

greenACT

PREFACE

GreenACT is a 20 monthly' project designed to enhance the ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION and AWARENESS of YOUNG PEOPLE through the organisation of SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME to familiarize young people with the idea of environmental citizenship, based on the fact that the future depends on each and one of us by acting responsibly and positively towards our environment and developing sustainable solutions for addressing environmental challenges. In a period where Earth faces the consequences of climate change and global warming crisis and the need for mitigation of climate change is emerging, Green-ACT aims to support further these YOUTH INITIATIVES and raise more awareness in the 6 countries, by educating young people on environmental issues, inspire them in developing a firm ecological mind-set, and invite them to have a positive impact in their communities as active agents.

The partnership is composed of 6 partners from 6 countries: Romania, Lithuania, Cyprus, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Portugal Furthermore, it aims:

- To promote the idea of establishing SUMMER SCHOOLS for raising young people's environmental awareness;
- To set up the GreenACT MOVEMENT (a network of young activists) for coordinating their actions and engaging citizens;
- To build/increase the capacity of partner organizations to take action regarding the reduction of waste in the partner countries by encouraging local communities to recycle and reuse.
- To equip youth workers with new sustainable environmental skills in order to empower more young people;
- To facilitate brainstorming on challenges and possible solutions of topics such as alternative forms of socio-economy, biodiversity and food production, sustainable production and consumption, transport, etc.

The National Report template will be developed in each partner country with the purpose of presenting young people's knowledge and perceptions and the gaps in Environmental policies in each partner country. The following report is going to be based on the results gathered from the questionnaire and the desk research that were conducted in each partner country. The National Report template follows the below given structure, proposed by the Intellectual Output leader partner, D.G.T. Association, in order to allow an easier comparability of reported information and outcomes across GreenACT partner countries and includes the following chapters (that each will have 3 subchapters) :

- Chapter 1: Survey findings based on the environmental issues and protection in Bulgaria



- Chapter 2: Desktop research results detailed as well as the background research on the policies in Bulgaria
- Chapter 3: Conclusions and further impact on a national level in Bulgaria



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The key findings of the conducted survey are outlined in the first chapter of this report as follows:

- Most of the Bulgarian youngsters consider themselves rather well educated on environmental topics.
- Ecological awareness is considered very important by the participants in the survey.
- The vast majority of the target group is usually trying to include in their life some beneficial for the environment actions.
- The percentage of young adults who do not sort out their domestic waste is quite high.
- The numbers of participants using eco-shopping bags, recycled products and participating in trees-planting activities are rather alarmingly low.

Many believe climate issues are influencing their life and some have shared some examples of it.

Chapter 2 includes the results from the survey regarding the current ecology policies and the gaps in them as follows:

- The percent of Bulgarian cities who are equipped with separate containers for separate waste disposal, recycling points and drinkable tap water is in most cases above average.
- Participants determine Air Pollution, polluted lakes and rivers, waste in parks, streets, alleys, etc. and Illegal deforestation and logging as the main ecological problems in their areas. Most participants have supported their answers with examples.
- The target group supported their answers by determining the main responsible bodies for the pollution, the main ones fighting against it. They have also given advice on how we can improve the environmental awareness among the local community.



- Almost all participants are not aware of any companies that deal with environmental issues through their production or services.
- Most participants do not agree, or are neutral, with whether the Bulgarian government has implemented the EU's policy related to changes in the circular economy, waste management and climate change and the policy for the protection, preservation and consolidation of natural capital.
- The vast majority of respondents believe Bulgaria's 17- sustainable development goals are important but more than 83% have not noticed any changes in the country related to them.
- The European Green Deal, EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and The Innovation Fund have been determined as the most popular policies amongst the respondents, even though 45% of the participants were not aware of any of the listed in the survey policies.
- Air Pollution, polluted lakes and rivers and waste in certain areas, such as parks, streets, alleys, etc. are determined as the 3 main causes of pollution at local level.
- The target group believes that the main 3 causes of the listed pollution issues are industries and factories, human activities through urbanization and the local authorities while the 3 main bodies solving the pollution problems are believed to be social initiatives and active civic participation, people and NGOs.

In chapter 2, can also be found the following best practice, chosen by WalkTogether team as the best one being implemented in Bulgaria:

- *Let's clean Bulgaria together* is the largest volunteer initiative in the country, which aims to build public awareness on issues related to environmental protection and to make Bulgaria cleaner.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IN BULGARIAN

Основните констатации от проведеното проучване са отбелязани в първата глава на този доклад, както следва:

- Повечето български младежи се смятат за доста добре образовани по екологичните теми.
- Екологичното самосъзнание се счита за много важно от участниците в проучването.
- По -голямата част от целевата група обикновено се опитва да включи в ежедневието си някои полезни за околната среда действия.
- Процентът на младежите, които не сортират битовите си отпадъци, е доста висок.
- Броят на участниците, използващи еко торбички при пазаруване, рециклирани продукти и участващи в дейности като засаждане на дървета, е доста тревожно нисък.

Мнозина вярват, че проблемите с климата влияят върху живота им и някои са споделили по няколко примера за това.

Глава 2 включва резултатите от проучването относно настоящите екологични политики и пропуските в тях, както следва:

- Процентът на българските градове, които са оборудвани с отделни контейнери за разделно изхвърляне на отпадъци, пунктове за рециклиране, и чиято вода от чешмата се счита за питейна, в повечето случаи е над средния.
- Участниците определят замърсяването на въздуха, замърсените езера и реки, отпадъците в паркове, улици, алеи и т.н. и незаконното обезлесяване и сечта като основни екологични проблеми в своите райони. Повечето участници са подкрепили отговорите си с примери.
- Целевата група също така е предложила съвети свързани с това как можем да подобрим екологичната осведоменост сред местната общност.



- Почти всички участници не са запознати с компании, които се занимават с екологични проблеми чрез своето производство или услуги.
- Повечето участници не са съгласни или са неутрални с това дали българското правителство е приложило политиката на ЕС, свързана с промените в кръговата икономика, управлението на отпадъците и изменението на климата, и политиката за опазване, опазване и консолидиране на природния капитал.
- По-голямата част от анкетираните смятат, че 17-те цели на България за устойчиво развитие са важни, но повече от 83% не са забелязали промени в страната, свързани с тях.
- Европейската зелена сделка, Схемата за търговия с емисии на ЕС (EU ETS) и Фондът за иновации са определени като най - популярните политики сред отговорилите, въпреки че 45% от участниците са споделили, че не са запознати с никоя от изброените в проучването политики.
- Замяряването на въздуха, замърсените езера и реки и отпадъците в определени райони, като паркове, улици, алеи и т.н., се определят като 3 основни причини за замърсяване на местно ниво.
- Целевата група смята, че основните 3 причини за изброените проблеми със замърсяването са промишлеността и заводите, човешката дейност чрез урбанизация и местните власти, докато се смята, че трите основни органа, решаващи проблемите със замърсяването, са социални инициативи и активно гражданско участие, хора и неправителствените организации.

В глава 2 може да бъдат намерена и следната екологична добра практика, избрани от екипа на WalkTogether като най -добрата, прилагана в България, въз основа на предишни проучвания:

- *Да изчистим България заедно* е най-голямата доброволческа инициатива в страната, която има за цел да изгради обществена осведоменост по въпроси, свързани с опазването на околната среда и да направи България по-чиста.



INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this National report is to analyze the Survey findings on the topic of environmental protection based on the answers of young people in Bulgaria and provide methodological support in the development of specialized instruments for sustainable education. The report is intended for non-profit organizations and educational institutions. The report is prepared within the project “GreenACT”, coordinated by ASOCIATIA D.G.T in partnership with 5 European non-profit organizations and co-financed by the Erasmus + program “Strategic partnerships for youth.”

In order to support the data provided in this report, Association Walktogether distributed a questionnaire, which aims at outlining the current knowledge of Bulgaria’s youth, when it comes to environmental issues and policies. The most common ways of spreading the news for this survey, which we used were:

- Through the organisation’s blog/website
- Through Facebook and Messenger
- Through Instagram
- Through newsletters

The survey has been answered by 31 people between 18 and 30 years. We managed to keep gender balance while distributing the survey. 15 out of the 31 answers on the survey came from females and 16 were from males. The age groups were distributed almost equally with the majority of participants in the survey being aged between 20-25 years, followed by the age group of 25 to–30-year-old. We got the least answers from people aged between 18-20, only 5. More than half of the participants are currently only working or working and studying. 11 people identified themselves as unemployed students.

The following report includes executive summaries (in English and national language), an introduction part, 2 Main chapters, concluding remarks and further impact.

1. SURVEY FINDINGS ON THE TOPIC OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BASED ON THE ANSWERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN BULGARIA

Key findings of Chapter 1:

- Most of the Bulgarian youngsters consider themselves rather well educated on environmental topics.
- Ecological awareness is considered very important by the participants in the survey.
- The vast majority of the target group is usually trying to include in their life some beneficial for the environment actions.
- The percentage of young adults who do not sort out their domestic waste is quite high.
- The numbers of participants using eco-shopping bags, recycled products and participating in trees-planting activities are rather alarmingly low.
- Many believe climate issues are influencing their life and some have shared some examples of it.



1.1. SURVEY FINDINGS IN BULGARIA

A survey on the topic of climate action and environmental sustainability was performed between April and July 2021 in Bulgaria and it is used in this report as a statistics that can provide us base for research and analysis to identify the level of knowledge young people have on various environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, waste management, energy consumption, ecological problems and policies.

The data collected provides the following information:

- When asked young people how they would mark their knowledge on ecology, the majority gave themselves a 4 out of 5 points. This is giving the general overview that youth have good understanding on the topic. The elementary school system in the country includes classes that are on the topic of ecology and fostering awareness and knowledge on the key environmental elements nature, water and air.
- Due to that, many young people can evaluate the importance of tackling ecological issues and being active in providing solutions and policies at local, national and European level. Almost 65% of them consider being aware of the current ecological problems vital and important.
- On the scale of 1 to 5, 41% of the participants shared that they take actions, aiming at improving the wellbeing of the environment on usual basis. Almost 13% always aim at performing gestures of goodness towards the environment.
- However, despite of the answers above, almost 40% of the youngsters do not sort out their domestic garbage or do it rarely.

There is a problem because the indicator is very low and other surveys on the topic performed provide data that there are slightly more men than women among them, with a predominance of people with higher education, especially in rural and large cities. As a main reason for not doing so, they stated that they do not have the necessary infrastructure for separate collection (64%). In particular, this means that there are not enough of containers nearby the community/private houses and another problem is that there are no specialized companies for this purpose or that even if there are, they work clumsily. For about one-fifth (21%) the obstacle is that there is no supply, or if there is, they are expensive, of composters, bins for separate collection, etc. (statistics provided by a survey done by "Nielsen Admosphere Bulgaria", 2021). Once a person has started collecting and disposing of waste separately, they are more likely to continue to do so on a regular basis.

- On a positive note, more than 90% of young adults know the definition of the term “loss of biodiversity”.

The biodiversity has been declining in recent years at an alarming rate. One of the main reasons is the activities of people who change the way they use land and destroy habitats, pollute the air, sea and land, and contribute to climate change with their emissions.

- When it comes to how often participants are using environmentally friendly shopping bags, neither sides of the spectrum prevails significantly. We can notice similar trends when talking about the frequency of using recycled products as only about 30% of the young people are using recycled products.



According to the National Statistic Institute, over 26,000 tons of bags, pouches, sachets and funnels were produced in Bulgaria. The trend is upward - a year earlier they were two thousand tons less. Statistics from the Ministry of Environment and Water on their use show that every Bulgarian uses 1.25 bags a day, which means that nearly 3.2 billion of them are used every year. The large number of bags in Bulgaria is only a small part of the problem. The point is that they are almost not recycled - experts say less than one percent recovery.

- Alarmingly low are the rates of how frequent the target group is taking part in activities related with planting trees and other ecological initiatives. More than 25% have shared that they never participate in such. The same attitude can be noticed when it comes to how often the target group engages in throwing away street trash that is not theirs.
- Almost half of the participants in the survey, 45,2% believe that climate changes are influencing their lifestyle. Some shared that “the changes in the climate we were once used to are negatively influencing our body”, “due to the changing weather, food diversity is decreasing”, “In Bulgaria, years ago there were four seasons. At the moment it passes from winter to summer and I think it's only our fault.”

From the survey we can conclude that, the level of knowledge on the ecology issues is sufficient, but (young) people are from diminutively active to completely passive when it comes to taking initiatives, using recycle materials and sorting garbage. The results of the study also show that young people have a positive attitude and a desire to rethink their habits in the direction of a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

1.2. FUTURE IMPACT OF THOSE FINDINGS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE YOUNG POPULATION IN BULGARIA

It is easily noticeable that the majority of participants consider themselves educated on the current environmental issues. However, even though the numbers we see on the graphics are quite promising, we should not allow them to distract our focus from the few, but present, percent of the target group, who are not so confident in their knowledge or consider to not have any whatsoever. The alarmingly low numbers of young adults, who have shared they are not using eco-friendly shopping bag alternatives, recycled products, etc. is an indicator of where the existing gaps in the target group's priorities are laying. Nevertheless, this gives the GreenACT project an in-depth view of what needs to be taught and changed in our target group's everyday life. That way, we can assure the significance of the future impact, which our activities will have on the young adults, as they will be based not only on this desk research, but also on future findings along the way.

The high percentage of participants who see the importance in being aware of the current threats to the environment is positively influencing our future expectations. The high interest and current knowledge of environmental issues show motivation and likely future interest of the target group in learning more and improving

2. DESKTOP RESEARCH RESULTS DETAILED AS WELL AS THE BACKGROUND RESEARCH ON THE POLICIES IN BULGARIA

Key findings of Chapter 2:

- The percent of Bulgarian cities who are equipped with separate containers for separate waste disposal, recycling points and drinkable tap water is in most cases above average



- Participants determine Air Pollution, polluted lakes and rivers, waste in parks, streets, alleys, etc. and Illegal deforestation and logging as the main ecological problems in their areas. Most participants have supported their answers with examples.
- The target group supported their answers by determining the main responsible bodies for the pollution, the main ones fighting against it. They have also given advice on how we can improve the environmental awareness among the local community
- Almost all participants are not aware of any companies that deal with environmental issues through their production or services
- Most participants do not agree, or are neutral, with whether the Bulgarian government has implemented the EU's policy related to changes in the circular economy, waste management and climate change and the policy for the protection, preservation and consolidation of natural capital
- The vast majority of respondents believe Bulgaria's 17- sustainable development goals are important but more than 83% have not noticed any changes in the country related to them
- The European green deal, EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and The Innovation Fund have been determined as the most popular policies amongst the respondents, even though 45% of the participants were not aware of any of the listed in the survey policies
- Air Pollution, polluted lakes and rivers and waste in certain areas, such as parks, streets, alleys, etc. are determined as the 3 main causes of pollution at local level

2.1. DESKTOP RESEARCH IN BULGARIA

- More than 90,3% of the youth share there are separate containers for separate waste disposal in their cities. only 2 have shared there aren't and only 1 does not know.
- When it comes to their cities being equipped with recycling points, more than 50% have shared they are not aware if such exist, 45% share there are and 3% say there are not any points.
- More than 83% of the participants have drinkable tap water in the city they live in, while 12,9% do not know if the water's quality is good for drinking.
- The popularization of alternative transport is rather frequent. 13 participants share above average rate of popularization, while 9 are reporting it never or very rarely happens.

When it comes to determining the 3 main causes of pollution at local level, the following 4 options received the most points:

- Air Pollution
- Polluted lakes and rivers
- Waste in certain areas, such as parks, streets, alleys, etc.
- Illegal deforestation and logging

They have supported their answers above by giving reasons such as “Green areas are being built up and there are not enough containers.”, “I live in a city where the air pollution is very high due to the mines and chimneys. There are often dark clouds over the city, which causes air pollution. There is no green area in front of my block, but a car park.” and “The low level of industrial culture aimed at minimizing environmental pollution”.



The target group believes that the main 3 causes of the listed pollution issues are:

- Industries and factories
- Human activities through urbanization
- The local authorities

On the other side of the spectrum, the participants believe that the following 3 are the main bodies solving the pollution problems:

- Social initiatives and active civic participation
- People
- NGOs

There is unanimity on the need for local authorities to do something to improve environmental recognition. 29 young adults believe the leaders at a local level should take action on raising more awareness on pollution.

Almost 50% of them are positive they can influence the local policies regarding pollution. Below are the answers on how to improve the environmental awareness among the local community:

- Lessons, events, workshops
- Purchase of recyclable products, reduction of cars, ban on house heating with coal
- Strict sanctions
- Regulations at the municipal level
- More containers for separate collection.
- Campaigns to encourage recycling people.

However, more than 93% of the participants are not aware of companies that deal with environmental issues through their production or services. One person has shared that they believe all companies have environmental policies, but most of them use this as part of their business model or marketing.

At national level, the 3 main environmental problems in Bulgaria have been determined to be:

- Polluted lakes and rivers
- Illegal deforestation
- Air Pollution

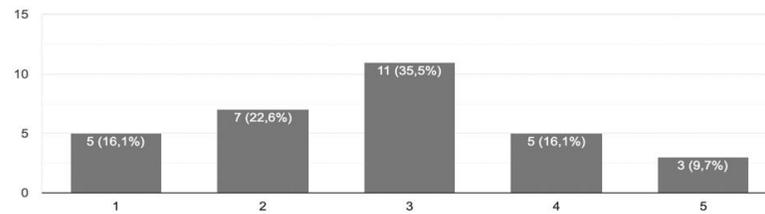
Several proposed solutions to help solve the above-mentioned problems of their choice are:

- Bigger fines, law enforcement, stricter laws
- More treatment plants for seas and lakes.
- Waste nets on each pipe from which water is discharged into large pools.
- Reduce the consumption of plastic and paper
- A machine that gives pennies when a plastic bottle is put in it

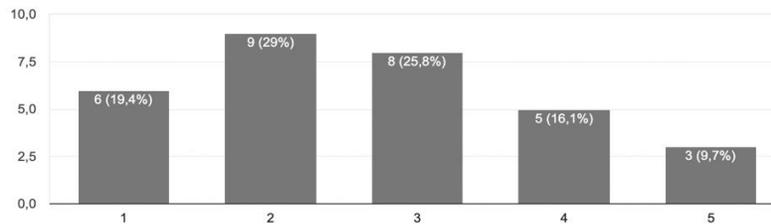
The distribution of answers to the question "Do you think that the government in Bulgaria has implemented the EU policy on environmental protection related to changes in the circular economy, waste management and climate change?" is as follows:



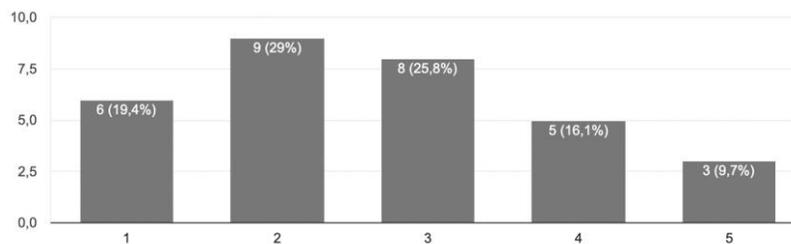
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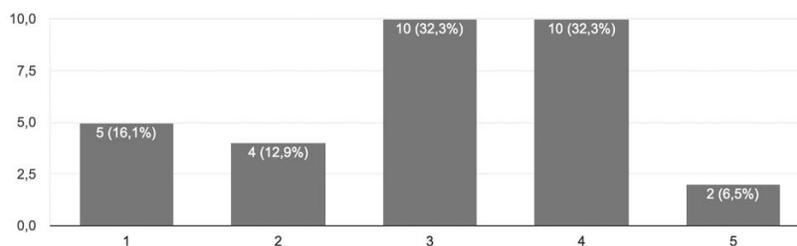
The distribution of answers to the question "Do you think that the government in Bulgaria has implemented the EU policy for environmental protection related to the protection, preservation and consolidation of natural capital?" is as follows:



The distribution of answers to the question "Do you think that the government in Bulgaria implements the EU policy for environmental protection related to health insurance and quality of life of citizens?" is as follows:



More than 70% of the respondents believe they are somewhat capable of influencing the national environmental policies. Only 5 believe they will not be able to do so.



The most popular ecological initiatives in the European Union amongst the respondents are:

- The European green deal
- EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS)
- The Innovation Fund

However, more than 45% of the participants are not at all aware of any of the listed EU initiatives.



54% of the respondents believe that Bulgaria's 17- sustainable development goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) are very important. 29% find them somewhat important and 16,1% are neutral.

26 respondents believe they have not noticed any changes in Bulgaria related to the above-mentioned goals for sustainable development. Only 8 people, or 25,8%, have.

2.2. BACKGROUND RESEARCH ON THE POLICIES IN BULGARIA

Review of EU environmental policy: key aspects in Bulgaria

Bulgaria has made significant improvements in its environmental performance since joining the EU in 2007. Although Bulgarian legislation correctly reflects the environmental requirements agreed at EU level, their implementation in practice still remains a challenge. Air quality continues to be a major concern.

Construction in Natura 2000 sites, poor integration of nature conservation and biodiversity policies into other sectoral policies, weak administration, and a lack of adequate management plans and objectives for the protection of Natura 2000 sites are some of the main threats to nature and biological diversity in Bulgaria.

The first river basin management plans show significant gaps, which are evident from the very low levels of connectivity and treatment of urban wastewater. However, the indicators for drinking water in Bulgaria reach high levels of compliance, and over 90% of bathing water is of good and excellent quality.

Main challenges

The main challenges Bulgaria is facing in implementing EU environmental policy and legislation are:

- ensuring better protection of human health by implementing effective and efficient solutions to reduce air pollution;
- providing and implementing the investments necessary to ensure proper collection and treatment of urban wastewater;
- Effective implementation of environmental legislation.

These encounters has been also emphasis by the research performed within the “youth agents” survey.

Main opportunities

With relatively modest efforts, Bulgaria could better deal with problems for which there is already a solid base of knowledge and good practices. These relate in particular to:

- ensuring the implementation of the adopted Waste Management Plan and Program for the prevention of waste, including measures to close and rehabilitate all non-compliant landfills and to apply the "pay when you throw" principle;
- integration of the policy for protection of nature and biodiversity in other sectoral policies and determination of nature protection goals and measures for the adequate protection of the Natura 2000 sites and their effective management.

Achievements

In the areas where Bulgaria has a leading position in the implementation of environmental legislation, we can share innovative approaches on a larger scale with other countries. Specific examples include:

- Bulgaria has adopted a well-structured and coherent Waste Management Plan, used as a model by other Member States.
- Bulgaria achieves almost 100% compliance with the quality of its drinking water.



Review of the Implementation of Environmental Policies

Circular economy

The transition of our economies from a linear to a circular model provides an opportunity to rethink and become more sustainable and competitive. In return, this will stimulate investment and contribute to both short-term and long-term benefits for the economy, the environment and the citizens. Up to now, Bulgaria does not have a comprehensive circular economy policy program. Despite the growing demand for environmentally friendly products and services, stakeholders still refrain from investing in these areas.

Waste Management

Bulgaria should emphasize its commitment to separate collection of waste in order to increase recycling rates and give priority to separate collection of bio-waste. The aim is to increase composting levels, to mobilize investment for the first steps in the waste hierarchy and to avoid overcapacity in the processing of residual waste; with priority to take measures to close landfills for non-compliant waste and to apply the "pay when throw away" principle.

Environmental protection

Bulgaria must complete the process of specifying Natura 2000 protection areas, introduce protection goals and measures for the places, provide sufficient resources to preserve or restore species and habitats of Community interest to a favorable conservation status in their natural habitat, as well as to ensure the effective management of Natura 2000 places.

Waste quality and management

According to the initial governmental plans for river basin management, only 47.2% of natural surface water basins have good or high ecological status, and 34% of highly modified or artificial water basins have good or high ecological potential. However, significant shortcomings in these plans show inadequacies in the monitoring system, the assessment of adverse effects and the methodologies for classifying the status of water basins. As a result, there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the adverse effects and the condition and effectiveness of the measurement programs.

Air pollution

Measurements show that Bulgarian citizens throughout the country breathe air that is considered harmful to health, which has significant economic consequences for the labor productivity and the health care system. Although overall concentrations of PM2.5 and PM10 have decreased over the years, they remain much higher than the limit values set by the EU and the World Health Organization. Bulgaria has the highest concentrations of PM2.5 in urban areas among all 27 EU countries, as well as the highest concentrations of PM10.

This makes Bulgaria the EU country with the highest share of external costs related to air pollution, which leads to the loss of over 2 million working days and over 11 thousand cases of premature death per year.

In general, the Bulgarian legislation establishes a clear system for access to justice in environmental matters. However, unstable policies and a lack of trust in key public institutions, such as the judiciary, constitute significant obstacles for investments in the Bulgarian economy. Corruption remains a serious problem and the response of national authorities to this problem continues to be hampered by weak and fragmented institutions. Bulgaria is lagging behind in implementing



the INSPIRE Directive, which would provide a favorable framework for the active dissemination of environmental information to the public.

Taking into consideration our previous research, the Walktogether team has concluded the following practice for the best one, currently being implemented in Bulgaria:

Name of the practice	Let's clean Bulgaria together
Responsible organisation/public body	bTV Media Group
Website	https://dobriatprimer.btv.bg/daizchistim/
Summary	The campaign "Let's clean Bulgaria together" of bTV Media Group is the largest volunteer initiative in the country, which aims to build public awareness on issues related to environmental protection and to make Bulgaria cleaner and more beautiful in the long run. The emblematic campaign ranks Bulgaria leading among the countries with the best volunteer practices in environmental care in the world.
Target group	Bulgarians; age is not specified
Geographical location	Bulgaria
Reached audience/number of participants	350 organisations and institutions each year. Since the beginning of "Let's clean Bulgaria together", nearly 2,500,000 volunteers have cleaned the country.
Results of the practice	According to the Ministry of Ecology, so far the volunteers have managed to collect 94,338 tons of waste, which is equivalent to more than 200 fully loaded Boeing 747 aircraft and to remove more than 18,800 landfills from the face of Bulgaria.

3. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FURTHER IMPACT

Judging from our experience in spreading this survey in order to reach an audience, as wide as possible, we have the following remarks about possible ways of spreading future deliverable of the GreenACT project amongst an even share of the target group.

Social media was heavily relied on, however, judging by our experience and the way we shared the research, it is much more likely to reach a wider audience throughout more interactive forms of media.

Taking all of it into consideration, while performing future campaigns, aiming at improving youngsters' environmental knowledge, we suggest the following methods:

- Creating podcasts
- Spreading leaflets
- Contacting social media influencers, who share the ideas of the programme
- Billboards



- TV commercials

The suggested ways are not necessarily never used before. They have been selected by analysing the main sources of information for the youngsters, as well as the most accessible and reasonable methods for the responsible organization. Those concluding remarks, regarding effective ways of reaching the target group of the project, are suitable to be used in the future of the GreenACT project, when sharing educational materials, aiming at reaching the needs of environmental education of some youngsters, outlined in chapter 1.

The Desk research also provides an overview of the key findings of the survey regarding the gaps related to the environmental policies in Bulgaria. The gaps outlined in chapter 2 can serve as strong grounds for creating a programme, aiming at improving the current situation in Bulgaria. Bulgaria has strengthened its legal framework for environmental protection and sustainable development. Nevertheless, since 2007, the European Commission has opened 54 infringement procedures against Bulgaria, for 3 of which the country was taken to the European Court of Justice for not sufficiently implementing and enforcing the environmental legislation.

Currently, no effective system exists to monitor the implementation of environmental policy documents (strategies, programmes and plans) across the country. Environmental authorities have difficulties fulfilling the monitoring obligations, in particular in terms of producing regular progress reports on the implementation of the various overarching and specialized national and subnational environmental policy documents. This significantly limits coordinated and transparent policy documents implementation. The Government maintains a website with all national-level policy documents, including those related to sustainable development and environmental protection (www.strategy.bg)

