

Newsletter #1



NEW PROJECT WILL CREATE AN "ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL FOR POLITICIANS"

"GoGreen" is a project co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme and its aim is to train decision-makers and public officers for better local environmental action.

Six partner institutions are involved in the project "GoGreen - Local Action for the EU Green Deal" and it will last 3 years. The main objective is to train decision-makers, public officers and consultants, at a local governance level, for the implementation of the European Green Deal and improve their environmental performance in general.

The consortium will produce **training courses** and materials on topics related to environmental local governance, such as water, waste, land use planning,

biodiversity, protection, communication and social mobilization.

The project will also produce a collaborative and **decision-support platform**, a collection of **environmental best practices** illustrated with concrete cases from all over Europe and a handbook to support **networking** and the search for funding. At the end of the project, by 2024, recommendations on local **environmental policies** and a layman's report will be published.

Face-to-face training sessions will be organized in each participating country, and the materials produced will be available free of charge and in several languages on the platform to be created, for any interested audience.

MEET THE PARTNERS

Three municipalities, two environmental NGOs and a research center will lead the project.

Municipality of Lousada (ML), Portugal: The ML is an institution of local public administration in Portugal that manages an area of 95 km² with about 50000 inhabitants.

Municipality of Zoersel (MZ), Belgium: MZ is a local authority in Flanders, Belgium located in the North of Belgium with approximately 22.000 inhabitants.

Municipality of Soto del Real, Spain: The Soto del Real city council is a local public administration with various areas of activity in municipal management that affect a fixed population of more than 9000 people, a figure that increases in vacation periods to about 20000 inhabitants.



ASPEA, Portugal: The Portuguese Association for Environmental Education (ASPEA), is a nationwide NGO with 1.200 associated members, including teachers, professors, researchers, biologists, sociologists, technicians and students from various fields related to the environment and sustainability.

Leave no Trace, Ireland: Leave No Trace is an environmental not-for-profit company made up of member organisations with a shared interest in encouraging responsible enjoyment of Ireland’s natural environment.

SYNTHESIS, Cyprus: SYNTHESIS Center for Research and Education Ltd is a pioneering organisation which initiates and implements projects of positive social impact, with a focus on social inclusion (particularly in the fields of employment, entrepreneurship, migrant integration, sustainable development).

THE EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH

The “GoGreen” project aspires to:

- Provide evidence-based solutions and inform the implementation of local initiatives boosting sustainability on key environmental issues.
- Facilitate a space for co-learning, sharing experiences and discussing possible solutions to improve local strategies in terms of the environmental performance.



- Provide evidence-based, accurate and validated information and resources, fighting misinformation that many times may affect the ability of staff to make adequate decisions.
- Create a network of “green local action” ambassadors, able to implement and replicate their learnings in their regions and across Europe.
- Disseminate the implementation of the EU Green Deal at a local level, through an innovative network of sharing and co-learning.





WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED

The partners have already started working - the first face-to-face meeting took place in Ireland in March.

The two-day event introduced the project partners to each other and provided an opportunity for each partner to discuss their experiences in environmental protection.

The project was presented to the partners, who then began the planning process and discussed collaboration.

Moreover, the responsibilities, tasks and duties of each partner were clarified, and next steps were established.

Leave No Trace Ireland, as hosts for the meeting, would like to thank all the local businesses in Westport town who helped to make our first exchange a great success, and for the “céad míle fáilte” shown to our guests. We would also like to thank Cllr Peter Flynn for joining us on our introduction day and for his invaluable input.



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