

ESD COLLECTIVE ACTIONS OF STAKEHOLDERS AND UNIVERSITIES

To illustrate the 'power of us' the team of ESDEUS project collected some examples of joint actions between higher education institutions and a diversity of stakeholders. The collective actions coming from Poland, Sweden, Portugal and Italy.

URBAN FARM IN WROCŁAW (POLAND)

Wrocław is leading the way in Poland as the first city to launch an urban farm in the Swojczyce district. It is a cooperation among three partners: university, local government and its educational institutions, a civic organization. This innovative project aims to provide healthy, locally grown vegetables for the city's preschools and nursing homes while educating the community about sustainable agriculture and healthy eating.

OK!CLIMA (ITALY)

OK!Clima was created to promote correct and effective communication on issues related to climate change and ecological transition; it is a training project financed by the Cariplo Foundation and realized by the University of Milan, the University of Pavia and the Italian Climate Network association. It is promoted throughout Italy by the group of professionals and experts of Climate Media Center Italia and the scientific journal Scienza in rete.

BERGAMO – BIODISTRICT OF SOCIAL AGRICULTURE (ITALY)

The Bergamo Bio-District of Social Agriculture is a network of associations with a strong territorial value, which was established in November 2016 involving 18 cooperatives and organic farms in the province of Bergamo. A Bio-District is an area in which certified organic farms operate, but it is also a model of sustainable development that involves all local communities that want to act with respect for the environment and its resources.

In Bio-Districts, the production and sale of organic products is linked to the promotion of the territory and a green lifestyle. Inspired by the sense of unity and participation of the various protagonists (farmers, citizens, associations and institutions), the Bio-District decided to combine the economic aspect and the development of organic farming in the province of Bergamo with social commitment and the welfare of disadvantaged people, promoting job placement projects in the agricultural sector.

RE: IMAGINING CIRCULAR FASHION & SUSTAINABLE DESIGN (POLAND)

The aim of the "RE;" project is to educate about the concept of "sustainable fashion" and promote the basic form of its implementation, i.e. "circular economy." The creators and implementers of the project are four students of the DSW University of Lower Silesia. Why focus on Circular Fashion & Sustainable Design: the economy practices. It teaches how to solve textile waste problems, and the project's activities demonstrate that clothing is part of industry, culture and the consumer economy.

SÅ VILDA! – CHANGING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT WHILE LEARNING ABOUT BIODIVERSITY (SWEDEN)

Så vilda! is a project organized by the Gothenburg Botanical Garden with the purpose of creating pedagogical wildflower areas at local schools to promote both learning about biodiversity and also understanding the importance of local wildflowers. 15.000 students have had the chance to change their local environment while learning more about biodiversity, with a focus on plants and pollinating insects. The project can be linked to, among other things, the subject of biology in the primary and secondary school curriculum.

CULATRA 2030 – SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY (PORTUGAL)

The 'Culatra 2030 - Sustainable Energy Community' initiative is a project on the island of Culatra in Algarve, covering several aspects of green transition. It implements the ambitions of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) in Algarve, using a novel Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) to create a real-life laboratory for green transition, focusing on the specific needs of the island and capitalising on its assets. The key to its success is the 'quadruple helix' partnership model, involving the Autonomous Region of the Algarve, local authorities, the University of the Algarve, technology companies and the island's whole community.

THE BIG GREEN PROJECT (PORTUGAL)

This European initiative brings together associations and organizations to create, promote, and experiment with different and innovative ways to use art to promote sustainability. Sciaena, a non-governmental organization (NGO), is one of the partners in this consortium and collaborates with the Faro City Council to host events. The Mar Motto, Sciaena's annual artistic festival focused on ocean-related environmental awareness, was selected as one of the four festivals to showcase the work developed under the Big Green.

PERFORMING GREEN (SWEDEN)

This international workshop on methods of sustainability in artistic work for directors and scenographers was organized by ASSITEJ Sweden together with Folkteatern Gävleborg and TeaterAlliansen. ASSITEJ Sweden is described as a platform for people working in performing arts for children and young people. It consists of a wide array of stakeholders, such as actors, directors, set designers, playwrights, as well as theatre groups, organisations, and institutions. The aim was to commonly explore sustainability strategies from an artistic perspective.

- (...) While the benefits of collective action are clear, successful collaboration does not happen automatically. It requires mutual respect, shared goals and a willingness to embrace new models of engagement. Networks, which are almost universally seen as crucial in a world threatened by global challenges and thus requiring coordinated solutions, are not easy to build, develop and maintain.
- (...) Nevertheless, universities must be open to co-creating knowledge with stakeholders, moving beyond traditional top-down approaches to more horizontal, participatory methods. Similarly, stakeholders need to recognise the value that academic institutions bring, not only as sources of knowledge, but also as agents of change.
- (...) The journey toward a more sustainable world demands cooperation, creativity, and courage.
- (...) Education for Sustainable Development is a powerful tool to equip societies with the means to navigate this journey—but it cannot succeed in isolation. Through collective action between universities and stakeholders, we can transform ESD from an academic concept into a practical, impactful force for global change. Together, we can educate and empower people prepared to shape the future.

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► Partners:



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