

Environmental change

Environmental change in European start-uppers thinking and acting – the solution for common sustainable development

NEWSLETTER 1 – June/2021

Circular Economy & Sustainability in debate



Experts of different fields, in five EU countries, discuss about transition to more sustainable economic models

Between April and May, partners from Poland, Portugal, Greece, Slovenia and Spain gathered around 30 representatives from business incubators, environmental research institutes, R&D centres, technology centres, reuse centres, municipalities, VET providers and universities to present the Environmental Change project aims and main objectives, and to promote discussions on its key transversal topics: circular economy, sustainable solutions and digital entrepreneurship.

Organised in the format of focus groups, these local forums aimed also at gathering relevant information for the development of the project first result - the environmental syllabus for VET providers. These focus groups took place alongside with interviews with experts that were conducted with the same purpose.

A first reading from the national reports shows different realities and different needs. The common aspect amongst them as well as the main challenge is at the level of behavioural change and of how it can affect the transition to more sustainable practices and new circular economy models.

A European report has been draft from the national findings with the aim to define the learning units and training path of the environmental syllabus for VET providers.

Circular economy and sustainability in debate

Transition to natural energy in EU

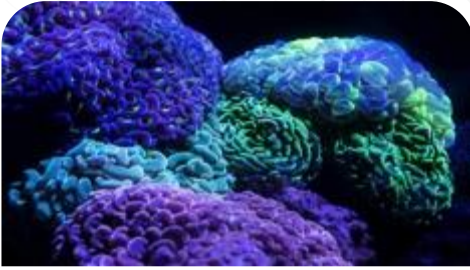
Combating climate change



www.environmentalchange.erasmus.site



[www.facebook/environmentalchangeproject](https://www.facebook.com/environmentalchangeproject)



One way forward

"Europe must do more; Europe must be more ambitious in renewable energy if it is to deliver on its commitments under the Paris Agreement to fight climate change and achieve the energy transition". Jose Blanco Lopez, Spanish Politician

The front runners

According to Eurostat, countries like Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Finland, and Sweden have achieved the goals marked for 2020 regarding the use of renewable energies. Sweden led in terms of sharing of green energy in the national mix of gross energy consumption in electricity, heating and transport.

Transition to natural energy in EU

In 2009, the EU started to promote renewable energy sources and set the target of using 20% of renewable energy sources by 2020. In 2018 another target was agreed, this time to use 32% of renewable energy until 2030, following [the Art. 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#), about Energy.

Although policies play a key role to achieve these targets, businesses are who will lead the energy transition. In Europe, many start-ups are at the forefront of transformation, bringing innovative business ideas to the market and withdrawing market share from established operators in sectors such as renewable energy, heating, and mobility. In areas such as storage and hydrogen, young companies are amongst the world leaders, and they can be the key to clean up a polluting industry. Established operators are also relying on start-up innovation to reduce emissions and EU governments are now promoting the sector with multiple support programs.

Combating climate change

The [EU energy policy](#) aims to promote the development of new and renewable forms of energy in order to better align climate change targets with the new market structure and better integrate them into this structure.

The European Union thus promotes the use of energy from renewable sources and has planned six areas of activity: development of renewable sources in the electricity sector, introduce it to the cooling and heating industry, decarbonisation of the transport sector, empower customers and the EU sustainability criteria in bioenergy, and ensure that the binding target is achieved cost-effectively.

Member States primarily support the renewable energy sources through biofuels-oriented instruments, but they are increasingly promoting e-mobility options and are currently introducing e-mobility subsidies. Globally, for the first time ever, solar and wind energy accounted for most of the new generation of energy in 2019.

PARTNERSHIP



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union