

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Digest

This month, we highlight key developments and initiatives shaping the path toward a sustainable future, with a particular focus on youth engagement, climate action, and environmental protection. From **Green Grow Awareness Days**, organized by NGO Media Pont, to International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict Cities Day. COP30 brought together governments to renew climate commitments, reaffirming the importance of mitigation, adaptation, and support for vulnerable countries. While progress was made, the European Parliament emphasized that more ambitious action is needed to meet the urgency of the climate crisis. This serves as a reminder that climate change solutions require not only international agreements but also practical implementation at national, regional, and local levels.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



This month, we speak with **Laurynas Virbickas** - an expert in green waste management and circular economy innovation, sharing insights on how young people can shape the future of sustainability. With hands-on experience in composting, recycling, and vocational training programs, he emphasizes the importance of curiosity, initiative, and practical action.

In his words: *“Theory is theory, but you also need to see how it happens in practice. Take initiative, lead by example, and never be indifferent — even small actions add up to real change.”*

[Read full interview here](#)

NEWS FROM ACROSS EUROPE

Green Grow Awareness Days: “Green Agenda and Youth Engagement – Initiatives for a Sustainable Future”

Novi Sad, 13 November — The first event organized by NGO Media Pont titled “Green Agenda and Youth Engagement – Initiatives for a Sustainable Future” was held at Isidora Sekulić Grammar School in Novi Sad, as part of the Green Grow Awareness Days campaign within the project “Youth Engagement in the Digital Green Future 2.0”(Erasmus+, KA3).The introductory presentation on Agenda 2030 and the European Green Deal from the perspective of sustainable agriculture was delivered by Nataša Heror, President of the NGOMedia Pont from Novi Sad. In October 2025, Media Pont hosted the international activity “Participation Days in Serbia,” focused on sustainable agriculture, making this event an opportunity to present major strategic documents through an agricultural lens. Following the opening session, Aleksandar Bojić from UNDP introduced the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, highlighting opportunities for young people to initiate actions within their local communities and to explore professional development pathways after completing secondary education. The event also featured a video message from H.E. Pernille Dahler Kardel, Ambassador of Denmark to Serbia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia. She emphasized the importance of youth engagement in societal development and reiterated Denmark’s commitment to achieving net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. In the final part of the program, Milica Živković from the Institute for Regional Development (Novi Sad) and Aleksandar Sarmeš, Manager of the Special Nature Reserve “Kraljevac”, presented the reserve’s annual activities. The reserve is managed by the Deliblato Lake Sports Fishing Association. Through short films shown during the event, participants learned about ongoing conservation efforts for the European pond turtle and ground squirrel, implemented with the support of numerous young volunteers from around the world. Goals of the Campaign The Green Grow Awareness Days campaign aims to introduce young people in Serbia to the processes driven by Agenda 2030, the European Green Deal, and the Green Agenda. It seeks to emphasize the importance of adopting sustainable habits in everyday life and to promote active youth participation in local communities. The project “Engaging Youth in a Digital Green Future 2.0” is implemented within the Erasmus+ program, KA3 and is co-financed by the European Commission. The event was organized with the financial support of the government of Switzerland within the „EU for Green Agenda in Serbia“ initiative. This initiative, with the technical and financial support of the European Union and in the partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, is implemented by UNDP in cooperation with Sweden and the European Investment Bank (EIB), with additional funding provided by the governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Serbia. The event was organized with the financial support of the Embassy of Denmark in Serbia.

Source: [Greenovate](#)



International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict – 6 November

Observed every year on 6 November, this UN day raises awareness of how war and armed conflict damage the environment — from polluted water and destroyed forests to degraded soil and long-term ecosystem loss.

Created by the UN General Assembly in 2001, the day highlights that natural resources are often targeted or exploited during conflict, worsening human suffering and hindering recovery. The UN notes that over 40% of internal conflicts in the last 60 years have been linked to natural resource use or control. The Day calls on governments, communities, and organizations to protect the environment during conflict and ensure that post-war recovery includes restoring ecosystems and safeguarding natural resources. Protecting the environment is essential for peace, stability, and sustainable development.

Source: [United Nations](#)



Source: [United Nations](#)

What is COP30 & Why It Matters

UNFCCC defines COP30 as the 30th Conference of the Parties under the United Nations climate framework — a global meeting where governments come together to assess progress against climate change, negotiate commitments, and shape collective responses. UN Climate Change Conferences (or COPs) take place every year, and are the world's only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change that brings together almost every country on Earth. COP30 matters because it's one of the key global venues for renewing and strengthening climate pledges, including mitigation (reducing emissions), adaptation (preparing for climate impacts), climate finance, and support for vulnerable countries. Decisions made at COP30 influence

climate policy, international funding, and global efforts to keep warming limits within agreed targets. For readers and communities, COP30 is a reminder that climate action isn't only national — it depends on global cooperation, but also on how agreements translate into local policies, sustainable investments, and societal shifts.

Source: [United Nations](#)

COP30 Outcome — Progress Made, But Insufficient to Meet Urgency of Climate Crisis

The European Parliament has reviewed the outcomes of the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) and noted that while some progress was achieved, the results remain insufficient given the scale and urgency of the climate crisis.



Key points highlighted include:

- Governments reaffirmed their commitments to address climate change, with agreements on mitigation, adaptation, and climate finance for vulnerable countries.
- Despite these commitments, the European Parliament emphasized that the pace and ambition of the agreed measures do not meet the global needs to limit warming and prevent severe climate impacts.
- Critical areas, such as accelerated emissions reductions, a clear roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels, and stronger binding commitments, were either insufficiently addressed or absent from the final agreements.

The European Parliament underscores that while international agreements provide a framework, meaningful climate action requires implementation at national, regional, and local levels. The outcomes of COP30 highlight the continued importance of legislative action, investment in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure, adaptation planning, and inclusive

policies to ensure equitable climate solutions.

Source: [European Parliament](#)

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