

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Digest

This month, we're diving into how youth, policy, and innovation are shaping a greener future. From **Greece and Serbia's Participation Days**, where young people explored sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture, to **World Cities Day**, which celebrates *people-centred smart cities*. As leaders prepare for the **The Second World Summit for Social Development** and the **European Parliament** debates sustainability reporting, the message is clear: progress means participation.

In our **In the Spotlight** feature, **Lucija Marovt**, reminds us to - *"Be bold, be curious, and act. Don't wait for permission – your time is now."*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



This month we meet Lucija Marovt, one of the driving forces in the Eco-Schools programme in Slovenia, a member of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). With over 20 years of experience, Lucija believes that learning is the engine of change

In her words: ***“Don’t teach sustainability as a topic - teach it as a mindset.”***

Upcoming Participation Days in Slovenia (Jan 2026) will focus on hands-on learning around circular economy solutions.

[Read full interview here](#)

NEWS FROM ACROSS EUROPE

Engaging Youth in a Digital Green Future - Two successful Participation Days

Participation Days in Greece

From 11 to 13 October 2025 in Drama, Greece, the organisation KDETYD (Innovating Activities in Education, Tourism, Health and Interculturality) hosted a three-day event under the European project Engaging Youth in a Digital Green Future 2.0, co-funded by the EU.

Young people, educators, local authorities and sustainability experts gathered to explore how the European Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can steer us towards a greener, more resilient future. The programme emphasised sustainable tourism: interactive workshops, field visits and a robotics recycling workshop helped connect environmental education with cultural heritage, demonstrating how sustainability and local development go hand in hand. The event concluded with a guided exploration of the Aggitis River Cave and the awarding of Youthpass certificates.

Source: [Greenovate](#)



Participation Days in Serbia

From 15 to 17 October 2025 in Sremski Karlovci, Serbia, the NGO Media Pont hosted a training course dedicated to sustainable agriculture, an essential

sector for reaching climate and environmental goals.

Participants addressed challenges such as soil degradation, inefficient water use and slow adoption of eco-friendly practices. A presentation by the organization “Our World, Our Rules” introduced how youth can become drivers of change in local communities.

Workshops covered the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, stakeholder simulations and discussions on the social aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On the final day the focus turned to regenerative agriculture led by Svetlana Vujkov, an approach that seeks to restore soil health, enhance biodiversity and support farmers livelihoods.



The event was co-funded by the EU and received support from the Government of Switzerland through the project “Together for an Active Civil Society – ACT” implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and Građanske inicijative.

Source: [Greenovate](#)

World Cities Day 2025 - “People-Centred Smart Cities”

Every year on **31 October**, the United Nations marks **World Cities Day**, a moment to celebrate progress and reflect on how cities can be more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient, and it’s directly connected to **SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities**.

This year’s theme, “**People-Centred Smart Cities**,” puts the spotlight on how technology and innovation can be used to improve urban life and recover from current shocks and crises.

The day encourages communities around the world to rethink how we plan, build, and manage our cities. It’s important for ensuring global awareness about the role of technology and innovation in advancing improved access to adequate housing and achieving urban development, the goal is to foster and encourage international cooperation and collaboration among all societal sectors on People-Centred Smart Cities.

Source: [United Nations](#)

Global Leaders Set the Stage for the Second World Summit for Social Development

As the world prepares for the **United Nations Social Development Summit 2025**, leaders are gathering in Doha to discuss how to move towards progress defined by well-being, equality, and human dignity.

This event will explore how governments, civil society, and youth can work together to tackle deep social inequalities and create fairer societies. Themes include all the key areas for ensuring that no one is left behind.



Photo: AI generated

Where are we now?

With just five years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the world is lagging badly on many fronts. Progress in reducing poverty has slowed, gender equality has stalled and many young people face precarious futures. Last year, when Member States called for this Summit, they sent a clear message: social development must once again take centre stage. It is about recommitting to the core of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind.

For our community, it's a reminder that **global change starts locally**. The ideas debated at the Social Summit will shape how policies and partnerships evolve, but real progress depends on how we apply those values in our cities, schools, and communities.

Source: [United Nations](#)

EU Parliament Turns Down CSRD and CSDDD Simplifications

On **22 October 2025**, Members of Parliament voted against approving the negotiating mandate for the so-called "Omnibus" Directive a proposal to simplify and streamline sustainability reporting and due diligence obligations under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive ("**CSRD**") and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive ("**CSDDD**"). The vote ended with **318 against, 309 in favour, and 34 abstentions**.

Since the mandate was rejected, the Omnibus package will return to the next European Parliament plenary session. A new vote is scheduled for **13 November 2025**, and the eventual outcome remains uncertain.

Source: [Regulatory and Compliance](#)

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