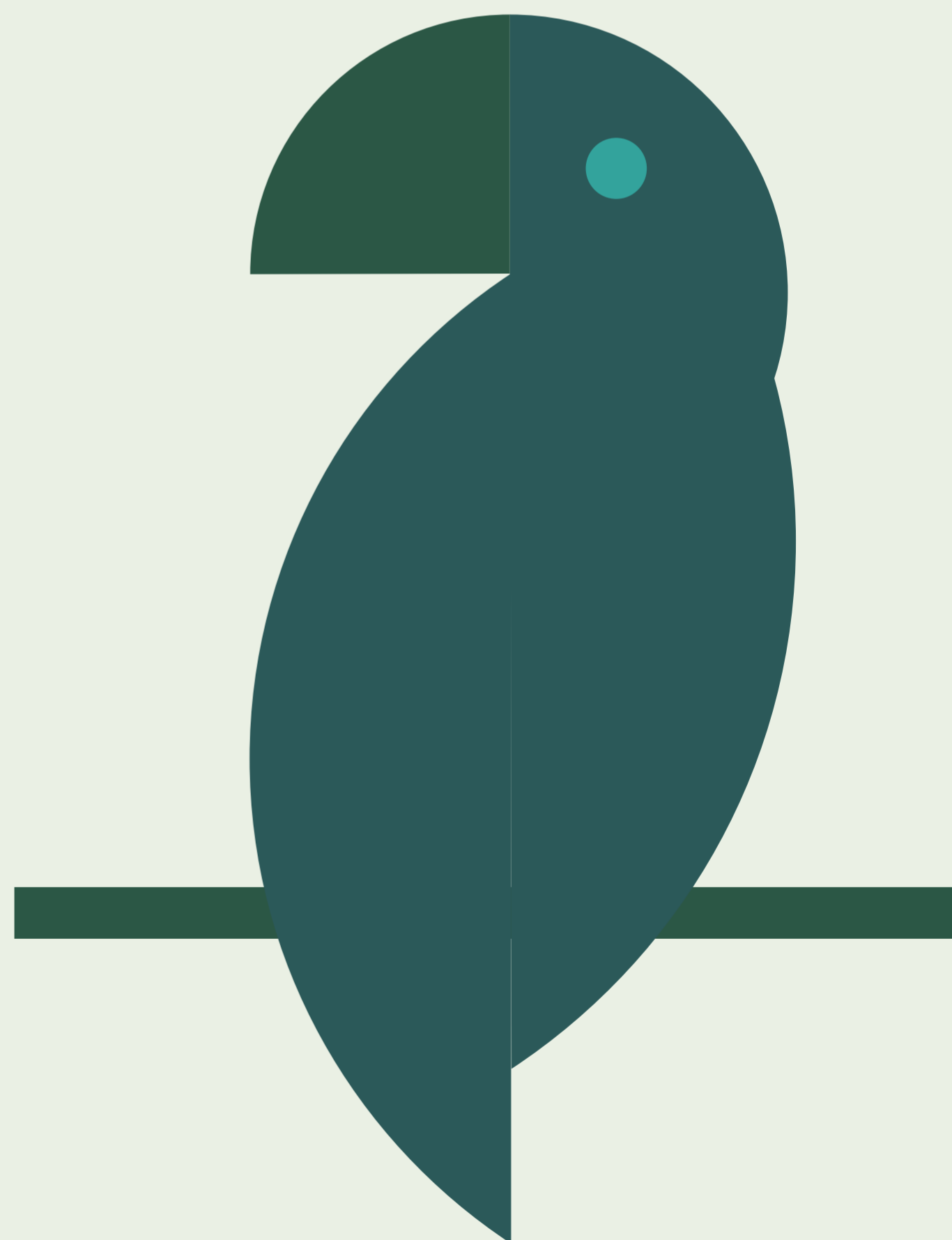
🌿 **ENN (Environmental News Network)** is to inform, educate, enable and create a platform for global environmental action. It is rapidly becoming a collection of resources, teachers, experts and tools that provide objective information and knowledge about the increasingly complex field of environmental science.

🌿 **Environmental Health News** is a publication of Environmental Health Sciences, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to driving science into public discussion and policy on environmental health issues, including climate change.complex field of environmental science.

🌿 **Grist** covers both emerging issues and solutions regarding energy and green living, as well as several other areas. It aims to “elevate solutions, expose inequity, and give our readers the context, knowledge, and tools to make a difference.”

🌿 **InsideClimateNews** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning, nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that provides reporting and analysis on climate change, energy and the environment, for the public and for decision makers. It serves as a watchdog of government, industry and advocacy groups and holds them accountable for their policies and actions.

🌿 **Treehugger** is a sustainability site that offers advice, clarity, and inspiration for both the eco-savvy and the green living novice.

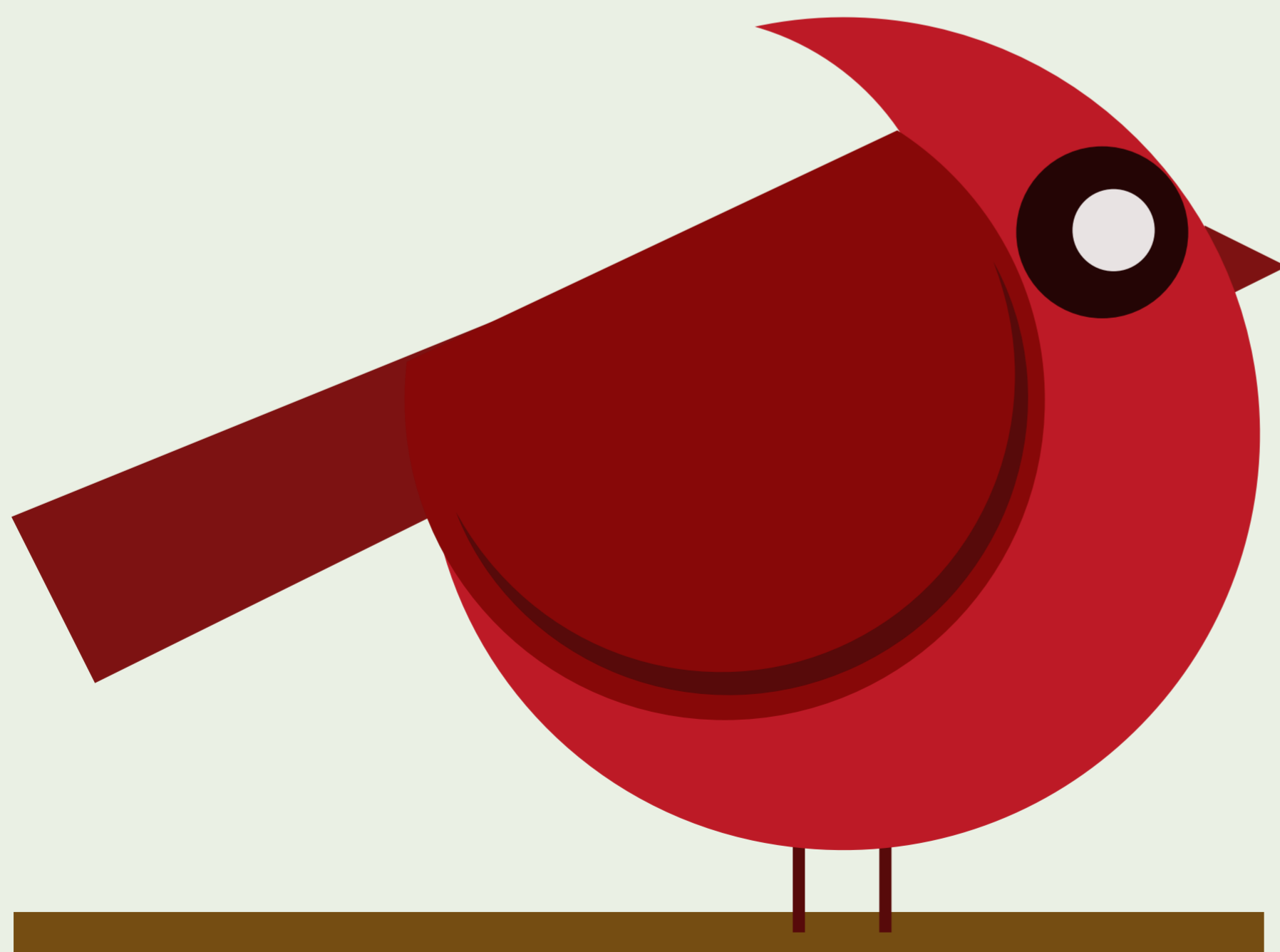


E-books & Guides: the e-books and guides are very accessible for everyone in different online libraries of universities from all over the world. Some examples are: University of Washington, Free-ebooks.net, Goodside ebooks or Barnes&Noble.

Online events and training: the online events help the young people to acknowledge more information through informal and non-formal methods of learning. At the same time, especially through the European environment, online communities of young people that support sustainable development are created.

Documentaries and movies: Documentaries provide an innovative approach to display information that would otherwise be static in a compelling and understandable way. Young people are spending more time each year getting knowledge through alternate channels. The most recommended documentaries for environment education are: 8 billion angels, David Attenborough: A life on our planet, Kiss the ground, Cowspiracy, My Octopus Teacher, Seaspiracy, Blackfish or I am Greta.

Social Media Content: lately, the young people are learning through Social Media channels, there are different methods that are used for making the posts/videos more attractive such as: free resources, video training, infographics, FAQs, industry research, case studies, tips and tricks, and how-to posts.



5. EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS FOR ENVIRONMENT KNOWLEDGE

Why online education and e-courses?



Both in schools and in businesses, eLearning has changed education by enabling both students and staff to learn at their own pace in a welcoming environment. It is clear that eLearning will be important to the future of education when it comes to the distribution of educational resources.

Education is keeping up with the digital transformation as students benefit from eLearning and individualized instruction. As a result of the pandemic, which abruptly pulled billions of pupils from their classes, eLearning has gained popularity. Even educational institutions are using online learning strategies to keep up with the times. To keep learners interested, eLearning uses cutting-edge technology like gamification and augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR) to progress toward more engaging formats.



Here are some examples of platforms where people can access free courses about environment:

- Green Future Academy:
<https://greenfuture-ea.greenpeace.org/en/>

- Green Learning:
<https://gef.eu/project/green-learning/>

- Green Learning:
<https://greenlearning.ca/>

- Future Learn: On Future Learn platform there are some options of free courses about Nature & Environment <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

- Green Academy:
<https://www.green-academy.eu/>

- FEE Academy:
<https://feeacademy.global/>

- Alison - Empower Yourself - <https://alison.com/>

- The Environmental Learning Platform for Primary Schools - <https://earthcubs.com/>

- UNCC: E-learn:

The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn) is a joint initiative of more than 30 multilateral organizations helping countries to achieve climate change action both through general climate literacy and applied skills development. UN CC:Learn provides strategic advice and quality learning resources to help people, governments and businesses to understand, adapt, and build resilience to climate change. UN CC:Learn is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). <https://unccelearn.org/>

- Open Learn:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/free-courses>

- Learning for Nature:

<https://www.learningfornature.org/en/>

- UI Green Metric Online Courses on Sustainability:

<https://greenmetric.ui.ac.id/online-course>



6. EXPLORING NON-FORMAL METHODS FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Background of the study:

Exploring Non-Formal Methods for Effective Environmental Education is a topic that aims to investigate the effectiveness of non-formal methods in teaching environmental education. Non-formal methods of education are those that occur outside of the traditional classroom setting and may involve experiential learning, community-based activities, or self-directed learning. Empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills to become environmentally conscious citizens is crucial in promoting sustainability. Non-formal methods of education have proven to be an effective approach to achieving this goal.



Through dynamic and interactive activities, individuals can learn about environmental issues and how to take action to address them. This study aims to explore the use of non-formal methods of education to deliver effective environmental education, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable future. In recent years, there has been increasing interest in exploring non-formal methods of environmental education, as these methods may offer unique and engaging opportunities for learning and behaviour change. This research topic aims to examine the effectiveness of these methods and to identify best practices for their use in environmental education programs.



Solution:

The use of non-formal methods of education has proven to be an effective approach to providing individuals with environmental knowledge and skills. These methods incorporate dynamic and interactive activities that are designed to engage individuals in learning about environmental issues and how to address them. Exploring non-formal methods of education for effective environmental education can contribute to promoting sustainability and achieving a more environmentally conscious society.

Non-formal methods of environmental education can be integrated with formal education programs, which can lead to more comprehensive and effective environmental education outcomes. Integrating non-formal methods with formal education can provide a more holistic approach to environmental education, which can help learners connect their knowledge and understanding to real-world environmental issues.



Problem statement:

Pollution (air, land, and water), earthquakes, and global warming are among the many issues affecting the environment, the human health and resulting in economic loss. Despite the increasing awareness and concern about environmental issues, a significant number of individuals still lack adequate knowledge on topics such as climate change, the EU Green deal, and simple everyday actions they can take to make a difference. This knowledge gap can have a significant impact on the environment, human health, and economic losses. Therefore, there is a need to explore alternative education methods that can deliver effective environmental education to bridge this knowledge gap.



The environment is under threat from a range of issues, including pollution (air, land, and water), earthquakes, and global warming. These problems have far-reaching consequences, including damage to human health and economical losses. Effective environmental education is crucial for protecting our home - the Earth.

Despite the importance of environmental education, traditional classroom-based methods may not be effective in engaging learners or promoting behaviour change. Non-formal methods of environmental education, such as community-based programs and experiential learning, may be more effective in engaging learners and promoting environmentally sustainable behaviour. Many individuals may not have access to formal environmental education programs due to factors such as geography, socioeconomic status, or other barriers. Non-formal methods of environmental education may be more accessible and inclusive, providing opportunities for individuals to learn about and engage with environmental issues regardless of their background or location.

Target: This text's intended audience is teachers in schools, universities and anyone interested in environmental education.



Goal:

Our goal is to promote environmentally responsible behaviour and to empower learners to become active and engaged citizens who can make informed decisions and take action to address environmental challenges facing their communities and the world. Through this method, learners can gain knowledge, skills, and values that are essential for building a sustainable future, and for creating positive social and environmental change. We aim to use this method to complement formal classroom-based education by offering a more hands-on, experiential, and informal learning environment that can be better suited to the needs and interests of learners.



Target:

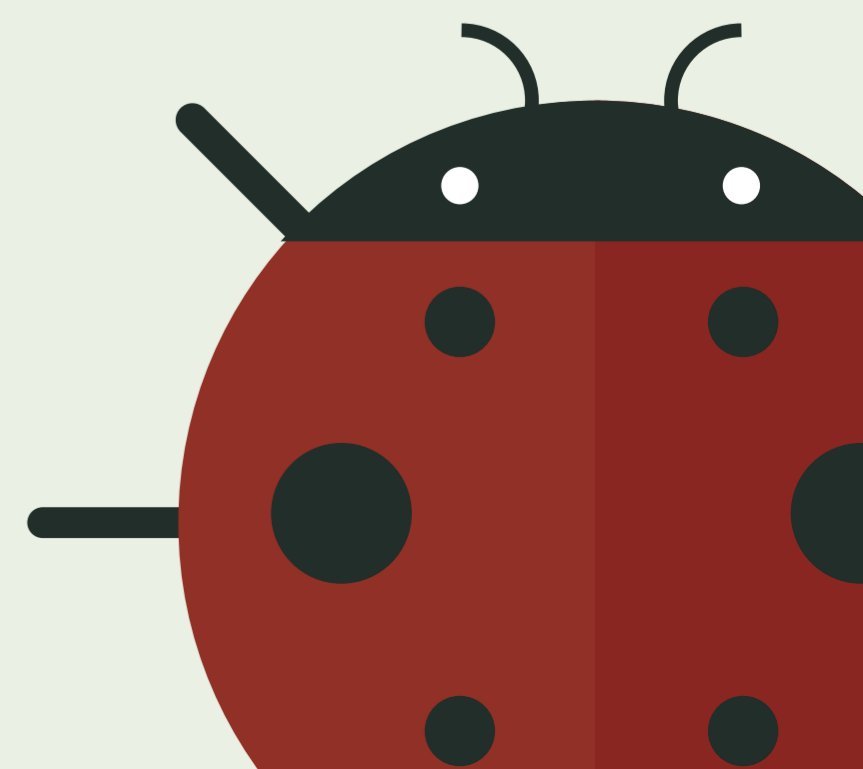
Although, target groups for non-formal methods of environmental education can vary depending on the specific program or activity being implemented. However, we have decided in general who our target groups will be. These are:

🌀 **Community groups:** We intend to use this method to engage local communities in environmental education and action, promoting collective action and community-based solutions.

🌀 **Educators and trainers:** We intend to use this method to train and support educators and trainers in environmental education, helping them to develop their skills and knowledge in the field.

🌀 **Adult learners:** We intend to use this method to engage adult learners in environmental education, providing opportunities for lifelong learning and skill-building.

🌀 **Children and youths:** non-formal environmental education programs can be particularly effective for engaging young people and instilling a sense of environmental responsibility and stewardship from an early age.



7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH TO LEARN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND GET INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

Background: Green education, also known as environmental or sustainability education, is a learning approach that emphasises the interdependence of environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Green education is becoming increasingly important in Europe as a means of addressing the challenges posed by climate change and many other environmental issues that come with it. Environmental education is an important component of increasing environmental awareness and sustainability. There are numerous opportunities for young people in the European Union (EU) to learn about environmental issues and become involved in environmental efforts.

Goal: The purpose of this text is to inform readers about the various opportunities for young people in the EU to learn about environmental issues.



Target: This text's intended audience is young people and anyone interested in environmental education. The purpose of the text is to inform young people about the various resources available in the EU, such as the Erasmus+ programme, online education platforms, environmental organisations, youth networks, and national and local initiatives. The purpose of this text is to provide a comprehensive overview of the opportunities for young people in the EU to learn about the environment and get involved in environmental efforts. Thereby aiming to provide young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to have a positive impact on the environment.

1. Online education platforms: There are a number of online education platforms, such as Coursera, edX, and Udemy, which offer free and paid courses on environmental topics. These platforms provide a flexible and accessible way for young people to learn about the environment from experts in the field. Young people in the EU can utilize these opportunities for learning to broaden their perspectives and develop viable initiatives to combat various environmental problems.

2. Environmental organizations: Many environmental organizations, such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, offer resources and educational materials on environmental topics. These resources can be a great way for young people to learn about environmental issues and how they can make a difference.



1. **Youth networks:** There are several youth networks, such as the European Youth Forum, which aim to empower young people to act on environmental issues. These networks provide opportunities for young people to learn about environmental issues, connect with like-minded individuals, and take part in campaigns and activities.
2. **National and local initiatives:** Many countries and regions in the EU have their own initiatives to educate young people about the environment. For example, some countries have youth environmental organizations, while others have programs that provide funding for environmental education initiatives.



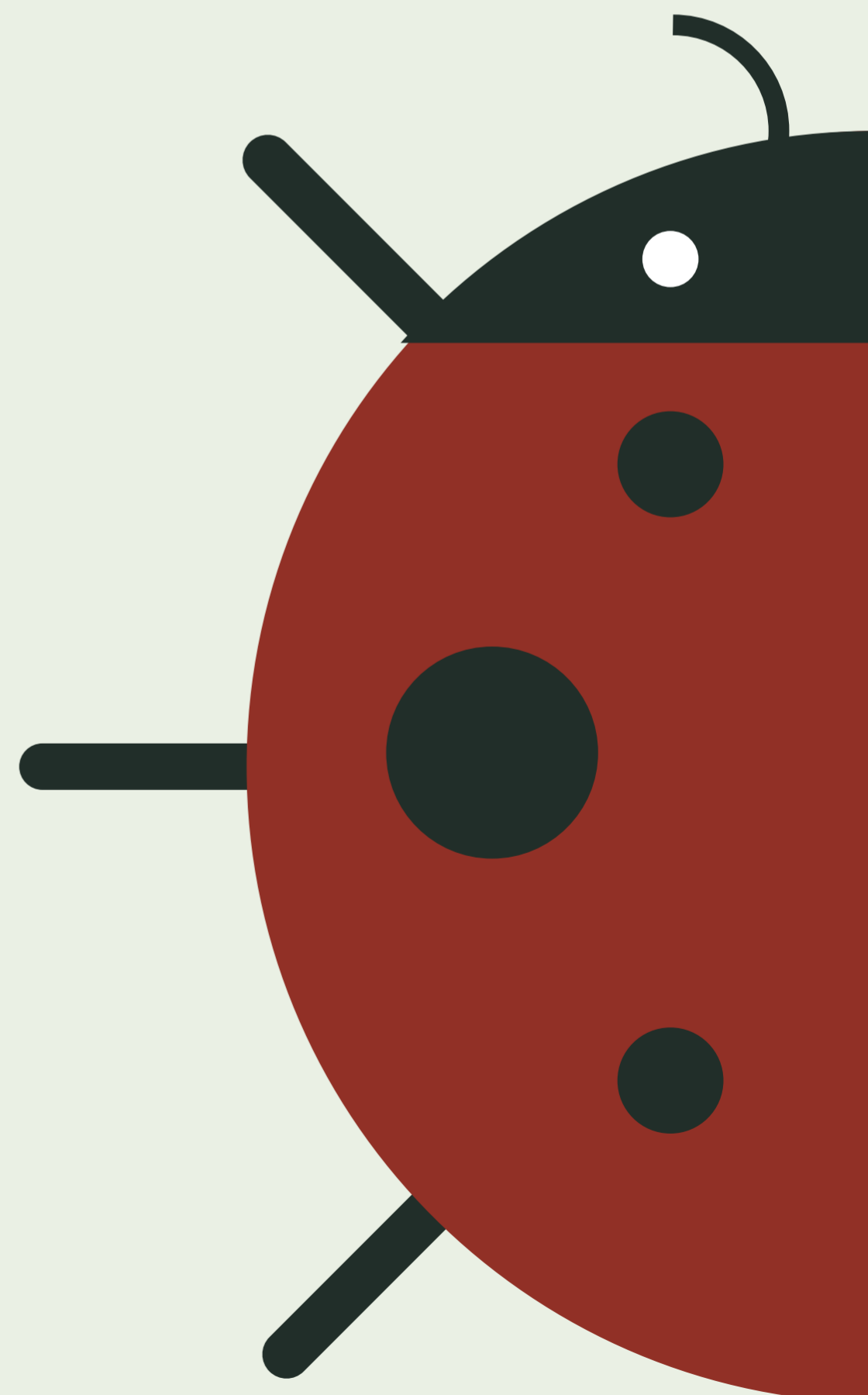
The European Commission assists EU Member States in their efforts to:

1. **Provide learners and educators with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for a greener, more sustainable economy and society**
2. **Assist education and training institutions in incorporating sustainability into teaching and learning and across all aspects of their operations.**
3. **Build consensus on the profound and transformative changes required in education and training for sustainability and the green transition.**

Some of the initiatives that exist to educate and facilitate green education include:

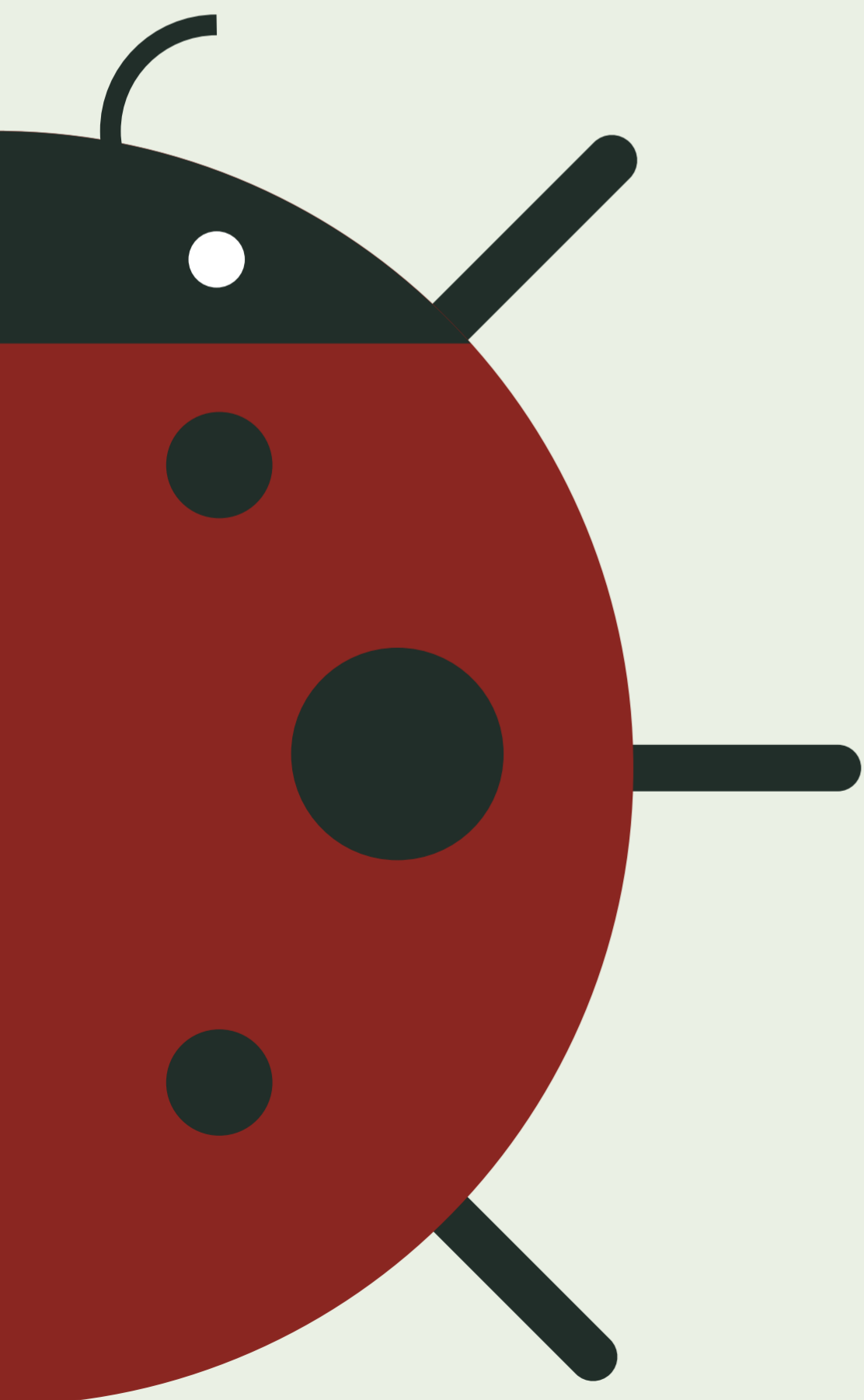
- 🌱 The Education for Climate Coalition is a growing community of students, teachers, and organisations working on climate change and sustainability.
- 🌱 A Council Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development assists Member States in embedding sustainability in education and training
- 🌱 The European sustainability competence framework outlines the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that learners of all ages need to acquire for the green transition and sustainable development.
- 🌱 A dedicated working group on sustainability in school education produces input papers and key messages on a regular basis. The working groups on Vocational Education and Training, Adult Learning, and Higher Education also deal with sustainability and the green transition.
- 🌱 Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps fund a variety of initiatives related to sustainability in education and training, such as student and staff exchanges, research, and volunteering.
- 🌱 The Horizon Europe programme has a dedicated call for proposals on climate change and sustainability education.
- 🌱 The InvestEU programme enables Member States to access funding for sustainable education infrastructure and the development of skills

- 🌀 The Researchers at Schools initiative connects young researchers with teachers and pupils on climate change and sustainable development
- 🌀 The Erasmus+ DiscoverEU Green route inspires young people to plan and discover Europe in a sustainable way.
- 🌀 The European Innovative Teaching Award 2022 chooses 50 outstanding projects centred on sustainability.
- 🌀 The EU Learning Corner includes primary and secondary school teaching and learning materials on sustainability and the climate and environmental crisis.
- 🌀 Some organizations across the EU:
 - 🌀 The European Environmental Bureau is a network of environmental organisations from across Europe that promotes environmental education and awareness, as well as youth-focused programmes and resources.
 - 🌀 The European Climate Foundation: This organisation focuses on climate change education and awareness, including programmes and resources for youth.
 - 🌀 Youth Environment Europe is a European network of environmental youth organisations that aims to provide young people with the skills and knowledge needed to create a more sustainable future.
 - 🌀 European Youth Parliament for the Environment (EYPE): This organisation brings together young people from all over Europe to debate and develop environmental policies.
 - 🌀 Green Dot: Through various local, regional, and national education programmes and activities, the Green Dot and partner organisations have contributed to the development of routine attitudes, values, and actions, as well as the establishment of a European platform for environmental awareness. Many of the activities are carried out as part of collaborative programmes with manufacturing and retail businesses, governments, and recycling companies.
 - 🌀 Plant-for-the-Planet: This is a youth-led organisation whose mission is to plant trees to combat climate change and raise environmental awareness among young people.
 - 🌀 Young Friends of the Earth Europe: Friends of the Earth Europe's youth-led branch, which focuses on environmental education and action across Europe.
 - 🌀 Power Shift Network: A youth-led network of organisations across Europe working to promote climate justice and environmental sustainability.
 - 🌀 Fridays for Future is a youth-led movement that began in Sweden in 2018 and has since spread globally. The movement advocates for immediate action to combat climate change and ensure environmental sustainability.



How can young people involve themselves?:

- 🌀 **Erasmus+ Programme:** This is the EU's education, training, youth, and sport programme, and it funds a wide range of projects, including those focusing on environmental education and sustainability.
- 🌀 **Youth exchanges:** These projects bring together groups of young people from various countries to learn about a specific topic, such as environmental sustainability.
- 🌀 **European Solidarity Corps:** This is an EU programme that gives young people across the EU and beyond the opportunity to volunteer or work on projects that benefit communities and the environment.
- 🌀 **European Voluntary Service:** This is a programme that allows young people to volunteer in a foreign country for up to a year on a variety of projects, including those focusing on environmental sustainability.
- 🌀 **Youth-led initiatives** include the European Youth Climate Pact, which aims to involve young people in the development of EU climate policy, and the Youth4Climate initiative, which encourages young people to take action on climate change.



8. INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

Background:

Sustainability has been promoted since the 1970s to address environmental issues, however, the effort to control these issues has been imbalanced compared to the rapid growth of development, leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental problems (Denan et al., 2017). To raise awareness and encourage action on environmental issues, “Only One Earth” was the slogan for the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, which put sustainable development on the global agenda and led to the establishment of World Environmental Day (United Nations, 2022). Climate action is one of the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (Goal 13), which aims to identify environmental issues globally and locally and raise awareness of the need for conservation and protection of the environment to reduce the impact of climate change. Education is viewed as a vital component in creating societal change towards a more environmentally friendly future, and institutions with sustainability goals implemented are more likely to convey the need for change to

their students (Stephens et al., 2008). Environmental education gained international recognition at the first United Nations world conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and is aimed at creating awareness of economic, social, political, and ecological interdependence and providing opportunities for individuals to acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment, and skills needed to protect and improve the environment and create new patterns of behaviour towards the environment (UNESCO, 1977). Environmental education (EE) plays a crucial role in providing a holistic education by fostering a deeper understanding of the natural world and our relationship with it. By equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills, EE empowers them to tackle environmental challenges and become responsible global citizens. Furthermore, EE is a powerful means of instilling a compassionate attitude towards the environment. By immersing students in real-life environmental events and conditions, EE transforms learning into a tangible, experiential process (Fua et al, 2018).



Goal: Aim to facilitate the integration and implementation of environmental education in schools and universities by providing relevant information and resources.



Target audience: students, teachers, stakeholders, and policymakers involved in K-12 and higher education.

The objective of this initiative is to offer insights and practical guidance on integrating Environmental Education (EE) into school and university curricula, as well as facilitating experiential learning opportunities for students. The goal is to foster the implementation of sustainable practices and green initiatives within educational institutions and to encourage the establishment of partnerships with the community and professional development programs for educators. Ultimately, this project aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address environmental issues and assume responsible citizenship.



Examples of EE implementation in schools and universities:

1. Green Backpack (Mochila Verde)

Environmental Education Pilot Project targeting 6-year-olds in a range of pedagogical activities in the themes of the environment and energy within an urban context

2. Pedi-BUS

Like a real bus, children walk to and from school, with one or more voluntary parent(s), along a defined route, stopping at certain 'bus' stops where they are collected or delivered according to an established schedule

3. The Air We Breath (O ar que respiramos)

The municipality developed this programme for children between the ages of 10 and 12 years old, encompassing around 160 students/per year. It is part of the scope of the Air Quality Improvement Plan for the Lisbon Region and Tagus Valley 2011-2014, specifically focusing on air quality. Students are invited to reflect on the importance of air as a vital resource for life, learning about the main air pollutants, their sources, their effects on public health and the environment and the human role in improving air quality. This activity is a dual learning process, inside and outside the classroom - the campaign 'Best air for all' brings the students to visit an Air Quality Monitoring station and a Green Park in Lisbon where children receive information and create their own information sheet to take home.

Some ways to implement EE in schools and universities:

☞ Incorporate Environmental Education into the curriculum of studies and practice in a playful method. EE can be integrated into various subjects not only sciences but also social studies, and language arts. For example, social classes can cover how was the earth's condition in the past compared to the present, about environmental policy and conservation efforts. Furthermore, in language arts, teachers can encourage students to make poems or write about the earth as the only one we have or on a topic such as “What is the meaning of our future if the earth is destroyed?”

☞ Provide hands-on learning opportunities that can be implemented in daily life. EE is best learned through direct experiences, such as field trips, service learning projects, and laboratory activities. For example, students can participate in or arrange beach cleanups, plant trees, or collect data on local wildlife populations, so students will learn by doing outside the class.

☞ Encourage green initiatives and sustainability practices during the study. Schools and universities can serve as models of sustainability by implementing green initiatives such as using bicycles when going to school, recycling programs, energy-efficient buildings, and composting initiatives.

School and green community partnerships:

Collaborating with local environmental organizations, such as park systems, conservation organizations, and environmental agencies or inviting them into the school to talk with students will provide additional resources and opportunities for students and teachers to understand and implement more about EE.

Harness technology and digital resources:

Technology and digital resources are part of young people. They can participate in online games (educational games) about the environment, online simulations, and virtual field trips that enhance EE by providing interactive and engaging learning experiences.

Provide professional development for teachers:

Providing professional development opportunities for teachers or lecturers by holding seminars or conferences about EE can help them integrate into their teaching and develop the skills needed to effectively educate students about environmental issues. Schools and universities can provide students with the knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges and become responsible citizens by incorporating these strategies into their educational programs.

CHAPTER 4:

Environmental education



1. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

DEFINITION

The European Commission assists EU Member States in their efforts to:

Background: To ensure that all people, regardless of their race, colour, national origin, or socioeconomic status, are afforded equal protection under the law and an equal opportunity to participate in shaping and enforcing environmental policies and regulations is the essence of environmental justice.

It is necessary to establish, implement, and enforce environmental laws and policies in order to achieve environmental justice. These laws and policies should protect everyone, regardless of race or financial level.

Goal: European Green Deal is primarily a program that is anchored on attempts to move industry into a low-carbon economy. However, under the surface, the European Green Deal is leading toward a desirable transition: a potential development toward a welfare state in Europe that takes into account climate justice.



Targets

- 🌀 To accelerate environmental rule of law on a global scale in order to guarantee that governments will respect, safeguard, and fulfil the right to a clean and healthy environment, which is essential for sustainable development, we need to guarantee that companies and institutions will also play their role.
- 🌀 To strengthen national legal frameworks to aid in the promotion of fair and environmentally responsible management of natural resources. In order for vulnerable, excluded, and marginalised populations to have access to justice and information and to participate in decision-making, these legal frameworks need to include such communities.
- 🌀 To support justice and human rights institutions that are easily accessible so that those who are most in need, those who are most excluded, and those who are most marginalised may get the help they need and have a voice in government. If given the opportunity or space, women and minority people may be effective agents of change and advocates for environmental justice.
- 🌀 To alter our perspective on the rights of future generations and the rights to a clean and safe environment is essential. Environmental policies and choices need to include many people from many walks of life.

2. CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Background: Physical consequences from climate variability and change will have an effect on infrastructure networks, but these networks will also be crucial in bolstering resilience. Examples of extreme occurrences show the breadth of this vulnerability. As an illustration, OECD modelling of the potential impacts of a major flood in Paris found that the infrastructure sector would bear 30%-55% of the direct flood damages, while 35%-85% of business losses were caused by disruptions in transportation and electricity supply, and not the flood itself. The direct losses and the indirect costs of interruption may be minimised by making sure infrastructure is climate resilient.

Targets

Goal: Prioritization, planning, design, construction, and operation of new infrastructure assets must take into consideration the potential for climate change during the assets' useful lives. Because of climate change, it could be necessary to modify or reorganise the way that we handle our current infrastructure.



🌀 By improving the conditions under which climate-resilient infrastructure can be built, we can better prepare our communities to face the challenges of a changing climate.

🌀 Building infrastructure that is more resistant to the effects of climate change may enhance service dependability, extend the useful life of assets, and shield investment returns.

🌀 Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure must be encouraged from both the public and private sectors.

🌀 The identification of investment possibilities aided by the development and dissemination of infrastructure plans.

🌀 Developing public procurement methods that include in climate resilience when assessing competing bids by factoring in costs throughout the asset's lifespan under multiple scenarios as examples of public policies that encourage resilience.

🌀 Incorporating public funding into the process of attracting private funding for climate-resilient infrastructure.

3. RURALIZATION OF EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Targets

In order to accomplish the primary goals of the biodiversity strategies, the EU will need to enact new legislation and update existing ones. Current EU laws pertaining to the environment and water must also be implemented and enforced in an appropriate manner.

As a direct result of this, the authorities at the municipal, regional, national, and EU levels should work together to guarantee that our cultural capital is enhanced and preserved for future generations.

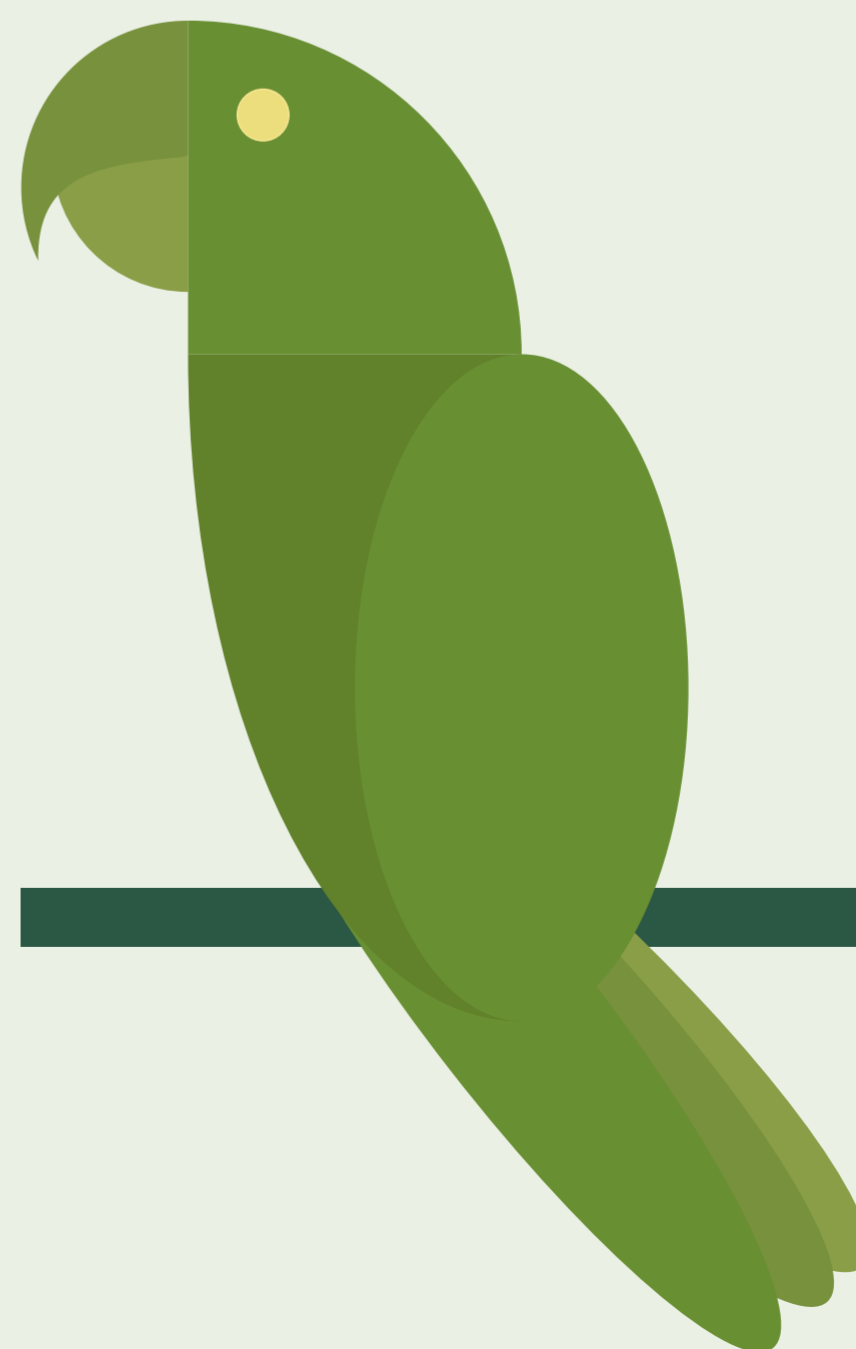
Regional cultural heritage policies must be developed, based on the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage and the EU's Creative Europe Programme, with the help of rural development funds, other European Structural and Investment Funds, and national and regional assistance.

The Farm to Fork Plan is a start in the right direction, but more work is required to ensure consistent agricultural, food, trade, and public health policies. A Single Food Policy for Europe is required, with agroecology and food democracy at its centre.

Moreover, greater attention must be paid to plastic waste, as well as methane emission reduction objectives and more ambitious ammonia emission reduction targets, which must be supplemented by regular air quality monitoring in rural areas.

Background: The European Green Deal (EGD) is a proposed program that is intended to be a fully transformative initiative for the whole of Europe. The extent to which this Commission is successful in implementing the Green Deal in rural areas will determine the legacy that it leaves behind. The Green Deal is essential to the revitalization and resiliency of rural communities throughout the EU. As a result, the Green Deal may bring about a new dynamic in rural areas and give those regions with new opportunities to contribute to the construction of a more resilient future for both rural and urban inhabitants.

Goal: Central point is the development of regional food production and distribution networks that meet both human and ecological demands. Several sections of Europe have already achieved this ideal, with hundreds of farms, cooperatives, municipal governments, and citizens' organisations giving local solutions to the rural problems.



4. TRANSFORMING FOOD AND LAND USE THROUGH FARM TO FORK STRATEGY

Background: The European Commission launched its Farm to Fork Strategy, an ambitious hallmark program under the European Green Deal, two years ago. Much progress has been achieved on the overall transformation effort, as seen by Europe's following climate pledges in 2021, as well as the food system-specific policy. Yet, much has changed in the aftermath of the Ukrainian conflict and its immediate ramifications for European energy and food security.

Goal: After the global food crisis, due to the conflict in Ukraine, priorities and determination to address structural deficiencies have changed. Interregional interdependence and rising commodities farmed for fuel and other purposes rather than human consumption highlight the need for structural adjustments toward greater sustainability.

Targets

- 🌀 The rules for sustainability should be carefully set so that they do not interfere with agricultural productivity.
- 🌀 The F2F approach is still extremely relevant, but it needed to be realigned and adapted to a new environment in which there was an increase in the cost of food as a direct consequence of the conflict in Ukraine.
- 🌀 As part of a larger transition to sustainable food and land use systems in Europe and around the world, specific assessment tools can assist policymakers in assessing the resilience of food and land-use systems, exploring concrete policy options to adapt existing frameworks, and improving flexibility.
- 🌀 All EU members will need to commit to implementing the strategy at the national level for it to be effective. Countries will need to innovate on several fronts if they are to effectively adopt the F2F model. They need to finance information exchange, consulting services, new technologies, and fundamental research. An important aspect of making their goals a reality is collaborating with established businesses that already possess the requisite knowledge and skills.
- 🌀 Additionally, international collaboration will be essential for the plan's implementation. The European Union will need stricter trade policies to forestall any changes made by other nations that may undermine Europe's environmental transformation.

5. EGD FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

Background: The European Green Deal signifies a transition toward a greener economy. This will revolutionise the automobile and transportation industries. Automakers must meet rigorous EU emissions rules to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. This has led to a move toward electric and hybrid cars and investment in alternative fuels like hydrogen. Public transportation, cycling, and walking are also changing the transportation industry. The European Green Deal requires enterprises to adapt and innovate to satisfy new environmental criteria or risk falling behind in a fast-changing sector.

Targets

- 🌀 Bringing the levels of carbon dioxide emissions from new automobiles down to those of 2021 or lower by the year 2030.
- 🌀 By the year 2035, to stop selling automobiles with combustion engines brand new.
- 🌀 In order to lower emissions caused by transportation, to encourage the use of alternative fuels such as hydrogen and biofuels.
- 🌀 Boosting the use of environmentally friendly forms of transportation including public transit, bicycles, and foot travel among others.
- 🌀 Increasing the overall energy efficiency of buildings in order to cut down on the emissions caused by their heating and cooling systems.
- 🌀 Promoting the installation of charging infrastructure for electric cars through means of encouragement.
- 🌀 Increasing the use of digital technology in order to improve the functioning of transportation networks and lower emissions.
- 🌀 With various research and development activities, we are hoping to encourage the production and distribution of low-carbon automobiles.
- 🌀 Lowering the percentage of emissions caused by freight transportation by increasing the use of rail and river transport.



Goal: The goal of the European Green Deal towards the automotive industry and transportation sector is reducing greenhouse gas emissions from these sectors and shifting towards more sustainable modes of transportation transforming them into a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly sector.

6. CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE EGD

Background: Circular economy principles play a crucial role in achieving the goals of the European Green Deal, which is an ambitious plan to make the European Union climate-neutral by 2050. The circular economy is an economic model that aims to minimise waste, optimise resource use, and reduce the environmental impact of economic activities. By embracing circular economy principles, the EU can transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy.

The European Green Deal recognizes the importance of circular economy principles in achieving its goals. One of the key objectives of the Green Deal is to create a more circular economy in Europe. The Green Deal aims to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns by increasing the use of recycled materials, reducing waste generation, and improving resource efficiency.

Goal: The EU should keep implementing various measures, such as setting new standards for eco-design, promoting the use of recycled materials in products, and encouraging the adoption of circular business models. These are expected to reduce the environmental impact and create new business opportunities for companies.

Targets

- 🌀 Introducing a sustainable products policy that will require manufacturers to design products that are durable, reusable, and repairable.
- 🌀 Increasing the use of recycled materials in products, such as plastics, textiles, and construction materials.
- 🌀 Reducing waste generation by implementing waste prevention measures and increasing recycling rates.
- 🌀 Encouraging businesses to adopt circular business models, such as product-as-a-service and sharing platforms.
- 🌀 Implementing measures to reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastics and microplastics.
- 🌀 Improving resource efficiency in key sectors such as food, water, and raw materials.
- 🌀 Strengthening the market for secondary raw materials and increasing their use in manufacturing processes.



7. CARBON PRICING IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE EU

Background: Carbon pricing is a market-based tool that can play a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union (EU). Carbon pricing puts a price on carbon emissions, either through a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system, to encourage companies to reduce their emissions and invest in low-carbon technologies. To address this issue, the EU has introduced a reform of the EU ETS, which includes a more ambitious emissions reduction target, a tightening of the emissions cap, and a new mechanism to remove surplus allowances from the market. These changes are expected to increase the carbon price and encourage companies to reduce their emissions and invest in low-carbon technologies.

Goal: The goal is to incentivize companies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by putting a price on carbon. This is achieved through the EU Emissions Trading System, which creates a market for carbon emissions and encourages companies to reduce their emissions by setting a limit on the amount of emissions that can be released.

Targets

- 🌀 Extending the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) to cover additional sectors such as shipping, aviation, and road transport.
- 🌀 Introducing a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) that will put a price on imports of goods that are carbon-intensive, to create a level playing field for EU companies.
- 🌀 Creating a Social Climate Fund to help vulnerable households and sectors deal with the costs of the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- 🌀 Providing support for the development of carbon pricing mechanisms in other countries through the EU's external cooperation programs.
- 🌀 Encouraging the development of carbon markets at the international level through the Paris Agreement and other international frameworks.
- 🌀 Increasing the transparency and accuracy of emissions reporting and monitoring to support effective carbon pricing.
- 🌀 Providing support for the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies and infrastructure through the EU's research and innovation programs.



8. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE EGD

Background: International cooperation plays a vital role in achieving the goals of the European Green Deal. Climate change is a global issue that requires collective action, and the EU must work with other countries to develop and implement effective climate policies, share best practices, and exchange knowledge and technology. The Paris Agreement provides a framework for international cooperation on climate action, and the EU is committed to its implementation. The EU has already established partnerships with other countries and regions to promote climate action, such as the EU-China High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change and the EU-Africa Partnership on Climate Change. The EU must ensure that its own policies and actions are aligned with the goals of the European Green Deal, promoting sustainable economic growth, investing in low-carbon technologies, and supporting the transition to a green economy.



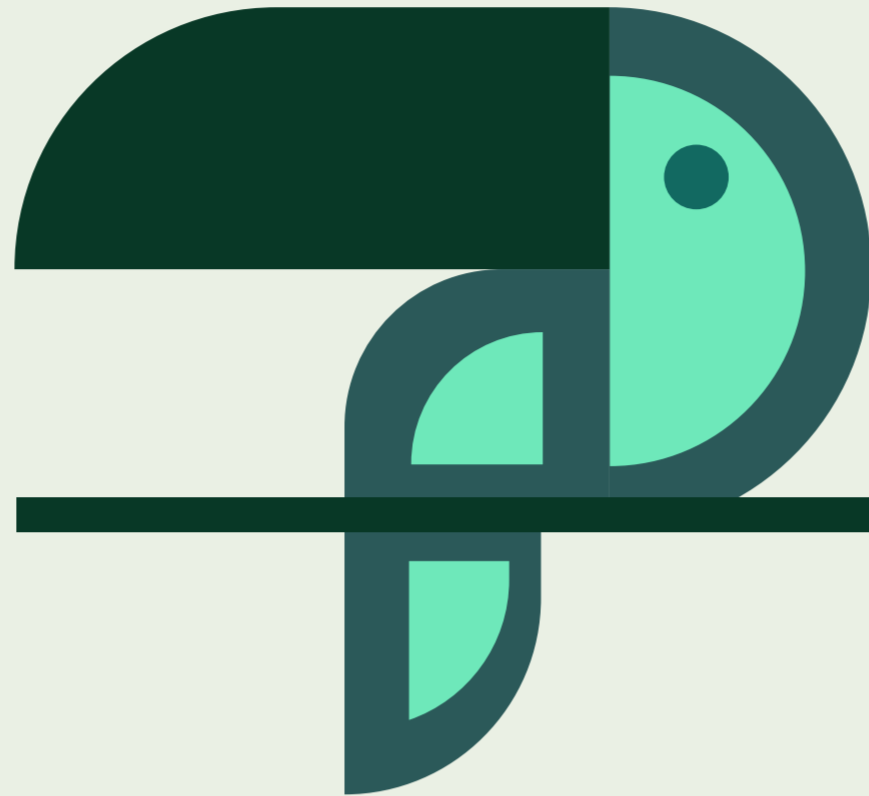
Goal: The EU must ensure that its own policies and actions are aligned with the goals of the European Green Deal, while also promoting sustainable economic growth, investing in low-carbon technologies, and supporting the transition to a green economy.

Targets

- 🌀 Encouraging other countries to set ambitious climate targets and work towards achieving them.
- 🌀 Promoting sustainable finance and investment in climate-resilient infrastructure in developing countries.
- 🌀 Developing partnerships with other countries and regions to promote climate action and exchange knowledge and technology.
- 🌀 Strengthening cooperation with international organisations, such as the United Nations, to support global climate action.
- 🌀 Advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement and enhancing global ambition in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 🌀 Establishing a carbon border adjustment mechanism to ensure that the EU's climate policies do not lead to carbon leakage and encourage other countries to adopt similar policies.



9. POTENTIAL PROS AND CONS OF THE EGD FOR DIFFERENT REGIONS AND SOCIAL GROUPS WITHIN THE EU



Background: The European Green Deal has the potential to bring about a wide range of benefits for different regions and social groups within the European Union, but it may also present some challenges and drawbacks.

On the one hand, the EGD aims to promote sustainable economic growth and create new opportunities for businesses, particularly in the green technology sector. This could lead to the creation of new jobs and boost economic development, particularly in regions that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels. Additionally, the shift towards renewable energy and more sustainable modes of transportation could lead to improvements in air and water quality, which could benefit the health and well-being of individuals living in heavily polluted areas.

However, the transition to a green economy may also present some challenges for certain regions and social groups. For example, areas with a heavy reliance on fossil fuels may experience job losses and economic decline, particularly if they do not receive adequate support for transitioning to new, green industries. Additionally, low-income households may face higher energy costs if the price of carbon is increased, and there is a risk that the costs of transitioning to a green economy may disproportionately fall on marginalised communities.

Targets

Goal: Policies should take into account the specific needs and circumstances of different communities. This could include providing support and incentives for regions that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels to transition to green industries, as well as ensuring that the costs of the transition are not borne solely by low-income households.

🌀 Providing support and incentives for regions that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels to transition to green industries.

🌀 Ensuring that the costs of the transition are not borne solely by low-income households.

🌀 Promoting a just and equitable transition to a green economy, the EGD has the potential to benefit all regions and social groups within the EU.

10. THE IMPACT OF THE EGD ON ENERGY SECURITY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE EU.

Background: The European Green Deal is likely to have a significant impact on energy security and independence within the European Union. One of the key goals of the European Green Deal is to transition to a more sustainable energy system, which will require a shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy sources. This transition could have a number of implications for energy security and independence.

On the one hand, increasing the use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar could enhance energy security within the EU, as these sources are less reliant on imports from outside the region. Additionally, investing in energy efficiency measures could reduce energy demand and decrease the EU's reliance on imports of fossil fuels. This could help to insulate the EU from potential disruptions to global energy markets and reduce its exposure to geopolitical risks associated with energy imports.

However, the transition to a sustainable energy system may also present some challenges in terms of energy independence. For example, the production of renewable energy technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines is currently dominated by a small number of countries outside of the EU. This could create a dependence on imports of these technologies, potentially undermining energy independence.

Goal: To address these challenges, the EU will need to develop a strategy that balances the need to transition to a more sustainable energy system with the goal of ensuring energy security and independence.

Targets

- ☞ Achieving climate neutrality by 2050, which will require a significant reduction in the use of fossil fuels and an increase in the use of renewable energy sources.
- ☞ Increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU's energy mix to at least 32% by 2030, which will help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase energy security.
- ☞ Improving energy efficiency by at least 32.5% by 2030, which will reduce energy demand and decrease the EU's reliance on imports of fossil fuels.
- ☞ Strengthening the EU's energy infrastructure and interconnections, which will improve the resilience of the energy system and facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources.
- ☞ Supporting the development and deployment of new renewable energy technologies, which will help to reduce the EU's dependence on imports of renewable energy technologies.
- ☞ Promoting energy cooperation and knowledge sharing with other countries and regions, which will help to ensure a secure and sustainable energy supply for the EU.

FINANCING FOR ENVIRONMENT



The Three Seas Initiative, launched in 2015 by Croatia and Poland, brings together 12 European states located in the Adriatic, Baltic, and Black Seas basins such as Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Hungary. One of the aims is also to speed up environment protection in these countries.

The seventh pan-European environmental assessment with data until the end of 2021 was published in 2022. It is the latest in a series of assessments dating back to 1995. The First Ministerial Conference within the Environment for Europe process was held in 1991 at Dobriš Castle in the then Czechoslovakia. It was the first all-European conference of ministers responsible for the environment. The first pan-European environmental assessment – Europe's Environment: the Dobriš Assessment, of 1995 – was focused on Central and Eastern Europe.

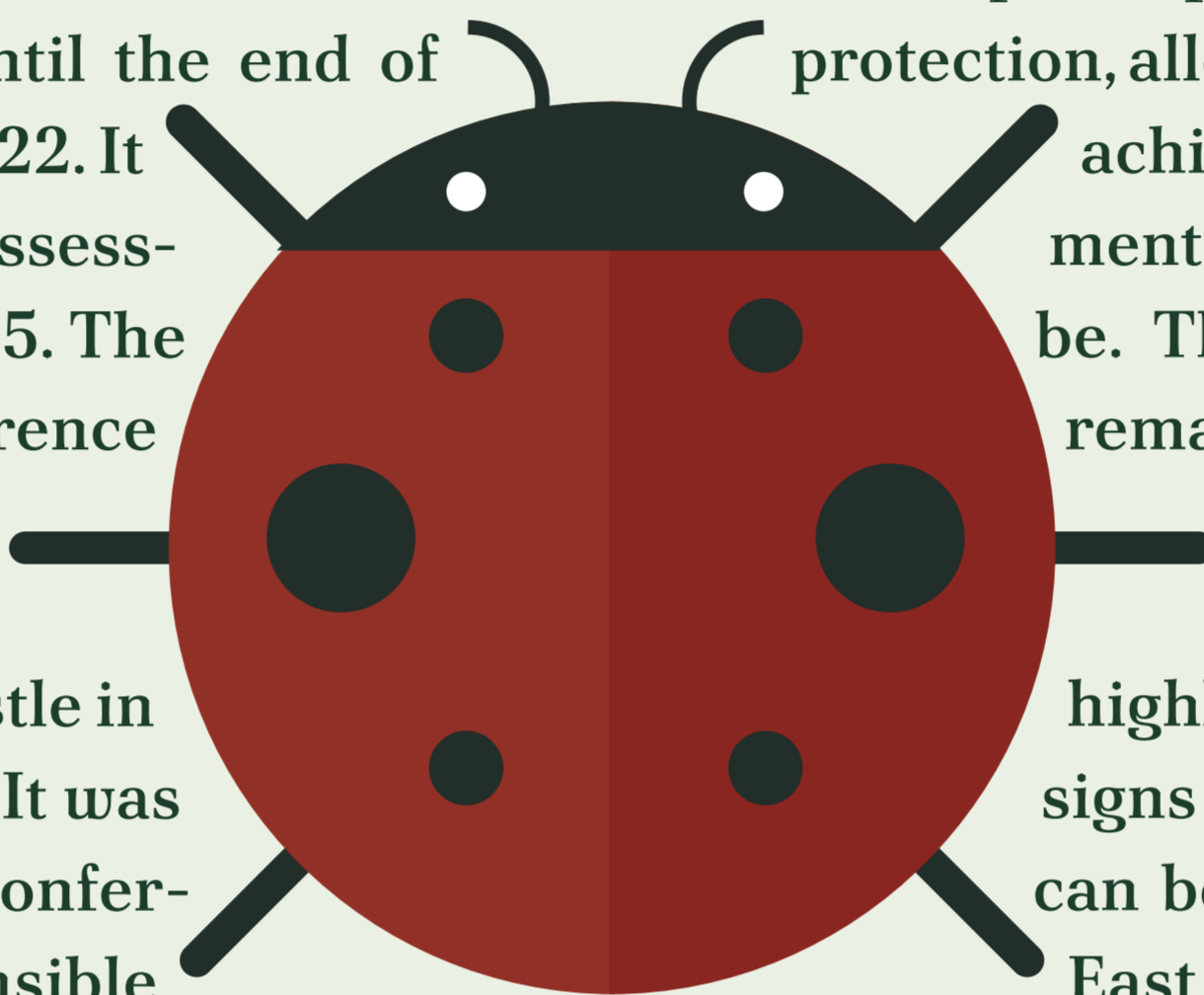
According to the latest pan-European environmental assessment, emissions of greenhouse gases have only dropped marginally since the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). Stagnant emissions reflect the failure to control energy consumption or to invest sufficiently in renewable energy resources. The region still largely relies on fossil fuels. Despite the negative impacts of fossil fuels on the environment, all countries continue to implement fossil fuel subsidies to varying degrees.

The number of premature deaths due to ground-level ozone exposure increased in the period 2009-2018 by an estimated 24 per cent, possibly caused by higher mean temperatures.

Diffuse pollution and urban and industrial wastewater discharges remain significant in many locations and persistent organic contaminants are of greater public health concern. Despite some good examples, cooperation and participatory processes for water protection, allocation and other practical achievements are not implemented as deeply as they could be. The status of ecosystems remains a cause for concern. The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea remain highly over-fished, whereas signs of recovery of fish stocks can be observed in the North-East Atlantic Ocean and the

Baltic Sea as a result of improved management decisions. Marine pollution, from both land-based (e.g. nutrients, plastic and chemicals) and sea-based (e.g. plastic and oil) sources, continues to be an urgent problem in most sea regions. Beach and marine litter, dominated by plastic, is recognized as a major global threat to coastal and marine ecosystems.

While the waste management hierarchy assigns the highest priority to waste prevention, waste generation continues to rise across the region. Even where there is strong political commitment to developing a circular economy, such as in the European Union, the generated waste quantities are growing. Recycling rates differ significantly among the countries.



Only 15 countries of the EU reported that all their local authorities are implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies under Sustainable Development Goal target 13.1.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the overarching policy framework for sustainable development and integrated environmental policy. The 17 universal Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda¹⁹ provide policy objectives at all levels with the overall aim to eradicate poverty, along with the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability.



It includes more than 86 targets to focus progress on core environmental issues, (including under Goal 6 on water, Goal 7 on energy, Goal 12 on consumption and production patterns and Goal 13 on climate action), and more than 90 environment-related indicators to measure progress on the implementation of the Agenda.



At the European Union level, the European Green Deal promotes a holistic approach and sets out a road map for climate neutrality by 2050 with sustainability as the new standard for all policies. It includes a Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Zero Pollution Action Plan, “Farm-to-Fork”, Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and transition to a circular economy as ambitious directions for the European Union.



The European Union clean air policy framework to abate air pollution includes three pillars: air quality standards, national emission ceilings for key pollutants and emission limit values for key sources of pollution. The 2019 fitness check of the European Union Ambient Air Quality Directive 69 showed that not all the Directive’s targets have been met .

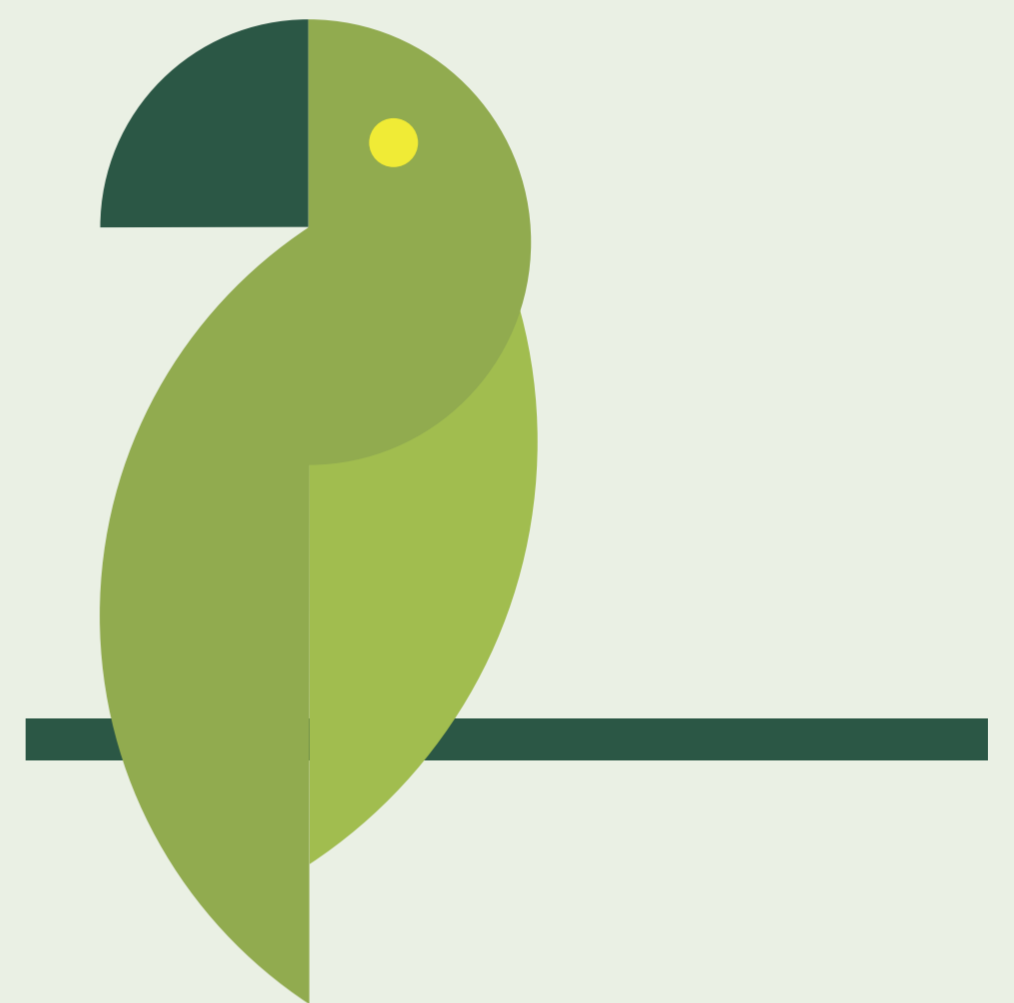
The European Union set a new target for increasing renewable energy in final energy consumption to at least 32 per cent by 2030. The share of energy from renewable sources used in transport activities in the European Union reached 10.2 per cent in 2020, meaning that the 10 per cent target for renewable energy use in transport by 2020 was met. Electric vehicles represented only 0.2 per cent of the European Union's total vehicle fleet in 2020.

During the period 2014–2019, GHG emissions were reduced in the European Union by about 12 Mt of CO₂ equivalent, mostly in Germany but with an increase of emissions in 12 other European Union member States. The renewable energy share in the total energy consumption is 18 per cent in the European Union.



European Union Water Framework Directive¹⁰⁴ (art. 9) was a starting point for stronger economic considerations and cost-recovery principles in the water sector. However, it is undetermined how cost recovery exactly contributes to the attainment of sustainable and equitable water use. The initial European Union policy target of achieving “good ecological status” for all water bodies was not met and was postponed, with 2027 being the final deadline. The European Union has 98 per cent safely managed sanitation services

Financing is a key aspect to support strategies and programs of measures but water attracted just over one fifth of all climate finance from developed countries for developing countries.



The European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 highlights the need for expanding protection of the European Union sea regions to 30 per cent, creating ecological corridors to help reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to climate change mitigation and resilience. The Red List assessments for the European Union sea regions show that, of the 1,196 marine species assessed, 9 per cent are threatened and 3 per cent are near threatened. Birds, mammals and turtles are particularly at risk.

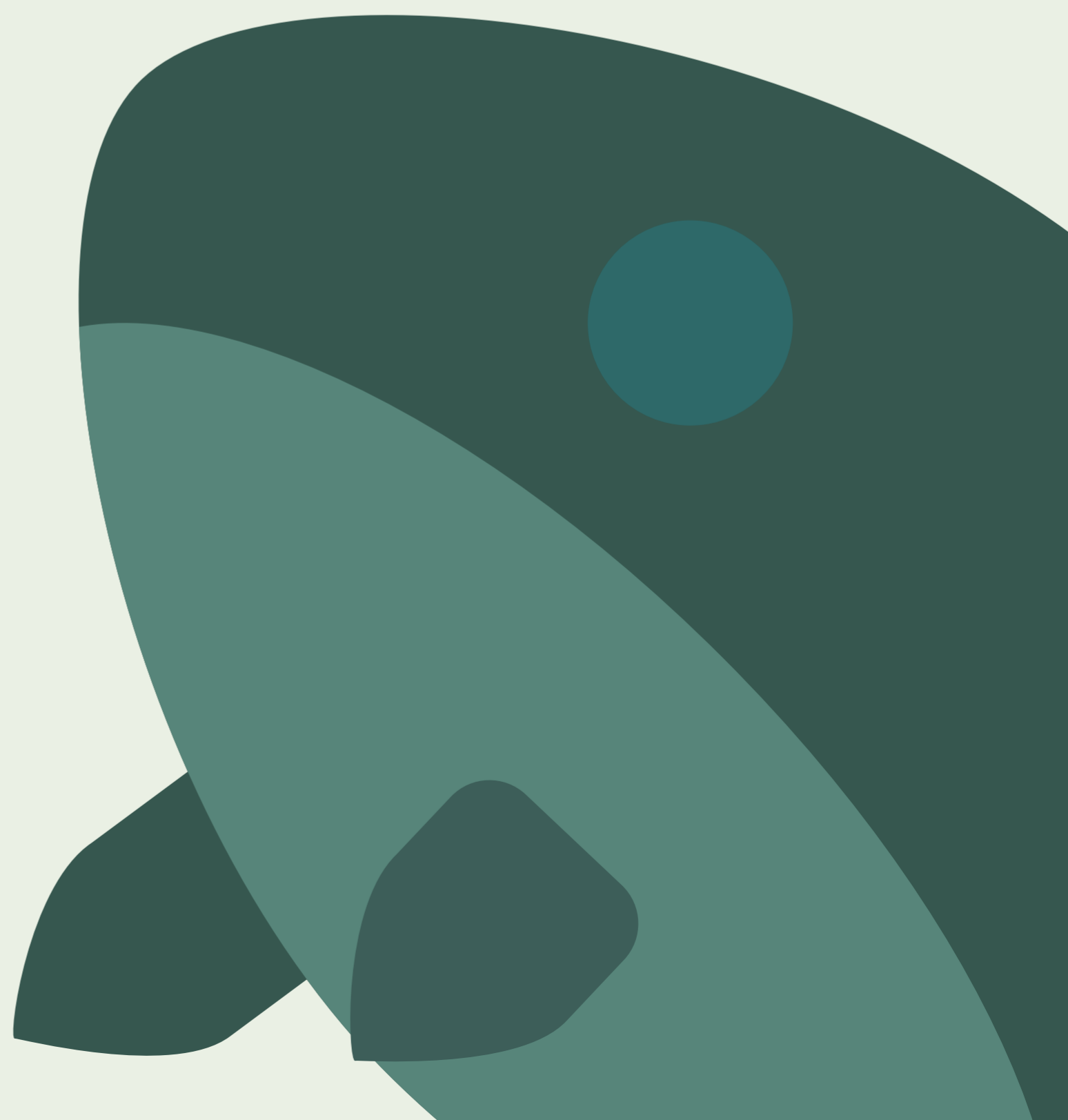
Over the past 20 years, the Danube River has been the subject of a massive clean-up operation financed by the European Union. The construction of wastewater treatment plants along the river has prevented the discharge of raw wastewater into the river, leading to an improvement in water quality over the last 15 years. Other improvements have included reductions in industrial and agricultural discharges. The ecosystem in the north-western shelf of the Black Sea is recovering, as witnessed by the return of once-abundant red seaweed *Phyllaphora*. This is a clear example of a “source-to-sea” approach to coastal and marine management

The European Union, following changes in production, awareness-raising and consumer behaviour, is increasingly focusing on food safety by developing local, organic, genetically-modified-organism-free or other types of certified production.

The 2021 European Union Soil Strategy for 2030 sets out a framework and concrete measures to protect and restore soils and ensure that they are used sustainably. It sets a vision and objectives to achieve healthy soils by 2050, with concrete actions by 2030. The Strategy sets out measures related to soil and circular economy, among other issues, and suggests a safe, sustainable and circular use of excavated soil and limiting land take and soil sealing with the circular use of land. The support from the European Union Common Agricultural Policy could slow the process of cropland abandonment and rural depopulation in the bloc.

The European Union, following changes in production, awareness-raising and consumer behaviour, is increasingly focusing on food safety by developing local, organic, genetically-modified-organism-free or other types of certified production.

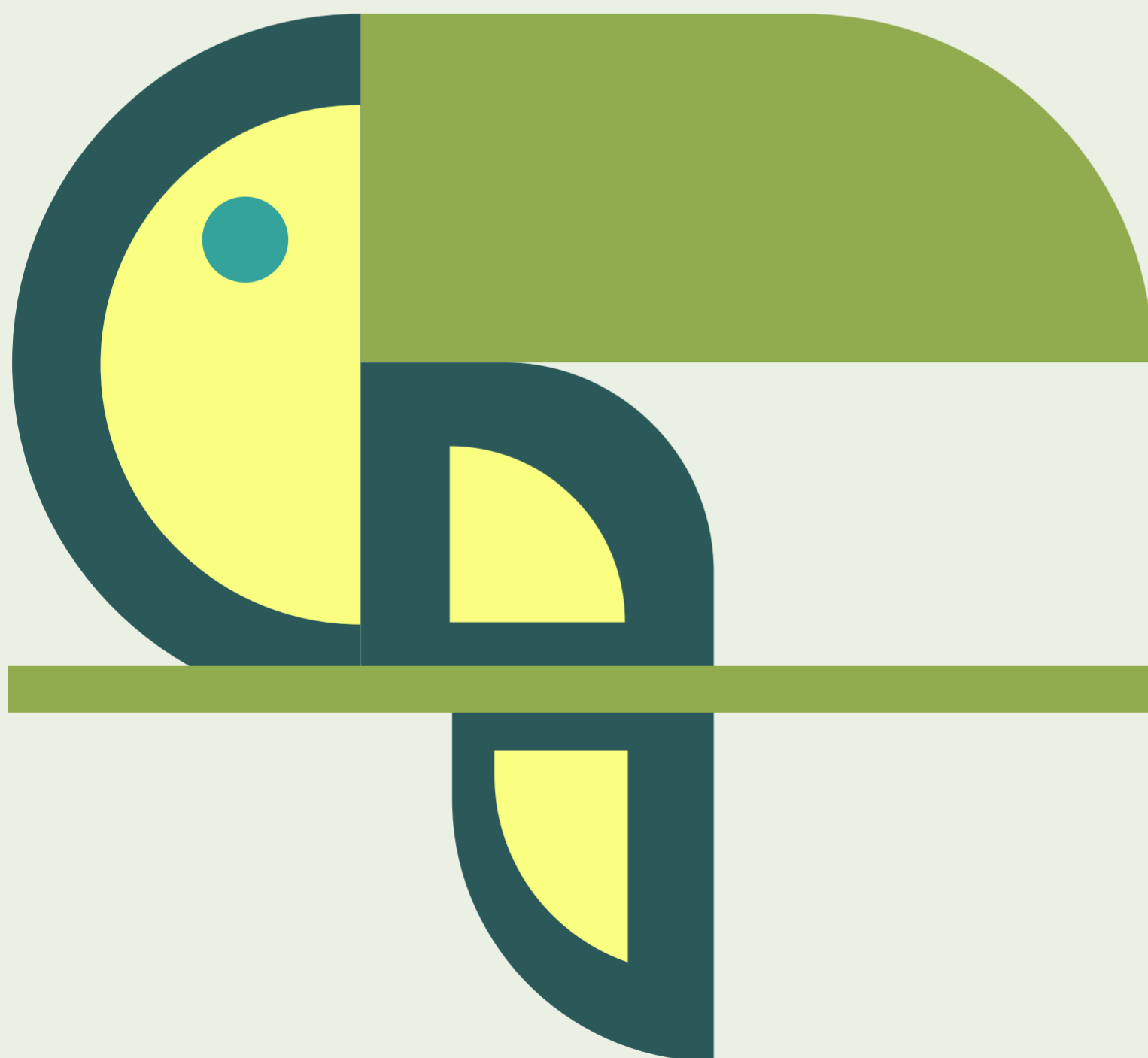
The European Union waste regulations establish a fairly robust framework for the collection, valorization or sound disposal of waste. Average European Union municipal solid waste recycling rates have been increasing continuously over the last 10 years and, since March 2020, the new Circular Economy Action Plan is in place as part of the European Green Deal. In the European Union, where advanced schemes are in place, less than 45 per cent of the estimated generated e-waste volume was collected in 2017. Some countries of the European Union, such as Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Slovenia, have the highest recycling rates in the world. The average European Union recycling rate has increased from 37.3 per cent in 2009 to 47.7 per cent in 2019. Five European Union countries still have municipal solid waste recycling rates below 25 per cent. Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia, which joined the bloc in 2004, present the most pronounced improvement.



Despite the negative impacts of fossil fuels on the environment, all countries continue to implement fossil fuel subsidies to varying degrees. European Union environmental tax revenue amounted to €330.6 billion, an increase of 52 per cent in nominal terms since 2002. European Union countries are leaders in the use of green bonds – in particular, France, Germany and the Netherlands.



In the European Union, on average, environmental tax revenues have remained at around 2.2 to 2.5 per cent of GDP since 2000. Nevertheless, there are clear contrasts among individual countries within the bloc. For instance, since 2015, environmental tax revenues have represented over 3.4 per cent of GDP in Croatia, while amounts levied by Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg are below 2 per cent of GDP. When looking at environmental tax revenues per capita, the Netherlands collects the highest amount, almost \$2,000 per capita, while Kazakhstan collects the smallest, a little less than \$210 per capita. In 2019, Slovenia and Estonia levied quite a significant amount of environmental taxes per inhabitant (\$1,311 and \$1,285, respectively) compared with their GDP per capita (\$27,421 and \$20,835, respectively).



In the European Union, for example, in 2020, governments spent €70 billion on environmental protection expenditures, while corporations spent almost €157 billion (i.e. more than double the amount spent by Governments) and households spent around €60 billion.

For example, Croatia's environmental policy is funded by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (EPEEF). It is the central point for collecting environmental fees and charges and managing programs and projects promoting environmental protection, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. Funds for such projects come from foreign funds, international organizations, financial institutions and bodies, and

national and foreign entities. In particular, as a part of the European Union, Croatia has been allocated a total of €10.7 billion from European Structural and Investment Funds for 2014–2020. The country also benefited from €8.6 billion in total cohesion policy funding for the period 2014–2020. Part of these funds are earmarked for environmental protection and energy efficiency



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The European Commission, as part of its European Green Deal and to align with new strategies, presented a new circular economy action plan in March 2020, following an earlier version. In its circular economy action plan, the European Commission notes that “Scaling up the circular economy from front-runners to the mainstream economic players will make a decisive contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use, while ensuring the long-term competitiveness of the European Union and leaving no one behind”. To achieve this shift, the “European Union needs to accelerate the transition towards a regenerative growth model that gives back to the planet more than it takes, advance towards keeping

its resource consumption within planetary boundaries, and therefore strive to reduce its consumption footprint and double its circular material use rate in the coming decade”. The action plan includes proposals on product design, circular production processes, waste reduction and consumer empowerment. The European Parliament followed up with a resolution on the action plan, demanding additional measures and aiming for a fully circular economy by 2050. The resolution underlines the major contribution that the circular economy may give to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

FINANCING ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION



Especially in Three Seas Initiative countries (eastern European countries excluding Austria) after the fall of communism, funds for environment protection have come from the European Union or other wealthy donors such as the USA. Environment has been a welcome priority of the Phare and Tacis programs of aid to these countries since the very beginning. For example, during the first year of the programme, the then Czechoslovakia even devoted its entire Phare budget to the environment. Later, the emphasis of the European Union shifted from technical support to institutional strengthening and investment in eastern European countries which directed substantial EU aid to align their environmental laws and procedures with those of the Union. For example, the European Union financed environmental projects in the “Black Triangle” coal mining region between Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, the Danube River basin and the Black Sea.



On March 9, 2023, The European Commission announced an investment of over 116 million EUR for the Life program’s eight major nature, environment and climate action projects in Belgium, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Poland (2 projects), Slovakia and Finland. In Belgium protected area will be enlarged, connectivity will be improved and action plans for critical habitats and species will be developed. In Poland, the EU policy will be implemented on marshes, peat lands and wetlands across various Natura 2000 sites and the second project will help implement Poland’s Strategy for Climate Neutrality Eastern Wielkopolska 2040. Water quality, natural habitats and native species as well a sustainable forestry and fisheries management will be supported in Slovakia. Development plan for climate change adaptation will be supported in Estonia.

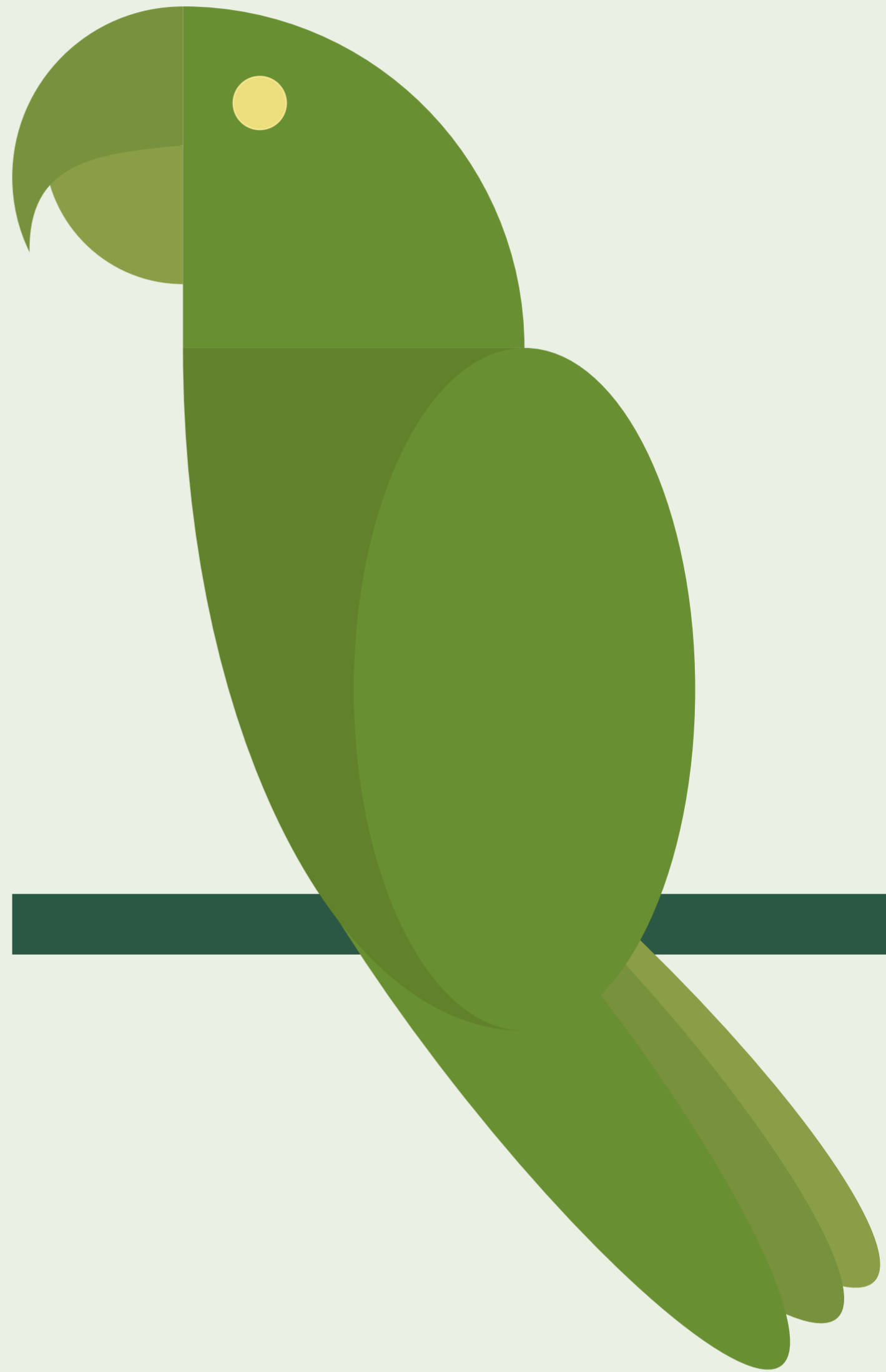
EU FUNDS FOR GREEN SLOVENIA

Slovenia will be able to invest €806 million under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund for a greener, low-carbon transition to a resilient and carbon-neutral economy. “The funds will contribute to the decarbonization of the country, as well as to the development of renewable energy. In particular, investments will be made in solar and wind energy capacity, and in improving the energy efficiency of buildings,”

511 million (ERDF + Cohesion Fund) will go to support “sustainable and intelligent mobility and will help to fill the gaps in the public passenger transport sector, in particular by modernizing and strengthening the Slovenian railway network,”

European Commission’s Just Transition Fund (FTJ) will provide €249 million to the Savinjsko-Šaleška region to enable it to move away from coal by 2023, and to the Zasavje region to ensure its conversion. “The JTF will focus in particular on strengthening training and employment opportunities, supporting the diversification and resilience of the local economy and rehabilitating degraded areas,” says the European Commission.

The package is complemented by an allocation of €23.9 million from the European Fund for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (Feampa) for investments in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, conservation of marine biodiversity and protection of marine ecosystems in the Adriatic. The European blue economy creates tangible opportunities for coastal communities and plays a crucial role in decarbonizing economy. This partnership agreement will help Slovenia to further build low-carbon, resilient, sustainable and innovative fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and will support the ecological and digital transition of the blue economy in Slovenia.



EU-funded LIFE IP RESTART helps Slovenia achieve a higher recycling rate of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste. The lack of coherent legislation, insufficient recycling capacity and low social acceptance of recycling processes and the resulting products are all handicaps identified by the Slovenian government.

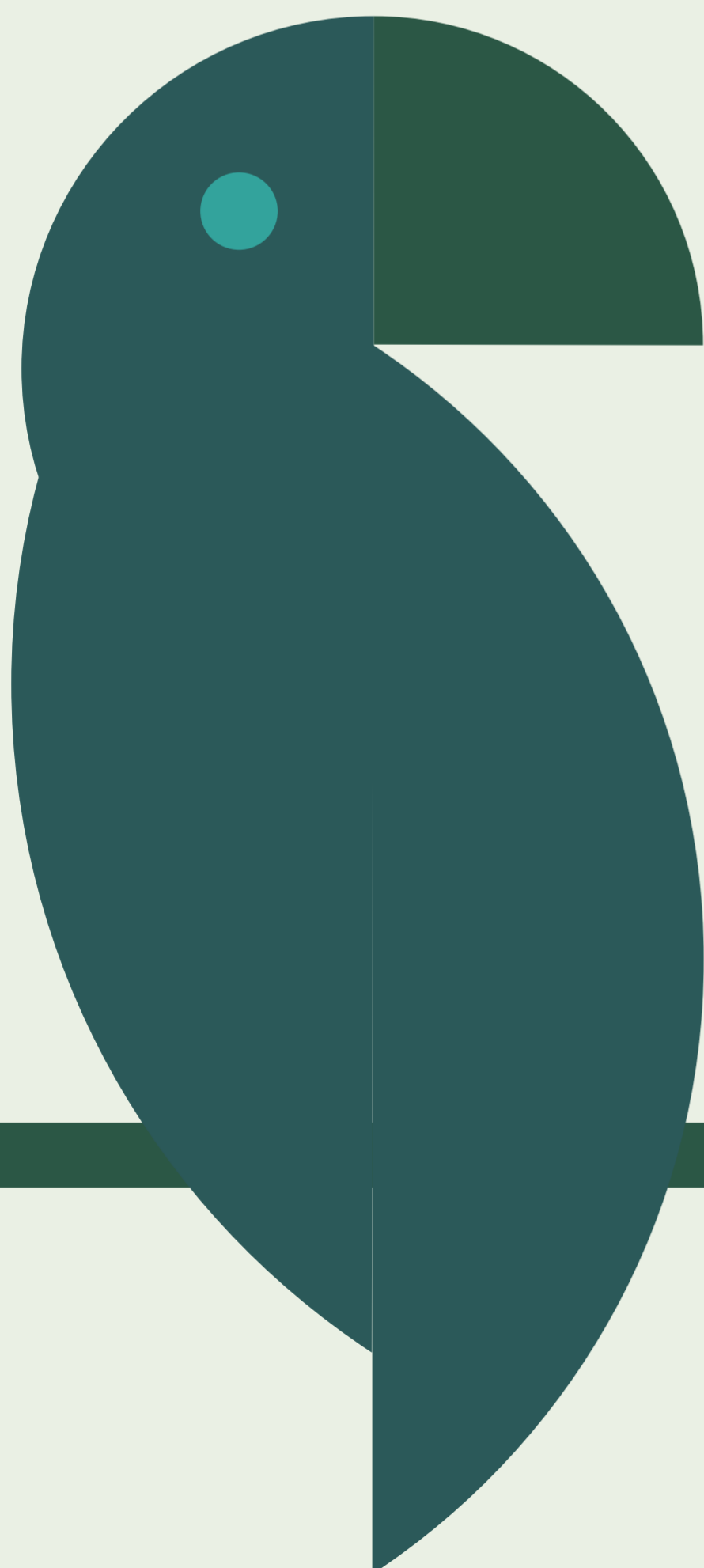
Its Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning will deploy a set of complementary technical, digital, environmental and circular solutions to achieve maximum material self-sufficiency and increased circularity in the waste recovery sector.



Six circular solutions for problematic and bulky waste streams will be promoted to ensure wide adoption of solutions to achieve coherent and integrated implementation of national waste management and prevention targets. Slovenia has high ambitions to reduce waste by 60% through recycling by 2030. And to reach a recycling rate of 50% for non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (70% for municipal waste). Improving waste collection, treatment and disposal activities, as well as material recovery, could also reduce CO₂ emissions by 20%.

The European Bank For Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), backed by the InvestEU program, will mobilize more than €1.1 billion in financing through direct investments or financial intermediaries to help the EU countries where the EBRD operates to reach their full green potential. It will also contribute to the EBRD's successful Green Cities program, which is active in more than 50 urban areas to help accelerate their green transition.

Projects which are expected to be funded in this context include energy and resource efficiency in industries and commerce, the circular economy and recycling initiatives, green buildings, sustainable food products, renewable energy, energy storage and grids, water and wastewater, and low-carbon and urban transport.



GREENWASHING

But not all EU steps taken in the field of environment are positive. 80 European NGOs have signed on to a letter calling on the EU to reject carbon offsets. A global team of academic researchers assessed 29 projects that claimed to have saved a total of 89 million carbon credits and found that over 90 percent of the credits were based on implausible claims that emissions had been avoided.



At the UN biodiversity meeting, COP15, the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022, the 30% initiative, a commitment to create even more national parks and animal reserves, was pushed upon countries. The EU there argued for 10% of the 30×30 target to be under “strict protection”, while allowing extractive industries to take place in the remaining 20%. This would be the worst possible outcome – excluding Indigenous Peoples and local communities from vast areas of their lands, allowing extractivism, a major driver of biodiversity loss, to take place on an even larger area, and failing to respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights and territories, 30×30 initiative was set out to achieve the biggest land grab the world has ever seen.

Studies have shown the 30×30 plan could affect the lands and livelihoods of 300 million people, the ones least responsible for environmental destruction. The idea was supported by the most contaminating and destructive corporations in the world, like Unilever, Nestlé and Shell, among others.

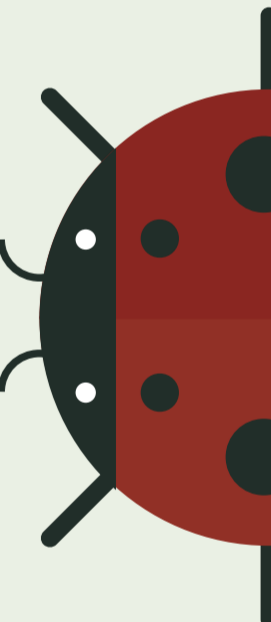


A growing body of scientific evidence shows that lands managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities are more effective than Protected Areas in conserving biodiversity.

Indigenous peoples know very well that nature is not something separate from humans, something we can “conserve” on one side while destroying somewhere else.

Recently, the EU member states and the European Parliament agreed that by 2030, the 27-country EU will get 42.5% of its energy from renewable sources, up from the current target for a 32% share of renewable energy by 2030. The agreement, unfortunately, includes nuclear power although a group led

by Germany opposed to including hydrogen produced from nuclear power. On the other side, in a win for Germany, the EU agreed to exempt e-fuels, a nascent technology that combines hydrogen and carbon dioxide to produce synthetic fuels, from 2035 ban on new sales of combustion-engine cars.



Greenpeace, the environmental organization, sharply criticized the agreement between the German government and the European Commission as it undermines climate protection in transport, and it harms Europe. It will take the European Commission to court over its decision to include gas and nuclear energy in the EU's list of investments that can be labeled as "green".

Militarization in the EU and worldwide has negative effects on environment and climate change, too. Recent data from reports published by Scientists for Global Responsibility and the Conflict and Environment Observatory demonstrate the overwhelmingly negative impact of global military activities on our climate.

The 2022 SGR report estimates that the world's militaries contribute to at least 5.5 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It also finds that if the world's militaries were a country, it would have the 4th largest national carbon footprint in the world.

The richest countries have a military expenditure 30 times greater than what they allocate to climate finance for vulnerable countries and have failed to meet their obligation of providing \$100bn a year to the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. The redistribution of just one year's military spending by the top 10 military countries towards climate finance would provide 15 years (US \$100bn) of the promised funding.



Recent Nord Stream gas explosion may have caused greater ecological damage than expected. The subsequent increase in greenhouse gases, which cause global warming, was equivalent to as much as 32% of Denmark's annual emissions. When unburnt methane gets into the atmosphere, it creates a global warming effect 30 times greater than carbon dioxide. The United Nations Environment Programme says that methane is 80 times worse for the planet than CO₂ at accelerating climate change. German scientists, in collaboration with Gothenburg University, collected water samples in the first week after the leak, and again in January 2023 They detected the levels of methane in the water were about 1000 times higher than usual near the sites of the leaks. A recent study by ocean research centers and universities in Denmark and Poland shows that the explosions would have posed a very real threat to several marine species, including seals, porpoises and cods. The porpoises may have suffered jaw and ear damage, and quite possibly permanent or temporary threshold changes in hearing, making it harder for them to navigate and avoid shipping. As the explosions happened during the traditional spawning and nursery ground period for the Eastern Baltic cod, harmful elements may also have reached the fish, juvenile cod, and eggs in the water, thereby increasing the environmental pressures on fragile fish stocks even more.

The EU will no longer allow products that are linked to the destruction of forests onto the EU market. This regulation is the first in the world to tackle global deforestation and will significantly reduce the EU's footprint on nature.

This outcome is a win but EU decision-makers excluded a few important elements. Negotiators decided not to support the Parliament's proposal to extend the scope to other wooded land such as savannas, even though many of these are already under immense pressure from agricultural conversion. These ecosystems are important carbon stores and a refuge for animals, in addition to providing livelihoods for indigenous people and local communities. Another missed opportunity was the lack of clear recognition of human rights, particularly of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The EU, its Member States and the European Investment Bank are together the biggest contributor of public climate finance to developing economies, providing €23.04 billion in 2021. In 2021, the European Commission committed €2.50 billion to developing economies, with a significant share it (almost 40%) going to funds climate adaptation activities. In addition, the EIB provided €2.56 billion in climate finance to developing economies in 2021. It finances, for example, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Africa and other regions, and often blends funds with those from the Commission and national agencies in EU countries. According to OECD DAC report from September 2022, climate finance to developing economies reached \$83.3 billion in 2020.

In 2021, 27.6% of bilateral ODA from DAC members pursued climate objectives. Activities with climate change as a significant objective totaled over USD 23 billion in 2021.

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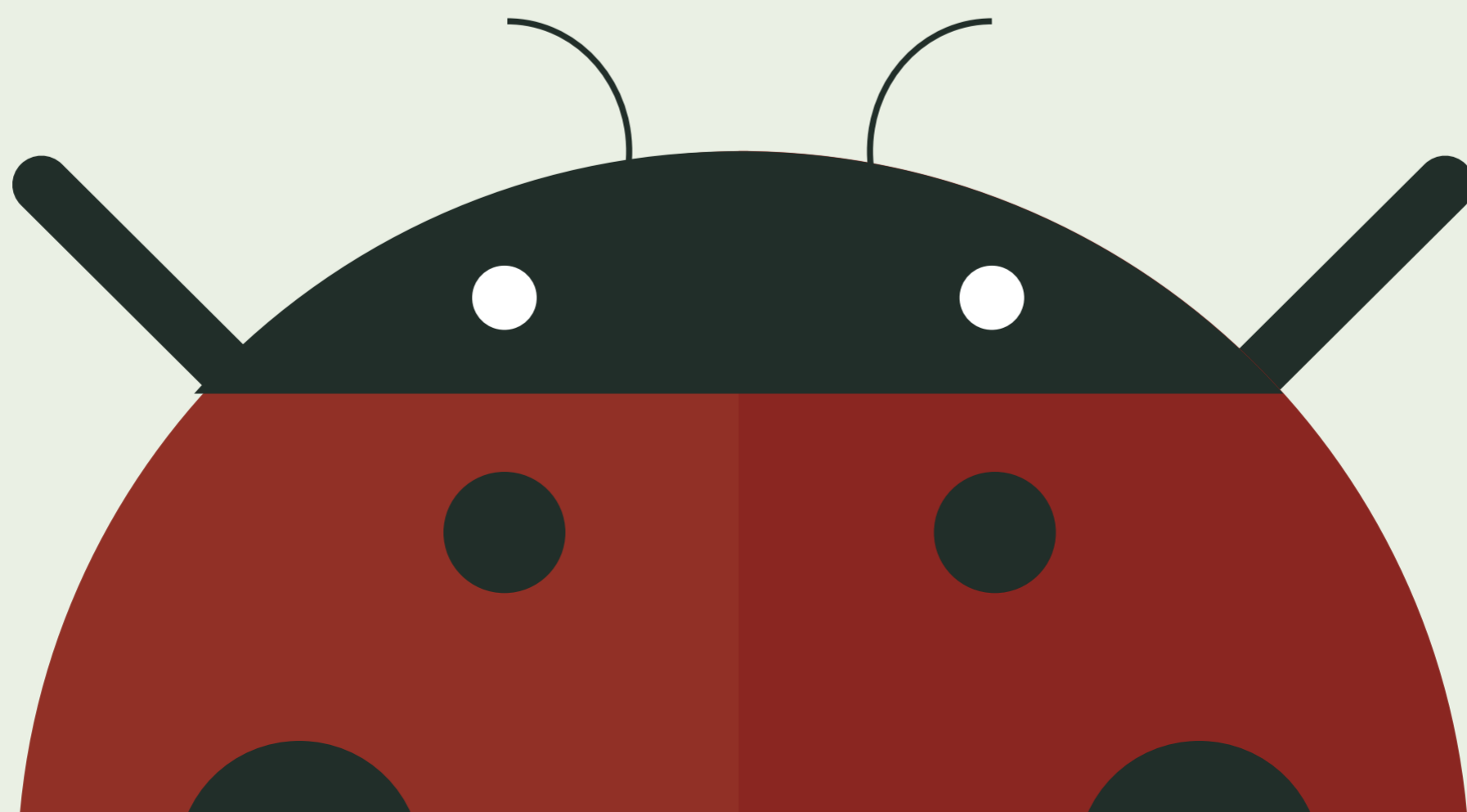
Considering Three Seas Initiative countries, Slovenian bilateral environment aid in 2020 was around 2,7 million USD, with 1 million USD for Ukraine, 310,000 USD to Bosnia and 230,000 USD to Montenegro. Slovak bilateral environment aid in 2020 was 3 million USD, of which 1,2 million USD went to Kenya, 570,000 USD to Serbia, 460,000 USD to Lebanon, 410,000 USD to Moldova, etc. 270,000 USD to Georgia and Ethiopia

Polish bilateral environment aid in 2020 amounted to the sum between 6 and 7 million USD in 2020, with 1,6 million USD to Albania, 0,9 million USD to Ukraine, 0,8 million USD to Kenya, etc.

Hungarian bilateral environment aid amounted to 33 million USD in 2020, with Laos receiving 10 million USD, Serbia 9 million USD, Mongolia 2 million USD, Uganda 0,7 million USD, Indonesia 0,5 million USD, etc. Czech bilateral environment aid amounted to 17 million USD in 2020, with Ethiopia receiving 4 million USD, Moldova 3 million USD, Bosnia 2 million USD, Georgia 1 million USD, etc.

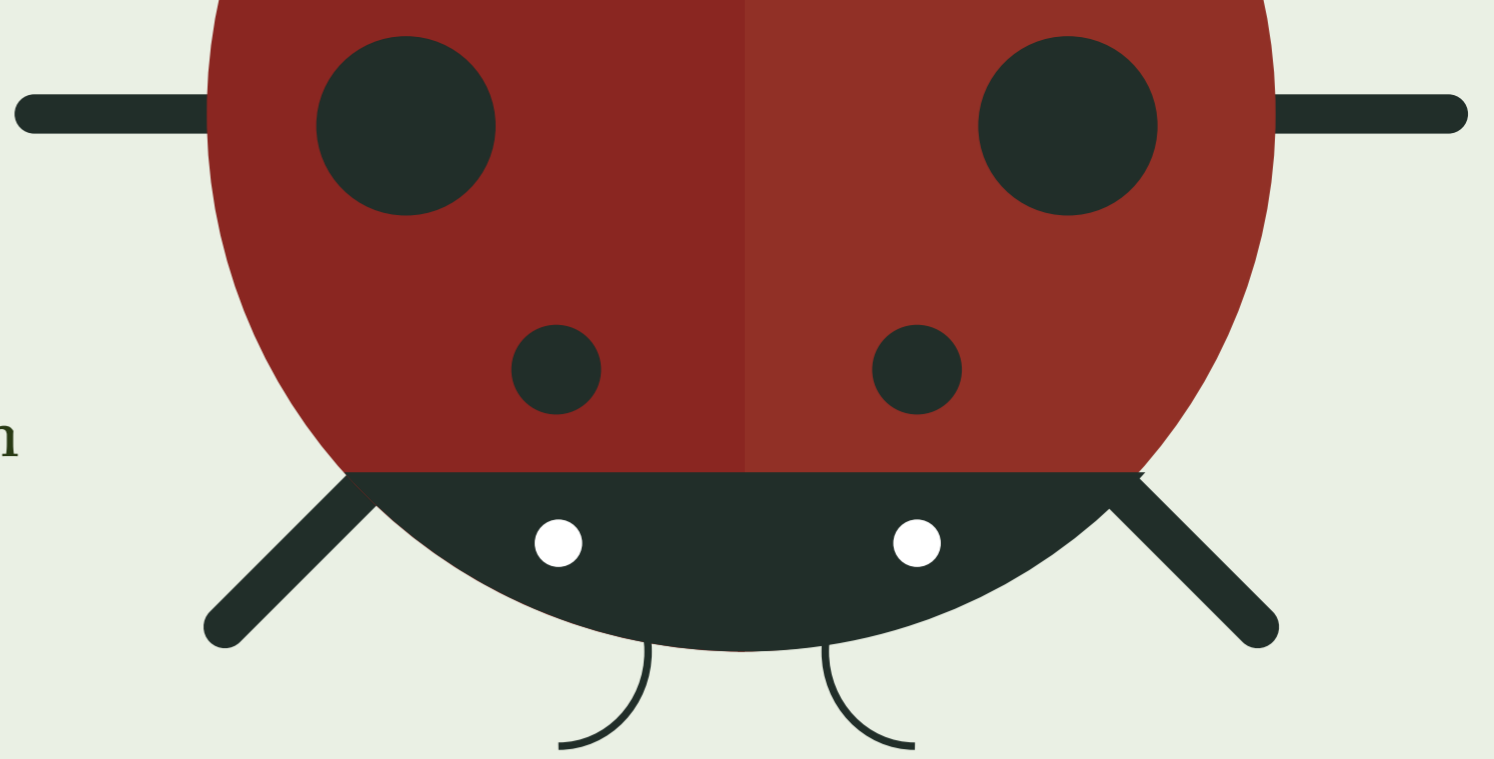
Austrian bilateral environment aid amounted to 217 million USD in 2020, with Serbia receiving 15 million USD, Kosovo 6 million USD, Mozambique 6 million USD, Turkey 5 million USD, Ethiopia 4 million USD, Burkina Faso, Mongolia, Armenia, Moldova and Uganda, all receiving 3 million USD, etc.

EU institutions disbursed almost 8 billion USD for bilateral environment aid in 2020, with Turkey receiving 582 million USD, Mozambique 175 million USD, Iraq 126 million USD, etc.



SUMMARY OF THE CONDUCTED SURVEY





As part of the project, we conducted research among 513 young people from:

- 🌿 Poland
- 🌿 Lithuania
- 🌿 Latvia
- 🌿 Slovakia
- 🌿 Slovenia
- 🌿 Austria
- 🌿 Czech Republic
- 🌿 Hungary
- 🌿 Bulgaria
- 🌿 Romania.

They were aimed at checking how young people assess the functioning and implementation of ecological solutions of the New Green Deal in their countries. On this basis, we have created the previously described strategy in the areas of just transition, green labor market, environmental education and climate policy.

The largest group were Romanians, the smallest – Lithuanians. The gender distribution was fairly balanced: 58.1% of the participants were women, 40.4% men, and 1.4% did not identify with any particular gender.

In terms of age, the majority of respondents (61.4%) were between 18 and 26, only 9% were under 18 and 29.6% were over 26. This distribution shows a strong representation of young adults, reflecting their point of view on ecological and ecological issues. environmental issues.

The study verified the earlier participation of young people in various forms of environmental education. The dominant answer was workshops - 24.9% of participants and school activities, which indicates that environmental issues are increasingly being included in formal education, and not only non-formal.

Participants were also asked about their interest in attending workshops on four different environmental themes: transport, environment, skilled work and household management. The most popular topic was the environment - the highest rating was given by 33% of respondents.



In the part devoted to the importance of various elements of adopting a just transition approach in organizations, participants were asked to assess the importance of such aspects as:



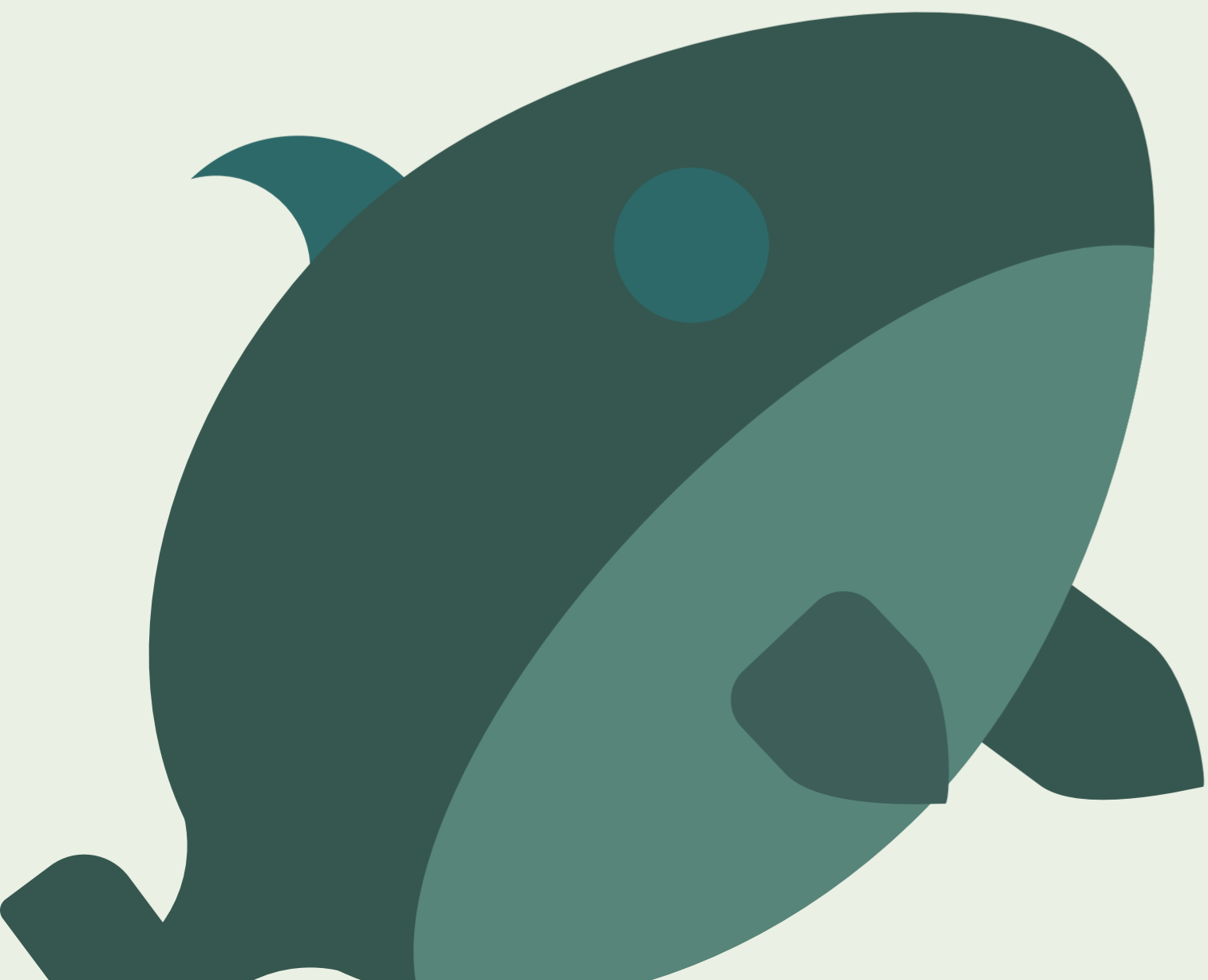
- ☞ Equal access to training
- ☞ Equal access to work regardless of gender or skills
- ☞ Professionalization of workplaces or minimizing negative effects on the environment.

The results showed a consensus that all four aspects were crucial. On the other hand, “ensuring equal access to high-quality education and training for employees” was considered the least important. ‘Minimizing negative impacts on the ecosystem’ is also ranked lower, suggesting a subtle bias towards favoring equal opportunities at work and creating quality jobs over access to education and environmental considerations.



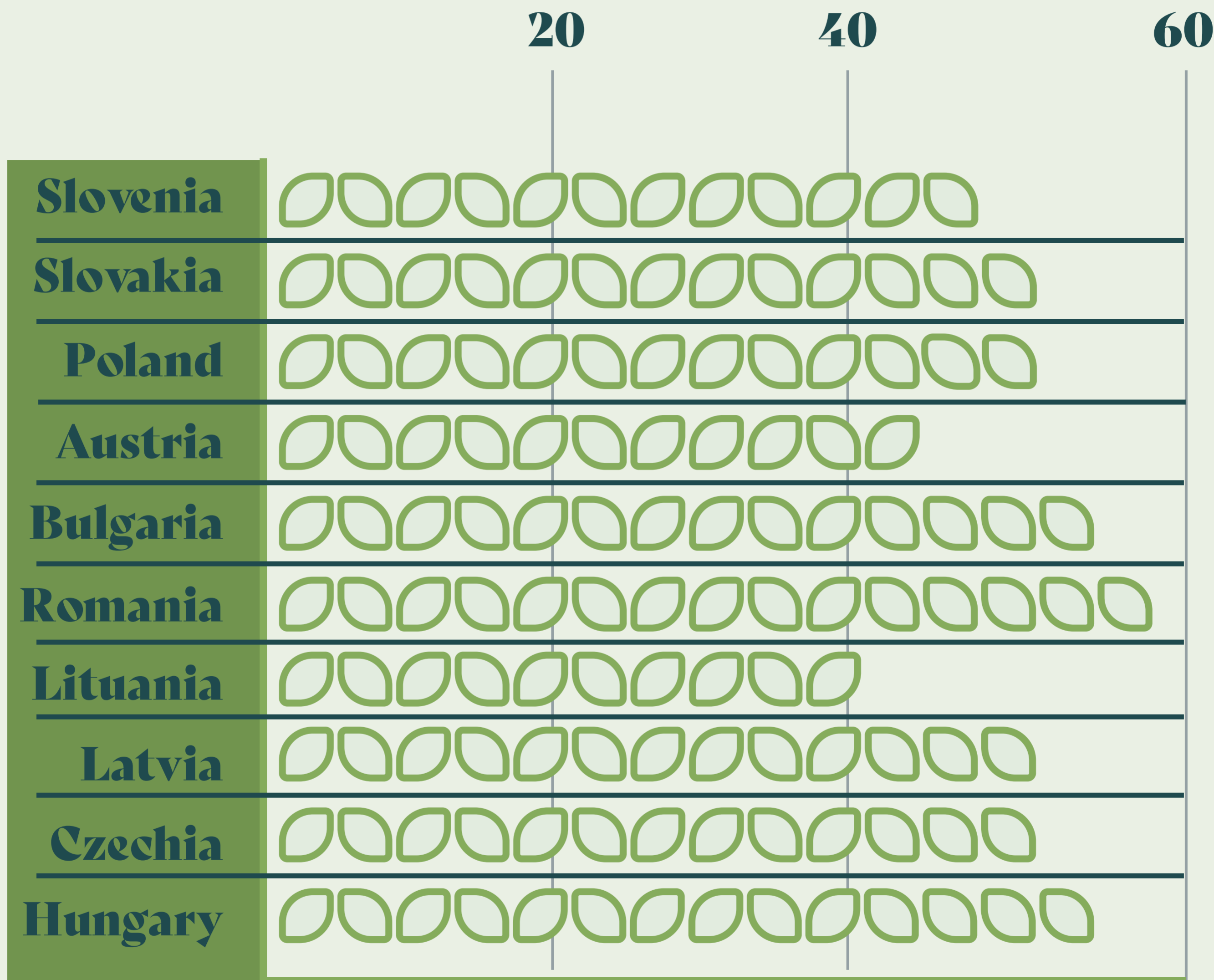
The survey also explored how young people’s voices on the European Green Deal could be improved. Among the issues highlighted were education and awareness, and suggestions included incorporating green ideas into school curricula, running workshops, raising awareness among young children and parents, and making environmental education compulsory in secondary schools.

The main needs and expectations of the young towards the new order are therefore actions aimed at protecting the climate, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable economic practices. Young people want their countries to strive for sustainable development, taking into account ecological, social and economic aspects. They expect support for the energy transformation by investing in renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency. Social justice and a voice on sustainability issues are also important to them. Most of the respondents expect that it will support educational programs and information campaigns that will increase awareness and encourage pro-ecological activities, as well as contribute to the creation of new ecological jobs.



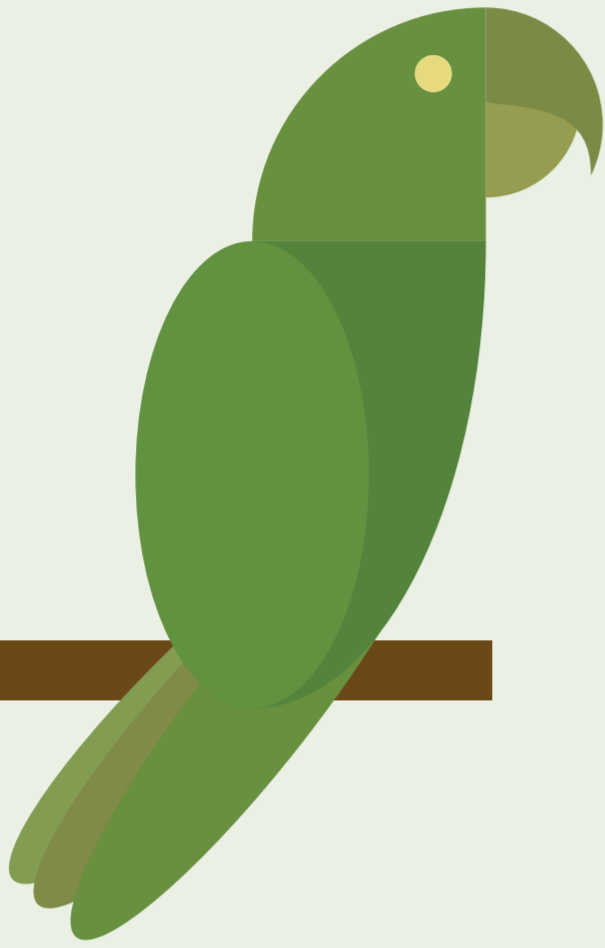
QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANALYSIS

As part of the project, we conducted research among 513 young people from:



The largest group were women, making up 58.1% of the participants. Men were a slightly smaller group, representing 40.4% of those surveyed. Additionally, 1.4% of the respondents indicated that they do not identify with any specific gender.

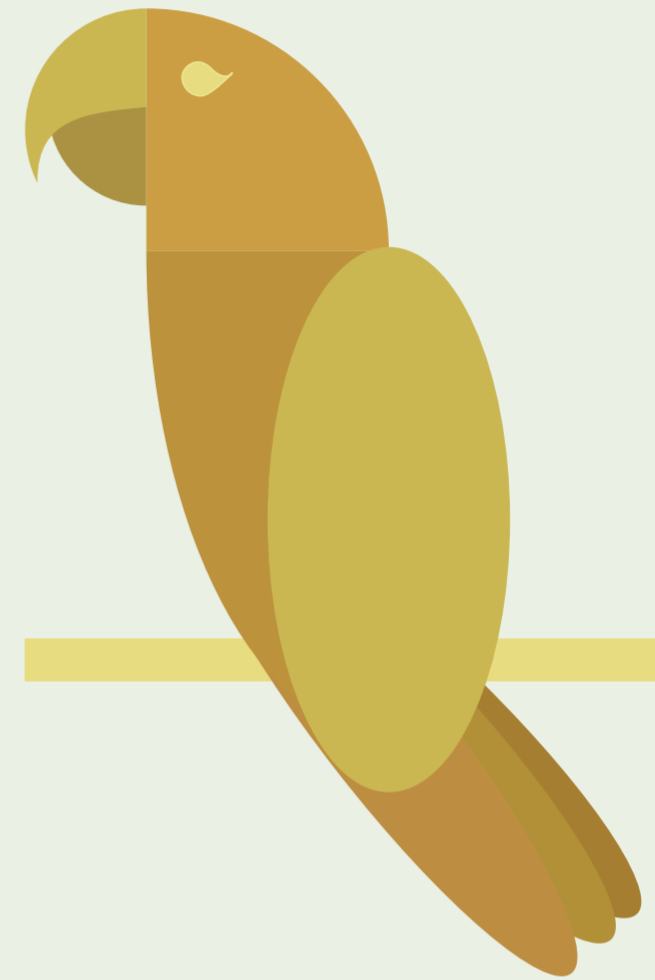
40,4%
male



Other
1,4%



58,1%
female



In the survey, the majority of respondents, which is 61.4%, were aged between 18 to 26 years. Only 9% of those surveyed were younger than 18 years old, while 29.6% were older than 26 years.

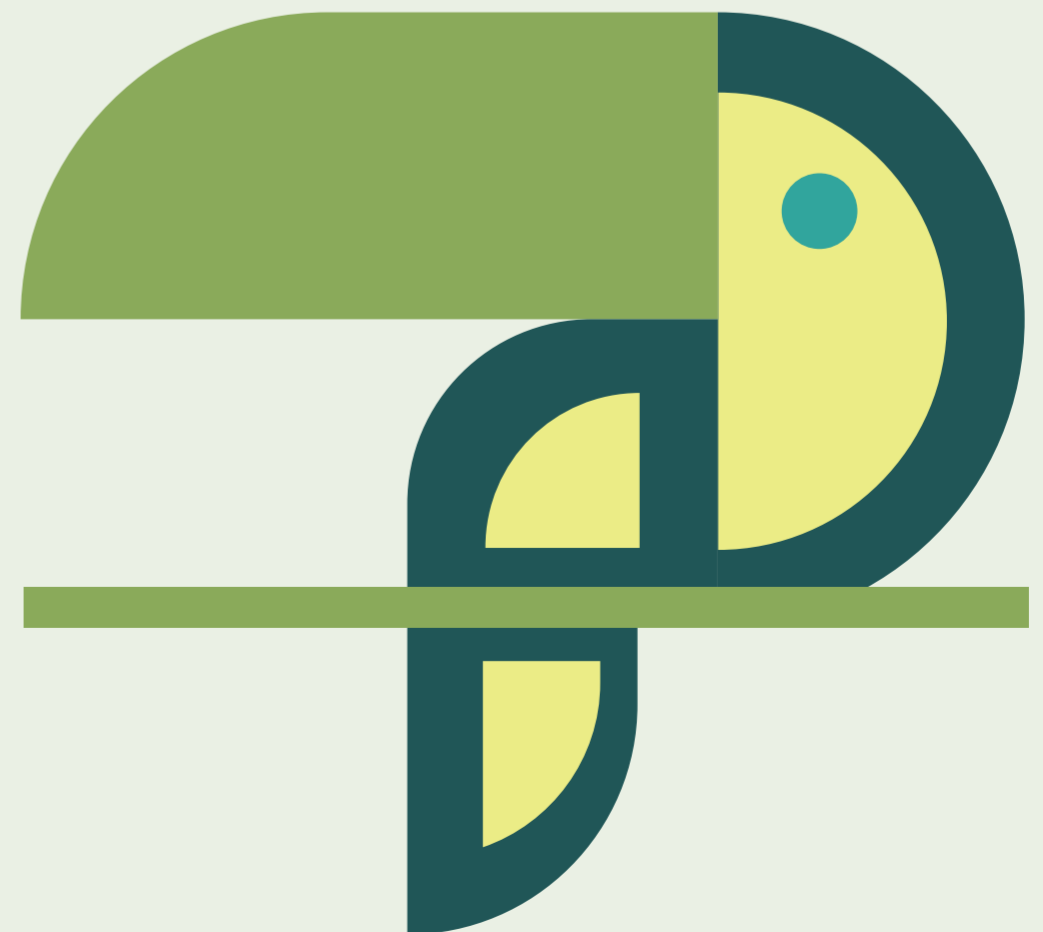
<18
9%



18-26
61,4%



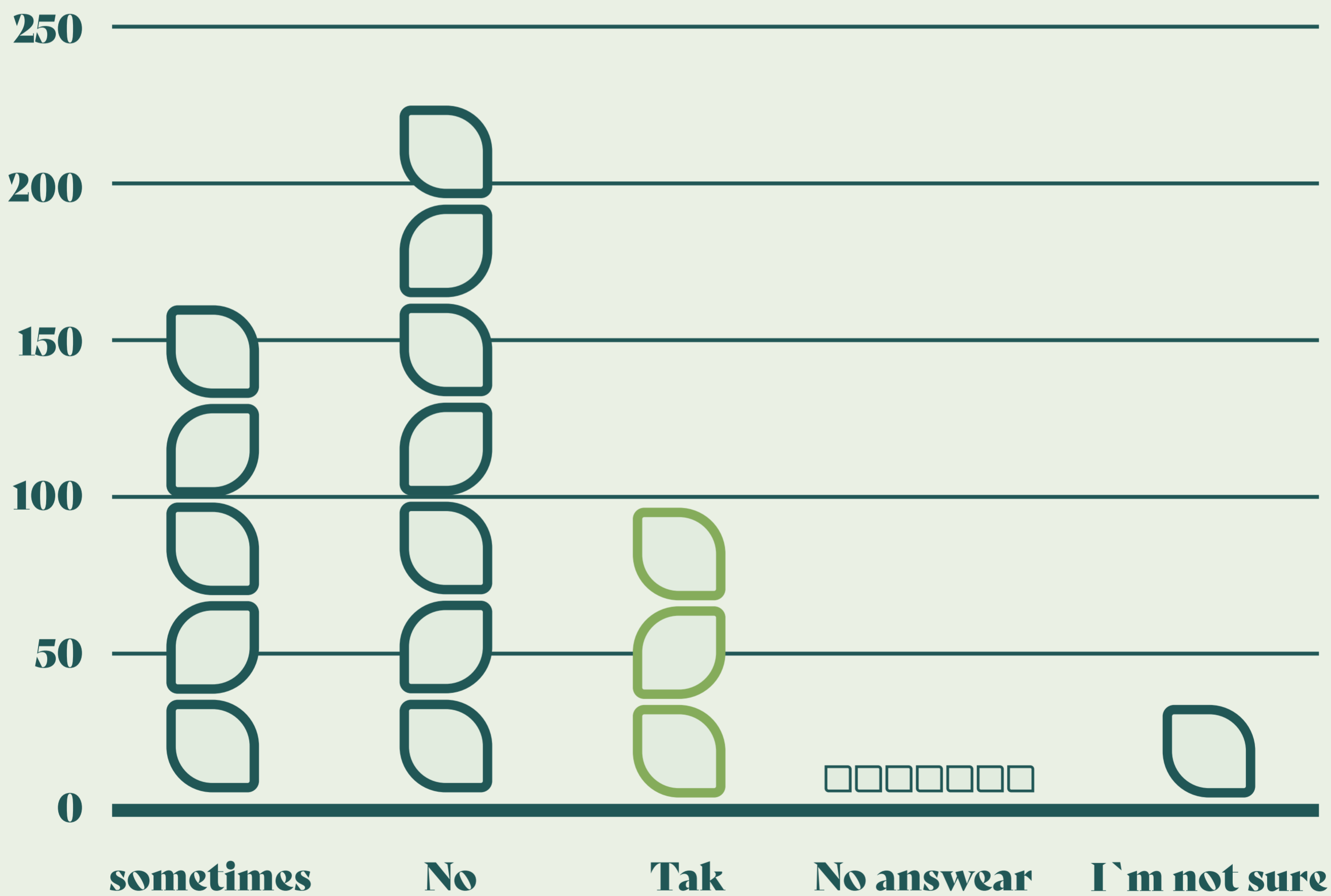
>26
29,6%



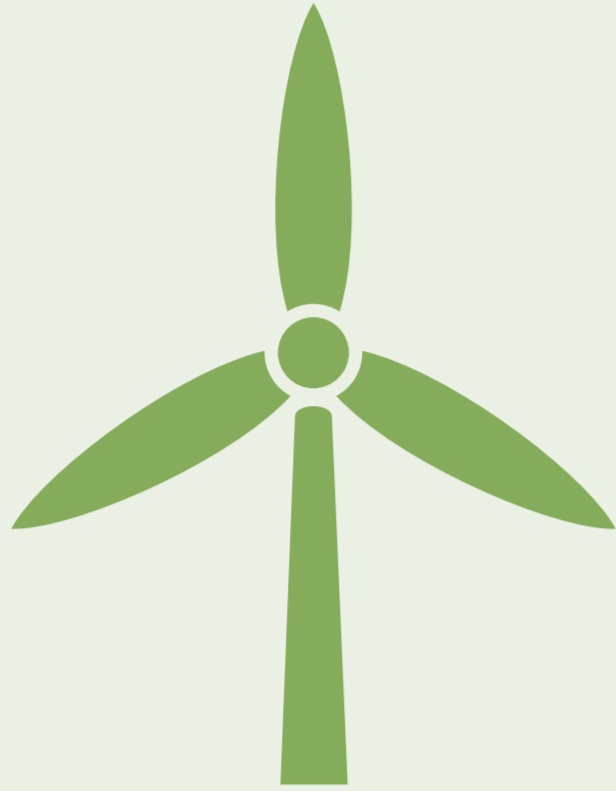
When asked whether they consider themselves as entities present on the green labor market, a significant number of respondents answered “Sometimes”.

This suggests that many people may occasionally or partially engage in green jobs or are unsure whether they fully participate in the sector due to a lack of sufficient knowledge about it. However, there is a growing tendency for young people to find themselves on the Green Labor Market.

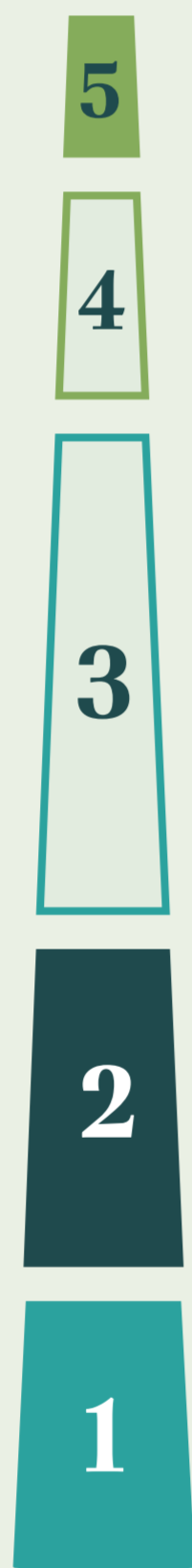
Do you consider yourself as an individual in the green labor market?



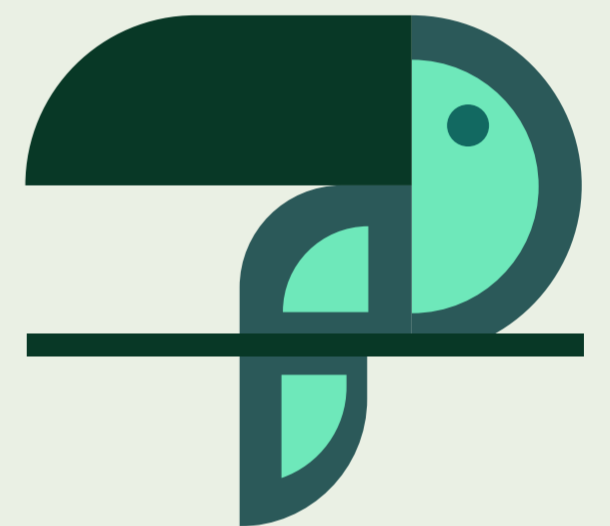
Do you believe that at this moment your region is on track to meet its climate goals by 2030?



5 - Yes, it is going great



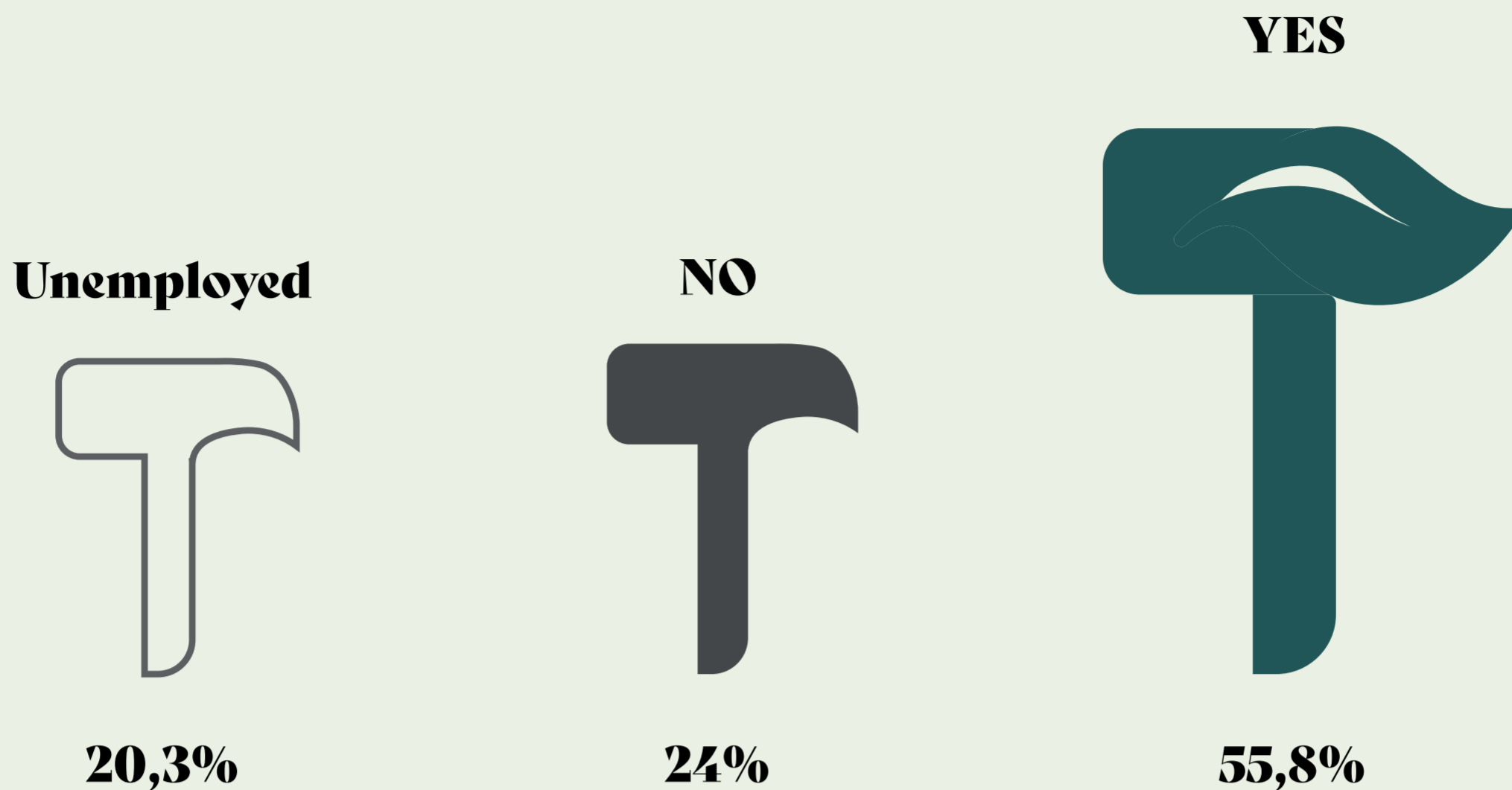
1 - No, not at all



The majority of respondents, 29.7%, chose answer 3, suggesting that many people are neutral or uncertain about their region's progress towards the 2030 climate goals.

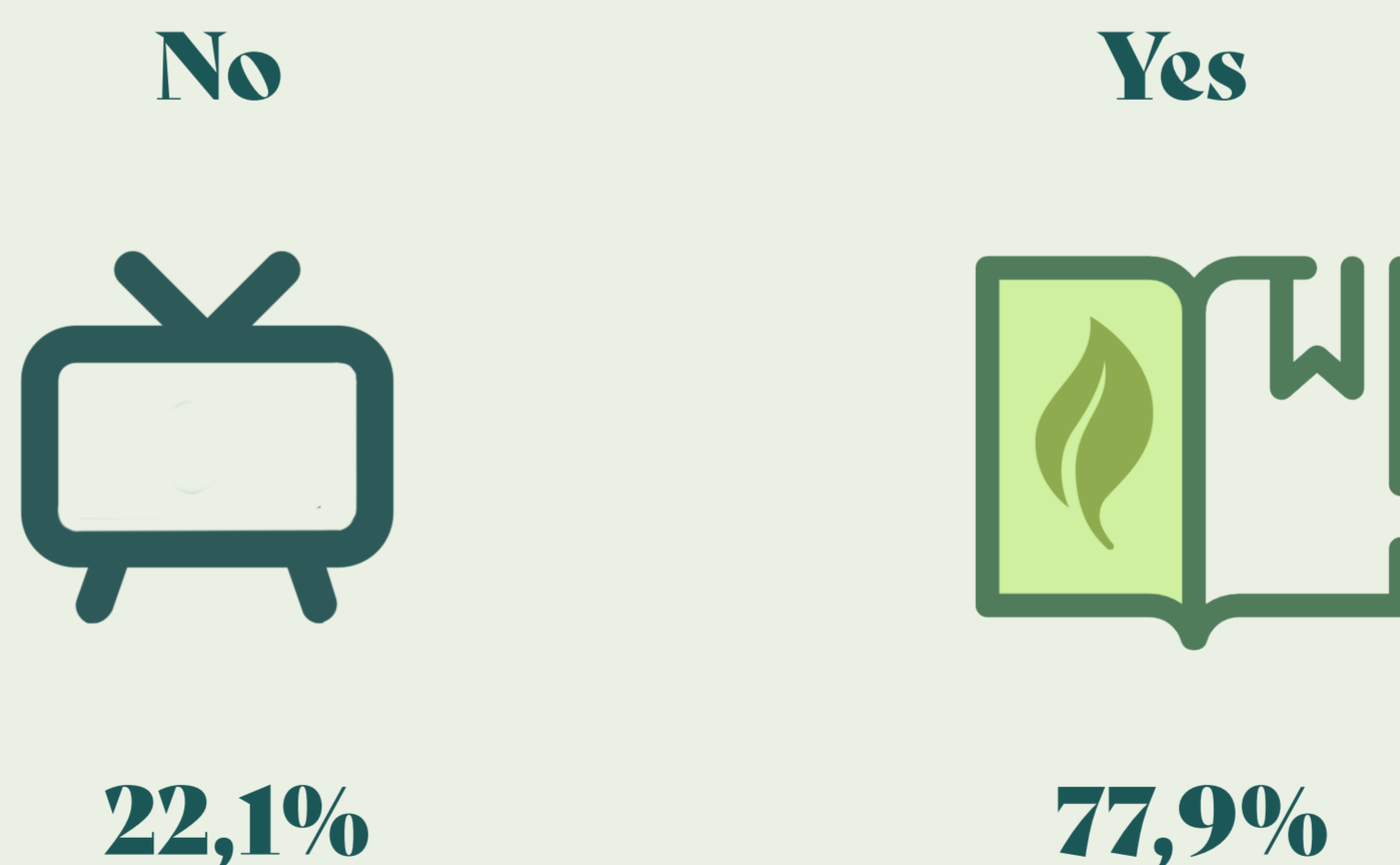
Respondents believe that their regions are on track to achieve their climate goals by 2030, but according to young people, it still requires a lot of work and commitment. Young people consider it very important to introduce new, more ecological rules of conduct.

Do you think a fair transition approach is observed in your workplace?



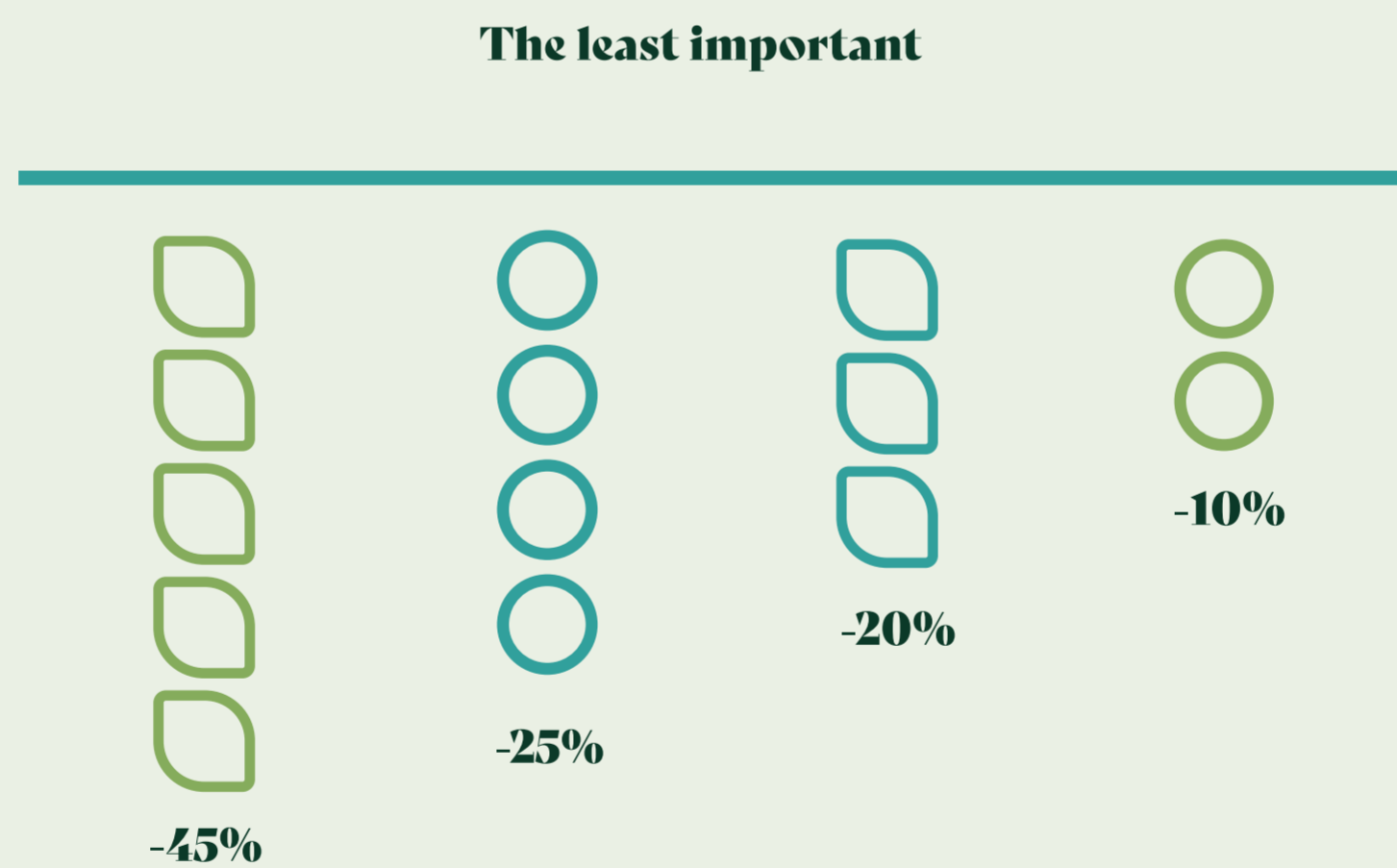
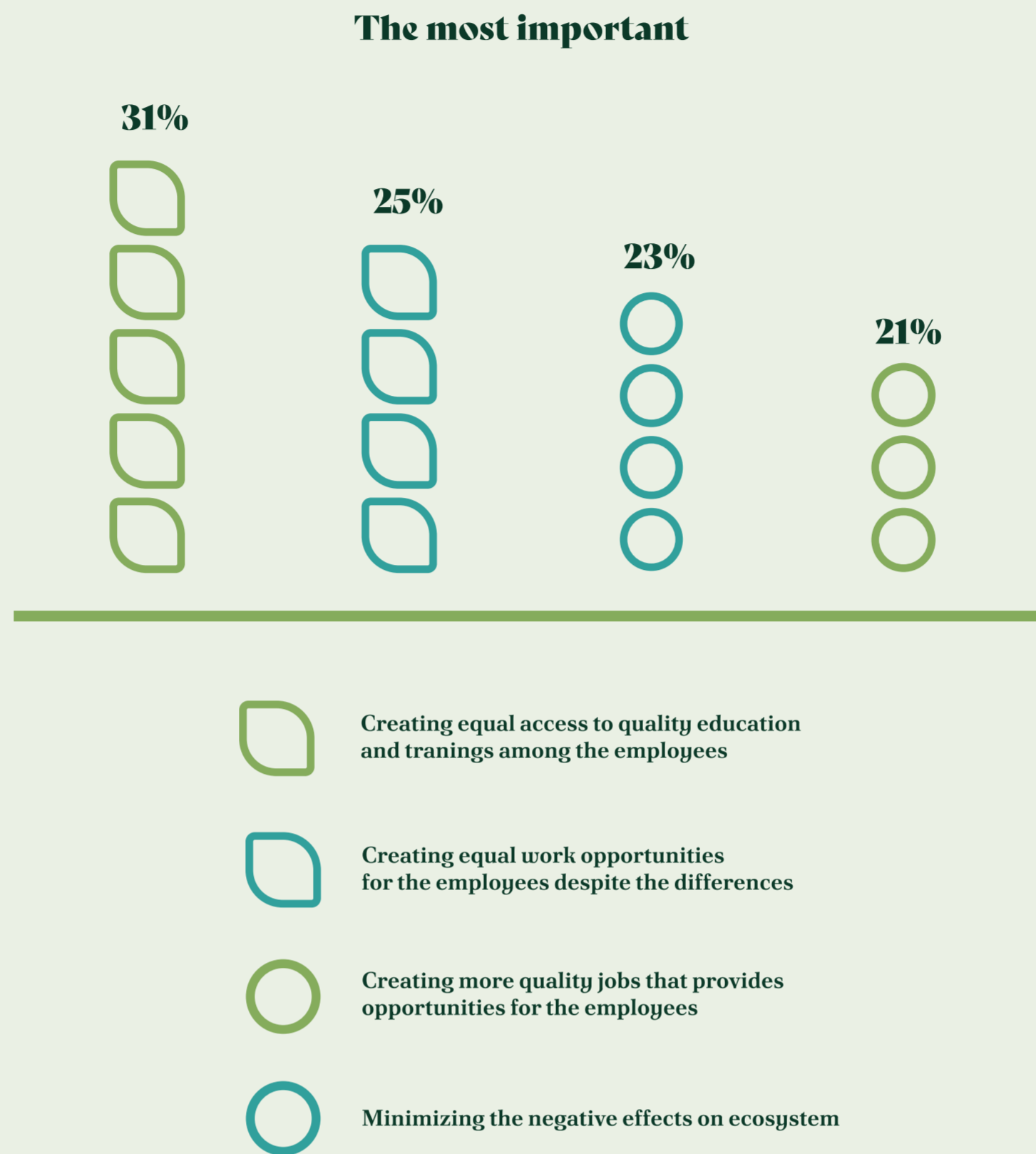
In a survey that asked participants whether they thought a just transition approach was being followed in their workplaces, most responded positively. In particular, 55.8% said they felt there was a fair approach to the transition. Thus, there is a tendency to introduce more and more ecological solutions, also in workplaces.

Are you interested in getting educated about green jobs aspects to implement it to your current job?



The question about the willingness to educate in the field of ecological solutions to be introduced in the workplace met with a positive response. Most young people not only want to learn about ecological solutions, but also willingly take action to introduce them in their workplace.

When an organization is willing to adopt a fair transition approach, which of the following should get the most attention?



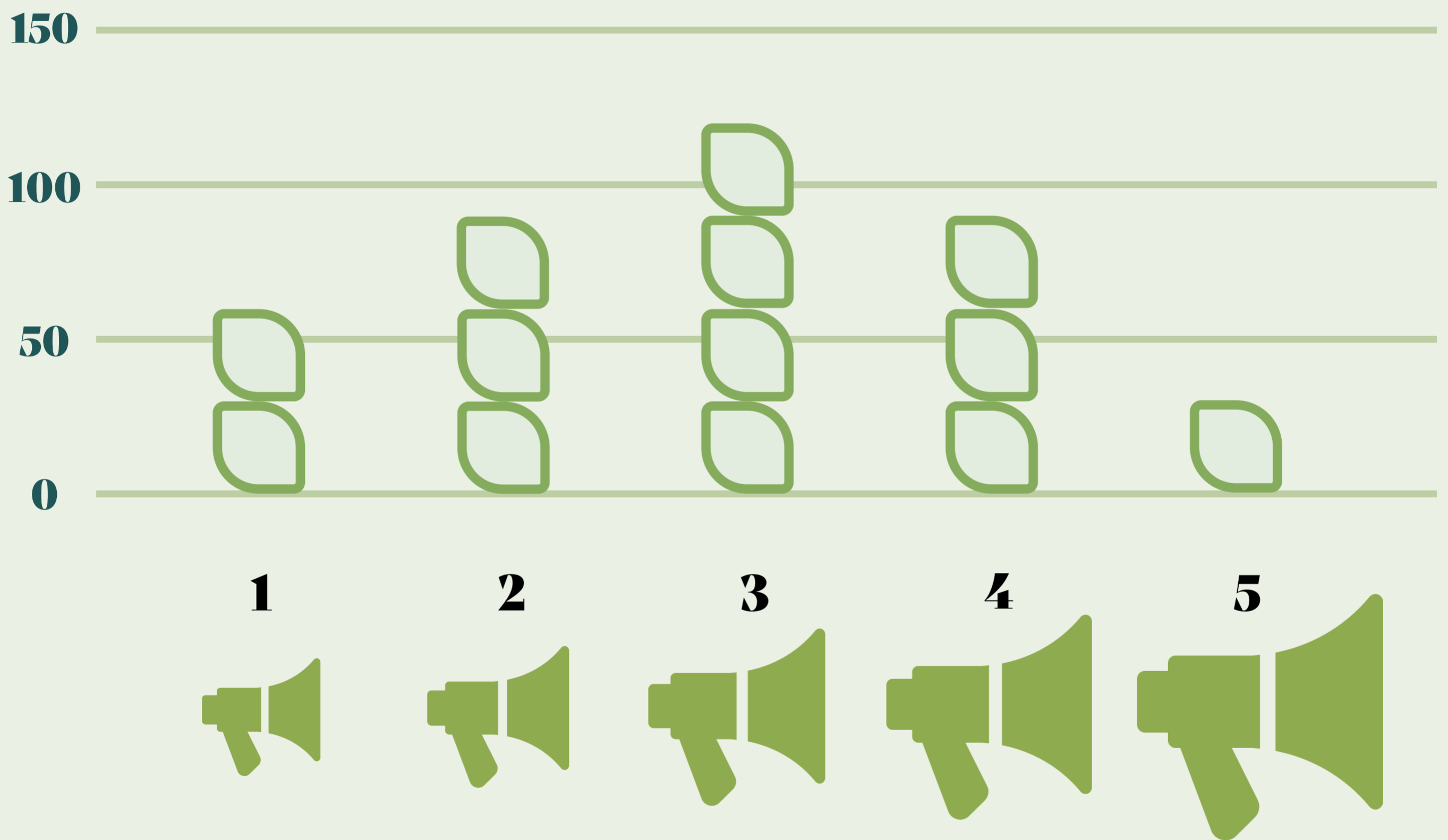
In a survey on the importance of different elements of adopting a just transition approach in organizations, participants were asked to rate the importance of four aspects, from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important). The results revealed a consensus among respondents that all four aspects were considered very important.

However, when it comes to identifying priorities, “ensuring equal access to high-quality education and training for employees” was considered the most important, and “minimizing negative impacts on the ecosystem” was considered the least important.

When an organization is willing to adopt a fair transition approach, which of the following should get the most attention?



How well do you think the voice about green ideas is represented in your region? Rate from 5 (very well) to 1 (very poorly)

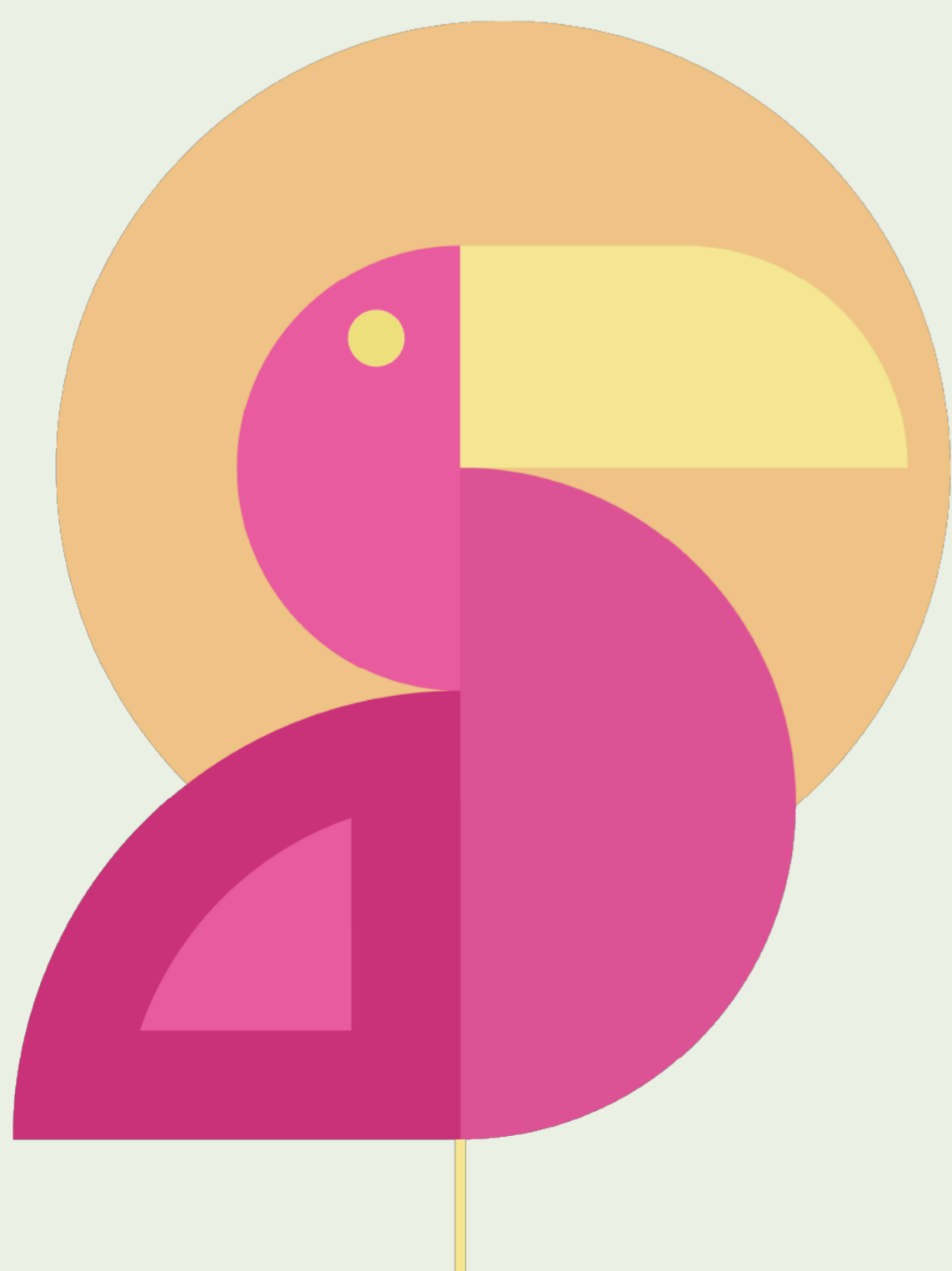


Participants were asked about the representation of the youth voice on green ideas in their region, using a scale of 1 to 5. Most felt that more and more young people’s concerns were being taken into account, but still not enough.

Young people are increasingly talking about ecological and environmental issues.

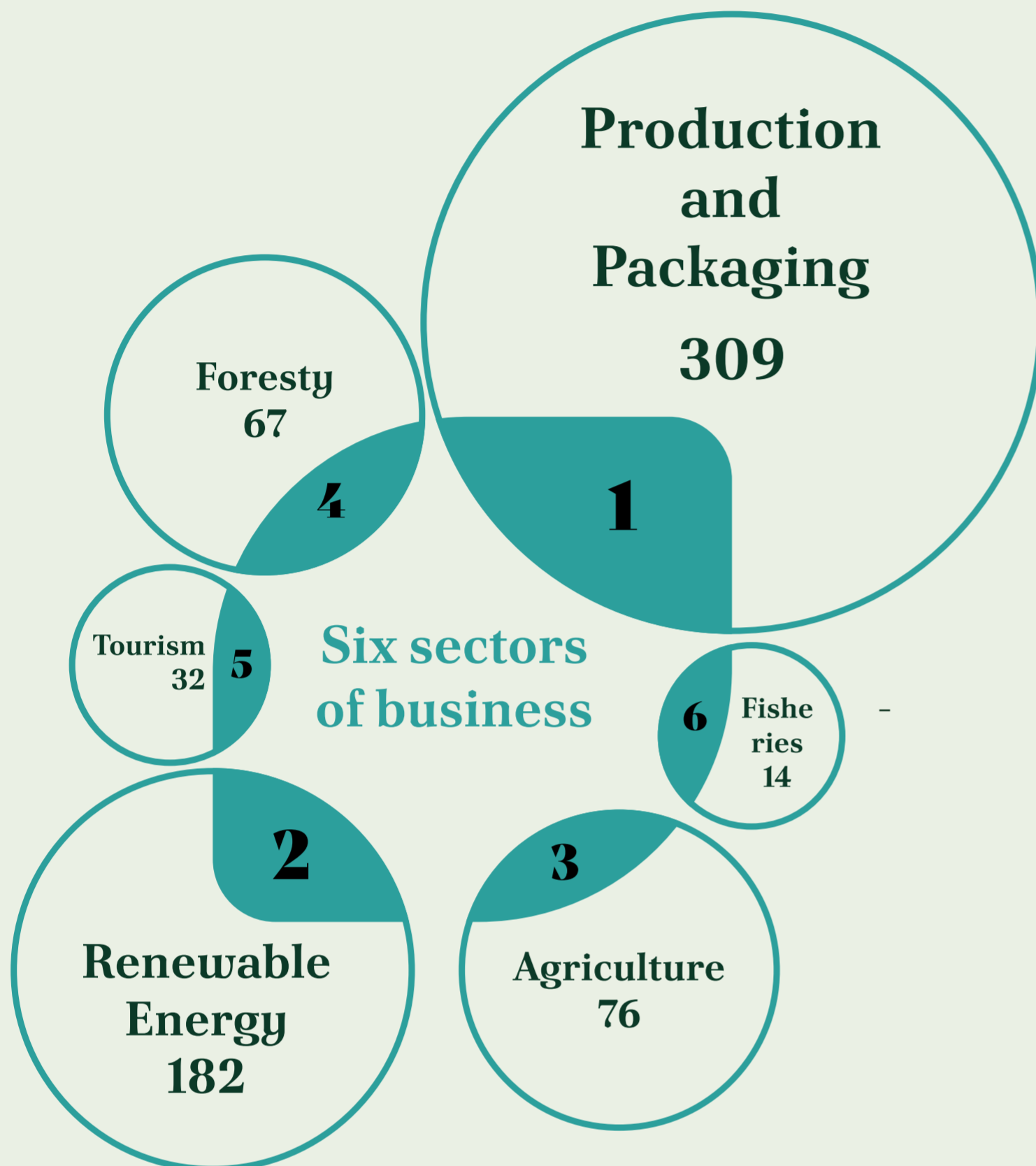
How the voice of youth about green ideas in your country can be improved? Young people, when asked how their voice on ecological issues can stand out, mentioned ideas such as:

- 🌀 Incorporating green ideas into school curricula.
- 🌀 Training young people on environmental issues and sustainability tips.
- 🌀 Consulting with local authorities, presenting your ideas.
- 🌀 Establish permanent structures within existing systems
- 🌀 Encouraging young people to participate in Erasmus and other international cooperation projects.
- 🌀 Engaging young people in volunteer programs promoting green ideas.
- 🌀 Organizing events where young people, politicians and the press can meet.
- 🌀 Organizing public debates, fairs related to sustainable development and discussions.



In conclusion, the majority of respondents believe that youth involvement in green ideas can be significantly improved through educational initiatives, better media representation, deeper community engagement, and active participation in political and decision-making processes. The insights provided here can be instrumental in devising strategies and policies to enhance youth engagement in environmental initiatives.

Which of the following six sectors needs the most attention regarding applying a green attitude?



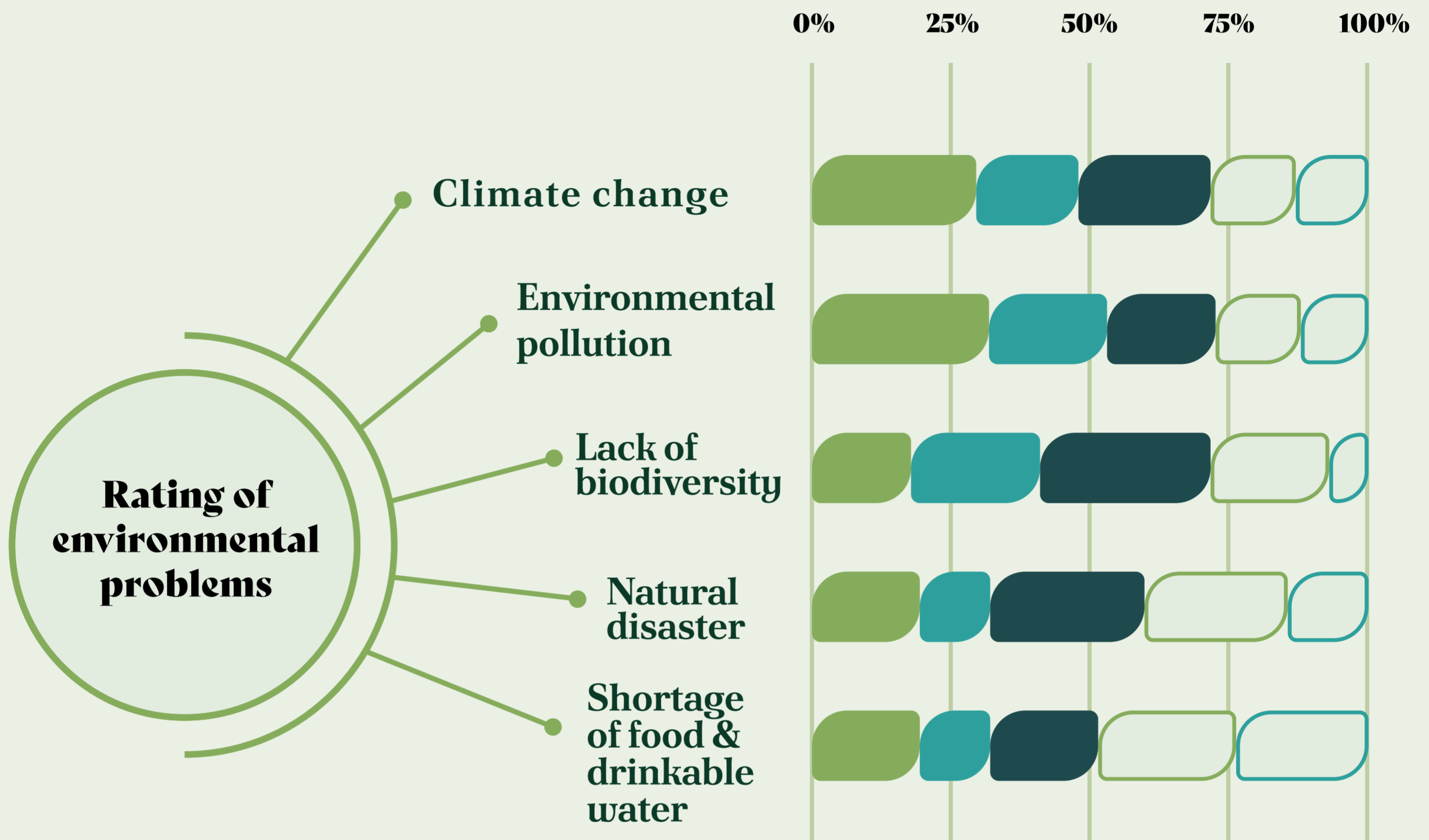
Distribution of analyzed sectors:

- 🌀 Tourism: 32 mentions, crucial for many economies.
- 🌀 Production and Packaging: Leading with 309 mentions, underlining sustainable practices' importance.
- 🌀 Agriculture: 76 mentions, vital for food supply and environment.
- 🌀 Renewable Energy: 182 mentions, signaling increasing investment needs.
- 🌀 Forestry: 67 mentions, important for carbon absorption and habitats.
- 🌀 Fisheries: 14 mentions, vital for biodiversity and food security.

In recent years, environmental issues in various economic sectors have gained increasing attention. Based on the presented data, an analysis was conducted to determine which of the sectors requires the most attention in terms of implementing green practices.

The analysis clearly shows that the production and packaging sector requires the most attention in terms of implementing green practices. However, each of the mentioned sectors plays an important role in the global economy and impacts the environment. As we strive for a more sustainable future, addressing the needs of each of these sectors will be crucial.

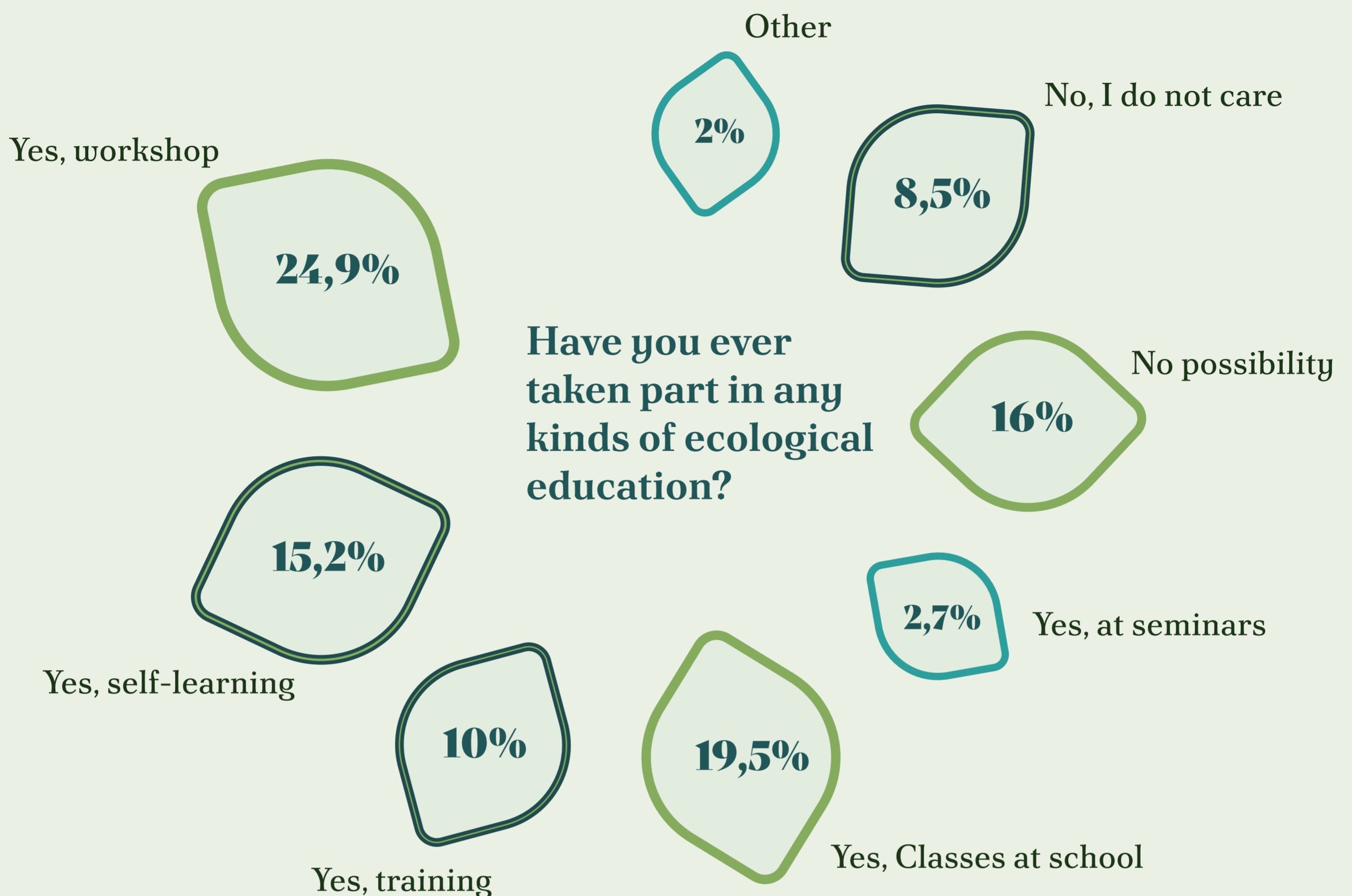
Based on your background knowledge, rate the following environmental problems in your region from 1 (the most important) to 5 (less important).



-  1
-  2
-  3
-  4
-  5

Based on the feedback collected, ‘food and drinking water scarcity’ was ranked as the least important environmental issue, while ‘environmental pollution’ and ‘climate change’ were identified as the most important challenges.

According to Young People, it is most worthwhile to focus on counteracting environmental pollution, as this may delay the already fast-progressing climate change.



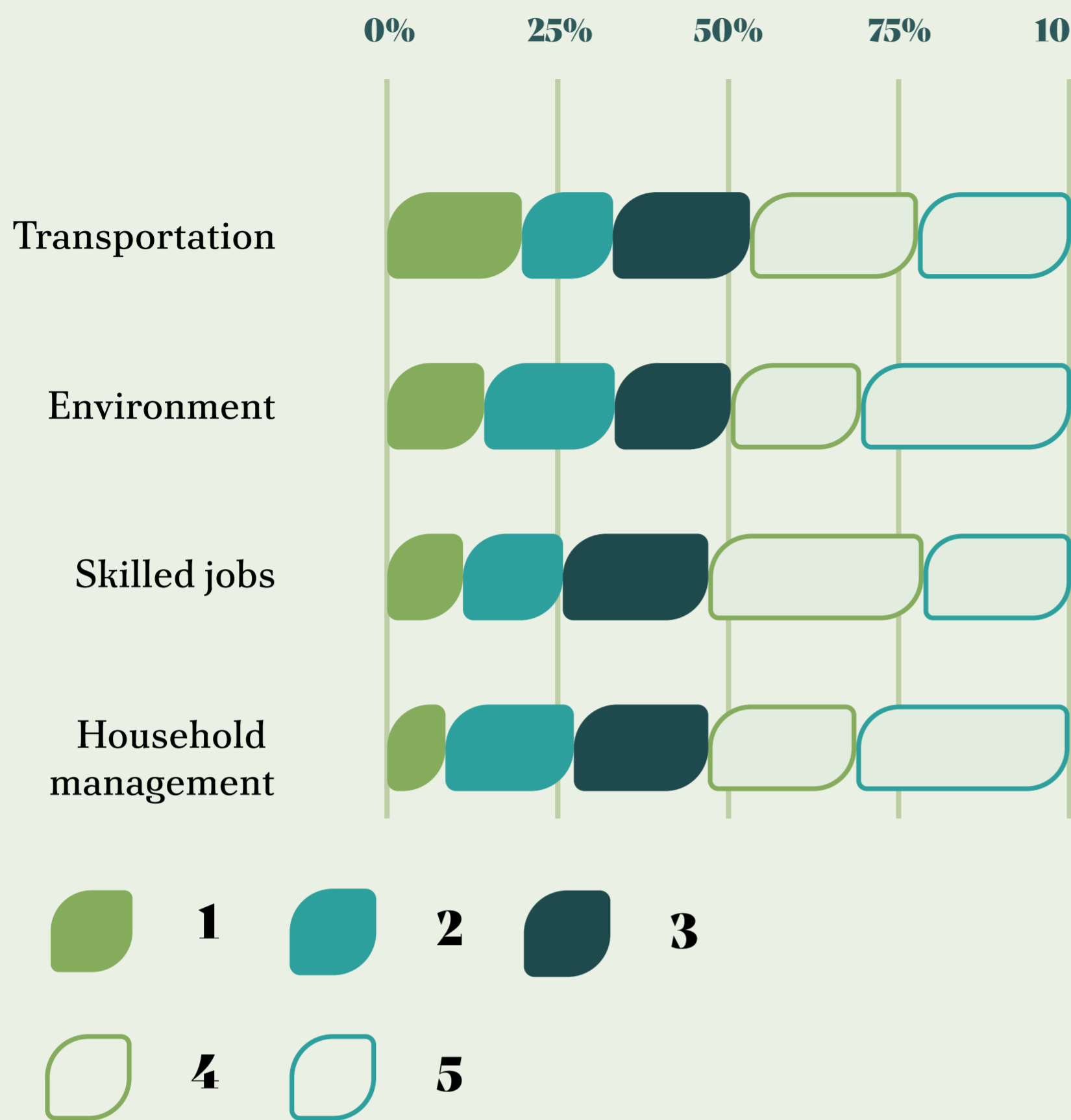
Participants of the study were asked whether they participate in any environmental education.

The data shows that **24.9%** of people have previously participated in workshops, and **19.5%** had the opportunity to learn ecological behavior in a school classroom.

Most of the young people surveyed have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge through workshops, trainings, self-education or seminars, which shows that more and more emphasis is placed on expanding knowledge in the field of environmental protection and ecology.

26.5% of all respondents have never had contact with environmental education or are not interested in this topic.

How much would you like to attend workshops on these topics?

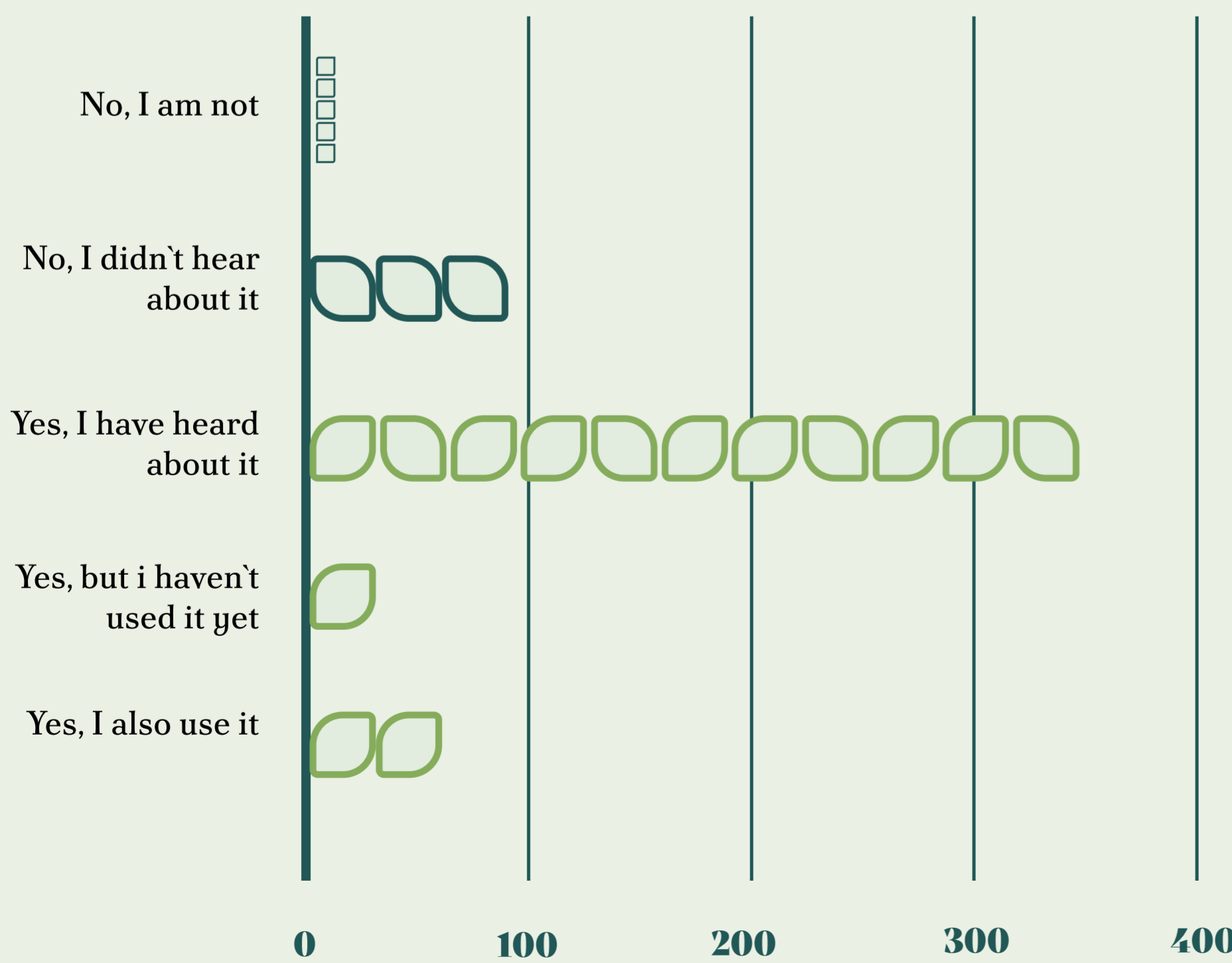


Participants were also surveyed about their interest in specific ecology topics. The data reflects participants' interest in participating in workshops on four different topics. The most frequently chosen topic was the environment, indicated by 33% of respondents. Other topics were also rated highly, but it can be concluded that the general environmental theme also translates into transport, ecological household management or green professions.

Based on the conducted survey, it appears that the awareness of green travel, emphasizing a low carbon footprint among participants, is quite varied. A significant portion of respondents were unaware of the concept of

green travel. A smaller group was aware of this concept but did not practice it, while a minor percentage was not only aware but also actively practiced green travel.

From these results, it is clear that despite some awareness of green travel, the majority of people remain unaware of this concept. Therefore, there is room for action in terms of increasing awareness and promoting green travel methods.



SUMMARY IN EACH COUNTRY



Bulgaria:

The results of the Bulgarian survey show that the gender share was 67.9% women and 32.1% men, and the respondents represented different age groups. A significant 72% of respondents said they are aware of environmental policy and believe that their country is on the right track to achieving stability.

According to the Bulgarians, ecological production and packaging are the most important areas where an ecological approach should be adopted. Respondents showed interest in eco-travel and willingness to introduce it. The advantage of women in this study may be due to their greater sensitivity to environmental issues and traditionally greater social interest in environmental topics.

This may also result from the tendency to more active participation in such initiatives, which is reflected in social research. The survey shows that the Bulgarian community is interested in ecology mainly due to the growing education and awareness.

Czech Republic:

A study conducted in the Czech Republic reflects the public's commitment to ecological ideas. However, the country's youth lack sufficient information and the right tools to make their voices heard on environmental issues. An equal number of women and men aged 18 to 26 participated in the study. A small number of people had the opportunity to learn about eco-friendly behavior or their impact on the environment beforehand. At the same time, Czechs are very open to new programs and willingly engage in them.

Slovakia:

Young people in Slovakia are involved in environmental issues and have a strong belief in the need to increase their participation in politics, education and the media in the field of green ideas.

These conclusions are based on the participation of 51 young people, most of whom are women aged 18-26. The observation supported by the results of the study is in line with global trends, according to which younger generations are more actively involved in environmental issues and seek greater influence on shaping decisions related to ecology.

Increased awareness of at least one environmental policy in the country may result from increased access to information in the Internet era and increased public awareness of environmental issues. Slovaks see the potential of their country in the pursuit of a green deal, but it is supported by earlier changes in the area of transport or production.



Hungary:

The analysis of the text indicates that the youth in Hungary are engaged in environmental issues. The survey included 54 young participants from various cities, who expressed interest in topics such as workshops on transportation, vocational skills, and household management. Particularly notable was the interest in skill-based jobs and household management, providing specific insights into the priorities of young Hungarians. Respondents also showed interest in eco-friendly travel and the region's progress towards achieving climate goals by 2030, which signifies their high awareness and speaks volumes about their global outlook.

Poland:

The survey indicates that young Poles are significantly involved in environmental issues, as manifested by their willingness to participate in social campaigns, environmental events and political discourse.

The high proportion of 18-26 year olds in the survey underscores that it is the younger generations who are particularly active and engaged in these issues. The choice of production and packaging as priority areas for modernization indicates youth awareness of the environmental impact of consumption and production.

Overall, the survey reveals that young Poles show a high level of interest and willingness to act on environmental issues.

Lithuania:

The study of Lithuania's survey, involving 41 respondents reveals a pronounced inclination among Lithuanian youth to amplify green perspectives.

The data highlights a notable consciousness of environmental policies, and the prioritization of manufacturing and packaging underscores their eagerness for green initiatives. The gender distribution (22% male, 78% female) suggests varying levels of engagement across genders.

In essence, the survey underscores robust interest and awareness within Lithuanian youth concerning ecological issues.



Latvia:

In studies conducted in Latvia, the gender distribution was relatively balanced – 44.2% of men and 55.8% of women.

Participants expressed varying perceptions of the region's progress towards the 2030 climate goals and unanimously diagnosed the need for improved approaches to fair transition in the workplace. Most of the participants were previously involved in environmental education, and according to them, the improvement of ecology in the production sector, in the field of packaging, deserves special attention.

The study shows a strong commitment to environmental practices in Latvia. These results may be due to the growing environmental awareness and the need for a sustainable approach to economic transformation, which affects the perception of the region's climate progress and green priorities.

Romania:

The Romanian survey found that young respondents (58 in total) mainly between the ages of 18 and 26, with a gender split of 41.4% male and 58.6% female, expressed a strong desire to strengthen youth voices on green issues, but showed a significant gap in awareness of green policies.

The survey indicates that youth in Romania are eager to engage with green ideas, however, they may lack knowledge or capacity. This may be due to limited access to environmental information and less emphasis on environmental education in the education system, which influences people's actions and their lack of involvement.priorities.



Austria:

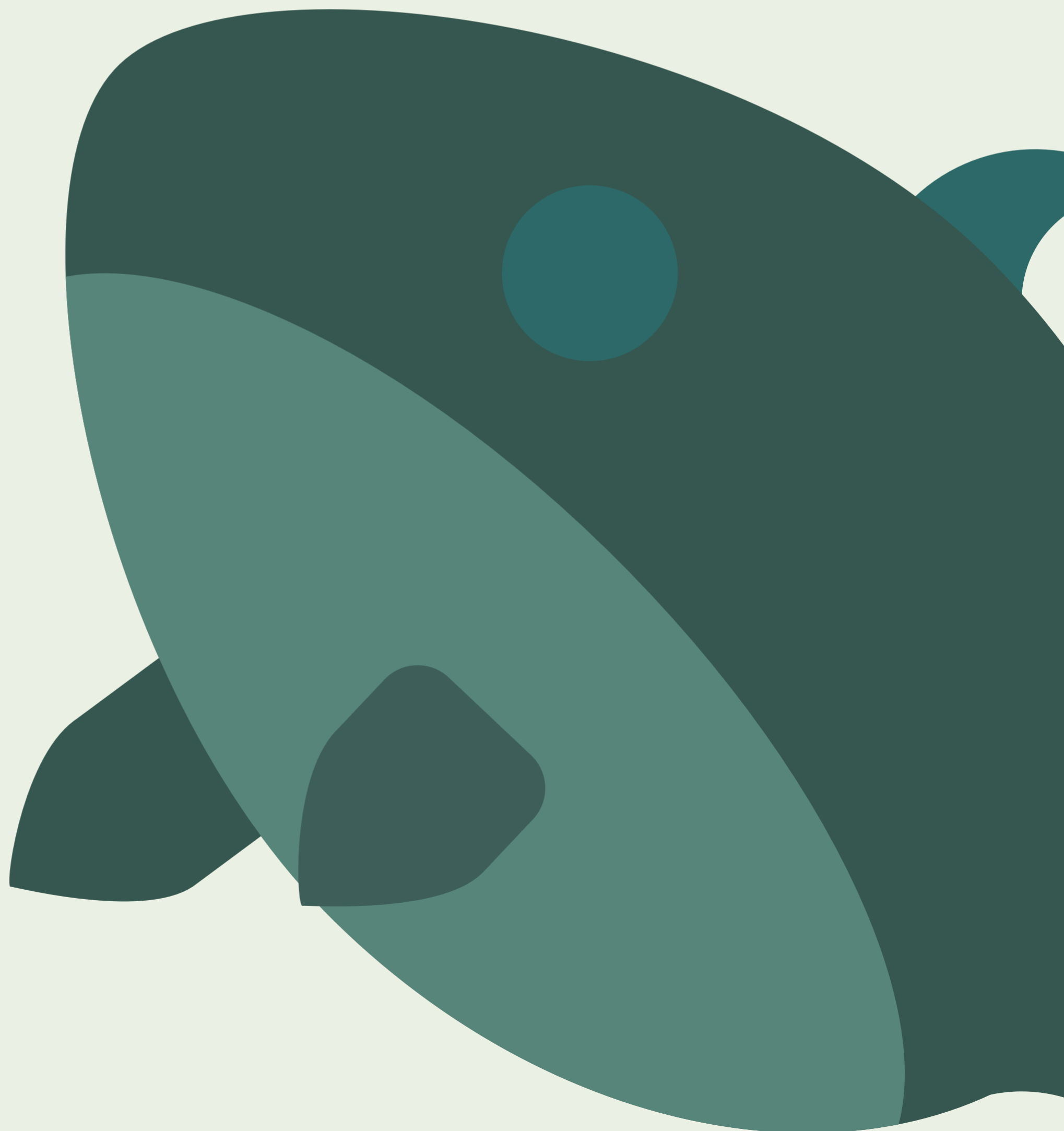
The survey conducted in Austria attend 56.6% female and 43.4% male respondents, divided into three age groups, with the majority from Vienna. Over 65% of respondents noticed the daily effects of climate change and want to improve knowledge on that topic. Around 47.4% of respondents didn't believe their regions were on track to meet climate targets by 2030, indicating a gap in climate projects.

They identified education, household management, environmental awareness, green transportation, and skilled green jobs as areas needing improvement. Youth in Austria are a huge group that care about the environment and want to educate about it.

Slovenia:

A study conducted in Slovenia provides a detailed overview of prevailing attitudes and practices regarding environmental sustainability among young people. Most of the respondents are not associated with ecological activities on a daily basis, especially in the workplace, but they are open to many educational activities that would allow them to increase environmental awareness.

Most young people have learned about it in school or on their own so far. According to the Slovenians, their country still has to work a long time to achieve the assumptions of the new green deal.



Summary of the Strategy:

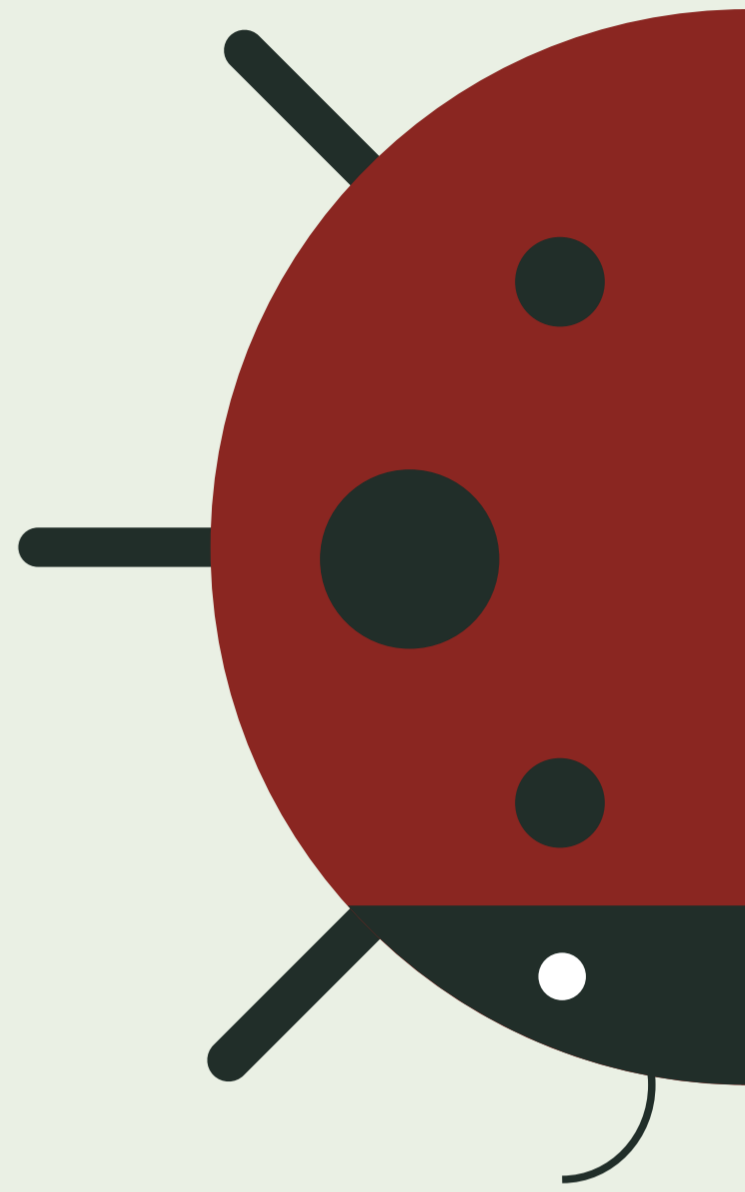
The “Green Three Seas for the Youth” strategy presents a comprehensive roadmap to empower the youth to actively contribute to the sustainable future of our planet. Recognizing the urgent need for sustainability in a world marked by rapid climatic changes and emerging environmental problems, the strategy underlines the necessity of an integrated approach towards climate change and environmental education. It encourages the active participation of young individuals in the environmental decision-making process, fostering a belief in empowering the youth to be the leaders of tomorrow.

The strategy focuses on myriad opportunities available for young people in green industries, from renewable energy to sustainable agriculture, offering a wide range of career paths. It addresses the equitable shift towards a sustainable economy that ensures the well-being of all citizens, particularly the youth, emphasizing fairness and protection of rights. The strategy also outlines the necessity of inclusive and democratic decision-making in shaping climate policies, recognizing the diverse impact of climate change on different communities, and underscoring the importance of ensuring that all voices are heard.



Emphasizing the role of knowledge and awareness, the strategy advocates for comprehensive environmental education as a means to equip young people with the skills needed to face the environmental challenges of the 21st century. It includes promoting green jobs through social media platforms to extend their reach to young people and provides support and education on green practices for businesses. The strategy also recognizes the need for education regarding green skills, sustainability, and environmental issues, emphasizing the need for new skills in response to climate change.

To conclude the “Green Three Seas for the Youth” is an invitation to young people everywhere to actively engage in creating a sustainable future for themselves and generations to come. It reaffirms the integral role of the youth in achieving a balanced and harmonious coexistence with nature, offering a clear pathway to make a significant impact. It’s a visionary document that unites various aspects of environmental stewardship, education, labor market, and inclusivity, aiming to forge a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.



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