

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Monthly Digest

This month highlights **ideas and actions shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future.**

In the spotlight, **Ioannis Sismanidis** reflects on sustainable tourism in mountainous and forest regions, emphasizing the need to protect biodiversity while supporting local communities. We also focus on this month's **UN SDG - No Poverty (SDG 1)**, reminding us that while progress has been made, **808 million people** still live in extreme poverty.

This issue further showcases **youth in action**, from *Participation Days in Slovenia* exploring circular economy solutions, to *Green Growth Awareness Days in Novi Sad*, where students engaged with sustainability and the power of individual action.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



"Sustainable tourism is not a trend, but the only realistic solution for the long-term well-being of our regions. It is an investment in the future that requires responsibility both from young people, as future professionals in the field, and from the State."

[Read full interview here](#)

NEWS FROM ACROSS EUROPE

Participation days Slovenia: Circular economy from insight to action

From **8–10 January 2026** in Ljubljana, 31 young participants from **Slovenia, Greece, Lithuania, Spain and Serbia** came together for *Participation Days: Circular economy from insight to action*, part of the Greenovate project. Over three inspiring days, they moved **beyond theory to hands-on experience**, exploring circular solutions through interactive workshops, real industry visits and group challenges.



Highlights included learning about circular city policies, seeing how discarded materials are transformed into regenerated products, visiting reuse centres and discovering innovation labs and practical reuse systems. Participants left with a **deeper understanding of circular economy**, fresh motivation to act and new perspectives on sustainable consumption and collaboration across Europe.

Source: [Greenovate](#)



On **29 January**, students at “Mihajlo Pupin” High School in **Novi Sad** took part in *Green Growth Awareness Days*, a youth-focused activity of the **Engaging Youth in a Digital Green Future 2.0** project supported by Erasmus+ and partners from across Europe.

Through presentations on the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the **European Green Deal**, young people explored how everyday choices shape the future of our planet.

Speakers shared real-life stories demonstrating how **individual action truly matters**, from protecting local biodiversity to founding community initiatives.

The key takeaway?

Each person has the power to make a meaningful impact.

Source: [Greenovate](#)

Sustainable Development Goal of the Month: No Poverty (SDG 1)

Progress toward ending poverty is possible. Today, **over 52% of the global population** is covered by at least one social protection benefit - the highest level ever recorded. Still, in **2025, 808 million people** continue to live in extreme poverty.

A surge in action and investment to enhance economic opportunities, improve education and extend social protection to all, particularly the most excluded, is crucial to ending poverty and **leaving no one behind**.

The **Pact for the Future** underscores the urgency of expanding universal health coverage, inclusive education and decent work to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities.

Source: [UN](#)

The New Reality: Moving Past "Water Crisis" to "Water Bankruptcy"

Our world has hit a tipping point. A new report by United Nations University, **Global Water Bankruptcy**, warns that we are no longer just facing temporary shocks; we are living beyond our hydrological means.

In many regions, river basins and aquifers can no longer bounce back to "normal". This chronic state requires a total shift in how we manage our most precious resource.



Photo: Canva

The Strategic Opportunity

It's not all doom and gloom. While water is a massive risk, it is also a **strategic opportunity**. By investing in water resilience now, we don't just prevent disaster we can unlock progress across **climate, biodiversity, land, food, and health**, and serve as a practical platform for cooperation within and between societies. Acting early, before stress hardens into irreversible loss, can reduce shared risks, strengthen resilience, and rebuild trust through tangible results.

Source: [UNU](#)

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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