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GREENOVATE

Participation Days

"Engaging Youth in Digital Green Future 2.0"

Program Methodology

From Climate Change to Agenda 2030 :

The Green Deal as a Compass





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Introduction of the Program

The vocational training program is designed to educate and empower young people on two fundamental frameworks that shape the future of our planet: the United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the European Green Deal. These frameworks outline a collective vision for a greener, more sustainable future by addressing key environmental, economic, and social challenges.

As part of this initiative, the "Participation Days - Engaging Youth in a Digital Green Future 2.0" will serve as an interactive platform where young participants will explore and engage with sustainability topics in a dynamic and engaging way. The primary goal is to raise awareness, foster critical thinking, and inspire proactive participation in shaping an environmentally conscious society.

Throughout the Participation Days, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the Agenda 2030 and the European Green Deal, with a special emphasis on Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Agriculture, Green and Renewable Energy, and the Circular Economy. In preparation for these interactive sessions, an online course will be conducted to introduce key concepts and ensure participants are well-equipped to engage meaningfully during the live activities.

To enhance learning, the methodology will incorporate interactive digital tools, such as Padlet, ensuring an engaging, participatory, and dynamic experience. This approach is designed to capture the interest of young people, encourage discussion, and facilitate knowledge retention through collaborative learning.



Participation Days

"Participation Days" are specially designed events that bring together young people from different countries to discuss, learn, and act for green development.

Purpose :

- Awareness: To inform young people about the challenges of climate change and the importance of sustainable development.
- Education: To provide young people with knowledge and skills to actively participate in the green transition.
- Participation: To encourage young people to participate in actions and initiatives for environmental protection.
- Collaboration: To create networks of cooperation between young people, organizations, and stakeholders.
- Empowerment: To inspire and equip young people to become active agents of change in their communities - and to encourage them to be drivers of change regardless of, or within, diverse political and societal contexts.

Activities:

- Workshops and seminars
- Group discussions and exchange of ideas
- Visits to green development sites
- Actions and initiatives for environmental protection
- Collaboration with experts and stakeholder representatives

Benefits:

- Increased environmental awareness
- Development of skills and competencies
- Empowerment of young people as active citizens
- Creation of opportunities for collaboration and networking
- Contribution to building a sustainable future



The Online Course: Building the Foundation for Participation Days

The online course is an integral part of the learning experience and is designed to complement the in situ activities of the Participation Days. By providing participants with foundational knowledge beforehand, the course ensures that they arrive at the live sessions well-prepared, engaged, and ready to actively contribute to discussions and activities.

The primary objective of the online course is to increase young people's awareness and understanding of climate change and introduce them to two crucial frameworks that shape global sustainability efforts: The European Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While many young people are familiar with climate change as a broad concept, they may not fully understand the specific policies, targets, and legislative actions being implemented to combat it.

Through this course, participants will explore key aspects of the European Green Deal, including:

- **Its purpose and objectives:** What the Green Deal aims to achieve and how it aligns with broader climate action efforts.
- **Preliminary goals and strategies:** The steps being taken to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent.
- **Major legislative components:** An overview of the **15 key laws** that shape the Green Deal and their impact.
- **The Emissions Trading System (ETS and ETS2):** A simplified explanation of how carbon trading works and why it is a crucial tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **The significance of policy awareness:** Why understanding these policies is essential for active citizenship and climate action.

Additionally, the course will introduce the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on environment-related SDGs. Participants will learn:

- **Environmental SDGs:** The goals directly related to **climate action, clean energy, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, and biodiversity protection.**
- **Monitoring progress:** How countries measure advancements toward these targets and why data-driven decision-making is critical for global sustainability.

By completing this online course, participants will not only gain essential knowledge but also develop a deeper appreciation for the policies and initiatives shaping a greener future. This foundational understanding will enable them to engage more meaningfully during the Participation days, fostering dynamic discussions and active involvement in sustainability initiatives.



Country-Specific Focus and Customization of Participation Days

A key feature of the Participation Days is that each participating country will focus on a specific aspect of sustainability, as outlined in the project framework. This approach ensures a diverse exploration of the European Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda, allowing young participants to engage with different dimensions of environmental action in a structured yet dynamic way.

Prior to each *Participation Day*, the hosting partner will define in more detail the specific techniques and methodologies they will implement in their sessions. This preparatory step ensures that the training is adapted to the local context while maintaining alignment with the broader project objectives.

To maximize engagement and knowledge retention, the hosting partners will design interactive learning experiences, selecting from a variety of innovative and participatory methods, such as:

- Gamification techniques
- Debates and brainstorming sessions.
- Work in small groups
- World Café method.
- Simulations and role-playing
- Aquarium discussions
- Silent discussions

"Participation Days" are a significant opportunity for young people to become part of the solution and contribute to promoting green development in Europe and worldwide.

Greece: Sustainable Tourism and the Green Deal



Greece's Participation Days will focus on sustainable tourism, a critical sector for the country's economy that must adapt to Green Deal principles. Tourism is both a driving force of economic growth and a significant contributor to environmental challenges, including resource overuse, pollution, and carbon emissions.

Participants will analyze real-world challenges in making tourism more sustainable, exploring strategies such as the adoption of renewable energy in hotels, eco-certifications, waste reduction initiatives, and the promotion of ecotourism models. Through on-site visits, participants will witness first-hand how some tourism businesses are integrating sustainability, while interactive workshops will engage them in problem-solving exercises and policy discussions.



Additionally, young people will collaborate with professionals from the tourism sector, policymakers, and environmental NGOs to explore how local and national policies can accelerate sustainability efforts. The expected outcome is a youth-driven action plan for sustainable tourism, outlining how young people can advocate for and participate in greener tourism models in their own communities.

Serbia: The Future of Sustainable Agriculture



In Serbia, Participation Days will center around sustainable agriculture, a key sector facing significant environmental and socio-economic challenges. While Serbia has a strong agricultural tradition, issues such as soil degradation, water management, and the transition to eco-friendly farming practices require urgent attention under the Green Deal's agricultural policies.

Participants will explore how precision farming, organic agriculture, and agroecology can contribute to a resilient and fair food system. Hands-on activities will include on-site visits, where young people will engage with locals and familiarize with sustainable techniques, and simulation exercises on how different policies—such as EU subsidies and sustainable supply chains—impact agricultural transition.

One of the main discussion points will be ensuring a just transition for farmers, balancing profitability with environmental responsibility. Through stakeholder discussions with policymakers, agricultural experts, and farmer cooperatives, participants will identify barriers to sustainability and co-develop solutions, culminating in policy proposals that reflect youth perspectives.

Lithuania: Advancing Green and Renewable Energy



Lithuania's Participation Days will focus on the transition to green and renewable energy, an essential element of the Green Deal's climate neutrality goals. As Lithuania is reducing its reliance on fossil fuels, this transition presents both opportunities in innovation and challenges in infrastructure and policy adaptation.

Participants will be introduced to cutting-edge developments in the field of green energy, such as wind and solar power expansion, smart grids, and energy efficiency initiatives. Through guided visits to renewable energy sites, they will gain insights into how these technologies operate and what barriers exist for scaling them up.

Hands-on activities will include energy transition simulations, where young people will assume the roles of policymakers, energy companies, and citizens to design an energy strategy for the country. Expert-led discussions will address practical ways young people can contribute, from advocating for policy change to adopting green technologies in their daily



lives. The goal is to empower youth with knowledge and actionable insights to champion Lithuania's shift toward a low-carbon, energy-secure future.

Slovenia: Pioneering the Circular Economy



Slovenia's Participation Days will be dedicated to circular economy, an area where the country has already made notable progress but still faces implementation challenges. The circular economy will be presented as a cross-cutting theme and a key approach to transforming the EU into a resilient and prosperous economy and society, based on low-carbon and green solutions. The transition from a linear to a circular economic model - where natural resources are reused in a continuous loop - is a crucial step in meeting the Green Deal's environmental and economic targets.

Participants will engage in hands-on workshops dedicated to exploring and proposing designing innovative solutions based on the 9R principles of the circular economy aiming to product lifecycle extension, and advancing industrial symbiosis, where waste from one industry becomes a resource for another. Examples of leading Slovenian circular economy initiatives, such as reuse centers, examples from the textile value chain as well as food value chain and zero-waste cities, will provide practical examples of circularity in action.

Discussions will focus on how young people can be drivers of circular initiatives and innovation, including entrepreneurial opportunities, local government initiatives, and behavioral shifts toward sustainable consumption. Based on the knowledge – and in addition also on main take-aways from other Participation days will conclude by developing a Circular Economy Action Plan, outlining specific steps they can take within their communities, schools, or workplaces to promote circular initiatives and their implementation in everyday lives.

Objectives of Youth Participation Days

Understanding European Climate Policies and Frameworks

- To provide participants with fundamental knowledge of the European Green Deal, its goals, and its significance for Europe's transition to a climate-neutral economy.
- To introduce participants to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to environmental protection.
- To help participants understand the major legislative frameworks driving sustainability in Europe, such as the Emissions Trading System (ETS), ETS2, the Circular Economy Action Plan, and the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Increasing Awareness and Interest in European Policies



- To raise awareness about the role of European institutions in shaping environmental and climate policies.
- To encourage young people to actively follow EU policy developments related to sustainability and climate action.
- To foster a sense of European citizenship by helping participants understand how the Green Deal and SDGs affect their daily lives and future opportunities.

Developing Critical Thinking and Informed Decision-Making

- To strengthen participants' ability to critically evaluate climate-related information and policies, distinguishing between reliable sources and misinformation.
- To help them recognize the complex interconnections between environmental challenges, social justice, and economic transformation.
- To encourage debate and reflection on how European policies can balance environmental, economic, and social priorities.

Promoting Active Participation and Engagement

- To inspire young people to engage with local, national, and European initiatives that support the Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda.
- To equip participants with the skills needed to initiate or take part in climate action projects within their communities, schools, or workplaces.
- To foster international cooperation and youth-led advocacy, strengthening networks between young people from different countries.

Empowering Young People as Change Agents

- To provide participants with problem-solving skills related to environmental challenges, particularly in the sectors addressed by the project (sustainable tourism, agriculture, green energy, and circular economy).
- To encourage entrepreneurial thinking, helping young people explore how sustainability can drive innovation and job opportunities in the green economy.
- To support young people in becoming ambassadors of sustainable development by translating what they have learned into real-world actions.





The program methodology is based on a holistic and participatory approach, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application, where young people's knowledge and skills are developed in areas such as:

- digital technologies for sustainability,
- circular economy,
- renewable energy sources.

It encourages collaboration and interaction among participants through group tasks, discussions, and role-playing games. It emphasizes the use of interactive tools and digital platforms to enhance active youth participation and promote the exchange of ideas and experiences. The program includes visits to natural monument sites, renewable energy facilities, and recycling centers, so that participants can gain a more comprehensive understanding of sustainable practices and technological solutions.

Methods

- Lectures and presentations
- Group discussions and tasks
- Documentary and video screenings
- Visits to relevant sites
- Creation of posters, videos, and other materials
- Use of interactive tools and games.



As stated earlier, to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the Participation Days, online courses specifically designed for the participating young people will precede them. They will serve as a preparatory stage, focusing on deepening the young people's understanding of the complex interconnections of climate change and its impacts, while highlighting the critical role of the Green Deal and Agenda 2030 in reversing the negative consequences. Through interactive sessions, presentations, and discussions, young people will acquire the necessary knowledge and tools to participate actively and meaningfully in the Participation Days, contributing to shaping a sustainable future.

Participation Days Day by Day

Day 1: Climate Change & Us: The Power of Youth

Introduction :

Young people are at the forefront of global movements for climate action. Their role in advocating for policy changes, adopting sustainable habits, and leading innovative solutions is more crucial than ever. This day will focus on empowering youth with practical tools to



drive change, connect with like-minded individuals, and influence decision-makers at local and global levels.

Day's Objectives :

- ✓ To inspire young people to take leadership roles in climate action.
- ✓ To explore real-life examples of youth-led environmental initiatives.
- ✓ To equip participants with strategies to create impactful sustainability campaigns.
- ✓ To develop skills in communication, advocacy, and collaboration for climate action.

Key Pillars :

-  **Youth-Led Climate Movements:** Examining successful youth-driven initiatives (e.g., Fridays for Future, local community projects).
-  **Advocacy & Policy Influence:** Understanding how young people can shape environmental policies through activism and engagement with decision-makers.
-  **Interactive Workshop: "Design Your Own Green Action"** – Participants work in groups to create a sustainability project for their school, city, or community.
-  **Storytelling & Media for Climate Action:** Learning how to use social media, storytelling, and digital platforms to spread environmental awareness.
-  **Simulation Game: "Climate Negotiation Challenge"** – A role-playing activity where participants represent different stakeholders (e.g., governments, NGOs, businesses) in a climate policy debate.

Expected Benefits & Results :

- ✓ Empowering young people with the skills and confidence to take climate action.
- ✓ Strengthening collaboration between youth, organizations, and policymakers.
- ✓ Developing practical sustainability initiatives that can be implemented in real life.
- ✓ Enhancing public awareness through impactful campaigns and advocacy.



Young people have the energy, creativity, and determination to shape a greener future. This program provides them with the tools and inspiration to take meaningful action for a more sustainable and resilient world.



Day2: Change Habits, Save the Planet

Introduction:

Climate change and the environmental crisis are among the most significant problems facing our planet. Change starts with our small daily habits, which can make a difference in protecting the environment. In the "Change Habits, Save the Planet" Participation Day, the goal is to encourage young people to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle, focusing on practical and easy solutions that they can implement in their daily lives. Raising awareness and educating young people is vital, as young people are the future leaders and citizens who will be called upon to make decisions and take action for a sustainable future.

Day's Objectives :

- ✓ To inform young people about the importance of sustainable living.
- ✓ To encourage the implementation of small, daily changes that reduce the ecological footprint.
- ✓ To promote cooperation and collective action for a greener future.
- ✓ To contribute to green entrepreneurship and the creation of new jobs in the field of sustainable development.
- ✓ To develop young people's skills in communication and collaboration for the implementation of collective actions.

Key Pillars :

-  Use of social media for awareness and mobilization.
-  Encouraging participation in local and international actions for environmental protection.
-  Use of digital tools and platforms for information, communication, and mobilization.
-  Information on sustainable practices in various areas of daily life.
-  Collaboration with local authorities, organizations, and businesses for the implementation of actions.



Expected Benefits & Results :

- ✓ Development of knowledge, skills, and critical thinking in the field of green development and the creation of new jobs.
- ✓ Creation of active citizens who can meaningfully participate in shaping policies and initiatives for a sustainable future.
- ✓ Reduction of the ecological footprint through individual and collective actions.
- ✓ Strengthening of environmental awareness in families, schools, and communities through the direct implementation of small but significant changes in everyday life.



Equipping young people with critical thinking and decision-making skills empowers them to become active citizens, capable of meaningfully participating in shaping policies and initiatives that will lead to a sustainable future. Young people are educated to analyze complex environmental issues, evaluate different approaches, and make informed decisions. Their active participation contributes to the development of policies and initiatives, ensuring their voices are heard and their ideas are implemented for a sustainable future. Raising awareness and educating young people about green development is an investment in the planet's future.

Day 3: Natural Monuments on the Path to Agenda 2030

Introduction :

Natural monuments, with their immense geological and ecological value, serve as living experiential laboratories for understanding the impacts of climate change. Their sensitivity to changes in temperature and humidity, as well as their rich biodiversity, make them ideal sites for educating and raising public awareness about the need for sustainable development. According to Agenda 2030 and the Green Deal, natural monuments highlight the importance of protecting natural ecosystems as an integral part of the effort to address climate change and build a sustainable future for all. Their preservation contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, and the strengthening of ecosystem resilience against climate change.



Day's Objectives :

- ✓ To raise awareness and educate the public about the preservation of the Biodiversity of natural monuments.
- ✓ To promote sustainable development in natural monuments, with respect for the environment.
- ✓ To encourage public participation in actions for the protection of natural resources.
- ✓ To strengthen the resilience of natural monuments against the effects of climate change.

Key Pillars :

-  Visits to natural monuments.
-  Recording and studying their biodiversity.
-  Informative campaigns.
-  Collaboration with local authorities to implement protection measures.
-  Volunteer cleaning and patrolling actions.

Expected Results :

- ✓ Increased public awareness of the need to protect natural monuments.
- ✓ Enhanced knowledge of climate change and its impacts on natural monuments.
- ✓ Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in Europe.
- ✓ Promotion of Sustainable and Green Energy in Europe.
- ✓ Promotion of the Circular Economy in Europe.
- ✓ Promotion of sustainable tourism development in Europe.
- ✓ Reduction of the negative impacts of human activity on natural monuments.



The protection of natural monuments is an integral part of the global effort to address climate change and implement the goals of Agenda 2030. Through education, awareness, scientific research, and the promotion of sustainable development, it is ensured that natural monuments will remain valuable, offering their unique beauty and value to future generations. Their protection is not just a moral obligation, but also an investment in the future, as natural monuments contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, and the strengthening of ecosystem resilience against climate change.

Guidelines for Implementation

The success of the Participation Days depends on creating an interactive, engaging, and action-oriented learning experience. To ensure consistency across different hosting organizations, these guidelines provide a structured approach to implementation, including facilitation techniques, adaptation strategies, and recommendations for making activities dynamic and innovative.

1. Structuring the Sessions for Maximum Engagement

Each day's sessions should be designed to balance information-sharing, interactive activities, and practical application. Facilitators are encouraged to limit passive learning (such as long lectures) and prioritize active participation. The recommended structure for each session includes:

- **Introduction & Icebreaker (15-30 minutes):** Start with an engaging activity, such as a short thought-provoking question, an interactive poll, or a storytelling exercise to introduce the day's theme.
- **Core Activity (60-90 minutes):** Use hands-on learning techniques, such as group discussions, role-playing, case studies, or problem-solving tasks to explore the topic in depth.
- **Reflection & Application (30-45 minutes):** Encourage participants to reflect on key takeaways and brainstorm ways to apply their knowledge in real-life settings.

Facilitators should encourage open dialogue, ensuring that all participants feel included and motivated to share their perspectives. The use of small-group work and peer-led discussions can help foster deeper engagement.

2. Using Interactive and Innovative Methods

To maintain high levels of participation, facilitators should integrate dynamic methodologies that cater to different learning styles. Suggested techniques include:



- **Gamification:** Use simulations, challenges, and competitive team activities to make learning more engaging. For example, a “Climate Negotiation Challenge” can immerse participants in real-world policy discussions.
- **Experiential Learning:** Encourage participants to work on real-life case studies or create their own sustainability projects that extend beyond the classroom.
- **Storytelling & Digital Media:** Utilize video testimonials, podcasts, and social media storytelling to connect participants with inspiring climate action stories.
- **Hands-On Workshops:** Where possible, integrate practical exercises such as upcycling workshops, eco-design challenges, or urban gardening sessions to reinforce sustainability concepts.

3. Adapting Activities to Different Contexts and Audiences

Since hosting organizations may have different resources and participant demographics, the methodology should be flexible and adaptable. Facilitators are encouraged to:

- Adjust the complexity of discussions based on the participants’ age and prior knowledge. Younger groups may require simpler explanations and more hands-on activities, while older participants may benefit from deeper policy discussions.
- Modify activities based on group size and setting. For smaller groups, interactive discussions and debates work well, whereas larger groups may benefit from breakout sessions.
- Use local case studies to make content more relevant. Wherever possible, facilitators should highlight climate challenges and solutions specific to their region.

4. Ensuring Impact Beyond the Participation Days

One of the key objectives of the program is to encourage long-term engagement with sustainability. To achieve this:

- Each hosting organization should support participants in developing personal or group action plans, outlining concrete steps they can take post-event.
- Partnerships with local organizations, schools, or municipal authorities should be leveraged to provide opportunities for continued involvement in sustainability initiatives.
- Facilitators should collect feedback from participants to evaluate the effectiveness of activities and make improvements for future implementations.

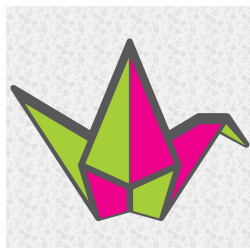
5. Integrating Digital Tools for Enhanced Participation

During the Participation Days, various digital tools will be used to foster collaboration and engagement, with particular emphasis on Padlet, a Web 2.0 platform. Padlet will serve as a dynamic and interactive tool to activate young people in discussions on green development. Through the creation of interactive digital walls, participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions, collaborate on sustainability projects, and share information on the effects of climate change.

Additionally, Padlet will be a platform for young people to propose innovative solutions for environmental protection, organize awareness campaigns, and showcase their sustainability initiatives. It will also function as an educational resource, providing easy access to curated materials, scientific studies, and multimedia content related to green development. By incorporating



digital tools like Padlet, the methodology ensures that participation remains dynamic, accessible, and engaging, fostering a sense of community and collective action among young environmental leaders.



Materials

To ensure a structured and engaging implementation of the Participation Days, a set of developed materials will support each session. These materials are designed to facilitate dynamic and interactive learning while maintaining consistency across different hosting organizations.

A core component of the materials includes educational resources such as curated video documentaries, scientific reports, and case studies that illustrate real-world examples of climate action. These resources will provide participants with evidence-based knowledge, ensuring that discussions and activities are grounded in reliable data. Additionally, digital presentations and infographics will be provided to help facilitators introduce key concepts in a visually engaging manner.

Beyond informational content, the methodology incorporates hands-on activity guides and worksheets that structure participant engagement. These include templates for debate exercises, problem-solving challenges, and project planning frameworks, allowing young people to apply their knowledge in practical ways. For instance, a structured “Climate Negotiation Challenge” worksheet will outline different stakeholder roles and provide guiding questions to help participants navigate a policy debate.

Interactive elements such as gamified learning tools and digital engagement platforms will be integrated to enhance participation. Online tools, including polls and interactive mapping exercises, will allow real-time feedback and collaboration among participants. Where feasible, physical materials such as role-play cards, printed discussion prompts, and eco-action planning kits will be distributed to ensure that even non-digital spaces can facilitate engaging activities.

To further support facilitators, a facilitator’s guide will accompany the methodology. This guide will provide step-by-step instructions on how to conduct each activity, including timing suggestions, discussion prompts, and adaptation tips for different group sizes and backgrounds. Facilitators will also have access to an FAQ document that addresses potential challenges and solutions when implementing the sessions.

By providing a well-structured collection of materials, the program ensures that each hosting organization has the necessary tools to create a stimulating and effective learning environment.



These resources will not only support the implementation of the Participation Days but also empower facilitators and participants to take ownership of their learning experience and translate it into meaningful action.

Evaluation

An Evaluation team will be created, taking into account the skills of the participating young people. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) measurement tools will be identified for online activity and for the in-person Participation Days.

A questionnaire will be designed, which will be common to all participants in the online training. It will be given to participants before the implementation of the action and the same after the implementation of the training.

The questionnaire regarding the LTTAs to be implemented in each country will be different depending on the needs and training areas. Before the start of each LTTA, participants will complete a questionnaire where their expectations from their participation in the Participation Days and which skills and abilities they hope to develop will be recorded.

At the end of it, all involved, as defined in the initial internal evaluation, will complete the special questionnaires again to determine the intended objectives (final internal evaluation).

After the dissemination of the results, at local, national and European level, an external evaluation will be carried out by the evaluation teams to determine both the degree of achievement of the objectives and the impact of the program on the local and regional society (final, external, overall evaluation).