

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Digest

As we close the year, this edition brings together voices, ideas and actions shaping a fairer and greener future. *In the Spotlight*, we feature an interview with **Sonja Šara Aradi** from Serbia, reflecting on environmental equity, youth participation and why the green and digital transition must work for everyone and not just a few.

We also explore some of today's most urgent global challenges, from rising inequality and discrimination to the growing refugee crisis.

This month's issue further focuses on the power of culture in environmental protection through an interview with **Leif Curdes** from Denmark and showcases youth in action in **Kaunas, Lithuania**, that came together during the *Green Grow Awareness Days* to engage with Europe's green transition.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Interview with Sonja Šara Aradi

"A truly sustainable and fair green future for Europe is one where environmental protection, social justice and economic development are not treated as competing priorities. It means recognising differences between regions, listening to local communities and ensuring that progress in one part of Europe does not come at the expense of another."

[Read full interview here](#)

IN FOCUS



Interview with Leif Curdes

"Culture and environmental protection go together very well. In my eyes, you can't have one of them without considering the other. You can, for example, strengthen environmental awareness through the means of culture, art and music."

[Read full interview here](#)

NEWS FROM ACROSS EUROPE

Youth from Kaunas Schools and Universities Engage Together with Darnoje Stakeholders in Green Awareness Event

Kaunas, 16 December — Young people from Kaunas secondary schools and universities actively participated together with key stakeholders of NGO **Darnoje** in an awareness- raising event held at **Domus Pacis** in Kaunas. The activity was organized as part of the **Green Grow Awareness Days** campaign, implemented within the **Erasmus+ KA3 project "Youth Engagement in the Digital Green Future 2.0."**

The event brought together students, educators, civil society representatives, and international experts, highlighting the role of youth as active contributors to

Campaign Goals

The **Green Awareness Activity** campaign aims to familiarize young people with the principles of **Agenda 2030**, the **European Green Deal**, and the **Green Agenda**, while encouraging sustainable everyday practices and active youth engagement in local communities. By involving students from Kaunas schools and universities as stakeholders, the campaign strengthens youth ownership of the green transition process.

sustainable development processes rather than passive observers. Participants from Kaunas educational institutions engaged directly with policy frameworks shaping Europe's green transition and discussed how young people can influence environmental decision-making at local and regional levels.

The program opened with a presentation by **Karolis Stirbys**, President of NGO **Darņoje** (Kaunas), who introduced **Agenda 2030** and the **European Green Deal** from a sustainability perspective.

The project "*Youth Engagement in a Digital Green Future 2.0*" is implemented under the **Erasmus+ KA3** program and is co-financed by the **European Commission**.



SDG of the month: 10 - Reduced inequalities

WHERE WE ARE

Inequality is a huge problem. It's not just about money; it actively undermines long-term social and economic progress, slows down efforts to reduce poverty, and chips away at people's sense of self-worth and fulfillment.

For a while, there was good news: the income of the poorest 40% of people in most countries was growing faster than the national average. However, the evidence is starting to suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic may have completely derailed this positive trend.

CHALLENGES WE FACE

- The refugee crisis: the global refugee population has exploded to 37.8 million, placing intense strain on humanitarian efforts worldwide.
- Rising discrimination: worryingly, reports of discrimination are increasing globally. This is hitting groups such as urban residents, women, persons with disabilities, and people living in poverty particularly hard.
- One in five people worldwide reports experiencing discrimination on grounds prohibited by international law in just the past year. This rate is even higher in the least developed countries.

Source: [United Nations](#)

As the year comes to an end, we are reminded that progress toward a greener and fairer future depends on people being informed, engaged and empowered. Despite the challenges we face globally, the stories in this edition show that dialogue, culture, education and youth participation remain powerful drivers of change.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us throughout the year. We look forward to continuing this work together in the new year - building a future that is more sustainable, inclusive and shaped by shared responsibility.

Greenovate Team wishes you a happy New Year!

If you have come this far means that you are really interested in these topics, if you wish to contribute to our coverage, don't hesitate to contact us at team@greenovate.online

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