



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

A new academic year brings with it more than a return to learning - it is a chance to look ahead. Across Europe, education is evolving alongside the green transition, opening new pathways to develop skills, explore ideas and engage with the challenges shaping the future. From innovative learning initiatives and international programmes to opportunities for practical experience and collaboration, September brings a fresh wave of possibilities for young people ready to learn, connect and take part. In this edition, we highlight some of the latest opportunities emerging across Europe and the people and initiatives turning green ambitions into meaningful action.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



In September, we welcomed Dr Vilma Liaudanskė, an educational scientist, lecturer and education leader working at the intersection of pedagogy, youth and educational innovation. With a strong focus on inclusive and meaningful learning, she brings valuable experience in supporting educators and creating opportunities for young people.

In 2025, her contribution to education was recognised with second place in Lithuania’s Education Leaders competition. During her visit, we had the opportunity to exchange ideas on education, youth development and the skills needed for the future. Discover Dr Vilma Liaudanskė’s perspective on education, youth development and the changing role of educators:

Full interview here

NEWS FROM ACROSS EUROPE



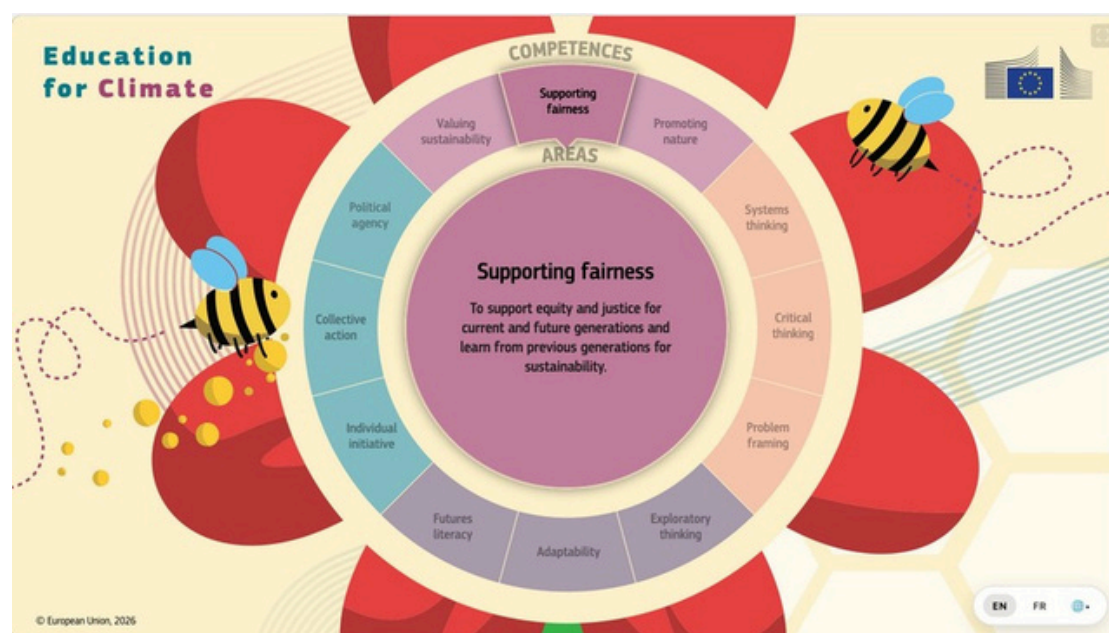
Source: European Commission, Education for Climate Coalition — September Community Bulletin, 2026.

The European Commission’s Education for Climate Coalition published its September Community Bulletin, highlighting a series of opportunities for learners, educators and young people interested in sustainability. Among the opportunities is the Education for Climate Day 2026, taking place on 22 October under the theme of intergenerational fairness. The event will bring together educators, learners, researchers, youth and practitioners to

The Coalition has also launched its first job mentorship scheme for 2026–2027, connecting mentors and mentees working or learning in the field of sustainability education. The six-month pilot begins in October and is designed to support networking, knowledge exchange and learning across generations.

explore how climate education can support people of different generations to learn, act and shape solutions together.

Another useful resource highlighted this month is GreenComp, the European sustainability competence framework, which is now available through an interactive graphic in all EU languages, as well as Icelandic, Macedonian, Norwegian, Serbian and Turkish



European Commission, GreenComp: The European sustainability competence framework

DID YOU KNOW?

GreenComp is the European sustainability competence framework developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

It provides a common reference for sustainability learning and identifies the knowledge, skills and attitudes that can help people understand sustainability challenges and act towards a more sustainable future. The framework brings together 12 sustainability competences across four areas: embodying sustainability values, embracing complexity in sustainability, envisioning sustainable futures, and acting for sustainability. It is designed to support education and training across formal, non-formal and informal learning, regardless of learners' age or educational background.



GreenComp: The European Sustainability Competence Framework

On 10 September, the European Commission announced the launch of a new STEAM Executive Panel, bringing together experts from education and training, business and social partners.

The panel will advise the Commission on how to strengthen cooperation between education and training providers and other stakeholders, with a particular focus on ensuring that learners develop the skills needed in a rapidly changing labour market.

The initiative forms part of the European Commission's wider STEM Education Strategic Plan and the Union of Skills. It also highlights the increasing importance of combining science, technology, engineering and mathematics with broader perspectives from the arts, humanities and social sciences.

For young people beginning a new academic year, developments such as this point towards a European education landscape where interdisciplinary learning, creativity and practical skills are becoming increasingly important.



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López Luque, James, 2026

European Commission — New STEAM Executive Panel starts its work (2026)

Council of Europe opens applications for environmental course



For young people looking to deepen their knowledge of environmental issues, the Council of Europe's North-South Centre opened applications in September for the HEY Tutors Online Course on Environment.

The free online course will take place from 28 October to 24 November 2026 and is open to active young people up to 30 from the Council of Europe's 46 member states, as well as participants from Africa and the Middle East.

The programme will explore the links between human rights and the environment, including climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, environmental protection, climate justice, climate

litigation and advocacy.

The application deadline is 18 October 2026.

HEY Tutored Online Course on Environment 2026 - Application form

OPPORTUNITY SPOTLIGHT / this is your sign to....



Learn by doing: European Solidarity Corps

A new academic year is also an opportunity to learn beyond the traditional classroom. Through the European Solidarity Corps, young people can complement their studies with practical experiences across Europe, joining projects focused on environmental protection, sustainable living, climate awareness and community action. From working with local communities to contributing to sustainability initiatives, these experiences offer a valuable way to develop skills, broaden perspectives and put learning into practice.

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