Guidelines to localize the Agenda 2030

Co-funded by
the European Union

Agenzia Italiana
per la Gioventù

CONTENT

Guidelines to localize the Agenda 2030

INTRODUCTION

Why is the guide needed?

Who is the guide for?

1. BASIC CONDITIONS FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Golden rules, basic conditions and enablers

2. YOUTH PARTICIPATION ALONG THE TRANSITION

Advice on how to meaningfully engage with youth at each of the main stages of the 2030 Agenda localization: programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

3. ENSURE YOUTH IMPACT AND ADDRESS CONCRETE CHALLENGES

Provides concrete advice and solutions for some of the recurring enablers and challenges you might encounter when approaching youth participation.

4. DOCUMENTS

The document provides detailed outlines of guidelines and examples of youth participation from across Europe that are referenced throughout the toolkit.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

GUIDELINES TO LOCALIZE THE AGENDA 2030

Why is the guide needed?

Its goal is to support and guide on how to organize the meaningful participation of young people. It provides a set of principles, methods and concrete tips on how to maximize the meaningful participation of youth in the programming, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the people reached by the Youth in Transition project.

Who is the guide for?

The project sought to directly involve young people, policy-makers, youth organizations, and stakeholders in shaping the main design elements of the toolkit, so as to ensure it is as useful and as close as possible to the real needs and challenges of both young people and the local authorities advocating for a just and fair transition. This toolkit is addressed to regional and local policymakers responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as other stakeholders involved in the process. It offers examples of how particular techniques were successfully used in the past. The toolkit builds on extensive deskwork, a review of relevant literature, and engagement and interviews with experts and stakeholders.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

1. BASIC CONDITIONS FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Golden rules, basic conditions and enablers

It is becoming increasingly common for leaders from different cities and municipalities to engage stakeholders and work together to find solutions to global or pressing challenges. Community involvement is beneficial for better governance, higher quality projects and programs and greater social acceptance. In this context, the design and delivery of public services and the participation of citizens in these processes are gaining momentum (Lorenz, 2023). A wide range of actors are involved, pooling their experience, knowledge and ideas to find the best solutions to specific problems. The idea is that, given the active involvement of stakeholders and citizens, this leads to better acceptance of results and allows for more context-specific and tailored solutions (Lorenz, 2020). Today's societal challenges are increasingly complex, driven by challenges such as pandemic COVID-19, climate change, digital transformation, demographic change and other issues, all of which require rapid and targeted policy responses. In the area of public policies, citizens are the main stakeholders to be engaged in the different policy processes. These cocreation processes are also learning processes. Citizens become co-creators because their specific resources and competencies prove valuable for the delivery of public services. Young people are one group of citizens who participate in co-creative processes. Youth participation is understood as the process of involving young people in the institutions and decisions that affect their lives (Checkoway et al., 1995). It is particularly relevant in areas where young people's knowledge is relevant and valuable, as it improves the quality of the decisions taken and helps to better understand the issues at stake. These are usually areas that affect their own interests or everyday problems (Lorenz, 2023).

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

Lorenz (2023) compiles some examples of the individual and wider benefits of youth participation in policymaking:

Individual-level benefits:

1. Knowledge and skills

- 1. Skills and competencies 1. Knowledge of the community and the environment

- Learning how to create community change

- Developing planning skills, participatory governance and its practice

2. Attitudes and behaviors that young people can acquire

- Openness

- Personal responsibility

- Social and civic competence

- Development of moral values and self-image

- Efficiency and self-esteem

- Becoming more confident

- Increased enthusiasm for planning and community involvement

- Frustration (when adults do not respond to young people's insights)

- Motivation to influence the community

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

Wider benefits:

3. Community impact organizational development

- Psychological empowerment:

- General socio-political skills

- Motivation to influence the community

- Participatory behavior

- Perceived control

Frank (2006) observed that participation in planning processes has a positive impact on young people by increasing their skills and knowledge (about the issue, the local community and how to create change). They were also found to become more confident and more willing to engage in other forms of civic engagement and to have increased enthusiasm for planning and community involvement. It is also interesting to note that young people became frustrated and negative when adults ignored young people's views.

Co-creation processes have been associated with positive changes in young participants' behavior and attitudes, increased interest in influencing the community, self-confidence and assertiveness (Frank, 2006) and increased socio-political skills. What elements should co-constitutive policymaking processes take into account to positively engage young individuals? Here, the author proposes three elements of the process that can be considered key to increasing young people's knowledge of the policy problem being addressed, as well as their attitudes and behaviors towards policy:

1. The first suggestion is that young people should be supported to express their more personal experiences, insights and opinions. It is important, among other things, to create spaces where they feel comfortable and safe (Lorenz, 2023). According to Vromen and Collin (2010) and Head (2011), young people's perception of their participation as meaningful and useful is one of the main reasons for their involvement in policy-making. The more they feel that their contribution improves both their understanding of the policy-making process and its outcome, the greater their motivation to participate.

2. Secondly, for the co-creation process to become a learning process for young participants, it is necessary to acquire theoretical and practical content related to the issue at hand, such as knowledge of policy-making and the wider socio-economic context.

3. Thirdly, inspired by the different levels of youth participation, the author suggests that young participants should be continuously encouraged to climb up the ladder of participation. They should work on becoming process owners by encouraging them to express their opinions and make relevant decisions on how to move forward in the process. In order to make young people feel more confident, the author recommends developing measures to make them aware of how their insights can be used to improve policy, as this can increase their sense of added value in the process. In addition, it is recommended that these measures include fruitful debates to help young people recognize how their insights influence policy-making, protect their rights and directly affect them, as these are the reasons identified by Head (2011) to support greater involvement of young people in issues that directly affect them

Head (2011) suggested three reasons for greater youth involvement: the protection of their rights; the ability of young people to influence policies that directly affect them (e.g. services, programs and the like); and social participation that leads to developmental benefits for young people involved in such processes.

Egdell and McQuaid (2016) highlighted the role of young people in the development of workplace activation initiatives and acknowledged that this workplace participation had an impact on young people's own learning and personal development. Learning and personal development occur both at the individual level (skills and knowledge gains) and in a broader socio-economic context (e.g. legal framework, etc.). The authors have conducted three case studies that show how young people involved in development processes linked to workplace activation programs increase their skills (i.e. make their voice heard in decision-making), as well as showing individual transformative factors (increase in subject-related skills and knowledge and self-confidence) and external transformative factors (ability to influence external factors).

2. YOUTH PARTICIPATION ALONG THE TRANSITION

Advice on how to meaningfully engage with youth at each of the main stages of the 2030 Agenda localization: programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The 2030 Agenda, together with the Paris Agreement on climate change, is about how we can work together to make the world a better place and provides a global framework for international cooperation on sustainable development and its economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions.

Harghita County Council's programs are linked to the objectives of Agenda2030. Harghita County Council has a total of 101 programs for youth. The program points of Harghita 101: Apprenticeship Programme, Shepherd Training, Playground and Community Space Programme, Romanian Camps, Forest School Movement, Horse Riding Camp, Career Orientation, Guide Training, Harghita Home Castle, Student Work Programme, Development of Volunteering Portal, Photo Training, youth tenders, Erasmus, the establishment of incubator houses, discussion forums, scholarship programs, Szekler product movement, application advice, aids in vocational education, learning traditional crafts, exchange programs.

Youth Day

On the occasion of the Youth Day, the Harghita County Council, together with the youth organizations of Harghita County, organized a series of events based on a brainstorming session, which included slam poetry, intercultural discussions, art activities, library visits, and even a scout camp.

Quality education and inequalities

In order to ensure quality education, the Harghita County Council has always given priority to the issue of minority education, thus contributing to the reduction of inequalities in the education of Romanian and Hungarian children. At the same time, the Harghita County Council is also committed to restoring the prestige of vocational education, adapting vocational training to the needs of the labor market, and strengthening professional career counseling and guidance for young people. Through the Development Agency of Harghita County, a county-level working group of professionals was established in 2017. There is no question that the future of young people is mostly determined by the quality of the education system.

We consider it necessary to exchange professional experience in the field of vocational training in Harghita County, career guidance counselor training and related activities, and the development of e-learning curricula. Through class visits, we contribute to the understanding of the vision of young people in Harghita County, thus better aligning our activities with their needs. Every year, the Agency for Development of Harghita County organizes a number of class visit sessions aimed at providing good examples of a specific profession to students who are about to choose a career. In our region, the teaching of the romanian language and the results of the examinations in this subject are one of the most important issues. At Harghita County Council, we give priority to the teaching of romanian for minorities and we consider important the acquisition of the state language by students. Taking into account the results of the graduation examinations, it can be said that a large percentage of students in Harghita County do not reach the pass level, especially in the subjects of romanian language and literature. A group of people is working on the reform of romanian language teaching, in order to ensure that the romanian language and literature is taught and assessed at all levels, according to a specific curriculum for students belonging to national minorities. The Harghita County Council supports dual education, not only on a theoretical level, but also on a practical level. It is important that the theoretical knowledge acquired in higher education institutions is reinforced by the professional experience that students can gain in a local enterprise or institution.

Traineeship program

Every year, the Harghita County Council offers a paid traineeship program for young professionals. In October 2019, the Harghita County Council launched the traineeship program, which aims to provide candidates with professional and personal development, both individually and as part of a professional community. Participants in the program have the opportunity to gain work experience and develop practical skills and competencies over a period of five months. Traineeships facilitate the transition from the education system to the labor market. There have already been several examples of people starting to build their careers full-time at Harghita County Council after the end of their traineeship.

Program of support for youth activities

Every year, the Harghita County Council supports youth activities, such as the organization of thematic camps, the purchase of visual aids, didactic tools for school development. It supports the activities of youth organizations, organizing conferences, trainings, seminars, camps, workshops, and competitions. Within the framework of the youth program, the County Council supports the organization of professional exchanges and training programs, as well as vocational guidance and activities under the 'After School' program. They can apply for support for the development of practical skills and applications, the purchase of interactive and innovative tools and the acquisition of co-financing for applications submitted to other institutions in the framework of the digitalisation programs in schools.

Inequalities, poverty eradication

The Harghita County Council has also set up a working group on extreme poverty over the years, including young social workers. Its aim is to promote the social inclusion of the communities living in extreme poverty in Harghita County and to facilitate intersectoral participation while encouraging the necessary professional cooperation.

Harghita County Council for families

The Harghita County Council is committed to increasing the number of measures aimed at directly supporting family life and strengthening their impact. We consider it important to cultivate the culture of family life, to preserve and transmit its spiritual and moral aspects, while at the same time, we want to be a force for conservation in economic activity. We initiate, promote and support family welfare measures that strengthen and support the creation of families, the creation of homes and the raising of children from the point of view of our community life, through the strength of national existence, culture, religion, the economy and sport. This year's calls for proposals by the County Council supported social inclusion programs, after-school education and training programs, but also a number of initiatives such as "Parents' School", which strengthen the culture of family life. More than 5,000 individuals and families benefit from social assistance provided by the County Social and Child Protection Directorate, a sub-agency of the Harghita County Council, every month. The benefits provided by the directorate are significant financial help for the injured persons and their families. Approximately 4,000 adults and 1,000 children with disabilities outside the system receive assistance.

Program for health

In order to preserve health, the Harghita County Council in cooperation with the Emergency Hospital of Miercurea Ciuc provides free screening tests to the county population every year. In such specialties as ophthalmology, cardiology, internal medicine, pediatrics, urology, dermatology, radiology, gynecology, otorhinolaryngology and neurology. The Emergency Hospital of Miercurea Ciuc carries out various screening programmes organised by its screening programme coordinating department: gynaecological examinations and screening (specialised examinations, ultrasound, cervical cancer screening). The psychology clinic also offers psychological counselling during pregnancy, as well as information and preparation for childbirth.

Welfare program

The Harghita County Council is committed to the development of infrastructure in isolated small settlements, which is why it provides assistance in the construction of modern, simple and cheap utility systems for all small settlements in Harghita County. All people in the county have the right to 21st century conditions, regardless of where they live. This is another way to encourage young people to move to the countryside and to give our small villages a new lease of life. Through the small village's program, we are targeting the installation of electricity and water supply.

Incubator houses

In addition to encouraging young people in Harghita County to stay and return home, we aim to create an entrepreneur-friendly region. Our incubator house in Odorheiu Secuiesc is located in the Harghita Business Center, which had an 85% occupancy rate in its first eight months of operation, which has now increased to 100% and has more people on the waiting list. In Cristuru Secuiesc we are working to boost the textile industry near the Zeyk Domokos High School, and in Miercurea Ciuc we would support businesses along the creative sector. The old kindergarten building in Bălan will be converted into an incubator house. There will also be training opportunities for the entrepreneurs who will be housed in the incubator.

Infrastructure development

Our aim is to make transport safer. We also want to make Harghita County more accessible by regularising land use and speeding up road construction. We can only develop economically and in terms of tourism if we become easily accessible and have good roads from one settlement to another.

Zero waste

The Harghita County Council, as an institution, also strives for zero waste production, and promotes it among the county residents. The Council is working on the commissioning of the waste management center in Remetea. The Integrated Waste Management Centre has already been completed, and contractors are invited to apply for commissioning. The waste management center is designed to process about 100 000 tonnes of waste per year, according to the Harghita County Environmental Protection Agency. The population of Harghita County produces 64 000 tonnes of waste per year. The landfill will be full in about 6 - 7 years, but if the entire population of the county starts to collect their waste selectively, this could be postponed for 20 years. The Integrated Waste Management Centre in Remetea has both a composting station and a selective waste sorting station, and the two bids cannot be made without each other. The next tender will be launched in September, and once the two contracts are signed, the waste disposal center will start operating.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

3. ENSURE YOUTH IMPACT AND ADDRESS CONCRETE CHALLENGES

Ensure youth impact and address concrete challenges provides concrete advice and solutions for some of the recurring enablers and challenges you might encounter when approaching youth participation.

1. What is youth participation?

The definition of youth participation is a process of involving young people in the institutions and decisions that affect their lives. It includes initiatives that emphasize educational reform, environmental quality, and other issues; that involve populations distinguished by class, race, gender, and other characteristics; and that operate in rural areas, small towns, suburbs, and neighborhoods of large cities in developing areas and industrial nations worldwide.

As expressions of participation, young people are organizing groups for social and political action, planning programs of their own choosing, and advocating their interests in the community. They are raising consciousness, educating others on matters concerning them, and providing services of their choosing. No single strategy characterizes all approaches to participation. Youth activism is youth engagement in community organizing for social change. Youth participation in social change focuses more on issue-oriented activism than traditional partisan or electoral politics. Due to very different contexts and issues, youth activism is differently understood and to illustrate this there are several types of youth activism. Youth-driven activism requires young people to be the primary movers within a movement. It means that young people take the lead and engage for social change often following the principles of by youth, for youth, with youth.

Social activism is a form of youth activism that is organized, informed, led and assessed by adults and young people often take part. Under youth activism in such approach would be the willingness, motivation, and energy of young people to contribute to social change in the communities where they live.

1.1 Concrete challenges

What are the reasons for the passivity of young people in public life?

- Participation: in some cases young people do not have the competencies to participate in decision-making and actually take full part in the participation processes.

The following causes were identified:

- Lack of access to education which enables participation
- There is no specific culture of participation promoted in the life experiences of young people – they are often seen as beneficiaries but not equal participants
- Limitation of resources for young people to actually move, express themselves and overcome different barriers to participation

Due to this gap, the visible effects are the increased social gap between young people, for example, rural and urban young people, a digital gap between young people, etc. In addition, many young people are excluded from decision-making processes due to unawareness of such processes or simply being ignored and pushed aside as they do not have the proper training to speak at such meetings.

1.2. Methods and good practices for involving young people

The main tools for young people's participation:

- education for participation
- dissemination of information to young people
- support for young people's programs and initiatives
- support for young people's organizations
- participation of young people in NGOs
- participation of young people in local and regional affairs
- support for youth councils, youth parliaments and youth forums

Classical forms of youth participation:

-Representative forms: this could be student self-government, student council, youth round table, student mayor, municipal children, and youth council

- Organizing a Youth Hearing: Welcome Hour, Open Day with decision-makers and young people

- Research: either observational research (e.g. young people scanning playgrounds, and places frequented by young people), or questionnaires or interviews with young people on issues affecting them in a given municipality or part of a municipality.

- Youth projects: projects that are designed for and/or involve young people, implemented by young people. Most youth projects are also community projects as they target a community or a group of young people.

- Organizing debates, round tables

- Events with and organized by young people

- Youth office. - Setting up and running a youth organization: there are many different methods and forms of activity in the field of youth organizing.

- Structured Dialogue

Channels, interfaces for addressing

-Social media sites and interfaces

- Online and offline groups

- Advertisements (now online)

- Through schools

- In cooperation with partners (e.g. NGOs, networks)

- Through programs

- Forums, participatory organizations

Basics of community and networking:

The aim of community development (and thus of youth communities) is to promote belonging to the local community and society. The ultimate goal is for everyone to belong to something and to someone, to live in a community - and socially embedded, to have the chance - the opportunity - to improve their own living conditions and to be able to cooperate.

The five functions of community in our lives:

- Socialization, through which the community instills in its member's certain values, values that are most valid in the culture.
- Economic well-being: the community provides a livelihood for its members.
- Social participation: the community provides its members with the opportunity to socialize, to live socially, and exercise rights and duties.
- Social control is also a function of the community. Control is based on the values and norms of the community and on commitment and responsibility for public affairs.
- Mutual support, and the cooperation that leads to it, is the process by which members of the community carry out tasks that are too big or too urgent for a single person to handle. This function is also known as the solidarity function.

Community development has 7 main phases:

1. Creating new movements. This involves involving the population and its organizations: organizing the district concerned, making contacts and then establishing a framework for communication.

2. Mapping the situation. This phase consists of establishing a socio-economic diagnosis, in which non-specialist members of the community play an active role. The most important thing is to find out what the community knows about itself and to identify the problems, but it is also essential to find out about the local history, sociology, statistics, and specialized and development material, and to make this knowledge available for use by the community.

3. To identify the community's views, motivations and potential for action and to relate them to the problems. This process is not carried out by the organizer/developer but by the community itself, with his/her help where necessary.

4. Joint prioritization of the tasks identified, planning of the problem-solving process, preparation of the action plan and self-help projects.

5. 'Institution building', i.e. the creation of new habits and organizations in the local community, the formation of new community organizations, training, the development of attitudes and techniques for action, the launching of various local activities (projects), the development of an information system, the creation of public forums. Arousing public interest, public relations. Keeping self-organization processes alive and helping them.

6. Finding and mobilizing partners: organizing contacts, networking between local, national and international organizations, conflict management, and advocacy.

7. Coordinating work, pushing forward any stalled implementations. Helping to evaluate progress and plan the way forward, providing professional assistance in creating the intellectual infrastructure for local social development, influencing decision-makers and legislation.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

4. DOCUMENTS

The document provides detailed outlines of guidelines and examples of youth participation from across Europe that are referenced throughout the toolkit.

Youth participation is a vital component of achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda calls for the active engagement and participation of young people in decision-making processes at all levels, recognizing that their input and ideas are essential for creating a sustainable future. To support this goal, a number of guidelines and examples of youth participation have been developed across Europe.

In this document, we will explore several examples of guidelines and examples of youth participation from across Europe. These guidelines provide valuable insights and best practices on how to involve young people in decision-making processes and localize the 2030 Agenda. By adapting these examples to their own local context, needs, and capabilities, youth organizations and policymakers can develop effective strategies for promoting youth participation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

EXAMPLES OF MEANINGFUL AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABILITY PROCESSES PROMOTED BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

ITALY

"Io, Noi" Associazione di Volontariato per la solidarietà e l'integrazione sociale

During the UN High-Level Political Forum 2022 in New York, the Italian Government with a core role of the Minister of the Ecological Transition (MiTE, now changed in MASE) submitted the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of 2030 Agenda in Italy. This process has been co-build together the civil society (with the establishment of the Forum for Sustainable Development) and me meaningful inclusion of young people and youth organization. Here are some examples of possible good practices and guidelines, extracted from the VNR documentation.

As a tool for coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Italy, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSDS) attaches significant importance to the work at territorial level. The 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at national and subnational levels", also drawing on contributions from "civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities". Italy's NSDS pursues this objective also in light of a set of national regulations (Article 34 in Legislative Decree 152/2006 and its updates), which stipulate that within six months of its approval, Regions and Autonomous Provinces must approve their own sustainable development strategies and activate integrated monitoring on the achievement of sustainability objectives. On the one hand, the NSDS path fosters the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda at several territorial levels, while on the other it links the regional and local levels to the international one, providing scope for action and visibility (also through the 2022 VNR) to what has been achieved in the territories over recent years for implementing the strategic sustainability objectives pursued.

Since 2018, a series of actions have been activated on the initiative of MiTE, aimed at building frameworks for public policies at Regional, Autonomous Province and Metropolitan Cities levels,

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

in order to achieve the SDGs and provide evidence of the contributions made by policies, plans and programmes to the achievement of the NSDS objectives, as well as to define the mechanisms

and indicators to guarantee their integrated monitoring. In line with the path outlined by the NSDS at the national level, the objective of the regional processes therefore does not merely lie in producing a strategic document; it rather consists in creating a longterm vision and activating a series of coordinated and synergic actions, which jointly constitute the regional, provincial and metropolitan strategies for sustainable development and enable achieving the objectives pursued by the national strategy. The challenge is very complex and is being built on a day-by-day basis together with the territories involved, drawing on the most important result so far achieved – i.e., creation of a "community of intentions" (namely a network of people, civil servants, and experts, based on collaboration, debate and dialogue, operating within the individual administrations involved) and collaboration practices involving all different institutions, civil society and nonState actors. All Italian Regions and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano – Alto Adige are currently elaborating their own Regional and Provincial Strategies for Sustainable Development – 11 Strategies have been approved to date9. All Italian Metropolitan Cities are also committed to devising their respective Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development, a voluntary tool for building strategic visions to work on urban and metropolitan contexts and achieve the objectives pursued by the Regional and Provincial Strategies for Sustainable Development – 1 Metropolitan Agenda has been approved to date10. In this path, MiTE is collaborating with the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) to guarantee interaction with the complementary definition of the Metropolitan Strategic Plans, and has activated collaborations with the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) and the National Union of Municipalities and Mountain Entities Community (UNCEM) to strengthen the role of so called "Enti di Area Vasta" (i.e. local entities at supramunicipal/supra-metropolitan level) as fundamental actors for territories' sustainable development and implementation of strategic sustainability objectives at the various levels. Two inter-institutional Roundtables are active at MiTE for NSDS implementation and its application at territorial levels (one with Regions and Autonomous Provinces; the other with Metropolitan

Cities), as structured mechanisms of permanent and multilevel interaction for sustainable development and policy coherence. At both levels, cross-sectoral steering committees were set up to coordinate and manage the complexity of strategies. Furthermore, following the example of the Forum for Sustainable Development active at the national level (launched by MiTE in 2019),

The 2022 NSDS and NAP-PCSD aim to further strengthen and empower the multi-level and multistakeholder processes so far activated, both at national and territorial levels, ensuring an overall working method that makes inter-institutional, vertical and horizontal collaboration and interaction with non-State actors the cornerstones of the implementation process. Such results also stem from the Expressions of Interest (EoIs) to the calls published by MiTE between 2018 and 2020, aimed at defining cooperation agreements to guarantee support to the regional, provincial and metropolitan entities engaged in fulfilling the requirements set by the aforementioned rule on NSDS implementation, leading to the agreements undersigned with all the Regions, the Autonomous Province of Trento and all the Metropolitan Cities. The overall process is also drawing on the technical support provided by the "CReIAMO PA" project (competences and networks for environmental integration, and public administration entities enhancement), financed by the 2014- 2020 National Operational Programme on Governance and Institutional Capacity and, in particular, on the L2WP1 ad-hoc line of intervention dedicated to 2030 Agenda implementation and monitoring. A further call for proposals was published in 2019. Addressed to universities, foundations and research centers, the call aimed at promoting projects to support NSDS implementation and was designed in line with the needs identified and the remarks arisen within the territorial Discussion Tables. The 2022 NSDS also urges for strengthened commitment to participation and dissemination of a "sustainability culture" highlighting the essential role of civil society and non-State actors at the various territorial levels. Moreover, in consideration of the fundamental implementation role that Metropolitan Cities and Municipalities are called upon to play today (also in light of the substantial national and European resources currently allocated to them – e.g. National Recovery and Resilience Plan; and 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy cycle), the NSDS intends to continue to activate and support the territories in order to define sustainable

development agendas. The aim is pursued by extending the collaboration areas to include supramunicipal/supra-metropolitan level and "homogeneous" territorial systems, taking into consideration geographic criteria, challenges and/or specific needs of an environmental and socioeconomic nature (e.g. mountain areas, basin areas, so-called "inner areas") to implement multidimensional and innovative interventions and actions capable of integrating the several policy sectors.

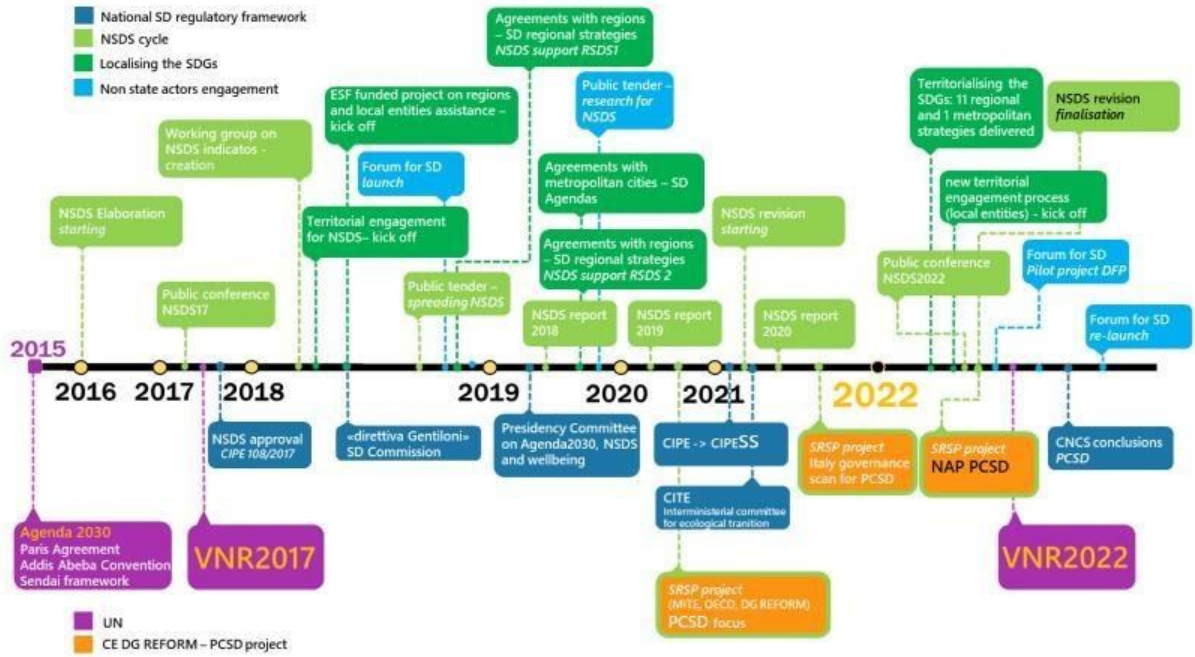

fig 1 **Italy and 2030 Agenda in the NSDS process 2017>2022** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

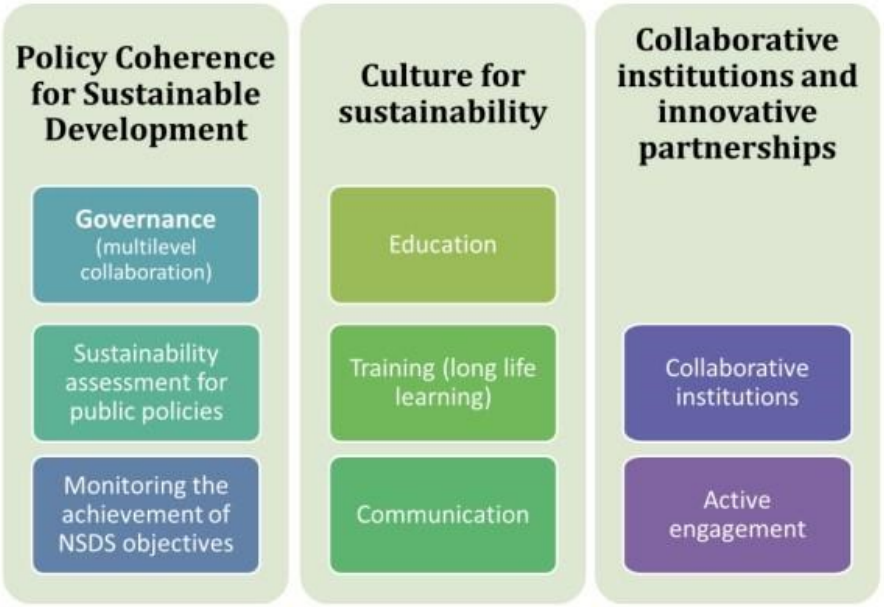

fig 3 **"Vectors for Sustainability" defined by NSDS22 (Source MiTE 2022)** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

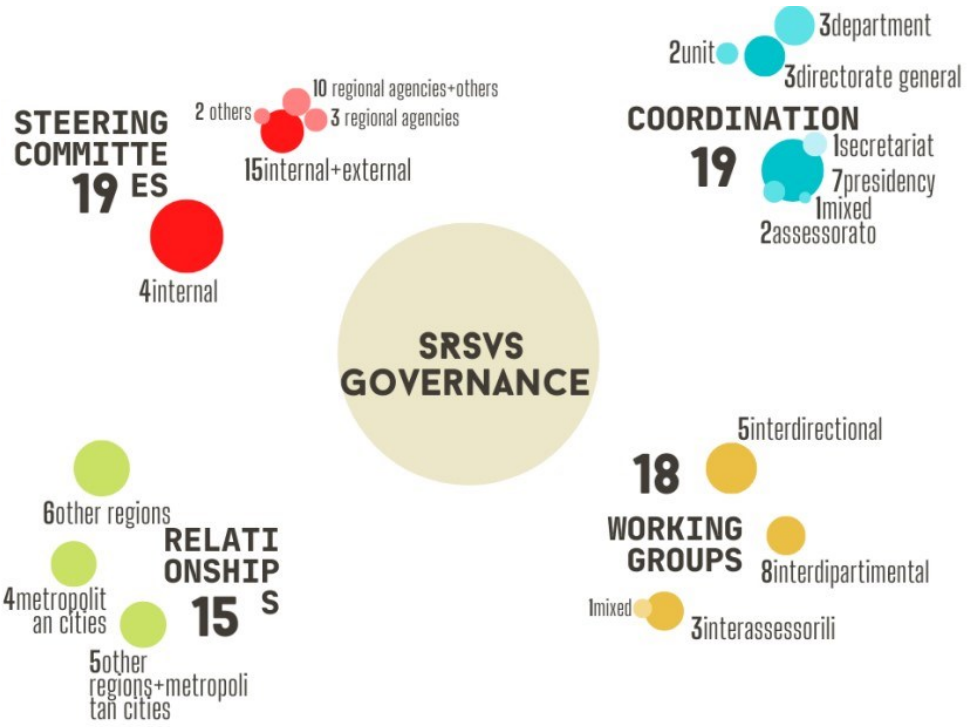

fig 11 **Regional steering committees** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

fig 12 **Metropolitan steering committees** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

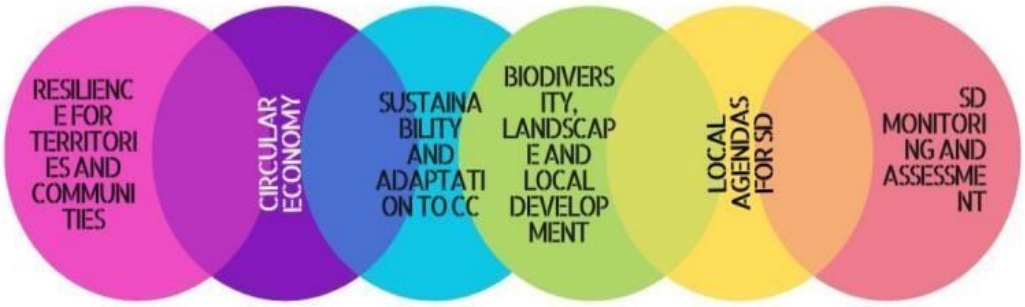

fig 15 **issues addressed by thematic projects** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

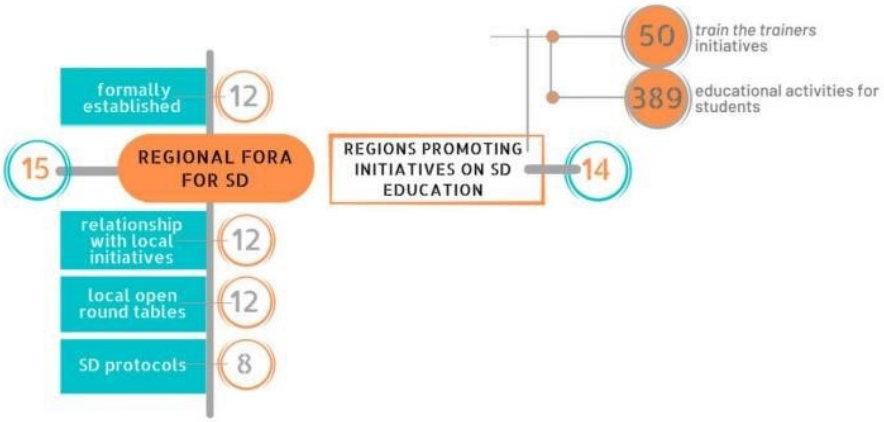

fig 16 **Regional fora for SD and initiatives building a "culture for sustainability"** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

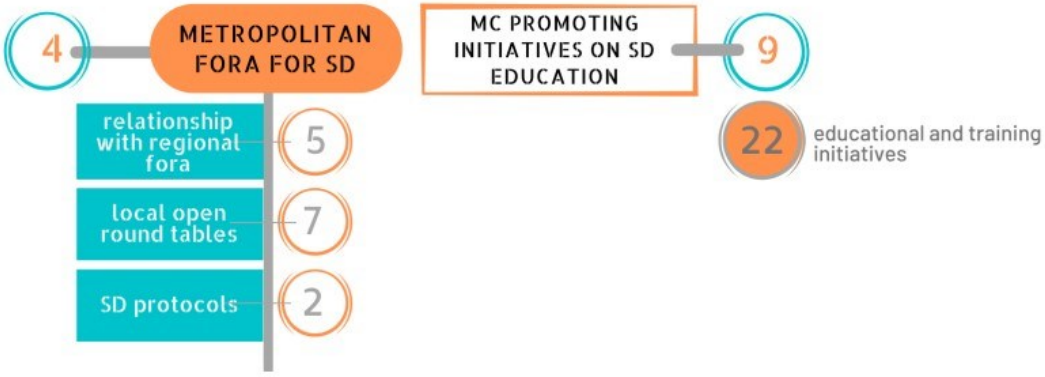

fig 17 **Metropolitan fora for SD and initiatives building a "culture for sustainability"** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

Co-funded by the European Union

FOCUS 1 – THE ROLE OF THE FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN NSDS AND NAP-PCSD

The Forum is recognised as a key actor of the NSDS and operates within the reference strategic framework together with central and territorial administrations. Furthermore, the importance of stable interaction with the CNCS through Working Group 1 is recognised in order to ensure coherence between the internal and external dimensions of sustainable development. As to NSDS implementation, in the coming years the Forum:

- will participate in the inter-institutional dialogue on policy coherence and in building the tools for assessment and monitoring as defined in the NAP-PCSD (Coherence Matrices and Fiches, Sustainability Labs, Sustainability dashboard);
- will contribute to the implementation of the Vector of sustainability "culture for sustainable development" and its components (education, training, information, communication), recognising their transformative power and the key role of civil society;
- will contribute to creating innovative partnerships for sustainable development that bring together institutions, universities, research centers, education system and business;
- will collaborate with territories and territorial administrations to foster participation in coherence with the Vector of sustainability "Participation for sustainable development" and on the basis of the experiments and collaboration between MiTE and DFP on Open Government;
- will organise the Sustainable Development Conference with MiTE.

FOCUS 2 – REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SD: SOME EXAMPLES

Abruzzo Region The Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development document was approved via Resolution No. 25 issued by the Regional Legislative Assembly in its session of 13 December 2021. Website: www.regione.abruzzo.it/content/progetto-la-strategia-regionale-dello-sviluppososteni bile.

Campania Region The technical drafting of the Strategy document was finalised following interaction and dialogue with the several Departments involved, as well as local authorities and civil society. Website: https://campaniasostenibile.ifelcampania.it. Further in-depth thematic information on the regulatory and administrative path prior to the drafting and approval of the UN 2030 Agenda can be found at: http://www.regione.campania.it/regione/it/tematiche/sviluppososteni bile-x4kj.

Emilia-Romagna Region The Sustainable Development Strategy of the Emilia-Romagna Region was approved via Regional Council Resolution No. 1840 of 8 November 2021. Website: www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenda2030.

Lazio Region The Strategy was approved via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 170 of 30 March 2021. Link to the Strategy: lazioeuropa.it/files/210406/dgr_170_30_03_2021.pdf. Website: www.lazioeuropa.it/laziosostenibile. The Strategy monitoring process is currently underway, and the climate change adaptation contribution to the Strategy is being drafted.

Liguria Region Document approved by the Regional Council via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 60 of 29 January 2021. Website: https://www.regione.liguria.it/homepage/ambiente/sviluppo-sostenibile/strategiaregionalesviluppo-sostenibile.html.

Lombardia Region The Strategy was approved by the Regional Council on 29 June 2021 – during the same session the Regional Economic and Financial Document was approved (integrating the connections between the objectives and actions of the two instruments). A first update was made in November 2021. The updated text is available at: www.sviluppposostenibile.regione.lombardia.it. The Strategy is broken down into 5 strategic macro-areas (27 areas of intervention and 96 strategic objectives): 1. Health, equality, inclusion; 2. Education, training, work; 3. Development and innovation, cities, territories and infrastructure; 4. Climate change mitigation, energy, production and consumption; 5. Eco-landscape system, adaptation, agriculture. For each strategic macro-area, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the NSDS, some targets are defined with time horizons between 2025/2030 and 2050, and monitoring indicators are identified. The governance tools and mechanisms enabling for Strategy implementation are laid down therein, favouring full inter-sectoral and multi-level integration.

Piemonte Region The knowledge integration process for Regional Sustainable Development Strategy drafting was finalised. The final document outlining the objectives to be pursued in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy was defined, involving a wide range of institutional actors and the private production system. The document lays down the Region's context, the vision for its territory, policy guidance, and the 7 identified strategic macro-areas, with strategic objectives and indicators. The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy was recently shared with a Regional Council delegation, and is to be approved by April 2022 via an ad-hoc regional council resolution. The first draft of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2021) is available online; as soon as the formal approval process by the Regional Council has been completed, the final text will be published. Website: www.regione.piemonte.it/web/temi/strategia-sviluppo-sostenibile/strategia-regionale-persvilupposostenibile-0.

FOCUS 3 – METROPOLITAN AGENDAS FOR SD: SOME EXAMPLESE

Metropolitan City of Bari The Metropolitan Agenda drafting process takes place in parallel with developing the Strategic Plan hinged within the participatory path a.k.a. "Bari 2030" (launched in September 2019). On 31 July 2021, the "Proposed Agenda for Sustainable Development of the Metropolitan City – Interim Report" was delivered to the Metropolitan City administration. To be followed by the "Final Report".

Metropolitan City of Cagliari Website: www.cittametropolitanacagliari.it/web/cmdca/sostenibilità-e-monitoraggio.

Metropolitan City of Firenze The Metropolitan City administration drafted the diagnostic document titled Voluntary Local Review (VLR) – the first of a kind in Italy – and presented it to the UN HLPF in July 2021: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/florence_2021_it.pdf. On 9 March 2022, the Metropolitan Council adopted the 2030 Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development: https://www.cittametropolitana.fi.it/wp-content/uploads/AgendaAdottata.pdf. The Agenda consists of 10 Metropolitan Goals for 2030 and two Sustainability Vectors. All local stakeholders, actors and citizens were given the opportunity to submit comments to the Agenda by 14 April 2022. The 2030 Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved in 2022.

Metropolitan City of Genova The Sustainable Development Agenda offers an up-to-date strategic vision of the Metropolitan City of Genoa, to orient the objectives and actions of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan (MSP) towards environmental, social and economic sustainability on action priorities aligned with the missions of the 34 National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The year 2021 provided a key opportunity to rethink the Metropolitan City's strategies in terms of contents and methods. The Strategic Plan update, still in progress, intends to propose a crosscutting key of reading with other planning tools (territorial plan (PTG), sustainable mobility plan (PUMS; BICIPLAN), and Waste Plan) – aware that only a unified approach enables developing effectively sustainable strategic planning. A task force was set up to update the MSP, through a context analysis to identify the main strengths/weaknesses and development opportunities for the

metropolitan area, and a guidance document. An integrated monitoring system (Datalab) is also being set up. Metropolitan City of Messina The second phase of the involvement of local institutions and civil society is complete (see dedicated platform: https://agendamessinapartecipazione.it/). The third phase (Agenda drafting and projectdesigning of pilot actions) started in February 2022 and is to end by April 2022. Website: www.cittametropolitana.me.it/metrocitizen/.

Metropolitan City of Milano The Agenda drafting process began in February 2020 and is to be completed by December 2022. To date, know-how and supporting tools have been created for defining the strategies: Netlab, Datalab, School of Sustainability. Information is available on the website: www.cittametropolitana.mi.it/Agenda_metropolitana_sviluppo_sostenibile/.

Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria The Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development construction process was set in motion with the launch of the "RC Metro Citizens in Transition" pilot project, within the cooperation agreement between MiTE and Sector 5 – Professional Training of the Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria. The Agenda is conceived as a device for integrating, guiding and monitoring the planning tools in force and/or in the process of being adopted by the Metropolitan City government, in particular the Metropolitan Strategic Plan being drafted, but also territorial investments (a.k.a. “Metro” NOP, Pacts for Southern Italy, ROPs 202127, etc.), through the NSDS sustainability vectors and strategic objectives. The Knowledge, Codesign and Goals Metrocity pilot actions defined the relevant trajectories and the guiding contents of the Agenda document: 1. Territory and Sustainable Communities in Transition; 2. Air and Climate; 3. New Geography of Relations: Commuting (“inner areas”); 4. Ecosystem services. Networks and flows (waste, water, energy); 5. Sustainable Visions. Website: www.rcmetrocitizensintransition.com.

Metropolitan City of Roma The Agenda is developed in parallel and synergy with the Metropolitan City’s strategic planning processes. A proposed “Sustainable Development Agenda of “Roma Capitale” Metropolitan City” was drawn up. The actions under the “Metropoli Capitale – Sosteniamo il futuro” (Metropolitan Capital City – Let's sustain the future) project for Agenda definition are to be completed by May 2022. The dedicated web page is being created.

A part of the documents is available at: https://www.cittametropolitanaroma.it/homepage/la-cittametropolitana/la-pianificazionestrategica/cose/documenti/.

Metropolitan City of Torino The first internal phase of analysing the competencies and action lines for achieving the sustainable development objectives enabled identifying the first areas of integration among sustainability policies. It was also preparatory to the definition of the "Guidelines for construction of the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Metropolitan City of Turin and its territory", which took place through focus groups attended by the Metropolitan City of Turin, the Piedmont Region government, and researchers from the Technical Scientific Support Group. These guidelines identified, among other things, a framework of priorities on which to invest in relation to 35 the 6 Strategic Macro-Areas of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development and led to stimulating the "reasoned and conscious" involvement (within 10 focus groups) of a wide range of actors in the suprametropolitan with strategic project-designing and guidance functions. A number of transversal activities ensured a multi-level governance pathway. Website: www.cittametropolitana.torino.it/cms/ambiente/agendametro-svil-sostenibile. Metropolitan City of Venezia A context analysis was conducted to identify the Metropolitan City of Venice positioning with respect to the 17 SDGs. An initial report was drawn up, identifying the key Goals for the metropolitan context (Goals 11, 13, 15 and 17). Website: www.cittametropolitana.ve.it/progetti_in_corso/progetto-pages-dal-piano-strategico-allagendalosviluppo-sostenibile-della-citt%C3%A0.

FOCUS 4 – TERRITORIAL STEERING COMMITTEES AND NAP-PCSD

The NSDS 2022 and the NAP PCSD aim at strengthening and enabling the multilevel and multistakeholder processes that have been activated in the context of the NSDS implementation process between national and territorial levels, ensuring a shared working method that makes interinstitutional collaboration, vertical and horizontal, and with non-state actors one of the pillars of the implementation process. The consolidation of the steering committees (*Territorial Cabine di Regia*), together with the Technical Roundtables (*Tavoli di Confronto*) activated as part of the collaboration between MiTE and Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities, will promote a stable and horizontal collaboration process between and within the administrations.

FOCUS 5 – EXPERIMENTATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES: 2021-2027 COHESION POLICY AND THE NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

In order to innovate, simplify and improve the sustainability assessment of policies, an experiment was launched to assess Cohesion Policy contribution to the achievement of sustainability objectives. The interinstitutional Roundtables involving MiTE and Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities highlighted the relevant contribution of the EU 2021-2027 programming cycle to sustainable development strategies at the different territorial levels. To this end, a cooperation agreement active since 2019 with the Department for Cohesion Policies (DIPCoe) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) and the Territorial Cohesion Agency (ACT) was enhanced. As a result, the matrix of relations between the NSDS and the 2030 Agenda now encompasses also information on 2021-2027 provided by DIPCoe and ACT, and notably: Policy Objectives (POs), common output and result indicators of EU regional policy, eligible fields of intervention. The information included refers to the latest available updates for the ERDF (updated at 13 May 2020) and the ESF+ (updated at 4 August 2020). The overall matrix is a constantly updated dynamic tool that is and will be made available to the PCSD Coordination Group to concretely start an extended experimentation of actual potentialities. The overall relationships reconstructed for all the National Strategic Choices and NSOs, as well as for all the related 2030 Agenda targets, enable for a ready-to-use reference frame on several public policies,

as per the three terms highlighted below: ▪ Correlation between (preliminary to possible impact analysis) NSOs and objectives, intervention areas/categories of each policy; ▪ Systematisation of context and programming indicators (policy indicators) between different policies on the same themes, with a view to effective and cost-efficient monitoring; ▪ Effective activation of the integrated monitoring system for the NSDS, as a reference framework for sustainability assessment of public policies. In the same spirit, further experimentation on the contents of the Next Generation EU was launched in February 2020, to rapidly provide the Prime Minister's Office and the Administrations concerned with a tool for evaluating the National Recovery and Resilience Plan actions that can meet the relevant requests made by the European Commission. In terms of policy coherence and efficiency and effectiveness of public policy evaluation, it is deemed essential that the NSDS in particular and the 2030 Agenda as a whole be set as long-term orientation tools for all policies, starting with the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

FOCUS 6 – METROPOLITAN CITIES PILOT ACTIONS

Metropolitan City of Bari

The Agenda envisages 4 pilot projects: 1. Urban regeneration and open spaces for social activities; 2. Redevelopment of metropolitan coastline waterfronts, in line with the Strategic Project for redevelopment and enhancement of the coastline as per Puglia Landscape Plan; 3. Sustainable mobility (Biciplan; and Strategic Project for Soft Mobility and Landscape Plan); 4. Agriculture 4.0 project.

Metropolitan City of Bologna

The Agenda envisages 4 pilot projects: 1. Transition to circular economy in the hilly and mountainous territory of the Metropolitan City of Bologna; 2. Pre-feasibility study on reorganisation of public transport services in productive areas; 3. Guidelines for metropolitan forestation; 4. “Operation Centre & Cities Web”. Furthermore 2 actions aim at raising awareness on sustainability among schools and MC employees: 1. Leverage for sustainability (education); 2. Leverage for sustainability (raising awareness of sustainable working styles). https://www.cittametropolitana.bo.it/agenda_sviluppo_sostenibile/.

Metropolitan City of Firenze

The Agenda includes the following pilot actions: 1. Reuse of an open space in the Municipality of Pontassieve for creation of a multifunctional centre. The Agreement signed with MiTE envisages the Technical-Economic Feasibility Project of an approx. 18,500-square-metre supra-municipal area belonging to the Municipality of Pontassieve, located eastward of the railway station, in a central position for the urban fabric. The area is currently dismissed but was once used for an important production activity. Recovering this area is not only an environmental and townplanning action, but also an opportunity for sustainable urban development with the main objective of reintroducing strategic functions for the town centre and reconnecting the urban fabric. The project envisages the creation of a large urban park, conceived as a link between the hill system and the river park system. 2. Integrated public transport pricing pilot project. Among the priority initiatives that emerged from the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan drafting process, the Metropolitan City drew up a feasibility project for an efficient integrated pricing system to guarantee maximum accessibility to local public transport services.

Metropolitan City of Genova

The Sustainable Agenda project of the Metropolitan City of Genoa proposes a “sustainable urban space model” that integrates action lines and interventions, that are mutually synergetic and consistent with the 2030 Agenda Goals. This model envisages long-lasting solutions for socioeconomic fabric regeneration, social cohesion enhancement, cultural enrichment and quality of places and citizens' lives, with a view to innovation and sustainability – replicable also in different territorial contexts and revolving around three essential points: 1. Enhancement of urban conditions that diminish imbalances between central and peripheral areas, primarily in terms of services; 2. Creation of spatial bases for sustainable development to enhance integration between urban and peri-urban areas from which they can mutually benefit in terms of ecological regeneration, sustainable mobility, services; 3. Restoring of environmental balances. An initial experimentation of this model took place with the Technical-Economic Feasibility Project of the Tigullio Park service hub in Lavagna.

Metropolitan City of Messina

Two pilot action proposals were selected: 1. Environmental redevelopment and urban regeneration project of the "Città del ragazzo" building area in the Gravitelli district, for social inclusion purposes – "Dopo di noi" (After Us) project. A model of sustainable urban park with replicability characteristics also in different territorial contexts, with the identification of dedicated funding channels (National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Integrated Urban Plan, etc.) that integrates different lines of action and interventions that are synergic and consistent with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. 2. Project for environmental regeneration and development of sustainable tourism in the Parks (Nebrodi Park, Alcantara River Park), the Oriented Natural Reserves (Capo Peloro Lagoon, Laghetti di Marinello, Montagne delle Felci e dei Porri – Salina Island) of the Capo Milazzo Protected Marine Area and the Strait of Messina, with a view to generating circular economy.

Metropolitan City of Palermo

The pilot action consists in drafting a feasibility study to create an energy community, with the support of AMG Energia and in cooperation with the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and the Gestore dei Servizi Energetici (GSE). The feasibility study identified the premises of the “San Filippo Neri” Carabinieri Station in the ZEN district in Palermo (economically deprived and highly marginalised residents) as the pilot action site. The initiative is part of a broader redevelopment project of the entire ZEN neighbourhood with the objective of improving environmental quality, also through recovery of the social response capacity, reconnection with the territorial context, implementation of services and technological upgrading of buildings.

Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria

Based on the 5 action areas of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, within the cooperation agreement with MiTE, the "RC Metro Citizens in Transition" project identified 6 pilot actions: 1. "Learning MetroCity IN" – Cat. A, recipients: institutional network; 2. Knowledge Metrocity" – Cat. B, recipients: Civic Ecosystem (associations, committees, groups, etc.); 4.

"Knowledge Metrocity" – Cat. B, recipients: Civic Ecosystem, experts and officers from institutions, university students, individual citizens; 5. "Goals Metrocity" – Cat. C, Definition of metropolitan agendas for sustainable development and monitoring of sustainability vectors of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan; 6. "Co-Design Metrocity' – Cat. B, civil society involvement.

Metropolitan City of Roma

The Agenda envisages the implementation of 2 pilot actions: 1. Scuole H24 (H24 Schools): Experimentation of an intersectoral working method for "territorial hub" schools. The Metropolitan City (MC) joined the "community education pact" in a network with two schools and over 30 social actors; 2. O.S.A.! Young (Objectives, Strategies, Actions for the Metropolitan Territory), a set of synergic actions with a focus on young people, in cooperation with the Tor Vergata University of Rome, including: "Education+Action" project with agricultural institutes, mapping of young stakeholders, surveys, thematic tables, communication and dissemination. Conclusion and final event in May 2022. Hinging and follow-up of the pilot actions into the strategic planning processes and tools of the MC administration is also envisaged.

Metropolitan City of Torino

Pilot actions are intended as specific focuses within the "transversal areas of intervention" envisaged by the National and Regional Sustainable Development Strategies. "Learning to produce green" and "Sustainable schools" focus on building competences for transition, by enhancing the connection between school and vocational training centres and the territories, around sustainability objectives. The aim is to link training topics to place-based projects and policies, with reference to the missions and intervention areas of the Agenda. The first pilot action focuses on the definition of territorial governance that produces "training success" for sustainability challenges and supports the transition to tackle them. The second pilot action is aimed at producing a tool to support secondary schools and Vocational Education and Training Agencies in increasing their educational and training effectiveness, by rethinking themselves – from the points of view of organisation, educational and training pathways and processes and relations with the territory – as in-transition organisations.

Metropolitan City of Venezia

The pilot action consists in creating a web platform shared with local institutions, called "dashboard", in which projects/initiatives with supra-metropolitan repercussions falling within a sustainable development perspective can be included in a bidirectional manner (from the Metropolitan City of Venice to Municipalities and vice versa). The platform was developed and shared with a pilot group of six Municipalities to identify the Agenda's contents and related indicators, and then extended to the other Municipalities.

LATVIA

Ecological Future Education

Gulbene County offers different youth involvement for youth participants. Ecological Future Education organises different training and youth involvement campaigns to promote environmental awareness, social inclusion and active citizenship.

1. **Gulbene County Youth Forum**

One of the tasks of the youth centres of the Gulbene region is to promote the participation and involvement of young people. A youth forum is organised once every two years. Participatory activities have taken place within the different projects: "Coffee with politicians", "Ice cream with the big ones", "Cupcake with a professional", a youth forum, panel discussions, meetings of selfgovernments and participation training for young people, teachers and youth workers. In recent years, regular school self-government meetings and training have been held, where school selfgovernments have the opportunity to learn together and plan activities.

2. **Youth voluntary**

Local voluntary work has been developed in Gulbene County - a short-term voluntary work system has been established, within the framework of which young people are invited to help in ensuring the running of various events and activities. Voluntary work is organised during the summer period and the municipality is involved in its organization. It would be necessary to discuss the long-term local volunteering offer.

Ecological Future Education involves youth participants and youth workers in different National and European project implementation in the field of environmental education and active citizenship.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

3. Youth expression

The easiest way for young people to express their opinion is in schools, youth centres and NGOs.

Gulbene district youth centre “Bāze” is made and being held by Gulbene Municipality. The institution is going forwards with the aim of supporting and helping to develop youngster initiatives, at the same time encouraging youngsters to develop their life quality. The youth centre's main activities are based on Gulbene district youth policy documentation ways of work, as well as youth centre priorities for the year. In the time of summer, the aim is to put on different kinds of camps and activities for youth and children, by making sure, that the content of the activities is interesting and topical for these young people. Youth centres are equipped with great infrastructure and inventory so that in the time between activities, young people are spending their time quality, and of course, there always will be informal talks and discussions.

4. Youth initiatives

Young people have the opportunity to apply for the municipal initiative competition and in this way get support for their initiatives in the amount of up to EUR 400,00. The purpose is to support youth initiatives that promote the inclusion of young people in Gulbene County in cultural, sports, educational and youth processes, promoting their physical activities, value orientation and active participation, and which are not related to other projects or programs and events of institutions/organizations involved in work with youth. The aim is to provide an opportunity for young people to get involved in solving issues related to the field of youth.

SPAIN

Inercia Digital SL

LTTA form our Erasmus+ project Engaging Youth in a digital Green Future: LTT1 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Sustainable Development and Education (2021-2-SE02-KA220-YOU-000051481)

A Learning Teaching Training Activity was organized in Huelva, Spain, in February 2023, where 15 participants (youth workers, NGO, partners) attended the first LTT of our Erasmus+ project Engaging Youth in a digital Green future.

Through this course we aimed to provide teachers and trainers with essential knowledge of the European Green Deal plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals in order to help them achieve sustainable behavior. As well as to raise awareness among teachers and trainers who work with young people about the Green Deal plan and 2030 Agenda in order to make them capable of engaging them in the democratic life through EU policies.

In summary, the training course on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sustainable education was a valuable and informative experience for the participants. The course aimed to provide the participants with a deeper understanding of the 2030

Agenda for sustainable development, and the role of education in promoting sustainable development.

Throughout the course, the participants were able to learn about the various SDGs, their objectives, and the challenges involved in achieving them. They were also introduced to different strategies and resources for promoting sustainability in educational environments and for integrating the SDGs into curricular activities.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

The course was structured to provide a mix of theoretical and practical sessions, with opportunities for group discussions, case studies, and visits to local good practices in education. The use of the Moodle platform, presentations, handouts, and worksheets enhanced the learning experience, and the evaluation and feedback forms provided an opportunity for the participants to reflect on their learning and provide suggestions for improvement.

Overall, the course provided the participants with new insights and knowledge about sustainable development and education, and equipped them with tools and resources to promote sustainability in their own work or daily lives.

LTTA from our Erasmus+ project "United in Diversity" (2021-2-NL02-KA210-YOU-000047859):

In October of last year, we commemorated the second iteration of our Erasmus+ United in Diversity project's online course, in collaboration with Codine and Eutopia organizations.

Over the course of four days, we conducted an online workshop on digital diversity and inclusivity in the workplace. Our aim was to equip youth workers and educators with the necessary skills to utilize Web 2.0 and 3.0 tools, while also fostering effective communication and feedback within the youth professional community. Our focus was on promoting social sustainability through an inclusive lens.

Throughout the various sessions, we explored collaborative tools within youth organizations and shared our approach towards harnessing the full potential of diversity, both at InerciaDigital and in our Erasmus+ initiatives.

ERASMUS+ project "Together for Tackling Cyberbullying" (2021-1-IT03-KA220-YOU-000029227)

The "Together for Tackling Cyberbullying" (TOC) project is a prime example of how youth participation can play a crucial role in the prevention of violence and the promotion of a safer

online environment. The project is a 24-month Strategic Partnership in the field of Youth that focuses on raising awareness about cyberbullying and empowering young people to take action against it.

One of the unique aspects of TOC is its active involvement of young people as both learners and real agents of change. By including young people in the project as direct participants, TOC ensures that their voices and experiences are heard and valued. Additionally, the project develops a brandnew educational methodology that integrates Digital Storytelling, Digital Skills, and Critical Thinking to foster an inclusive and safe online environment. By providing young people with these skills, they can become more proactive in preventing cyberbullying and promoting positive online behaviors.

TOC's approach underscores the importance of youth participation in addressing contemporary challenges in the digital age. By involving young people as active participants and co-creators of solutions, we can build a safer and more inclusive digital community that benefits everyone.

Next May, we will host an LTTA for this projects in our installations based in Huelva, Spain.

The European Youth Strategy:

The European Youth Strategy is a set of guidelines developed by the European Union to support the participation of young people in decision-making processes at local, national, and European levels. The strategy focuses on six key areas: education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, participation, voluntary activities, and social inclusion.

The Council of Europe's Recommendation on Youth Participation:

The Council of Europe's Recommendation on Youth Participation provides guidelines for member states on how to promote the active participation of young people in decision-making processes. The recommendation emphasizes the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for young

people to participate in political and social life, and encourages member states to involve young people in the development and implementation of policies and programs that affect them.

The Youth Manifesto:

The Youth Manifesto is a document created by young people from across Europe that outlines their priorities for the future of Europe. The manifesto was developed through a participatory process

that involved thousands of young people, and it includes recommendations on issues such as education, employment, and social inclusion. The manifesto is intended to serve as a guide for policymakers and decision-makers at all levels of government, and it has been endorsed by a number of European institutions and organizations.

These examples provide valuable insights and best practices on how to involve young people in decision-making processes and localizing the 2030 Agenda. By adapting these guidelines and examples to their own local context, needs, and capabilities, youth organizations and policymakers can develop effective strategies for promoting youth participation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

PORTUGAL

Associação Sójovem das Saibreiras

INTRODUCTION

PROMOTE THE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN THE DEFINITION AND APPLICATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Since there is no viable substitute for democracy, the uneasiness experienced in relation to countless political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental problems to which democracy has not been able to respond is very worrying. This answer can only be obtained through more and better participation of all those who influence governance today: politicians, intermediary institutions, the media, and citizens.

Civic participation must be promoted and encouraged, rather than disciplined or imposed. Participation will occur if the political system is open to it, in an effective democratization of the State and society, implying a more transparent governance in contents and foundations, open public services and the creation of spaces for effective participation of citizens in the preparation of public decisions and monitoring its implementation. What matters is to encourage a culture of participation, cooperation and collaborative decision-making, with citizens encouraged to participate and decision-makers encouraged to promote their participation.

Citizens will participate more when they feel that participation can make a difference in their neighborhood, their association, their school, their municipality, their country or even on a supranational scale. The decision-maker will provide opportunities for participation because he knows that his decisions will be more effective the greater the sharing of information and the involvement of civil society in the decision-making process.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

It is also possible to conclude that the Portuguese tend to have little trust in their institutions. [1] This is a worrying finding since breaches of trust lead to less commitment to collective and community life. But the great conclusion to be drawn is that in Portugal there is still a long way to go before reaching a culture of participation and a full participatory practice; and that when such culture and practices take place, they are globally beneficial, in terms of social cohesion and the success and acceptance of public decisions. This is what can be seen when citizens are involved in the formulation of local decisions; when workers have the opportunity to contribute to solving problems in their companies; when associations and civic movements are seen as partners in identifying problems and seeking solutions.

And today, it is relatively consensual that the success of sustainable development is more than unlikely without the involvement of civil society, which naturally implies a paradigm shift in its organization. The responsibility for transforming participation into a more meaningful process, carried out with regularity and naturalness and with a real capacity to influence change lies both with the State and with all civil society actors.

And schools, conceived as an essentially participatory and participative local community for an excellent educational public service, must not only set an example of such a type of collaborative organization, but also solidify in children and young people a responsible culture of involvement and participation in the problems, in the solutions and in the respective processes of negotiation, decision and verification of the results. Schools, inside and beyond them, are veritable portals for disseminating the values and procedures of a sustainable democratic culture.

On the other hand, participation can be stimulated, through sectoral measures aimed at a specific target public, or through the implementation of transversal instruments, whose massification – in geographic and age-related terms – will contribute to demonstrating the diversity of the practice of participation and to make it more recurrent and spontaneous.

We refer to actions to raise awareness and attract citizens to the value of different forms of participation. We refer to the provision of web tools for involving citizens in decision-making processes (crowdsourcing); in addition to social networks, crowdsourcing allows the launching of

a challenge to citizens who use those networks and the organized channeling of their creativity towards a specific task or to solve a specific problem. We refer to the simplification (possibly certified) of the written language, aiming at a more generalized and immediate understanding of the documentation and a more informed decision-making by the citizens, an area in which much can be done even without prejudice to the necessary technical rigor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide more transparency and openness on the part of public services, ensuring spaces for the effective participation of citizens in the preparation of public decisions and in the monitoring of their execution;

- Make the school an example in solidifying, in children and young people, a responsible culture of involvement and participation in problems, solutions and the respective processes of negotiation, decision and verification of results. T

- Encouraging citizen participation through sectoral measures aimed at a specific target audience, such as, for example, through greater citizen involvement in crowdsourcing decisionmaking processes (organized channeling of their creativity to a specific task or to a resolution of a concrete problem) and in the development of collaborative consumption.

Reference: [1] The European Social Survey study (2002 to 2008), shows that in the specific case of the index of trust of citizens in the respective Parliaments, 35% of the Portuguese trust this institution very little or not at all, and in Denmark this index is 4% and in Spain 16%.

SCHOOLS IN PORTUGAL

BASIC EDUCATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION - CITIZENSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

FRAMEWORK

The relationship between the individual and the world that surrounds him, built in a constant dynamic with the physical, social, historical, and cultural spaces, poses to the school the challenge of ensuring that students are prepared for the multiple demands of contemporary society. The complexity and accelerated transformation that characterizes contemporary society thus lead to the need to develop different skills for the exercise of democratic citizenship, and, therefore, the school has an important role in the construction of citizenship practices.

In this way, students are prepared for a conscious reflection on spiritual, aesthetic, moral, and civic values, in order to ensure their balanced civic development. The National Strategy for Citizenship Education integrates a set of skills and knowledge, in line with the Profile of Students Leaving Compulsory Schooling (PA) and with Essential Learning (AE).

In order to contribute to a complete humanistic formation of students, in Citizenship and Development (CeD), teachers have the mission of preparing students for life, to be democratic, participative and humanist citizens, in an era of growing social and cultural diversity, in the sense of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as suppressing violent radicalisms. It is assumed, therefore, that teachers have training in the area of citizenship, motivation for approaching this area and for the use of project methodologies, as well as experience in coordinating pedagogical teams. Education for Citizenship is embodied in the CeD curriculum component that integrates the basic curriculum matrices of all years of schooling, basic education and secondary education.

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

In the 1st cycle of basic education, CeD is a cross-sectional work area, boosted by the globalizing dimension of teaching in this cycle. In the 2nd and 3rd cycles of basic education, CeD, as a discipline, can work according to the school's curricular options (quarterly, semiannually or otherwise). In education and training courses for young people at the basic level and in secondary education, the Citizenship and Development training component is developed with the contribution of all the disciplines contained in the basic curricular matrices.

In secondary education, the school decides how to implement the Citizenship and Development component, and may, among other options, adopt:

a) The offer as an autonomous subject;

b) The practice of co-adjuvation, within the scope of a discipline;

c) Functioning in juxtaposition with another discipline;

d) The approach, within the scope of the different disciplines of the matrix, of themes and projects, under the coordination of one of the teachers of the class or group of students.

1st Group - Compulsory for all levels and school cycles (since these are transversal and longitudinal areas) • Human rights

- Gender equality
- Interculturality
- Sustainable development
- Environmental education
- Health

2nd Group – Worked at least in two cycles of basic education

- Sexuality
- Average
- Institutions and democratic participation
- Financial literacy and consumer education
- Road safety
- Risk

3rd Group - With optional application in any school year

- Entrepreneurship
- World of Work
- Security, Defense and Peace
- Animal welfare
- Volunteering
- Others, according to the education needs for citizenship diagnosed by the school

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF A LOCAL PLATFORM FOR PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPATE! – WOMEN'S CIVIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Promoter: União de Freguesias de Aldoar, Foz do Douro e Nevogilde

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

Partners:

- Portuguese Catholic University - Porto Regional Center
- Portuguese Province of the Institute of the Sisters of Santa Doroteia (PPIISD) / Paula Frassinetti Higher School of Education (ESEPF)
- Transformers Youth Association
- Federation of Youth Associations of the District of Porto (FAJDP)
- HiveMind Institute
- TEDxPorto
- Aldoar Residents Commission Association
- Association of Residents of the Pasteleira Social Neighborhood
- European Center for Women and Technology

EEA Grants Financing: 240,019

Total Financing: 240,019

What is this project?

The Participate! - Women's civic and political participation has as main objectives to promote an increase in the rates of political and civic participation of women and girls in the parishes of Aldoar, Foz do Douro and Nevogilde, to promote a greater involvement of women who already participate in political and civic life local and wish to increase their levels of responsibility, with a view to raising awareness of gender equality and opportunities and creating tools to facilitate political and civic participation at the local level. It is a project of Open Call#5: Projects for the promotion of equality between women and men at the local level. Working together for a competitive and inclusive Europe.

Link:http://www.aldoarfoznevogilde.pt/pages/453?fbclid=IwAR10SckJuV5cpM5r9A0vDeMjdJMzWe fNxH7MDh07E5I4yVApkulJjlzNaLI

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù

ROMANIA

Harghita County Council

Harghita County Council has several programs and activities in which the community can be involved actively. Our institution tries to organize every year different events in which we are trying to involve as many young people as we can because we recognized that young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth, and technological innovation.

5. Youth Committee

Harghita County Council supports and assists **Youth in transition projects** by involving youth in policy making. In order to achieve a sustainable connection with the young generation a Youth Committee is about to be established, through which a significant number of young people will be covered up in our region. The **Youth Committee** will consist of members of Non-profit organizations' leadership from around our regional territories (Csíkszék, Udvarhelyszék, Gyergyószék), who will represent their own community and together will find solutions regarding policymaking, sponsorship, and organizing activities through which they can gain support from policymakers from our county.

6. Harghita County Council - Youth Strategy

Every 5 to 8 years, the Harghita County Council prepares a youth strategy for the county, which is also put out for consultation to the population, especially youth. The youth is the social group that can fundamentally determine the development of the county in the next 20-30 years. We are investing in young people now so that in the long term they themselves can be the ones who will make the county even more developed, liveable and lovable. Consultations are organized by the

Harghita County Council at both regional and sectoral levels. It is important to understand the opinions of young people in the county and the opinions of the representatives of the sectors whose activities affect young people and whose activities are also determined by young people. To this end, an online questionnaire survey was carried out to identify the needs of young people in the county, which served as a basis for the development of the County Youth Strategy. The Youth Strategy covers several sectors. These include human resource development, various education and training programs, health, healthy lifestyles and active leisure, employment and entrepreneurship, equal opportunities, family planning, active citizenship, volunteering and environmental awareness. In 2023, the Youth Strategy of the Harghita County Council was updated again and is currently being finalized; this strategy will be valid until 2030.

7. Talent Magnet youth space

The Harghita County Council considers it important to maintain direct contact with young people, as this is necessary to find the best possible solutions to the ever-changing needs at both the political and administrative levels. Involving young people in public life is a challenge, but last December the Harghita County Council inaugurated a youth space for young people in the county. Neither in the city of Miercurea Ciuc, nor in Harghita County had such a free-use youth space for young people been established before. The youth space, called Talent Magnet, is not big, but it can comfortably accommodate 20 young people on beanbags and seats and has free wifi. The space, located in the County Council building, can be used for a variety of purposes, such as meeting with friends, having a warm cup of coffee on cold winter days, waiting for the bus after school, student councils can hold their weekly meetings in a youthful environment, or simply sitting down for a friendly chat or a read. In the past months, there have been career guidance talks in the youth space, talking to successful young people and setting good examples, but the student councils also come out regularly to talk and organize events. The youth space is a way of bringing the administration closer and involving young people in community life.

8. "5letelő(brainstorming): old hospital - new perspective"

The Harghita County Council and the Municipality of Miercurea-Ciuc announced the public consultation "5letelő: old hospital - new perspective" in 2021. A total of 360 people submitted their suggestions for a new use for the old hospital and the public space at the back of the Mikó Castle. This initiative is a joint effort with the public to decide together on the new perspectives for the hospital. All the departments of the County Emergency Hospital of Miercurea-Ciuc would be relocated to a new space, thus transforming this area into one of the most active urban centers in Transylvania. Residents have made a variety of suggestions, including an adventure park, a retirement home, education and culture, a dog-walking center and incubators.

ALBANIA

Title: **"Green Albania" - An awareness campaign for green development in Albania**

Short Introduction: During 2022, the National Youth Congress in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana implemented "Tirana European Youth Capital 2022" title a macro program, where special attention was paid to health and environmental protection, green policies, sustainable development, and awareness initiatives for empowered and motivated young people to be more responsible for the environment. Within the many initiatives undertaken, a video-documentary has been produced, where the perspective, investments, priorities, and role that public institutions, youth organizations and private companies should have, unfold as a call for the future of green investments in the country. Coca-Cola Bottling Albania is among the investors who reflect an example to be followed, as well as a strategic partner of "Tirana European Youth Capital 2022". The focus on green investments serves us as a model that guides us on the importance of setting priorities and appropriate mechanisms by public institutions, such as to facilitate the implementation of sustainable investments in Albania.

What is done:

As a result of this cooperation and to serve as a booster for other companies operating in Albania, we showcased a video documentary highlighting the complex and multidimensional nature of green policies, which drives the need for cross-sectoral collaborations and strategies. In a conversation with the Mayor of Tirana Mr. Erion Veliaj, President of Coca-Cola Bottling Albania Mr. Luca Busi, Minister of Tourism and Environment Mrs. Mirela Kumbaro, Executive Director of the National Youth Congress Mrs. Dafina Peci and General Coordinator of the Tirana EYC 2022 program - NYC Aspasjana Kongo, we elaborated on the national and local policies, the impact of sustainability mechanisms and measures taken by companies with an environmental footprint, and the role of youth as driving force to promote this joint initiative that seeks to raise awareness on

these topics. The key stakeholders involved in this initiative highlight the need for strengthened cooperation between civil society organizations, the business community and young people, as key actors to advance the implementation of green policies in Albania.

The focus of the campaign was:

- Promoting the importance of green policies for sustainable development and cross-sectoral cooperation between different actors for their implementation.
- Sharing good practices.
- Promoting youth voices and youth-led initiatives that focus on green and sustainable development.

There is a lot to be done, and by joining forces we can start with:

- Supporting environmental education and awareness in youth-led initiatives.
- Investing in partnerships; engaging in dialogue, sharing knowledge and resources, and working together towards common environmental goals.
- Setting sustainability goals; establishing specific, measurable, and time-bound sustainability goals for our institutions and businesses.

Links, web, photos:

Video Documentary "Green Albania" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv8qIyd0uqg

Title: **'Youth for Socio-Ecological Transformation**

Short Introduction: One of the core projects and programs of NYC is the ''Youth for Socio-Ecological Transformation'' implemented in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Albania, a project from where intensive research and capacity building programs have been created to contribute to the empowerment of young people and the improvement of socio-ecological policies at the local level.

What is done:

In cooperation with 12 regions in Albania, through research of needs and prioritisation of socio economic and green transition, our experts have compiled 12 Manuals that serve as a backbone for advancing green policies in local level. The manuals serve as strategic documents at the local level with the aim of creating a new work culture, based on the principles of social-ecological transformation, the awareness of the public administration on this issue and on green policies.

The primary goal also remains the intensification of dialogue, cooperation between municipalities and local organizations, as well as the generation of ideas and potential solutions related to climate change and sustainable development. The manuals are policy documents that serve institutions, civil society organizations that work in the sector of public policies, environment and sustainable development, researchers, citizens, and young people to understand more about the current situation of social-ecological transformation in 12 Municipalities of Albania. Also, for existing initiatives and problems that are still present, enabling possible recommendations to improve the situation.

The "Youth for Socio-Ecological Transformation" project has made a significant impact in the field of sustainability through its various initiatives. Here are some insights into the project's contributions:

- Empowering Youth
- Enhancing Policy Awareness
- Promoting Dialogue and Cooperation
- Generating Innovative Solutions
- Informing Policy Recommendations
- Creating a New Work Culture

“Youth for Socio-Ecological Transformation" project has had a positive impact on sustainability by empowering youth, enhancing policy awareness, promoting dialogue and cooperation, generating innovative solutions, informing policy recommendations, and fostering a new work culture cantered around sustainability. These efforts contribute to building a more sustainable future and addressing the pressing environmental challenges we face today.

Links, web, photos:

https://krk.al/manualet-per-transformimin-socio-ekologjik/

https://krk.al/workshop-transformimi-socio-ekologjik/

https://krk.al/eko-sipermarrja-e-te-rinjve-per-te-ardhmen-e-ekonimise-se-gjelber/

Title: **Act@Environment: Active youth for a green European Albania**

Short Introduction:

Act@Environment: Active youth for a green European Albania is one of the most successful projects that has been implemented by the organization Centre for Legal Empowerment, within the

Tirana European Capital of Youth 2022 program with the financial support of the National Youth Congress in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana.

The general goal of the project is to inform, train and increase the awareness of young people aged 18-29 years regarding the protection of the environment to protect social economic rights and enjoy good physical and mental health.

Specific objectives:

1. Informing and making young people aware of environmental rights.
2. Encouraging community activation for environmental protection.
3. Promotion of community practices of environmental protection and circular and green economy.

What is done:

The project has contributed to the increase of young people's reactive capacities, with a focus on the students of the Faculties of Law in Tirana and Durrës on environmental rights, the consequences that come because of environmental damage and the positive effects of implementing circular and green economy models. Through the project, information and awareness campaigns were developed on a community basis and through social networks for young people living in Tirana, Vorë and Durrës, to address with the local government institutions, cases related to the protection of the environment and the financial and health advantages of development of economic activities that protect the environment.

Sustainability:

The results of the project create the prerequisites for the development of young lawyers who have the access and ability to pursue environmental issues of public interest, for the increase of the abilities of local communities to address their environmental problems and for the development of young entrepreneurs who apply economic models in environmental protection.

Links, web, photos:

https://cle.al/sq/vepromjedisi/

https://juristionline.al/informacione-ligjore/