



EUROPEAN POLICY BRIEF

BY: **Green** **clusive**



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**GREENCLUSIVE:
activating vulnerable groups for environmental care**

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This is a final policy recommendation report of the **GREENCLUSIVE project**. The report delivers the methodology and main findings of the project, identifying areas where 'sustainable development' as we intend it is not an option yet, and attempting to address recommendations for this condition to change



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INTRODUCTION

Greenclusive (www.new-humanity.org/project/greenclusive/) is an EU-funded project which has involved 6 countries (Italy, Hungary, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Lithuania). The project is based on a multi-level and intercultural analysis on the topic of sustainability. The uniqueness of the project relies on the double character of its goals, as youth people (18-35 approx.) are asked to deal with the topic of environmental sustainability by also considering its relationship with societal issues of inclusion. For the final stage of the project, youth had to engage in profitable discussions with European decision-makers, presenting the project's outcomes with the scope to publicly advocate on ecological matters. Participants have indeed been hosted in European major institutions and therefore managed to present findings, impressions, as well as original solutions, pursuing a lobbying action in the field of sustainability. Valuable exchanges were fostered in multiple occasions, and participants got to experience life at the European headquarters in Brussels.

Pursued Objectives:

- Raise young people awareness about environmental inequalities at the European level.
- Raise young people awareness about EU policies in the field of environment protection (i.e. Green Deal etc.).
- Provide capacities in the elaboration of environmental needs maps.
- Reinforce youth digital and public speaking skills.
- Provide background for reflecting on the interdependent topics of sustainability and social inequalities and the connected consequences.



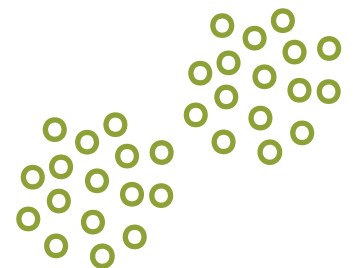
METHODOLOGY

Regarding the methodology chosen to implement WS2 trainings, five specific elements have been used for the project to be successful:

- A commitment has been posed on the importance to develop training modules with a youth-led approach, to ensure young people full involvement and facilitate the transferability of learning materials to their peers: for this reason, in the first part of the project young people and youth workers have cooperated in detailing the non-formal methods and format.
- In each training session, the importance to highlight interdependence among ecological and social issues was stressed, e.g. link responsible consumption with unfair exploitation of workers.
- Each training session contemplated a very specific space to reflect upon the EU legislation in the field of environment care - i.e. The Green New Deal and comparative analysis of green policies adopted at national level. This approach ensured that all partner

organizations had the opportunity to contribute to each module.

- Inclusion of both experts and testimonials, investing on case studies: in this sense, young people member of minorities experiencing environmental inequalities have been involved in the process of preparation of the modules, bringing their perspective and concrete effects on their communities. This contributed to highlight vulnerable situations, as participants activated themselves with ad hoc initiatives, reinforcing relations and mutual knowledge among young people. A particular added value to the project was to include, as testimonials, young people considered "environmental migrants" escaping from their countries because of climate change issues and still experience injustices because of their membership to a vulnerable group.
- The training for the age range 13-16 has been concluded in the 'face by face' modality, as an experiential way to maximize learning after the intensive use of online tools during the pandemic.



EXPERIENCES

EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT

As it was expected and desirable because of its 'international' nature, the project assumed different patterns depending on the context where it was fulfilled. State partners have indeed developed different implementation modalities. Here we report the main features of the diverse contexts youth have experienced. As each state partner has implemented the project differently, we decided to describe each context separately for then engaging in a final analysis and reflection on the outcomes. The structure chosen for this Policy Brief to be finalized and the outcomes to be presented is the following:

- 1. Context:** description of the Social, Cultural and Economic Contexts of the Project, with a peculiar eye for ecological matters considered and the target group chosen as part of the Greenclusive project.
- 2. Modalities:** description of methods and activities implemented for the project's aims.

- 3. Expected Impact:** description of the expected impact on and the final result for the participants (workshops, work camps, communication training, etc).
- 4. Actual outcomes:** overall feedback from the participants in the activities and further reflections that have raised thanks to the experience.
- 5. Recommendations:** analysis of shortcomings and recommendations for the future.





GERMANY

Context: in Germany, the Greenclusive training camps were carried out in the cities of Worms and Berlin, chosen because of their suitable geographic position and the peculiar progresses made in terms of sustainable daily life. Worms is a smaller city, well equipped and organised in terms of recycling and sustainable development (i.e. several initiatives for common green spaces exist). Berlin was similarly found to be in line with the SDGs from Agenda 2030, as numerous initiatives are funded to promote a sustainable and ecological way of living.

Modalities: the project developed intercultural and interreligious workshops, round tables on topics of green faith, as well as interactive walks throughout the respective cities. Several online meetings were organized between Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (Green DACH) to learn more about the SDGs and for elaborating examples of 'best practices' for differentiated targets (i.e. children, young and elderly people). Other topics analysed were inclusion of different cultures and religions in the societal living, as well as peaceful and non-violent communication in all relationships. Playful competitions have been set up (i.e. "4 weeks of new sustainable ideas"), where participants engaged in a challenge of sustainable lifestyles. We believe that, thanks to the informal nature of the initiative, a mark will be set on participants' mindset.

Expected impact: We expected for youth to be exploring the environment (during what we called "green walks" in the cities of Worms and Berlin) and thus become aware of the so called "green facilities" existing in the city. The offered trainings, interactive quiz, and table discussions with "green faith" activists were aimed to boost youth knowledge on the topic of intercultural diversity, hoping that they will engage in actions of advocacy once back to their daily lives.

Outcomes and feedback:

- Participants were quite satisfied with the sustainable and ecological infrastructure they found during their walks in the city quarters (i.e. separate waste bins, a good distribution of recycling stations, recycling facilities, second hand shops, private and commercial recycling projects).
- During the trainings the project offered, participants noticed how “green life” in Germany is still a matter of social status and economic possibilities. An interesting statement has been especially developed: even if the country is quite well organized regarding green infrastructures, possibilities to recycle, to collect and separate waste material, participants found out that ‘green awareness’ has better developed among young people compared to the eldest range of the society. This feature was found to be common with the other states partner of the project.

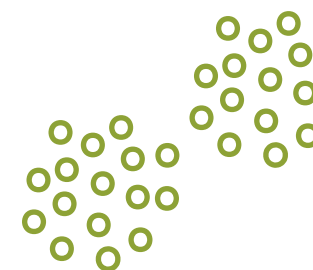
Recommendations:

the experience of the Greenclusive project in Germany was a success and provided relevant outcomes we feel are important to share in this Policy Brief.

- First of all, we noticed how important is to give space to interactive forms of learning as well as informal sharing of experiences. Considering the target group, the ludic element was a life-changing asset for the project. For the future, some

incentives should be given also through the employment of online platforms, for advocacy to be more effective.

- A limitation that was found by our participants concerns the fact that, despite facilitations for a more ‘green’ life exist, interviewed people admit they do not always use them. We therefore recommend to stress the need for more educative programmes upon sustainability among persons of all ages.
- Greenclusive contributed to raise awareness on ecological lifestyles and promoted the birth of new, original initiatives. For the project to engage in further steps, imagining to have the budget to do it, we considered it would be interesting to invite designers, game developers, recycling enterprises, with the scope to develop funny and creative displays to raise awareness on recycling infrastructures and facilities around Europe.





ITALY

Context: in Italy, the 'Pescara Summer Camp' was organized for the aims of the Greenclusive Project. The campus took place in the neighbourhood of San Donato (Pescara), a residential area predominantly populated by vulnerable categories. Here, cultural opportunities are limited and quite unpopular, although some volunteering associations exist. Compared to the city average, the area registers very high rates of unemployment. Green spaces are few, and existing ones (i.e. parks) need multiple interventions. The proximity to road routes causes multiple issues of waste management and noise/air pollution.

The neighbourhood was moreover found to be suffering from urban decay and phenomena of social marginalization: local services for citizens are minimal, while common spaces are often not available for meetings. This condition has caused direct consequences for the creation of networks of mutual aid, which are in fact hardly present. Despite all the issues, we found that new roads and cycle paths are being built to boost the connections between the neighbourhood and the city centre, with the aim to improve the housing quality of the area and encourage the use of sustainable transport facilities.

Modalities: we had the opportunity to interface with the local population and with the few associations rooted in the area. The named interactions served both to collect citizens' needs and raise their awareness on the link between sustainability and social well-being. Concretely speaking, participants were involved in practical activities such parks cleaning, but also developed workshops for rising awareness on sustainability. Seminars were for instance organized to acquire knowledge upon the 2030 Agenda's goals. The main topics the seminars dealt with were the value of an active citizenship and rights and duties connected to it. During the camp, we also went to the 'D'Annunzio Pinewood Park', the green lung of Pescara city. This was an interesting experience as the park was recently hit by a fire that affected wide part of the protected natural area. For moving around the city of Pescara during the various activities, we preferably used cycle paths and bicycles, with the scope

to underline the importance of low-impact sustainable mobility. We also visited the Dune Oasis on the beach, a valuable area safeguarded for its biodiversity. Thanks to this experience, greater awareness on ecosystems' balance was boosted as well as on benefits connected to their protection.

Expected impact: workshops and activities were aimed to train youth to behave like responsible and active citizens capable of committing themselves to the social and environmental sustainability of their territory, and therefore become promoters of sustainable development in all its dimensions. Our expectation was for teamwork to favour valuable exchanges between different cultures, as well as the acquisition of transversal skills.

Outcome and feedback: the final satisfaction survey reported very positive feedback. All participants assessed a strong enthusiasm in regard the involvement in the different activities offered, and the vast majority assessed their expectations on the campus experience were fully met. Particularly appreciated was the multi-handed cooperation with people from different contexts. The main element of appreciation concerns the possibility of exploring sustainability issues in a practical and fun way. Most participants recognize they have improved transversal skills such as teamwork coordination, conflict management, self-expression, and of course, sensitivity towards social and environmental issues. The variety of activities proposed also

allowed everyone to contribute according to their inclinations, and the choice to create teamwork favoured the space for sharing, as well as the acquisition of transversal skills. Organizers were able to create a welcoming and collaborative climate, which was found to be essential for the initiative to success. In summary, the campus experience confirmed the effectiveness of forms of non-formal education on sustainable development issues.

Recommendations:

based on the activities carried out and the feedback from the participants, the main ecological needs identified within the local context in which the Greenclusive project took place are

- Need of greater protection and enhancement of existing public green areas, such as the D'Annunzio pine forest and the park of the San Donato district
- Implementation of the separate waste collection system, still incomplete in some areas.
- Strengthening sustainable mobility through new cycle paths and incentives for cycling.
- Raising awareness of the importance of saving water and promoting the circular economy through reuse/recycling initiatives.

- Protection of beaches and dune areas, precious ecosystems also threatened by coastal pollution. Involvement of citizens, especially young people, on environmental issues through participatory projects. These needs remain primary concerns for the territory and should be addressed in an integrated and systemic manner.

Moreover, based on the analysis conducted, some of the ecological needs identified in the area require broader social and political actions that cannot be addressed directly by the Greenclusive project. In particular, the strengthening of separate waste collection in some areas requires a structured plan to reorganize the waste service. More specifically:

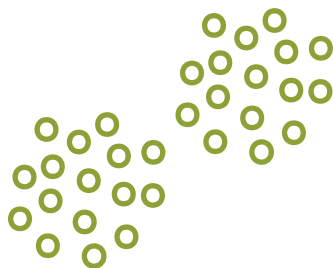
- Sustainable mobility requires multi-year planning of integrated systems (lanes, sharing, LPT), funding for municipalities and regional incentives for the renewal of the private vehicle fleet. The creation of new infrastructures such as cycle paths and pedestrian areas must be included in medium-long term urban planning plans.
- Concrete and feasible proposals should be implemented with the scope to provide a fair response to the neighbourhood needs. Some examples of low-cost but highly symbolic initiatives to stimulate collaborative care of the city's natural capital:

1. Promote initiatives for the monitoring of green areas, involving environmentalist associations and volunteers. Associations such as Legambiente, WWF or neighbourhood committees could be involved. Data on surfaces, species present and critical issues encountered might be collected.

2. Create interactive signage in the parks to promote awareness and respect for them by visitors. For example, through QR codes and augmented reality, information on the vegetation and faunal heritage of the parks could be provided, raising awareness of residents and tourists.

3. Organize green festivals and recreational-educational events in the parks to strengthen their social vocation. Fun, artistic, and musical events might involve schools, create social connections, and identify parks as community places.

4. Organize working tables to define a shared action plan, with well-defined objectives and roles. The working tables could be organized on a territorial basis (one per neighbourhood) and by theme (monitoring, events, communication, etc.). Involvement of Greenclusive participants in monitoring, organizing events and communicating on social media. They could also form small



informal groups responsible for specific parks/ green areas. Horizontal participation and structured collaboration are fundamental to designing integrated and long-term interventions. Coordinated action guarantees more long-lasting results compared to isolated initiatives.



Context: for the aims of the project, activities were carried out in August 2022 in the city of Prešov (East Slovakia) with 160 participants accommodated in the secondary vocational technical school 'Stredna'. The campus was filled with many activities in the fields of Art, Sport, and Ecology. In June 2023 other activities were implemented in the urban district of Bratislava (Zahorska Bystrica). Here, the youth agreed with municipal authorities (i.e. major and local priests) on areas to be cleaned up, and afterwards engaged in a public follow up with a power point presentation for the community. Participants

found that the undertaken actions in the field of sustainability in Slovakia are still to be developed in a structural and comprehensive way. Even though a branch of young people has notably committed to initiate a change, having grown a relevant sensitivity for a more sustainable lifestyles (i.e. vehicles to use, where to buy clothes etc.), the main perception is that a lot must be done still.

Modalities: youth have participated to some zoom meetings with experts on the topic of sustainability, developing thematic presentations that boosted a profitable discussion on a variety of topics. Throughout the project, relevant speakers such as Maria Kristofikova engaged in some presentations on responsible consumption and recycling. Some personal experiences were also shared, being particularly appreciated. In summer 2022, a garbage collection was organized in the city of Presov, with more than 40 people taking part to the initiative. The experience met positive outcomes, providing space for its repetition in June 2023, where the graveyard at Zahorska Bystrica was cleaned up by more or less 35 youth. Other ecological initiatives have been organized in the city of Kosice: here, participants got to improve the conditions of the woods, which is famously much appreciated by the local community.

Expected impact: the activities offered by the Greenclusive project in Slovakia aimed at advocating young people to do something concrete for the environment. Youth were indeed

challenged to find opportunities for contribution at the local level. The expectation was for them to engage in research that would have found out, for instance, which enterprises are more or less sustainable ecologically speaking. We also expected youth to engage in advocacy processes through social media with the scope to spread general knowledge on the topic of sustainability.

Outcome and feedback:

- We realized that youth were not particularly stimulated by the online seminars that have been organized: they probably were too demanding due to the young age of the participants. Participants have therefore expressed their preference for face-to-face workshops rather than online trainings. Personal experiences sharing was instead much appreciated and incurred in positive outcomes.
- We have instead received only positive outcomes considering the more 'concrete' activities that saw youth cleaning up garbage in the Forrest and green areas. The participant's enthusiasm was overall tangible. They especially enjoyed the feeling of being involved for ameliorating communitarian spaces.
- Citizens themselves were enthusiast of young people playing a role in ameliorating the ecological impact in the city. Some admitted that the public services are not able to

keep the city clean and efforts concerning sustainability are limited and rare.

- Through the discussions and seminars, youth realized that sustainability is still a matter of economic possibilities in Slovakia.

Recommendations:

- Once again, we want to stress the relevance of the chosen modalities and suggest that future initiatives in line with the Greenclusive project should consider the unpopular nature of online meetings - when the target is 'youth' - for developing their activities. Youth need in fact to see their concrete contribution.
- A secondary recommendation deals with the fact that sustainability in the country is still very linked with economic possibilities of citizens, that is because sustainable products are not accessible on a wide level. For this reason, we jointly want to recommend lowering the prices of specific products representing a valid, alternative to less sustainable ones (i.e. meat). For the same scope, people should also get incentives for recognising their commitment in the field of sustainability.
- The country has recently made important steps in terms of sustainable development and ecological aspects of

societal living. Most of the initiatives, however, were found to be starting from the 'bottom', with movements of young people lobbying the government to do more in regard sustainability. Here, we are therefore in the beginning of a process of intervention, with lot of things to ameliorate and a policy shift to be promoted by the legal and political system first.





LITHUANIA

Context: in Lithuania, the project took place in Visaginas, a small city near the Belarusian border, which hosted our youth fostering several interesting impressions. Visaginas was originally surrounded by lush forests and diverse agriculture. However, during the years the ecological landscape faced significant changes because of the 'Power Plant Project' that took place nearby. The city was in fact specifically built in the late soviet times to accommodate people (with their families) working at the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (active 1983-2009). The environmental history of the city was therefore found

to be strictly related to the existence of a Nuclear Project in the nearby. The society here is composed of many elderly people: due to the lack of work, young people go elsewhere. The population also composes of different origins: there are of course Lithuanians, but also Russians, Polish, and now also Ukrainians fleeing from the war.

Modalities: visits to the Power Plant Project for the group were organized, where a local guide explained us its function and effects in detail. We also had the opportunity to visit the mayor's office in the city centre, where we engaged in a profitable discussion and got to know better Visaginas political life as well as its major social needs. Youth were also engaged in concrete actions, being committed to clean the shore of a lake in the heart of the city. Moreover, we hold a meeting with the local priest and therefore went visiting residences of some local artists.

Expected impact: thanks to the eclectic nature of the experience, we hope youth have learned more about the cultural life of Visaginas, besides developing skills connected to sustainable development. Talking more specifically about the phase of the project held in the Power Plant, we expected to be able to see the inside of the structure but, unfortunately, we could not. However, we still acknowledged lots of relevant facts upon the project and its impact on the environment. We

also expected to be able to engage in a discussion with the mayor himself, but we could only converse with his assistants instead. The meeting with the priest, met our expectations and probably exceeded them, as here we had the opportunity to discover multiple features about the Christian community of the city. Generally speaking, our attempt was to promote a sense of responsibility among youth for adopting more ecological lifestyles.

Outcome and feedback: participants overall shared positive feedback on the experience as they

- Learned about the Visaginas city and its familiarity with EU-funded local projects. Youth also developed a strong bond with each other by trying to engage in original solutions to solve major problems.
- Report to have become more aware of the ecological conditions of this peculiar city. Participants could reflect on how the city's landscape, once characterized by lush forests and diverse agriculture, changed drastically since the power plant project was put in place: they for instance acknowledged how big parts of the forest had to be cut down for building houses of workers and the power plant itself. Notably, we engaged in reports saying that the lake temperature increased due to the cooling system of the nuclear plant. This affected the environment in a major way,

as ecological diversity decreased significantly, lot of fish species died, and algae started to take over the lake.

- Became more aware of their own responsibilities in the field of sustainability as the point that every 'personal act' can be an 'ecological act' was repeatedly stressed.

Recommendations:

- We recommend planning some 'breaks' between each activity, as sometimes our schedule was so packed that it got overwhelming and probably affected the time participants had to elaborate information in a proper and useful manner.
- Among other ecological needs identified, we recommend that the authorities implement a more effective and faster way of disposing of atomic waste.
- The issue of abandoned buildings as well as stray cats should also be addressed.
- The need to find a solution for people leaving garbage near their houses, since large containers are difficult to reach.
- The project was found to be too 'small' in terms of impact: our contribution was certainly precious, as participants committed to clean and show interest in the people's needs, but we identify the need of large-scale interventions.

- Creation of opportunities for young people that otherwise are most likely leaving the city.
- Take into consideration and develop programmes for the city's intercultural value to be recognized: concretely speaking, move more funding for cultural initiatives. This would indeed benefit Visaginas in generating more job prospects for the locals (helping new businesses, boosting tourism by creating new infrastructures), which would also reduce the problems of drug abuse, depression and suicide rates that are directly connected to that.



Context: the project in Hungary took place in more than one location, branching out between the cities of Budapest, Vác and Ózd. The decision to carry the project in multiple cities allowed participants to build a comprehensive scenario of the country and was useful to foster awareness. Ózd, for instance, is a city of almost 31,000 inhabitants located in the north-east of Hungary, characterized by a massive presence of gypsies. The city is quite isolated and detains a very high rate of unemployment, besides social problems of great importance. The Greenclusive project was here hosted by a Catholic primary school, a place

with a catalytic function which has raised awareness about social issues, full of many activities for and with the Gypsies. Budapest, on the other hand, is a developed European capital and spot of great tourist interest. In Budapest and the surrounding area, our youth developed instead various kind of activities with children within the reality of the Focolare Movement.

Modalities: the contexts that welcomed our team were diversified. For instance, the children's camp was carried out in the middle of the woods, thus creating very suitable circumstances for addressing environmental issues. During the Greenclusive summer camps, young participants have committed in cleaning up some areas along the Danube. Multiple forums of discussion for advocating on ecological matters were also organized, and interactive workshops have been put in place in a school of Ózd, with the help of youth between 12 and 15 approx. Around 80% of youth in the group had gypsy origins and therefore was particularly committed to join the project, because of its focus on social inclusion.

Expected impact: we expected participants to welcome the interactive nature of the proposed activities on environmental protection. We also hoped to perceive a tangible awareness and sensitivity on the faced topics. Our attempt was to get to know local issues of the cities where the project took place, and therefore develop initiatives to face ecological issues.

Outcome and feedback: participants overall shared positive feedback on the experience as they

- We found out they often live socially isolated, in conditions of great poverty, these circumstances caused some difficulties in facing major topics in a deep and structured way. We therefore decided to invent some games for this learning opportunity to be inserted into a playful context.
- The second phase of the project met some difficulties as well. One of the participants assesses: "At the beginning we tried to respect the scheduled dates, but we soon realized it was not possible. In the long term, only a couple of people have been able to be in some way active. I believe the group demonstrated to be committed, but elements such as distance and the fact that none of us work closely with these topics, caused a decrease in motivation along the way".
- Activities held in the summer encountered higher rates of appreciation. We created in this context a forum on sustainability with a specific focus on sustainable fashion. The topic has generated much interest among participants, demonstrating how this age group feels particularly touched by this specific topic. Participation was enthusiastic and boosted very stimulating dialogues. Some concrete solutions have also been discussed.

- The overall feedback was positive: youth have a strong desire to learn more and feel protagonist of change. However, we expected a more structured interest was going to born after our activities, for a long-lasting action to be enhanced. Therefore, we experienced a certain fluctuation in the presence and commitment of participants, with many taking part in only one training. Continuity thus remains a weak point.
- The waste collection activity along the river had a visible and profitable impact on the area: our contribution represented just one of the various initiatives boosted by other associations. We felt to be part of a structured attempt to ameliorate the city's conditions and that our help was not an isolated effort. We were therefore happy to see that a coordinate action can generate visible, incisive, and concrete results. The project promotes a culture of responsible living and the need of a multilevel range of actions, from the local to the global Being involved in ecological projects, the school in Ózd was already active in dealing with ecological matters: ours thus represented an additional contribution, in a positive sense, on a path already undertaken by the school.

Recommendations:

- We recommend maintaining a certain balance among concrete activities and informative sessions: learning and acting must go together.
- Considering the difficult background, we decided to deal with, in our activities with gypsy children we realized that we needed more targeted preparation for better dealing with the topic.
- We also recommend authorities to take greater care of people abilities and therefore enhance their future possibilities. The value of human capital needs to be recognized, and a work needs to be done for integrating minorities, maybe through the introduction of moments of discussion and feedback between citizens and administration.





AUSTRIA

Context: the Greenclusive project in Austria took place in a school (BAfEP) of the city of Linz, where students are specifically trained to become kindergarten teachers. This is thought to be a relevant element of reflection insofar as the named participants might represent multipliers of the project's outcomes and philosophy one day. The educational centre where the project was carried out needed several reforms for more sustainable and green initiatives to be implemented.

Modalities: the following workshops have been implemented for the aims of the project:

- "Recycle, re-use and reduce": excursions to the waste collection centre and the waste incineration plant in Linz took place.
- "Responsible consumption": discussions on ecological footprint were implemented with the methodology 'World Cafes'. Major topics addressed were nutrition, consumption, housing, and mobility.
- "Eco-Entrepreneurship and Innovation - Green Start-ups": original ideas were developed on innovative start-up companies that could be established starting by students' actions.
- During the work camp, the roof terrace of the school was designed for outdoor lessons to take place there in the future. This has marked the start of a 'greening process' of the school building, making a notable contribution towards the already climate-friendly city of Linz. The 'roof-terrace' idea was afterwards presented and ceremoniously opened.

Expected impact: The greenclusive project was developed with the aim of promoting an entrepreneurial and sustainable spirit in young people. It is expected that the project has generated

new ideas, innovation, resilience, entrepreneurship, etc. in each participant. Thanks to the workshops and workcamps, they have more tools to deal more creatively with the challenges of the climate crisis and to propose solutions from active citizenship and sustainable business ideas.

Now, they were able to see more easily how to think and implement creative ideas to solve ecological needs. It is expected that this experience, as well as the experience in an European project will allow them to develop in the future concrete actions for other problems, on a larger scale and with a greater impact.

Outcome and feedback: the students' reactions were consistently positive, they benefited from these experiences on many different levels and developed skills of self-empowerment and self-reliance. Some ecological needs were identified during the implementation of the project and emphasised by the participants. Here some examples:

- Waste separation has not yet worked well at the school, and the consumer behaviour of young people left a lot to be desired.
- The school buffet itself did not fulfil the ecological criteria.
- The roof terrace was grey and unused.

- There was a reflection on the points mentioned above. Plans were made as to how things could be improved. In the case of the roof terrace, the idea has already been fully implemented. Specific change measures were developed for waste separation, which first need to be implemented.

Recommendations:

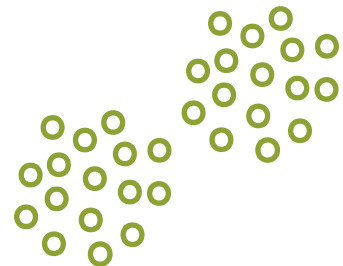
- The school communities should become involved in processes of education for sustainable development.
- The actual realisation of a 'student start-up' would still require a lot of know-how, commitment, and work from a team of young people who would have to be supervised by teachers and experts. Basically, more time would be needed to realise sustainability projects at schools.
- The corset imposed by the curriculum and the centralised school-leaving examination in the school system is no longer up to date. There should be more opportunities for project-based teaching without colleagues feeling that they are being deprived of teaching time. The entire school system needs to be fundamentally renovated.
- Co-operation between different groups makes sense for the future: the school system should therefore open up to the outside world and co-operate with project partners and political decision-makers.

RECOMMENDATION

OUR MESSAGE TO EUROPEAN DECISION MAKERS

The youth of the Greenclusive Project have elaborated the following recommendations for European decision makers to consider for developing best practices on the topic of sustainability and reflecting on social inclusion issues in an interdependent manner. We identified the following needs:

1. The need of more educative programmes dealing with the topic of sustainability among persons of all ages.
2. The possibility to offer options for a more sustainable lifestyle to all social categories, so that sustainability detaches from matters of social status and economic possibilities.
3. The need to lobby states for a policy shift to be promoted by the legal and political system, encouraging and welcoming initiatives from the population as well.
4. The need to create more effective and fast ways for disposing waste.
5. The need to address the issue of abandoned buildings with 'green' strategies socially approved.
6. The need to create more opportunities for young people, boosting a general modernization of the cities.
7. The need to develop policies inspired to the principle of subsidiarity and therefore boost a multilevel approach to the topics of inclusion and sustainability.
8. The need to highlight the philosophy of 'the personal is political', so that citizens are responsible of their own actions and every personal act can be an 'ecological act'.
9. The possibility to explore sustainability issues in a practical and fun way, using the powerful tool of informality to mark people's mindset. Projects like Greenclusive might be an option for this to happen.
10. The possibility to envision new prospects for the project itself, expanding funding and therefore have the possibility to invite designers, game developers or recycling enterprises with the scope to develop funny and creative displays to raise awareness on infrastructures and recycling facilities around Europe.





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activating vulnerable groups for environmental care

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