



Learning for sustainability in school education: a European perspective

INTO Consultative Conference on Education
Wexford, 23 November 2024

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European Commission,
Directorate-General for Education, Youth,
Sport and Culture

A bit of background....





*“sure you can’t beat
the Wexford
strawberries”*

*“those new potatoes
are a meal in
themselves”*



What I will cover..

- Learning for the green transition
- Barriers and challenges
- EU policy and action
- Snapshot of examples



Learning for the green transition

European Green Deal

The EU will:



Become
climate-neutral
by 2050



Protect human life,
animals and plants,
by cutting pollution



Help companies
become world leaders
in clean products and
technologies



Help ensure a
just and inclusive
transition

Momentum for change

93%



of EU citizens
consider climate
change a
**serious
problem**

education
**needs to do
more to
prepare young
people**

75%



young people
globally think
that the **future
is frightening**

progress yes but
we need to **go
further and
faster**

Learning in a changing climate

FRANCE Schools closed after 'exceptional' floods hit northern France

Flooding has hit dozens of towns in northern France, leaving roads sometimes only passable in boats and dozens of schools closed, authorities said Tuesday.

Issued on: 07/11/2023 - 16:01 1 min



French firefighters walk in a flooded street during a rescue operation in Isques, near Boulogne-sur-Mer, northern France on 7 November, 2023. © AFP - Denis Charlet

400 million students have experienced climate-related school closures since 2022, new report says

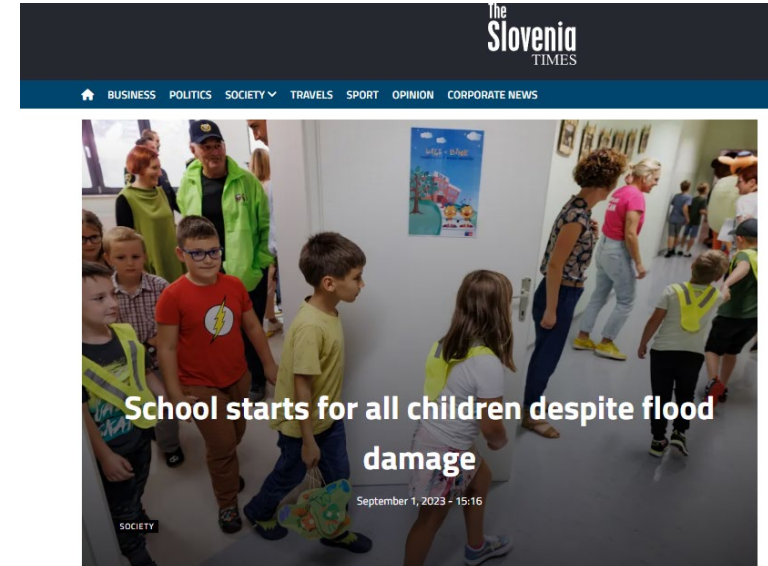
Cuarenta y siete escuelas de Valencia sin daños abren sus puertas y dan cobijo a los alumnos de centros afectados

Más de 22.000 estudiantes han podido hoy regresar a las aulas

[DANA en Valencia: Las 3 ideas clave para recuperar la normalidad escolar de los niños afectados por la catástrofe](#)



Sillas de colegio, amontonadas en una calle de Massanassa, Valencia, tras el paso de la DANA // REUTERS



First day of school in Luče, north Slovenia. Photo: Nebojša Tejić/STA

A new school year started in Slovenia on 1 September for 194,000 primary and 82,000 secondary school students. Although the first day of school came less than a month after massive floods devastated large parts of the country, including many schools, all students were able to start classes.

The early-August floods damaged 12 kindergartens, 19 primary schools and five high-schools. Some schools were also damaged in storms in July, according to data by the Education Ministry.



SCHOOL & DISTRICT MANAGEMENT

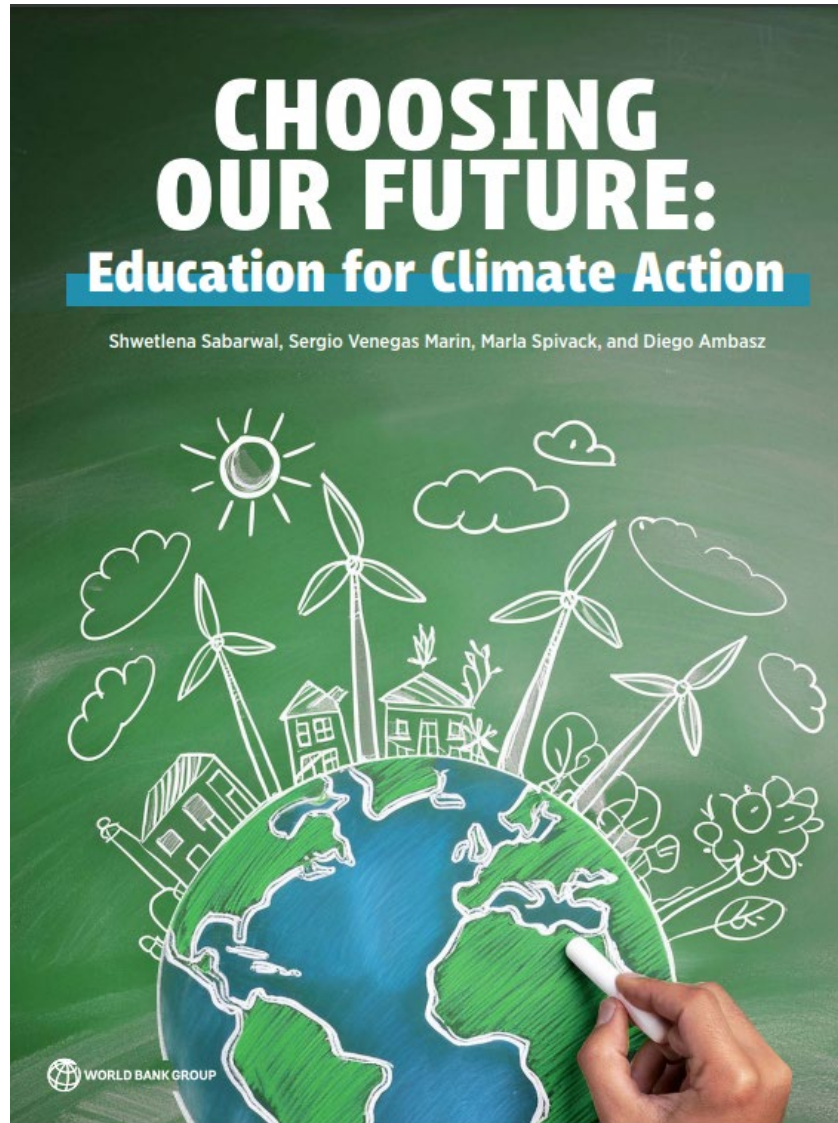
How Sweltering Heat Disrupts Learning and What Schools Can Do

By [Caitlynn Peetz](#) — June 17, 2024 5 min read



A boy cools off at a fountain during hot weather in Chicago on June 16, 2024. — Nam Y. Huh/UPi

Learning in a changing climate



*“Education systems can **empower, equip, and skill young people for climate mitigation and adaptation.** At the same time, climate change induced heat and extreme weather events are **significantly disrupting learning,** and low-income countries are disproportionately affected. **Governments must act now to adapt education systems for climate change”.***



Eco-anxiety a growing concern

65%



ANXIOUS

53%



FEARFUL

47%



SAD

**YOUTH
CLIMATE
VOICES**

YOUTH CLIMATE
JUSTICE SURVEY '23

2023

In conjunction with
spunout

The future of European competitiveness

Part A | A competitiveness strategy for Europe

SEPTEMBER 2024



Skills for the future

**Green skills and sustainability
as a core aspect of curricula**

Entrepreneurship, digital and
STEM skills

Communication, teamwork,
problem-solving, creativity,
adaptability, resilience and
emotional intelligence



OECD Education Working Papers No. 318

Enhancing green career
guidance systems
for sustainable futures

Young Chang,
Anthony Mann

<https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/e6ad2d9c-en>

Skills for the future

Strong demand from young people
to work in jobs related to climate
and sustainability

Employers concerned about skills
gaps

Green career guidance is crucial

Schools as living labs



Benefits of learning for sustainability?

Survey | 19 JUNE 2024 **FEATURED**

Survey on promoting education for sustainability - Results

Education can play a vital role in enabling young people to understand and acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to address the global challenges that they will increasingly face during their lives.



Shutter DIN / Adobe Stock

88% - fosters values such as responsibility and resilience

79% - encourages community engagement and collaboration

78% promotes discussions about social justice and equity

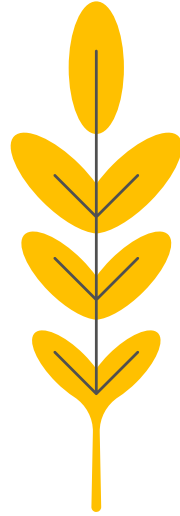


Challenges and barriers

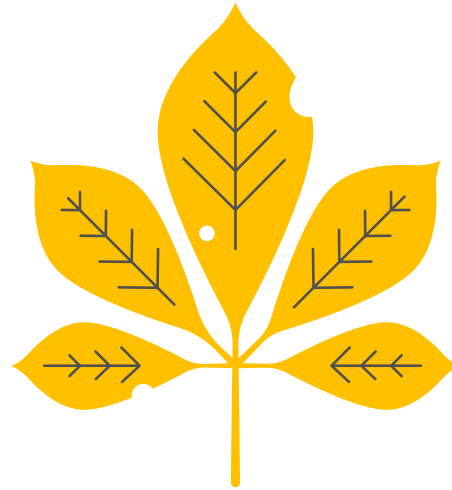
Barriers to change



**Lack of
funding**



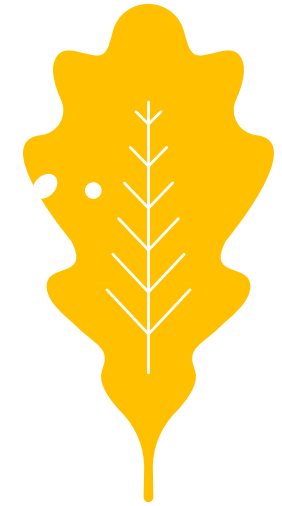
**Time
constraints**



**Overloaded
curricula
and high
workload**

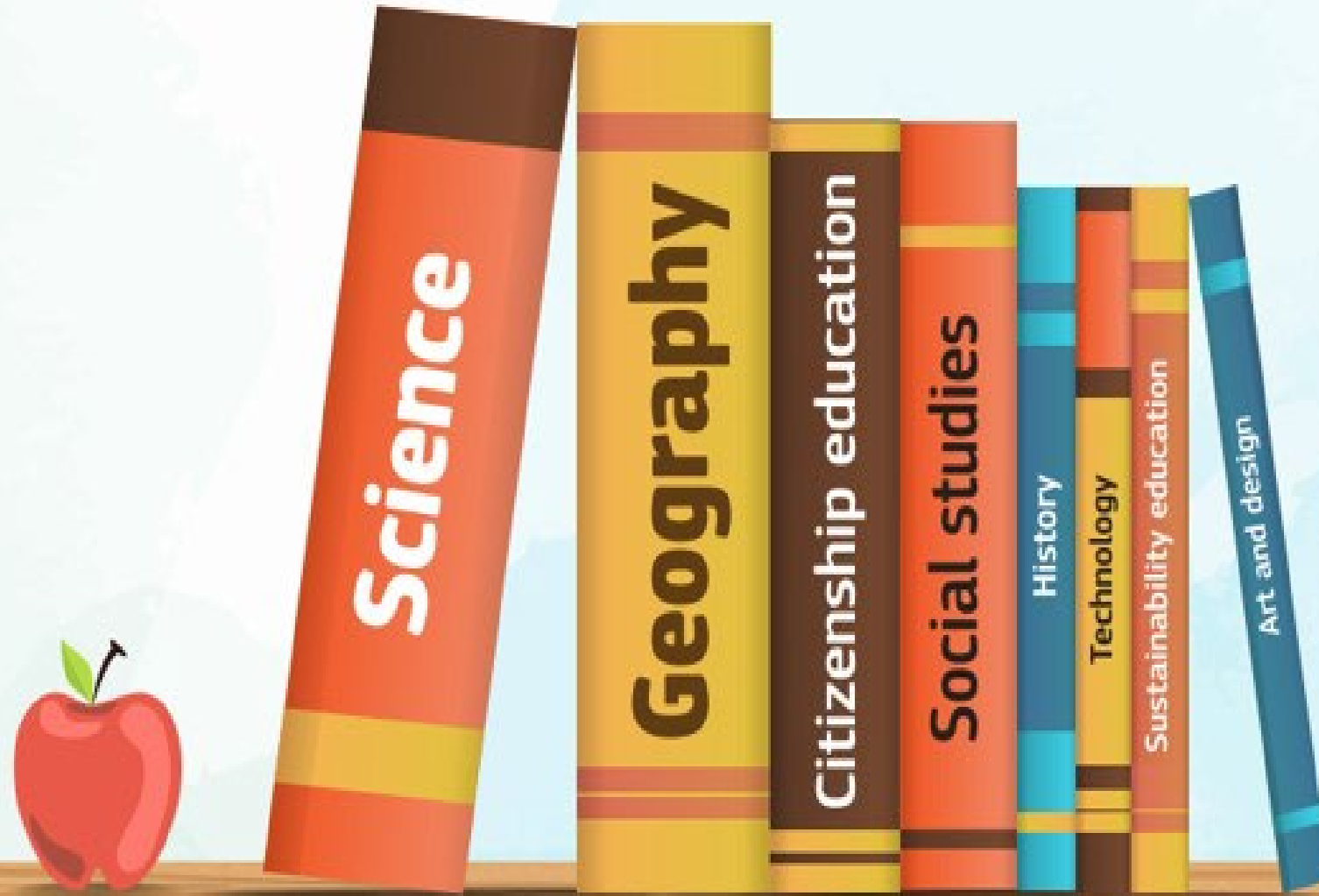


**Lack of
teaching
materials and
guidance**



**Need for whole
institution
approaches**

Which subjects include sustainability competences most often?





EU policy on learning for sustainability

EU agreement on learning for sustainability

27.6.2022 EN Official Journal of the European Union C 243/1

I
(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

RECOMMENDATIONS

COUNCIL

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION
of 16 June 2022
on learning for the green transition and sustainable development
(2022/C 243/01)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 165 and 166 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

1. Across the Union, while many Member States have made good progress in the implementation of policies and programmes of learning to support the green transition and to promote learning for sustainable development, there is nonetheless a need to continue and step up efforts in that regard. Policy and practice for this kind of learning should be further stimulated and supported. It is necessary to recognise the need for interconnected learning across the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable development, while placing a specific focus on the environmental pillar.
2. The European Green Deal ⁽¹⁾, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 ⁽²⁾, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) strategy Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 and the related United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) work ⁽³⁾ highlight the key role of schools, higher education and other education and training institutions in engaging with learners, parents, educators ⁽⁴⁾ and the wider community on the changes needed for a successful, just and inclusive green transition. In its conclusions on 'Biodiversity – the need for urgent action' ⁽⁵⁾, the Council stressed that investing in education, among other areas, is key in gathering the best data and finding the best solutions in this regard. The EU Youth Strategy identifies a sustainable green Europe as a goal and calls for all young people to be environmentally active and educated.



Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on learning for the green transition and sustainable development 2022/C 243/01 (Text with EEA relevance)

ST/9795/2022/INIT

OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 1–9 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

[Expand all](#) [Collapse all](#)

▼ Languages, formats and link to OJ

	BG	ES	CS	DA	DE	ET	EL	EN	FR	GA	HR	IT	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	FI	SV
HTML																								
PDF																								
Official Journal																								



STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

ACCOMPANYING THE PROPOSAL FOR
A COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON LEARNING
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

European
Commission

Call to action for EU countries

- **make sustainability a central focus** in education policies and programmes
- ensure all learners, in formal and non-formal settings, have **access to climate and sustainability education**
- invest in **green and sustainable equipment, resources and infrastructure**
- **support educators** in developing their knowledge and skills to teach about the climate crisis and sustainability

Call to action for EU countries



Action-oriented



Locally relevant



Interdisciplinary



Lifelong

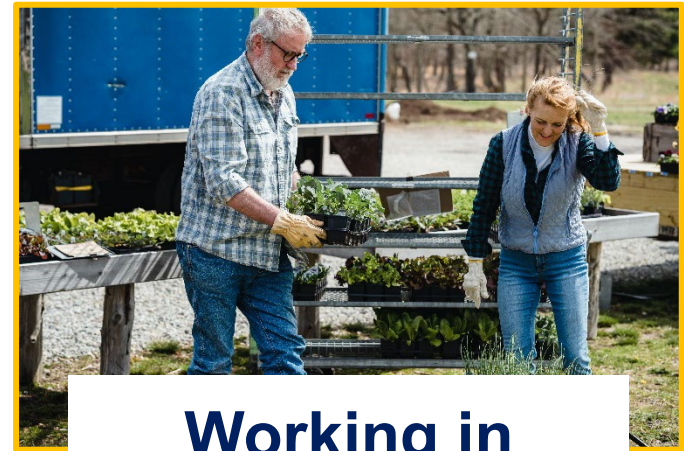
Call to action for EU countries



**Quality teacher
education and
supports**



**Empowering
young people to
take action**



**Working in
partnership with
the wider
community**

Call to action for EU countries



**Key role for
early years
education**

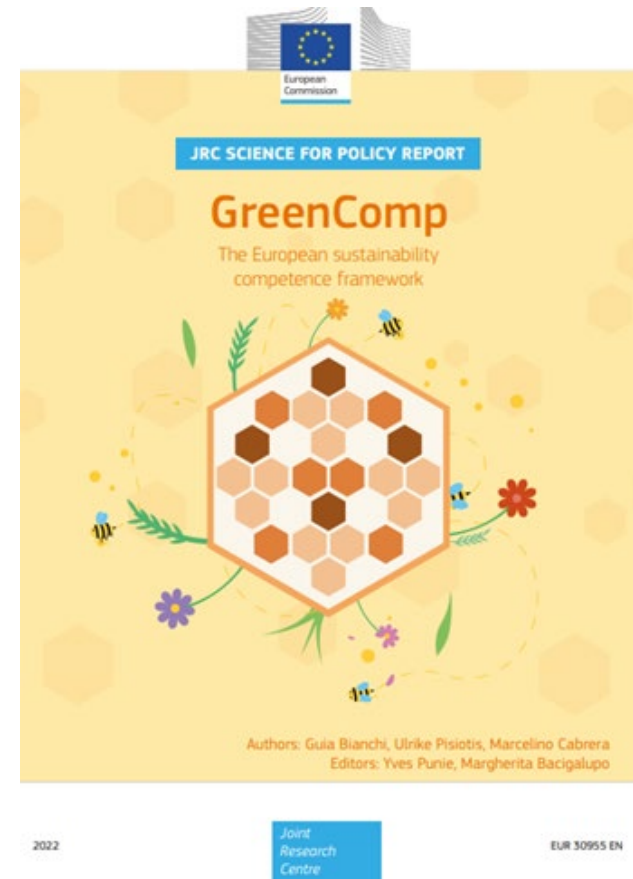
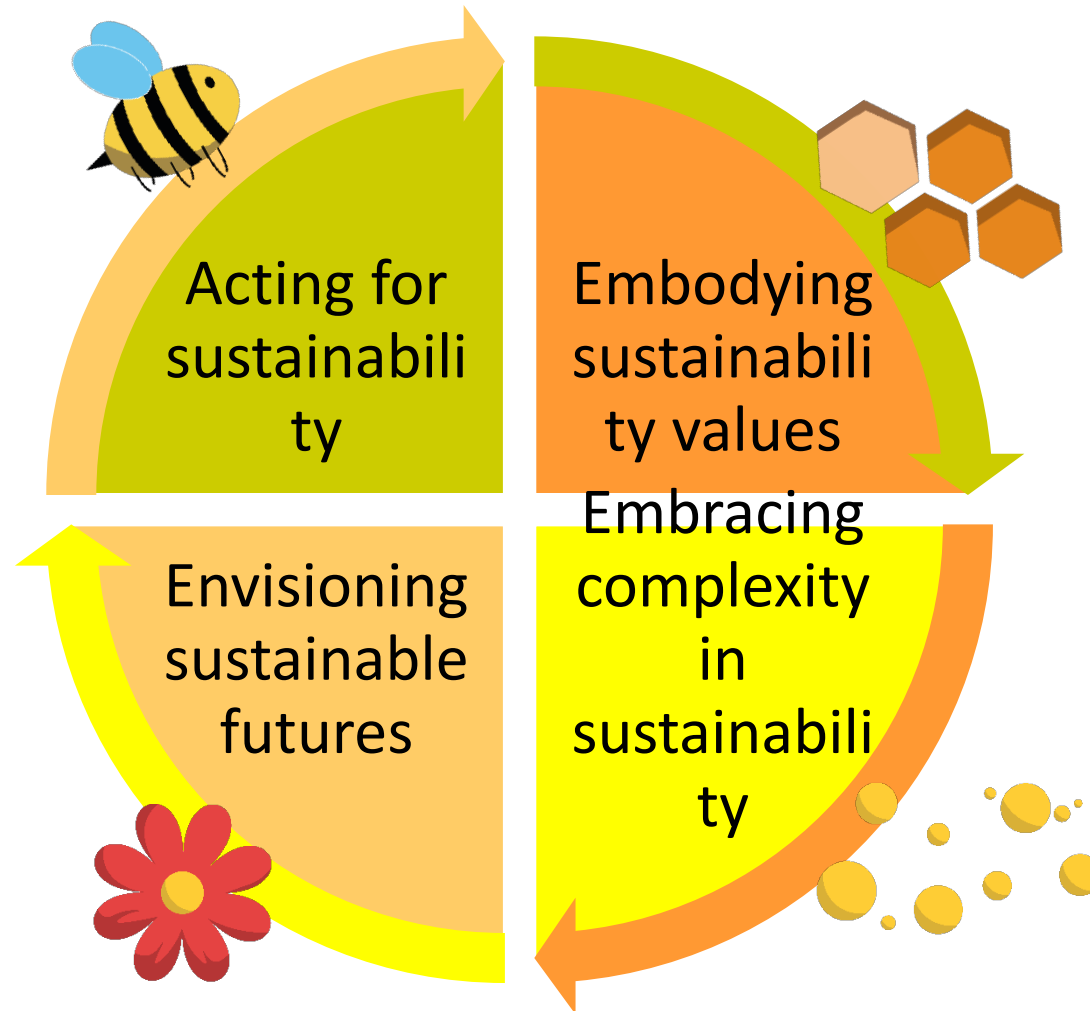


**Whole-institution
approach**

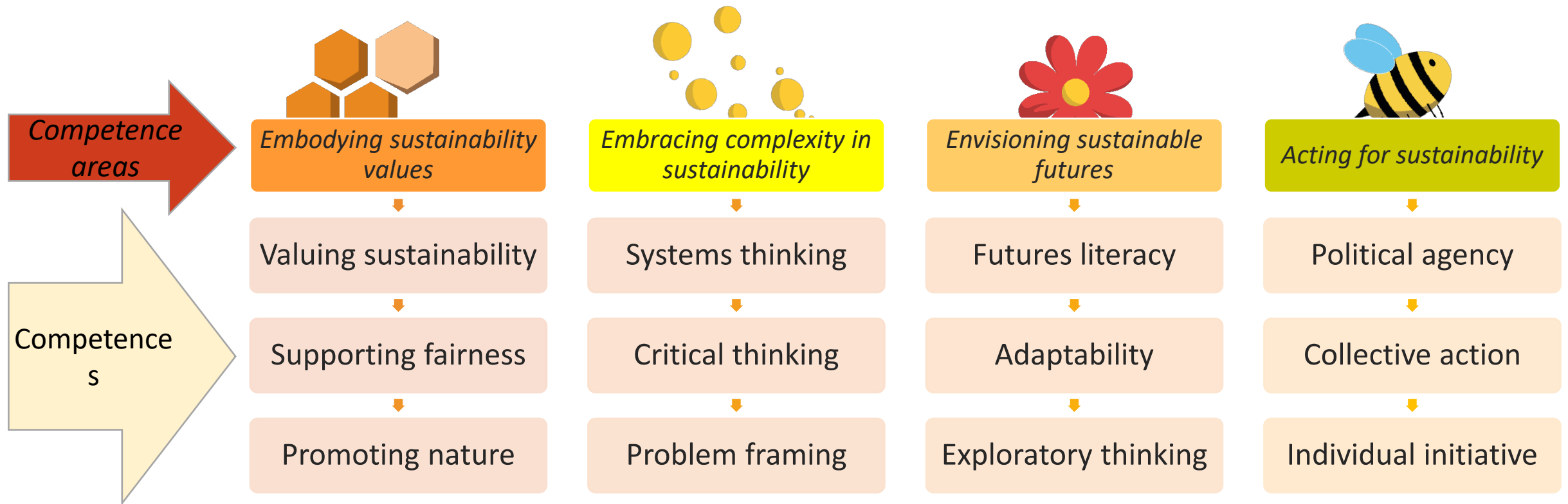


**Building
sustainability
competences**

GreenComp



GreenComp





EU actions to support learning for sustainability

Peer learning between countries



Research and studies

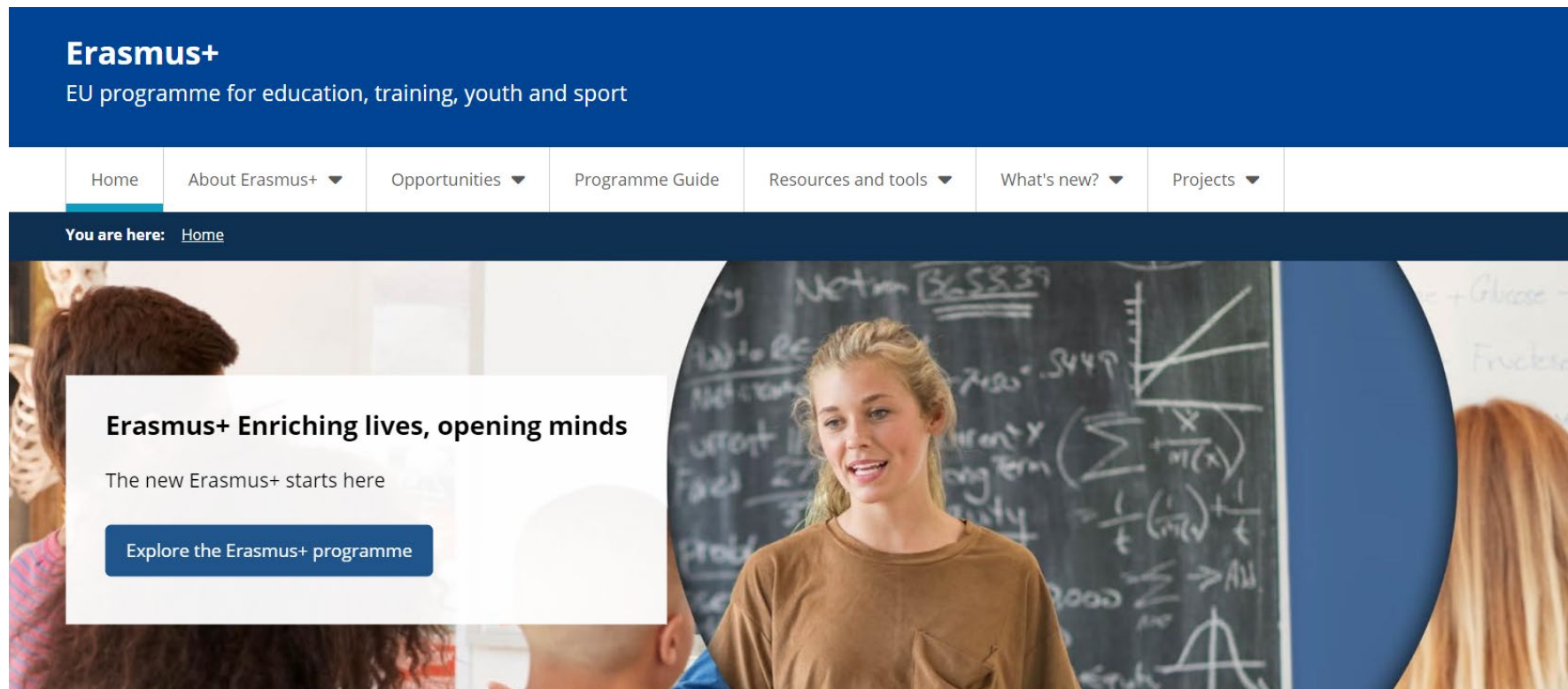


Coming soon...

- ✓ Digital and sustainability education
- ✓ Greening school buildings and grounds

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/EAC/Learning+for+Sustainability>

Financial support through Erasmus+



The image shows a screenshot of the Erasmus+ website homepage. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the text "Erasmus+" and "EU programme for education, training, youth and sport". Below this is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About Erasmus+", "Opportunities", "Programme Guide", "Resources and tools", "What's new?", and "Projects". A breadcrumb trail indicates "You are here: Home". The main content area features a large image of a young woman in a classroom setting, with a white box overlaid on the left side. The box contains the text "Erasmus+ Enriching lives, opening minds", "The new Erasmus+ starts here", and a blue button labeled "Explore the Erasmus+ programme".

Erasmus+
EU programme for education, training, youth and sport

Home About Erasmus+ ▼ Opportunities ▼ Programme Guide Resources and tools ▼ What's new? ▼ Projects ▼

You are here: [Home](#)

Erasmus+ Enriching lives, opening minds

The new Erasmus+ starts here

[Explore the Erasmus+ programme](#)

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

Financial support through Erasmus+



Making school meals enjoyable and healthy for children and our planet



A Climate Curriculum for Climate Action: toolkit and guide for primary teachers



How primary schools can contribute to a greener world

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

Erasmus+ Teacher Academies



Academy for Sustainable Future Educators (EduSTA)



Learning & Teaching Packages

[Will be made available, starting February 2024] - Fully resourced, tested, and validated content modules/Learning & Teaching Packages (LTPs) that address various dimensions of teaching sustainability and provide the competence, approaches, and confidence to do so.



A Sustainable Europe



Sustainability & Digitality



Sustainability & Environmental Education



Climate Crisis Resilience



Dealing with Climate Disinformation



Green Citizenship in/for Europe



Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education (SEE)



<https://projects.tuni.fi/edusta/>

<https://tap-ts.eu/>

Resources for teachers

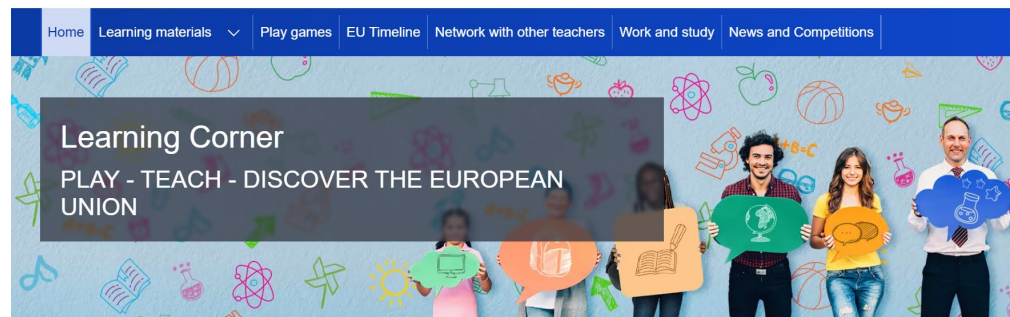


European Union

English

Search

Learning corner



52 steps towards a greener city

Cities contain a lot of biodiversity, it is important that we protect it because we need it for our quality of life, our clean air, our food and water...

Age groups

Ages 12 to 15 • Ages 15 and over



Climate & Energy Quiz

Take this quiz on climate issues and become a climate hero!

Age groups

Ages 9 to 12



EU Climate Action

These 2-4 minutes videos invite you to discover various climate-related topics, such as causes and consequences of climate change, EU climate action, ...

Age groups

Ages 12 to 15 • Ages 15 and over

https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/index_en



21 May 2024

The Emotions of Climate Change

"The Emotions of Climate Change" is a comprehensive professional development resource designed to help teachers address the complex emotions that students may experience in response to climate change, known as "eco-anxiety."

EN FR ES



28 November 2023

IPCC Sixth Assessment Report - Summary for teachers

This document is a summary for teachers of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). Designed to make core scientific concepts easily accessible to non-specialist teachers, it includes valuable infographics and concise suggestions for brief classroom activities.

EN FR DE ES



29 March 2022

The Climate in our hands - Climate Change and Land

The climate in our hands - Climate Change and Land The Office for Climate Education (OCE) presents "The Climate in Our Hands -

EN FR DE ES

<https://www.oce.global/en>



Resources for teachers

The screenshot shows the 'Education for Climate' website home page. At the top left is the European Commission logo. The main header is dark blue with the text 'Education for Climate' and a navigation menu: Home, Welcome, Challenge Hub, Resources, Groups, Events & News, About. A search icon and utility icons (plus, people, speech bubble, globe) are on the right. A yellow notification bar says 'You have 7 pending invites visit your invite overview to see them.' Below this is a 2x3 grid of colorful cards:

- Welcome:** 'Learn how to contribute' (with a woman and child image)
- Challenge Hub:** 'Seek advice and give support' (with a woman and child with megaphones)
- Green Competences:** 'Join GreenComp community' (with a man and woman)
- News:** 'Browse the feed' and 'Read the Bulletin' (with a woman and man)
- Resources:** 'Share climate education topics' and 'Watch the Talks' (with a woman in a library)
- Groups:** 'Join Country Groups' and 'Join Youth Group' (with a man and woman)

The screenshot shows an announcement post on the website. The header is the same as the previous page. The post title is 'ANNOUNCEMENT & NEWS' followed by '“The biggest challenge we have is to win hearts and minds”, ft. Patrick Kirwan'. The author is Valeria NAPOLI, dated 5 November 2024, and it is a public post in the 'Talks' group. Below the text is a video player showing a man wearing a green cap and headphones speaking. The video player has a blue overlay with the text 'Education for Climate TALKS' and a microphone icon. The name 'Patrick Kirwan' is visible in a green box at the bottom right of the video frame.

<https://education-for-climate.ec.europa.eu/community/>

Resources for teachers



NEWS ITEM  eTwinning

**Wellbeing activities for
eTwinning projects**

🕒 Published on 20 November 2024



NEWS ITEM  eTwinning

**European Quality Labels
2024**

🕒 Published on 13 November 2024



NEWS ITEM  eTwinning

**eTwinning projects on food
and health in initial...**

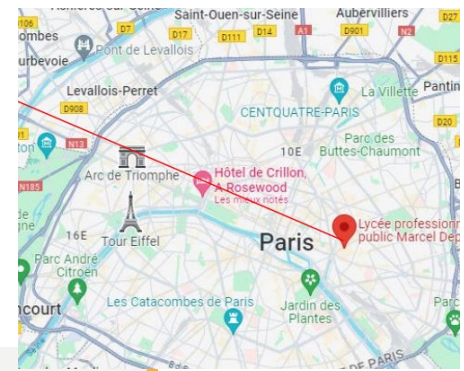
🕒 Published on 8 November 2024

<https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/etwinning>

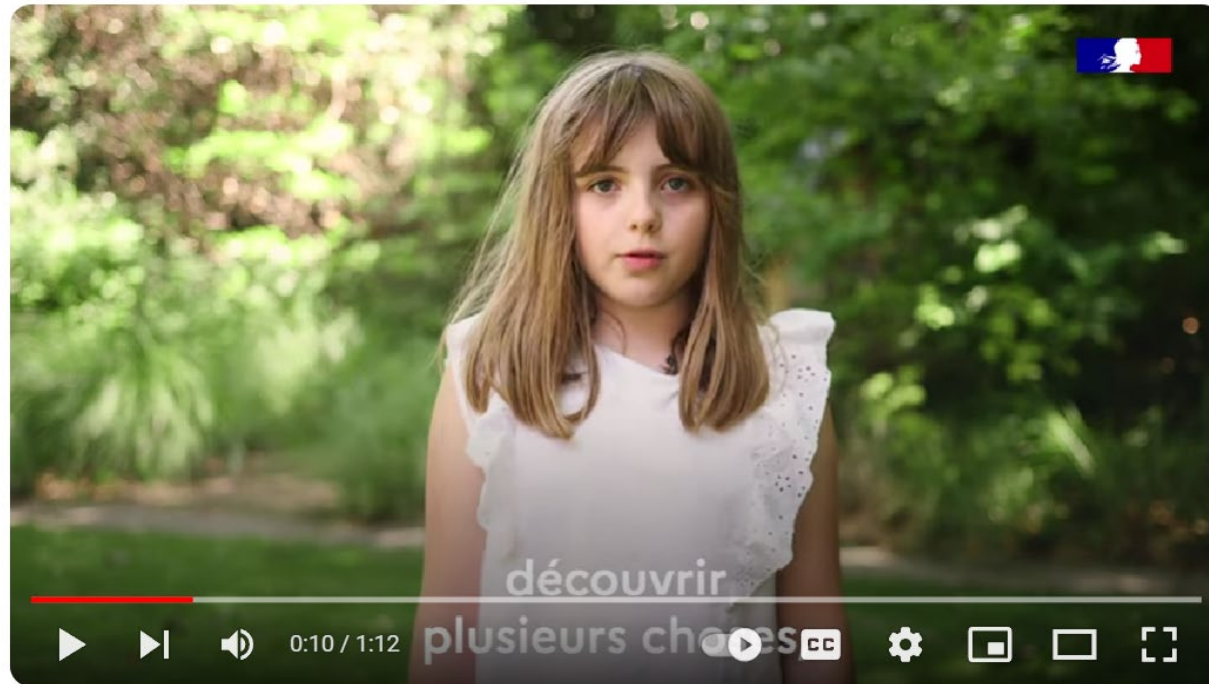


Meet the change makers...

Sustainability in action - Paris

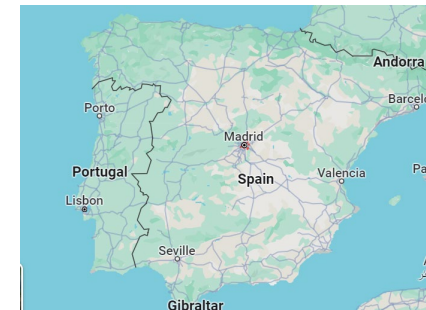


Eco-delegates programme France



<https://youtu.be/Pbh0IUADag?si=mPIH93x-cAaGM8Ho>

Sustainability in action - Spain



Sustainability in action - Portugal



Contributos para uma Escola Feliz

1ª sessão
Yin Yoga
23 de outubro de 2024



Atividade integrada no projeto "Práticas de bem-estar numa Escola Feliz" numa cooperação:



And so much more....



**Belgium,
Flanders,
outdoor
classrooms**



**Hungary
teacher
professional
learning on
sustainability**



**Cyprus greening
buildings to support
learning**



**Slovenia learning
in nature**



So to close...

- This is no longer an extra or nice to have
- This is a societal challenge
- It is a great opportunity for hands-on, exciting learning
- Keep up the amazing work and connect with your fellow teachers across Europe!

Education for Climate Day 2024



<https://education-for-climate.ec.europa.eu/community/day2024>



[Learning for the green transition and sustainable development | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](https://european-education-area.eu)



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slides and resources

