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SEgoesGreen

Press release: SEgoesGreen Presents a Strategic Policy Roadmap Towards the Social Economy and Nature-Based Solutions to Transform Higher Education

The SEgoesGreen Erasmus+ project launched its concluding Policy Recommendations Report for enhancing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and sustainability skills in Higher Education, particularly in Social Economy (SE) study programmes. The report marks the culmination of a nearly three-year-long programme of collaborative study, curriculum development, educator training, and in-field implementation in five European countries.



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Motivated by the sheer necessity for action on climate and the growing call for green expertise, SEgoesGreen aims to tackle a major gap: while Social Economy organisations are best positioned to lead the transition to sustainable development themselves, these organisations' training activities have lagged considerably in the area of environmental learning. The project hopes to address this mismatch by campaigning for a new kind of university Social Economy education—one in which environmental sustainability is at its very centre.

"The social economy sector has the transformative potential to drive green innovation across Europe, but this can only be unleashed if our education systems evolve alongside". SEgoesGreen is a call to action for universities, ministries, and local actors to rethink higher education's role in enabling the green transition."

Highlights of the SEgoesGreen Policy Recommendations

Systematic Needs Assessment: Institutions and policymakers are encouraged to conduct curriculum reviews and engage stakeholders to identify gaps in green skills and the needs of the labour market.

Curriculum Reform & Alignment: universities should integrate nature-based solutions into the social economy curricula via interdisciplinary problem-based modules in sync with EU policies such as the European Green Deal and the Social Economy Action Plan.

Empowering Educators: Faculty must be supported and rewarded. The project advocates setting up training programs, peer learning communities, and partnerships with NBS experts to build teaching capacity.

Innovative delivery methods: Blended models of learning, living labs, MOOCs, and sustainability bootcamps are being hailed as new-age modes of learning.



Awareness and engagement are the building blocks; a sustainability culture has to thrive on campus, fed by student projects, partnerships with municipalities and social enterprises, and community initiatives developed together.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Scaling: Institutions are encouraged to adopt clear green indicators and feedback mechanisms to monitor progress, establish continuous improvement, and scale successful models.

Guided by best practices, the roadmap relies on pioneering European and international models such as the Green Office movement, Climate-KIC and France's ETRE Schools. The roadmap focuses on the potential leadership role that schools can play as drivers of environmental innovation.

Real-World Impact

The project launched a pioneering Green SE Curriculum that inspired over 200 students in Croatia, Greece, and Poland, and kickstarted an educators' training programme delivered in the form of a hackathon. The results registered an astonishing 80% improvement in student engagement with sustainability issues and a 50% improvement in educators' confidence in the dissemination of knowledge on Nature-Based Solutions. These results provide persuasive evidence for scaling and potential long-term policy uptake.

A Shared vision for Europe

SEgoesGreen harmoniously references key EU frameworks like the GreenComp competence framework for sustainability, the European Skills Agenda, and the SDGs of the United Nations. By promoting a transition in higher education going toward a green future, the project drives Europe's transition into a climate-neutral and inclusive economy. For more information and to find the full policy report and other resources, visit our project website: www.segoesgreen.eu

