

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first newsletter! This month served as the starter of our activities, and we are more than happy to share some interesting news and stories that highlight practices across Europe in the areas of green and digital transitions.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Layla Jusko, researcher and a student of Political Science and International Relations from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meet Layla Jusko, researcher and student of Political Science and International Relations from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, actively engaged in climate action, public health, and population development. We had the opportunity to ask Layla some questions about her engagement, her opinions, but also her hopes for youth engagement in the areas of sustainability, climate change and action, as well as green and digital transitions. Additionally, Layla served as the coordinator and country contact point for the first-ever UNFCCC Local Conference of Youth for Climate Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina (LCOY BiH) in 2023 and the upcoming 2024 edition, aimed at raising awareness about climate change, enhancing environmental consciousness, and promoting youth-led climate initiatives.

“Understanding key strategic documents in sustainability and ecology is not just an asset—it is an essential foundation for making informed decisions, shaping effective policies, and driving real change. Sustainability and climate action cannot rely on good intentions alone; they require precise planning, evidence-based targets, and internationally aligned action plans. These documents serve as the blueprint for tackling global environmental challenges while ensuring that local initiatives are impactful, scalable, and aligned with global commitments.”

[Read full interview here](#)

EU's Clean Industry Deal – What does it mean for young Europeans

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025 the European Commission presented the EU Clean Industry Deal, as it says, a bold business plan to support the competitiveness and resilience of our industry. The Deal will accelerate decarbonisation, while securing the future of manufacturing in Europe.

The Deal is set to transform Europe's industrial landscape into a more sustainable, eco-friendly powerhouse, aligned with the already active European Green Deal, the plan to create Europe the first zero-emission continent by 2050.

Nevertheless, even though the Clean Industry Deal addresses mainly manufacturers and big industries, it will still affect young people on several levels. Namely, the Deal is divided into six themes: (1) energy security and energy prices; (2) financing; (3) recycling and critical raw materials; **(4) labor and skills**; (5) lead markets; and (6) global action.

Paving the way towards new opportunities

Central to the Clean Industrial Deal is its potential to generate a slew of new job opportunities in fields like renewable energy, clean technology, and sustainable manufacturing. For young people across Europe, this means access to innovative job roles that are not only forward-thinking but also crucial for global sustainability efforts. These positions are expected to be both high in demand and pivotal in the transition to a green economy.

The Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, Teresa Ribera, has spoken about labour and skills at length – about the importance of social policy in the Clean Industrial Deal. On Monday, February 24, she said that developing the Clean Industrial Deal “requires thinking in terms of skills, labor force and job opportunities.”

At another event last week she said: “Many of the problems we are experiencing right now ... may be connected to the fact that **there are many Europeans that feel that the institutions do not care about them**. That we are speaking about business opportunities but we do not speak about social difficulties. That is very, very important.”

The deal emphasises the urgent need for a skilled workforce to propel this industrial transformation. Consequently, it **promises expanded opportunities in vocational training and higher education**, specifically tailored to meet the demands of a green economy. This strategic focus is designed to equip young Europeans with essential skills that will be invaluable in a rapidly evolving job market.

Local practices: Greece



The Municipality of Drama, Greece and the Department of Environment and Greenery have proceeded with the planting of new plants and trees while also studying the further enrichment of the park's vegetation. The objective is to renew the area, improve biodiversity, and enhance its aesthetic appeal. The Agia Varvara Park, as a natural gem and a landmark of the city, will continue to be highlighted through interventions that promote sustainability and its natural beauty.

The first scheduled tree planting for 2025 in the Municipality of Zografou was successfully carried out on Sunday, February 16, at the University Campus Park and the "Sotiris Petroulas" sports facilities. Volunteers from the city, children, and parents responded to the first call for 2025 and all contributed to greening the area.



On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, the students of Saravali High School carried out a tree-planting activity both at the Elementary School and in the Terma Mylou area. They planted trees with the aim of replacing those that did not survive the prolonged drought of the past summer and, at the same time, to demonstrate to younger students, through hands-on experience, the process of planting while explaining the importance of greenery in our lives. The goal of the initiative was to promote respect for the environment and its protection so that residents can continue to enjoy its benefits.



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