



Sustainably yours:

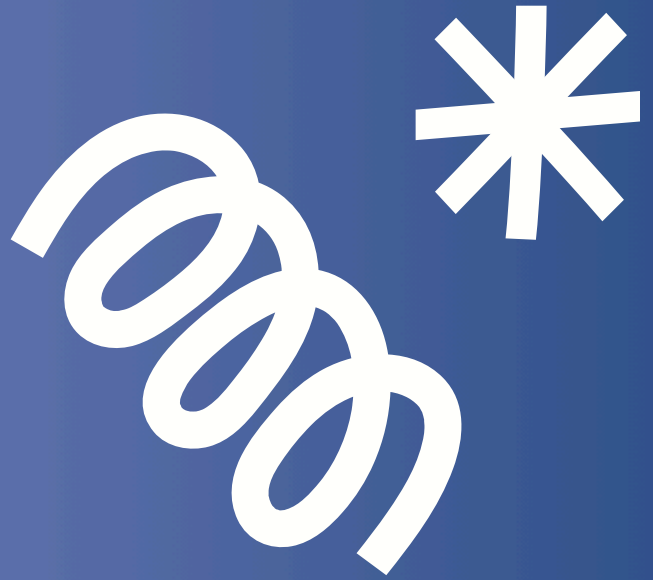
Youth for Green Tomorrow



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project idea

We want to get young people genuinely excited about protecting the planet. That's the core of this. By helping them build real leadership skills, they can start taking charge in their own towns and neighborhoods. It's about turning them into active citizens who don't just care about sustainability, but actually make it happen locally.



Youth Leadership Development

How do we get young people to actually lead on eco-stuff? That's the real challenge. It's not about sitting in a classroom listening to lectures. No way. We throw them into international exchanges and real, hands-on work. Plus, they get to team up with people from totally different backgrounds. It just clicks.

Youth Empowerment and Active Participation

We want young people to think for themselves. To question things. The project is about getting them stuck into what's happening locally, making sure they actually have a say when big decisions are made. In the end, it's pretty simple. We want them to stop watching from the sidelines and start driving the change.

Sustainability Awareness and Communication

Caring about the planet is great, but knowing how to talk about it? That's where the real magic happens. We back them up so they can spread these green ideas through social media, quick workshops, or local events. It's about giving them the tools to get their friends and neighbors actually paying attention.

Achievements

Target group

This project brings together different groups that connect naturally, making sure we get real youth involvement while also making a splash in the wider community.

Our main group is teenagers aged 15 to 18. They form the core teams in each country and are the ones actually running the show designing, managing, and pulling off all the activities. By working side-by-side with mentors and local officials, they are building massive skills in leadership and communication along the way.

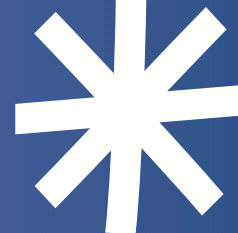
Then there is the bigger circle. We are reaching out to around 120 young people (aged 15-24) in each local area. They jump into our workshops, events, and debates to grab some non-formal learning and green tools. We also made sure to include plenty of youth who usually get fewer opportunities, because keeping this open and fair matters to us.

Finally, we are looping in local decision-makers and stakeholders think people from municipalities, NGOs, and local community groups. The goal is to get them talking face-to-face with the youth, sharing ideas on sustainability, and helping them actually launch these local eco-projects.

In the end, we are also connecting with the wider public parents, teachers, and neighbors of all ages. Through open community events and our social media campaigns, we are spreading the word about green living and getting everyone to notice what these young leaders are achieving.

The whole idea follows a simple ripple effect. We start small with a dedicated core team, expand out to get loads of local youth involved, and finally bring in the decision-makers and the neighborhood. It's about getting everyone moving together for a sustainable future.





Timeline

Phase 1: Preparation & Team Building

- Setting up the project structure and regular coordination
- Recruiting and selecting core team members
- Team-building and onboarding activities
- Initial planning of activities and partnerships
- Ongoing monitoring and visibility work

Phase 2: Capacity Building

- International youth exchange focused on environmental leadership
- Training in community engagement, event organisation, and communication
- Development of practical skills for project implementation
- Preparation for dialogue activities with decision makers

Phase 3: Youth-Decision Maker Engagement

- Organising structured dialogue events between youth and local stakeholders
- Collecting and presenting community environmental challenges
- Producing short youth-led videos and presentations
- Strengthening cooperation and mutual understanding

Phase 4: Community Outreach & Workshops

- Expanding participation through schools and volunteer engagement
- Developing and delivering ecology workshops for young people
- Running social media campaigns to raise awareness
- Mid-term review of progress and improvements
- Preparing large-scale community event

Phase 5-7: Public Impact, Advocacy & Dissemination

- Organising a large public Eco Festival involving youth, decision makers, and community members
- Developing youth-led proposals and action plans for local sustainability improvements
- Strengthening dialogue and cooperation with decision makers on long-term solutions
- Presenting final results and joint initiatives in a closing event
- Sharing project outcomes widely through online and offline dissemination
- Conducting final evaluation, collecting results, and preparing final project materials and publication
- Ensuring sustainability and continuation of youth engagement beyond the project period

Main events overview

E1: Eco Leaders Bootcamp - Youth Exchange (Lithuania)

The Eco Leaders Bootcamp was a 6-day international youth exchange focused on developing environmental leadership, teamwork, and active citizenship among young people.

Through non-formal learning methods, participants built leadership and cooperation skills, explored local and global environmental challenges, and learned how to engage communities and decision makers in sustainability actions.

The programme combined interactive team-building activities, reflection, case studies, and practical workshops on event planning, communication, advocacy, and social media campaigning. It also supported intercultural exchange and strengthened cooperation between young people from different countries.

Overall, the bootcamp served as the starting point of the project, preparing participants to actively lead and implement youth-driven environmental initiatives in their communities.



Find how the exchange went
on Tavo Europa Instagram account

E2: Inspired to act green events in Lithuania and Bulgaria

The “Inspired to Act Green” events were a key part of our Erasmus+ project, Sustainably Yours, and rolled out in both Bulgaria and Lithuania. We designed them as interactive forums to get young people, teachers, and local decision-makers in the same room, talking honestly about the environment and figuring out how to spark real action locally.

Over in Bulgaria, the event kicked off with deep dives into everyday green challenges and the solutions youth can actually lead. We talked about things like mindful consumption, cutting down waste, saving energy, green transport, and better food choices. People teamed up to brainstorm what was going wrong in their own towns and came up with projects to fix it.

In Lithuania, we held the forum at the Vilnius Lazdynai School. The students jumped into a seminar about why sustainability matters so much right now, and then we broke into group debates on the exact same themes: daily habits, waste, transport, energy, and food. The best part? They wrapped up with a practical challenge focused entirely on making their own school a lot greener.

Both events mixed expert tips with open discussions and hands-on work, giving everyone a chance to think critically and trade ideas. When it was all over, the “Inspired to Act Green” forums didn't just raise awareness; they gave these young people the confidence to step up and actually change their communities for the better.



Event 3: What's Up in the Community? – Youth Voices for Sustainability in Lithuania and Bulgaria

The “What's Up in the Community?” events were a big part of our Erasmus+ project, Sustainably Yours, rolling out across both Bulgaria and Lithuania. The whole point was to focus on youth participation, local green challenges, and getting a real dialogue going with the community.

Down in Bulgaria, we held the event at the Hristo Yassenov School in Etropole, and a huge group of young people showed up. We kicked off by breaking down our main goals and introducing them to the Video Voice methodology. Basically, we encouraged them to use their own phones to shoot short videos expressing how they feel about local social and environmental issues.

The groups used digital tools to pinpoint what was going wrong in their neighborhoods, which led to great debates about how these problems affect youth and who should actually step up to fix them.

We kept the momentum going with storytelling and video creation practice. The participants learned how to structure their messages around the specific problem, its impact, and how to solve it. They even looked at videos created by the team in Lithuania to get some extra inspiration.



Event 3: What's Up in the Community? – Youth Voices for Sustainability in Lithuania and Bulgaria

Our Lithuanian event rolled out at the Vilnius Lazdynai School, teaming up with Tavo Europa. The students took the stage to show off the "Video Voice" short films they'd been working on, sharing their raw takes on everyday green habits, eco-awareness, and how the school community plays a part.

After the screenings, we broke into groups to chat and share thoughts. Then, everyone jumped into a game called "Green Plan: Our School 2030." The teams got creative to brainstorm real fixes for the school's energy bills, cutting down trash, saving water, transport, and greener food choices. Once done, they pitched their ideas and everyone voted on the best ones.

Looking back at both countries, these events nailed the mix of creative styles, real participation, and teamwork. They got young people genuinely grasping local green issues, made them care about taking action, and gave them the confidence to actually start shaping a sustainable neighborhood.



Event 4: Eco Festival in Lithuania and Bulgaria

The Eco Festival was a massive public event under our Erasmus+ project, Sustainably Yours. We wanted to put the spotlight on green living, youth leadership, and getting the whole neighborhood moving on environmental action.

Over in Lithuania, the festival kicked off on December 17, 2025, right here in Vilnius. We got young people, teachers, and neighbors together for a full day packed with practical green ideas and fresh thinking. Everyone jumped into interactive games, presentations, and projects run by the youth themselves, focusing on mindful shopping, cutting trash, and small daily habits. Plus, it was the perfect chance to show off what we'd achieved in earlier project phases, letting the youth tell their stories to get the wider community inspired.

Then, Bulgaria took the stage on January 28, 2026, over in Etropole. The event brought local youth and key town stakeholders together to talk about shared environmental duty and civic action. Through hands-on workshops and debates, they dug into real ways to fix sustainability in their own schools and neighborhoods. The festival gave these young people a loud microphone to pitch their ideas, forcing a real dialogue with the local community.

In both countries, the Eco Festival was basically a huge celebration of youth power and green action. It brought kids and their communities way closer, got everyone talking about the planet, and left people actually wanting to stick with these eco-friendly habits for the long run.



5. Young people meet decision makers in Lithuania and Bulgaria

The final event of Sustainably Yours rolled out in both Bulgaria and Lithuania, bringing young people, school staff, and city officials into the same room to talk about youth-led action plans for a much greener future.

- In Bulgaria (Etropole, March 4, 2026): The youth took the floor to pitch their own projects on trash sorting, saving power, and building green spaces. They talked face-to-face with local decision-makers and municipal staff, getting real feedback to turn these student ideas into actual town projects while setting up a shared roadmap for the coming months.
- In Lithuania (Vilnius, May 27, 2026): Held at Vilnius Lazdynai School under the title "Sustainable Youth", students showcased their environmental proposals to make their school and local neighborhood way more sustainable. This sparked an open debate with city officials on cutting waste, energy efficiency, and how to get the rest of the neighbors to care.

When it was all over, this final milestone built a solid bridge between the youth and the people in charge, proving that these guys aren't just waiting around they are ready to lead the change.





Workshops

These ecology workshops ran as regular, informal sessions to help young people actually grasp sustainability and start taking action locally. Small groups of core participants took charge of the sessions themselves. They combined open debates with practical tasks to focus on the real challenges we face every day like sorting trash, cutting energy use, shopping mindfully, and looking after our own neighborhoods.

The sessions also pushed everyone to work together, speak up, and question their own daily routines. With a completely hands-on approach, the youth spent the workshops throwing ideas around, fixing problems as a team, and mapping out simple changes they can actually pull off in their schools and local areas.

Video voice method

We used the “Video Voice” method during the Sustainably Yours project as a hands-on tool to let young people speak up about local challenges through short videos.

This approach brings together community action and filmmaking, showing how local neighbors view sustainability and how youth ideas can actually influence decision-making.

The youth worked in teams through the entire production process from picking the topics and planning the message to writing scripts, filming, and editing. It was a great way to boost real collaboration, creativity, and practical digital skills.

A massive part of this was hitting the streets to do interviews and chat with the community. By talking directly with students, teachers, and neighbors, participants got a much clearer picture of the shared problems and what people already know about the environment.

The method also featured regular reflection sessions where teams sat down to analyze what they discovered, turning that raw footage into clear messages meant to spark debate and raise awareness.

Ultimately, “Video Voice” works because it gives young people a real voice, connecting local insights, creative media, and active citizenship in a way that anyone can do.



What we learned?

All through the Sustainably Yours project, the youth, educators, and local neighbors gained a real understanding of what it takes to drive sustainability, speak up, and work together effectively.

The Importance of Youth Participation

One of the biggest takeaways from the project was realizing that young people shouldn't just wait around for change—they are the ones making it happen. When you give them the right tools, knowledge, and space, they are completely capable of spotting local problems, coming up with fixes, and getting others on board. Their creativity, energy, and fresh perspectives add massive value to any local green effort.

The Benefits of International Cooperation

Working in an international setup gave everyone a chance to trade stories, learn from different cultural backgrounds, and find fresh ways to tackle environmental issues. The teamwork between partners from Lithuania and Bulgaria proved that many sustainability problems are exactly the same across different borders, and we can solve them a lot better by teaming up and sharing what we know.

Working with Decision Makers

The project proved that young people and decision makers simply need to sit down and talk. Our participants finally saw how local town halls and institutions actually work from the inside, learning how to pitch their ideas effectively to turn them into real action. On the flip side, the officials themselves walked away with a much clearer picture of what the youth actually care about and want to fix.

Sustainable Practices Worth Replicating

A few of our project activities worked so well that any other school, youth group, or neighborhood can easily take them and use them too:



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- Youth-led environmental workshops
 - Video Voice storytelling activities
 - Structured dialogue events with decision makers
 - Community sustainability campaigns
 - Peer-to-peer learning and awareness-raising initiatives
 - School-based sustainability challenges and action plans

These practices demonstrate that meaningful environmental action can begin with small, locally driven initiatives.



Recommendations for Communities

Based on the experiences and outcomes of the Sustainably Yours project, we propose the following recommendations for strengthening sustainability and youth participation at local level.

- Recommendations for Schools
 - Establish sustainability clubs or student-led environmental groups.
 - Support youth initiatives and provide opportunities for students to lead projects.
 - Integrate sustainability topics into everyday school life.
 - Encourage project-based learning and community engagement activities.
 - Create spaces where students can share ideas and contribute to school development.
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Recommendations for Municipalities and Local Authorities

- Include young people in consultations and decision-making processes.
- Support youth-led environmental projects through funding, mentoring, or access to facilities.
- Create regular opportunities for dialogue between young people and local institutions.
- Promote partnerships between schools, NGOs, and local authorities.
- Recognise and celebrate youth contributions to community development.

Recommendations for Young People

- Start with small actions that can make a difference in your daily life.
- Get involved in local initiatives and volunteer opportunities.
- Share ideas and encourage others to participate.
- Use social media responsibly to raise awareness about important issues.
- Do not underestimate the impact of youth voices in creating positive change.

Sustainability begins with participation. Every action, no matter how small, contribute to building stronger and more environmentally conscious communities.



Youth Guide to Sustainable Action



10 Simple Sustainability Actions

- Use reusable bottles, bags, and containers.
- Reduce food waste by planning meals and using leftovers.
- Save energy by turning off lights and electronic devices when not in use.
- Choose walking, cycling, or public transport whenever possible.
- Recycle correctly and encourage others to do the same.
- Buy only what you need and support responsible consumption.
- Participate in local clean-up activities.
- Support local and seasonal products.
- Share sustainability knowledge with friends and family.
- Get involved in environmental initiatives in your school or community.

How to Organise a Local Eco-Event

- Identify an environmental topic that matters to your community.
- Build a team of motivated volunteers.
- Set clear goals and define your target audience.
- Choose engaging activities such as workshops, discussions, or clean-up actions.
- Promote the event through schools, community networks, and social media.
- Evaluate the results and share the outcomes with participants.

How to Engage Decision Makers

- Research local issues and gather evidence.
- Prepare clear and realistic proposals.
- Communicate respectfully and constructively.
- Focus on solutions rather than only identifying problems.
- Follow up after meetings and maintain communication.





Youth Guide to Sustainable Action

How to Create a Video Voice Project

- Select a community issue you would like to explore.
- Gather opinions through interviews and observations.
- Plan your story and key messages.
- Record video footage using a smartphone or camera.
- Edit the material into a short and engaging video.
- Share the final video with your community and encourage discussion.

Useful Resources

- Erasmus+ Programme resources
- European Youth Portal
- SALTO Youth resources and toolkits
- Local environmental organisations and community initiatives
- Open-source tools for video editing and content creation

Every young person has the power to contribute to positive change. Sustainable communities are built through participation, cooperation, and everyday actions.

