

greenACT

PREFACE

GreenACT is a 20 months' project designed to enhance ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION and AWARENESS of YOUNG PEOPLE through the organization 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 environment issues and protection in Lithuania
- Chapter 2: Desktop research results detailed as well as the background research on the policies in Lithuania
- Chapter 3: Conclusions and further impact on a national level in Lithuania

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IN LITHUANIAN	5
INTRODUCTION	6
1. SURVEY FINDINGS ON THE TOPIC OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BASED ON THE ANSWERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LITHUANIA	7
1.1. Survey findings in Lithuania	7
1.2. Future impact of those findings and knowledge of the young population in Lithuania	14
2. DESKTOP RESEARCH RESULTS DETAILED AS WELL AS THE BACKGROUND RESEARCH ON THE POLICIES IN LITHUANIA	15
2.1. Desktop Research in Lithuania	15
2.2. Background research on the policies in Lithuania	22
3. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FURTHER IMPACT	23

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As previous research show, there are still many environmental challenges that the Lithuanian government must overcome in order to ensure the implementation of the European Union's international obligations in the regulation of waste, nature and water. However, it is not only the goals set by the national or local government that are important, but also the extent to which the country's population understands the environment and is committed to implementing its principles daily. In order to find out the current situation, a survey of 18-30 year olds in Lithuania was conducted (45 participants in total).

The first section of the report presents the findings based on the results of the survey. First of all, it is important to note that Lithuanian youth are interested in ecology and consider it a very important part of life. The accumulated knowledge is applied in everyday practice - most of the respondents indicated that they choose material bags, sort garbage and use recycled products. For some of them, it's a kind of fashion, like the particularly popular eco-friendly bags with funny quotes on them. Despite the fact that a significant part of the respondents are aware of the threat of climate change and notice changes that have already taken place or are still ongoing, only a smaller part still participates in nature saving initiatives. There is no doubt that encouraging initiative and activism could be a priority for young people.

The second section mentions the largest project in Lithuania - "We are doing". The organizers of the project aim to create a clean environment and public awareness, which would allow to solve the existing waste problem in the country effectively. It is noticeable that both young people and older people are joining this project.

Finally, the third section provides an overview of possible solutions to environmental problems. These would be raising public awareness from a very young age, introducing the issues to the public, bigger fines for doing for harming nature, investing more in water infrastructure, and encouraging the society to buy less polluting (electric) cars.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IN LITHUANIAN

Kaip rodo anksčiau atlikti tyrimai, tebėra gausu aplinkosaugos iššūkių, kuriuos turi įveikti Lietuvos vyriausybė, siekdama užtikrinti tarptautinių Europos Sąjungos įsipareigojimų įgyvendinimą atliekų, gamtos ir vandens sričių tvarkos reguliavime. Vis dėlto labai svarbu ne tik tai, kokius tikslus išsikelia nacionalinė ar lokali valdžia, o ir tai, kiek šalies gyventojai supranta apie aplinkosaugą, kiek yra pasiryžę įgyvendinti jos principus kasdienybėje. Siekiant išsiaiškinti dabartinę situaciją, atlikta 18-30 metų Lietuvos gyventojų apklausa (imtis – 45 dalyviai).

Pirmajame ataskaitos skyriuje pateikiamos išvados, paremtos apklausos rezultatais. Pirmiausiai svarbu pastebėti, kad Lietuvos jaunimas domisi ekologija ir laiko ją labai svarbia gyvenimo dalimi. Sukauptos žinios pritaikomos kasdienėje praktikoje – dauguma apklaustųjų nurodė besirenkantys medžiaginius maišelius, rūšiuojantys šiukšles bei naudojantys perdirbtą produkciją. Daliai jų tai yra tam tikra mada, pavyzdžiui, ypač populiarūs ekologiški maišeliai su šmaikščiomis citatomis ant jų. Nepaisant to, kad reikšminga apklaustųjų dalis suvokia klimato kaitos grėsmę bei fiksuoja jau įvykusius ar tebevykstančius pokyčius, vis dėlto tik mažesnė dalis dalyvauja gamtai saugoti skirtose iniciatyvose. Neabejotina, kad iniciatyvumo ir aktyvumo skatinimas galėtų tapti prioritetu įtraukiant jaunimą.

Antrajame skyriuje minimas didžiausias projektas Lietuvoje – „Darom“. Projekto organizatoriai siekia švarios aplinkos kūrimo bei visuomenės sąmoningumo, kuris leistų šalyje egzistuojančią atliekų problemą spręsti efektyviai. Pastebima, kad prie šio projekto jungiasi tiek jaunimas, tiek vyresni žmonės.

Galiausiai trečiajame skyriuje apžvelgiami galimi su aplinkosauga susijusių problemų sprendimo būdai. Tai būtų visuomenės sąmoningumo ugdymas nuo mažumės, spręstinių klausimų pristatymas visuomenei, didesnės baudos už gamtos niokojimą, didesnės investicijos į vandens infrastruktūrą, galimybių įsigyti mažiau taršius (elektrinius) automobilius didinimas.

INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this National report is to present Young People's attitudes towards climate crisis, eco-lifestyle, and the current environmental policies in the 6 countries by presenting:

- The questionnaire's data on the topic of environmental protection and awareness based on the answers of young people in Cyprus.
- The desktop research findings on gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness in the 5 partner countries and whether there are any good practices or not.

The National Report will lead to the development of a targeted FRAMEWORK (IO1) indicating the objectives, topics, and learning outcomes of a ready-to-use EDUCATIONAL PACK to be used by youth workers consisting of learning material to be offered on/offline with teaching guidelines, videos, and presentations for training young people on environmental issues (climate change, global warming, water scarcity, droughts, deforestation, pollution, eco-friendly lifestyle, sustainable urban cities, and eco-activism).

The survey was answered by 45 young people (18-30 years old). Respondents were asked about the climate change, biodiversity, waste management, green living, energy consumption. Respondents both expressed their views and shared experiences and suggested possible solutions to environmental problems.

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 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BASED ON THE ANSWERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LITHUANIA

Key findings of Chapter 1:

- 1) Most of Lithuanian young people have some knowledge on environment themes.
- 2) Young people in Lithuania are confident in adopting an eco-lifestyle (most of them use eco-bags etc.). Also, it's like a trend between young people to have a tote bag with a cool quote on it.
- 3) Young people sort out trash which is considered highly effective for environment.
- 4) Most of the respondents have knowledge on how climate is today and what impact they feel nowadays.
- 5) The most regretting side of the results was that very little number of people participate in planting activities or other environmental initiatives. That shows young people passive behavior towards environment.
- 6) Young people believe that climate issues are influencing their life and have shared their experiences of climate change.

1.1. Survey findings in Lithuania

Regarding the survey, an easy-to-understand questionnaire was developed targeting 18-30 years old, with multiple choice and close-ended questions, for testing the knowledge of young people on a variety of issues related to the environment, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, waste management, energy consumption, green living

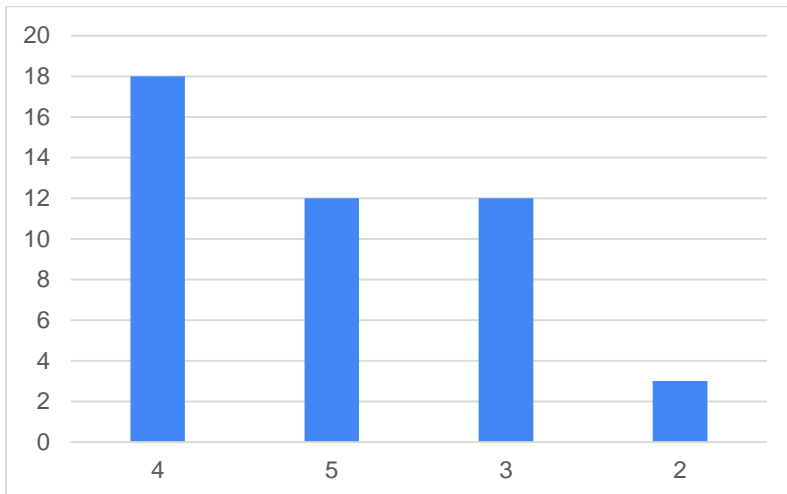
The survey has been answered by 45 people between 18 and 30 years (13 males and 34 females) with the most responders to be between 25-30 years old (11respondents), followed by the age group of 20-25 years old (15 responders) and 18-20 years old (19 responder). Most of the survey participants were employees (24 out of 45), followed by students (4 out of 45) and 4 unemployed person (4 out of 45). More than half of the participants are currently only studying at universities, colleges or working and studying. 14 people identified themselves as working full time workers.

The most common ways of spreading the survey for collecting answers, were:

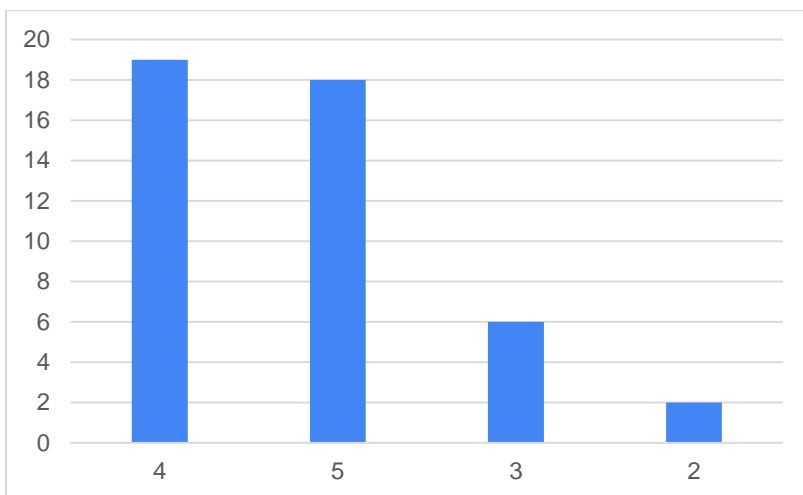
- Through the organization 'organization's Facebook page.
- Through mail.
- Through Instagram app.
- Through WhatsApp and Telegram apps.

The main problems which were encountered during the distribution of the questionnaire is that many young people weren't interesting in participating in this survey and lack of knowledge about climate crisis, eco- lifestyle, global warming, and endangered species.

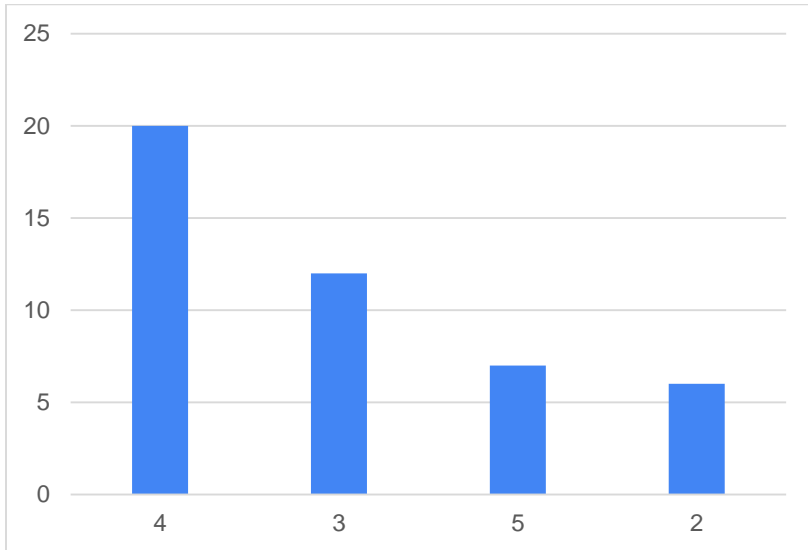
- The first question asked was about how the respondents would mark their knowledge and understanding on ecology. Majority of people marked 4 out of 5 points. The smaller piece of people answered 3 and 2 out of 5 points. It confirms that young people are interested in ecology as such.



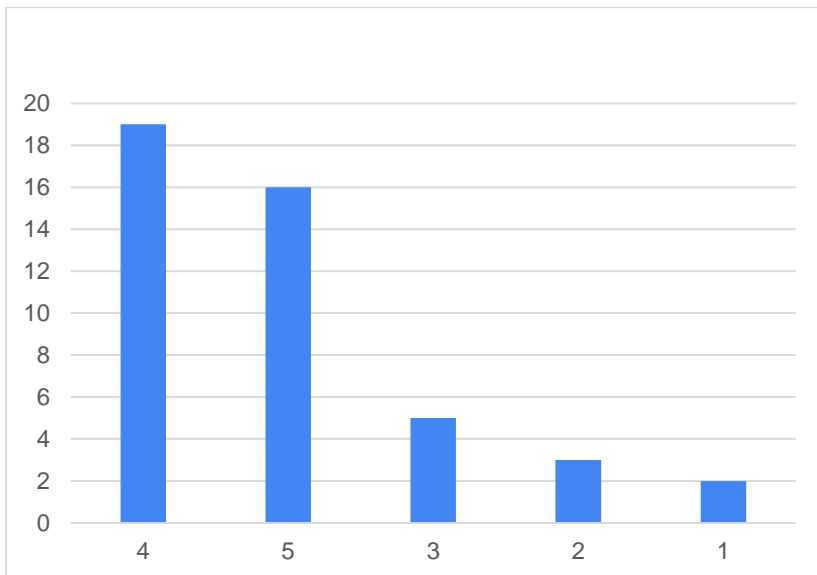
- The second question was about how much it's important for you to be aware of ecological problems. Majority of correspondents marked 4 and 5 points which shows that it's important for them. No doubts, that considering ecology as important part of the life is a way to ensure positive changes.



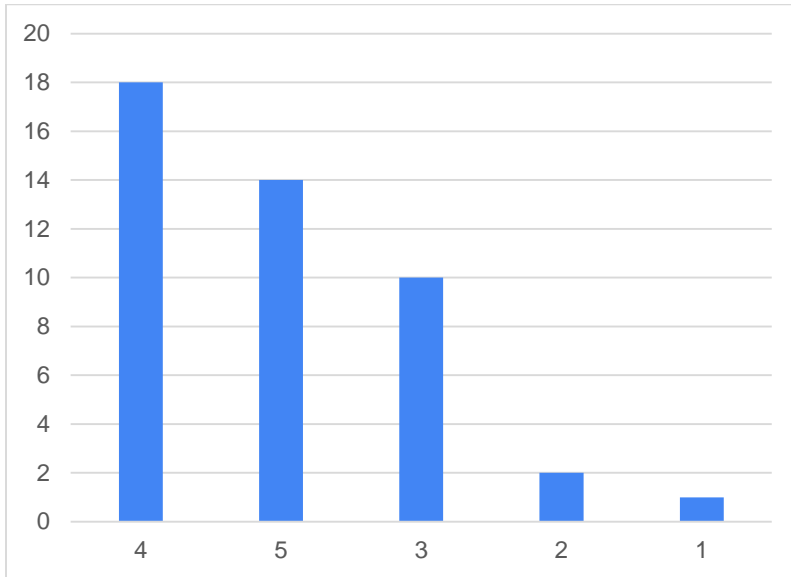
- On a scale 1-5 majority of the participants shared that they take actions, aiming at improving the wellbeing of the environment on usual basis. So basically, most of the respondents do not wait for special initiatives to live ecofriendly life.



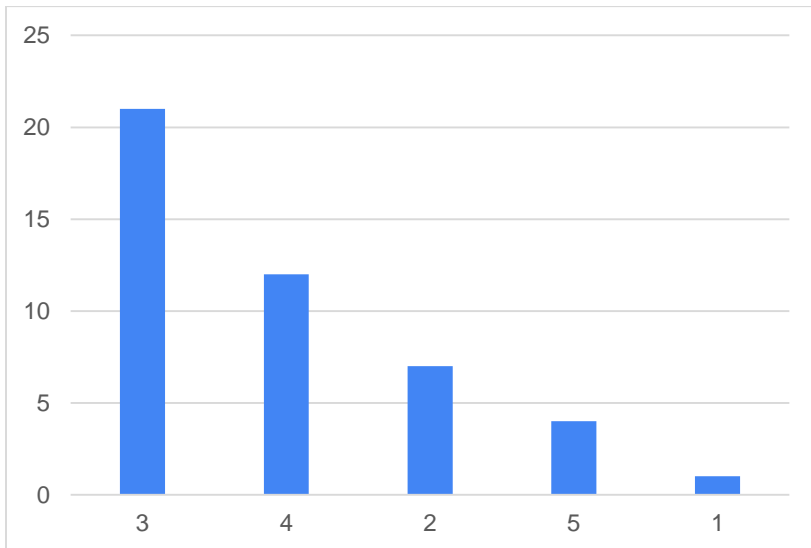
- Also, it’s delightful to say that most people sort out trashes in Lithuania because 18 people marked 4 points out of 5. It correlates with the answers about having waste containers in the local area. Only a few people do not sort out trashes daily.



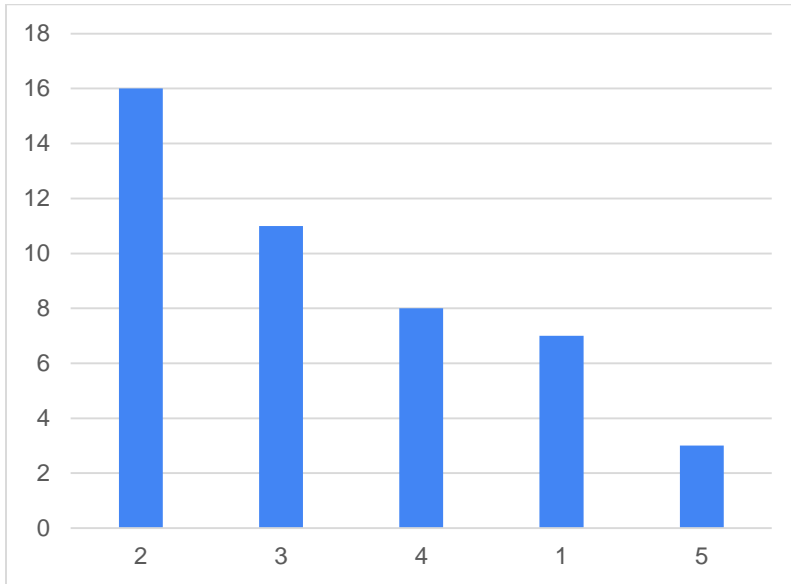
- Another question was about using linen or eco-bags when grocery shopping. Most of the responders stated that they use eco-bags, and the smaller piece of people never use eco-friendly bags. Plastic bags are not as popular as eco-friendly bags nowadays.



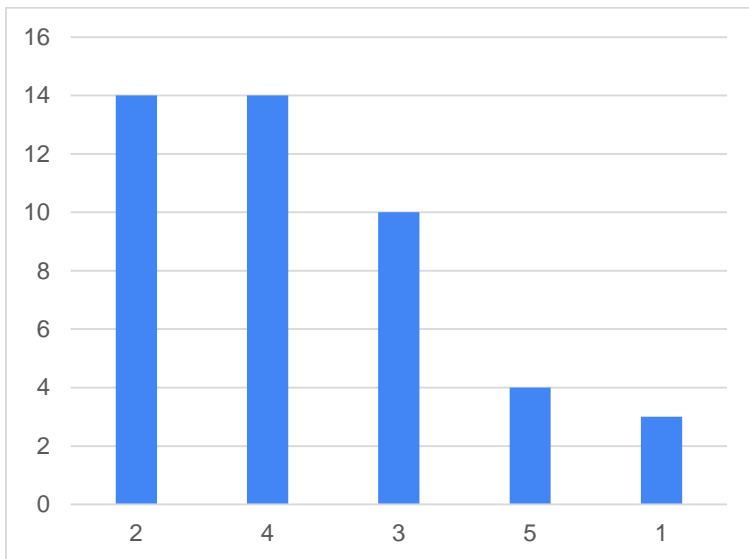
- The graph shows the answers to the question about using recycled products. Most of the young people answered that they use recycled products sometimes. Only a few respondents confirmed that they often use recycled products, so there is a lot to improve regarding this.



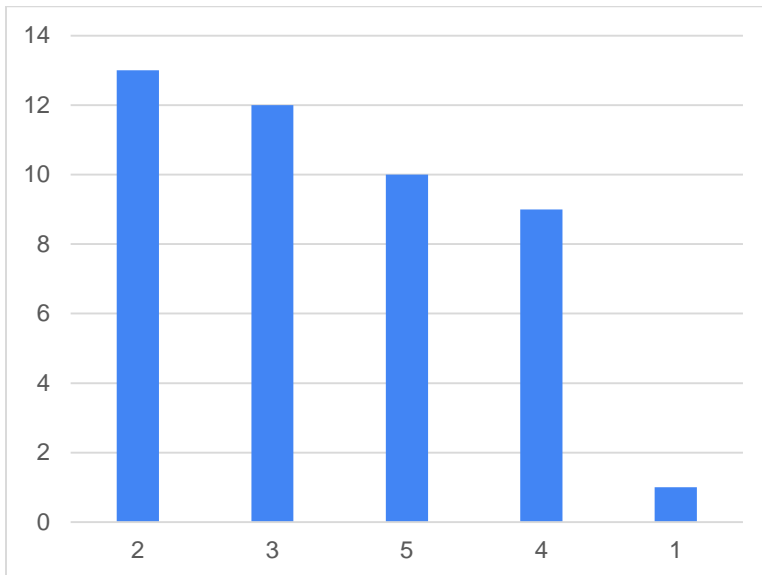
- Respondents were asked how often they participate in tree planting activities or other environmental initiatives. Contrary to other answers, this graphic shows that only a few respondents take a part in social initiatives that help to keep nature clean and unharmed. It might be considered as young people prefer small daily actions instead of special initiatives.



- The graphic below is about picking up trash from the street that was left by somebody else. Answers show that the situation is very different. Half of respondents pick up trash quite often while others do that rarely. Only a few participants confirmed that they almost never pick up trash that do not belong to them. Basically, people take care of their closest area first.



- Another question was about climate changes if they affect respondents' life. Only one participant believes that affection is very negative. Others agree that climate changes affect their life in a negative way.



Some of them explained how climate change affects their life:

The seasons have “changed”, If I can say, for example, when the snow no longer makes us happy at Christmas, but snow appears at summer season.

Climate imbalances affect our environment, our agriculture, and changes in temperature directly affect people’s well-being.

Climate change is affecting my dietary changes, I am eating more plant-based foods to avoid packaging contamination, some products I try to make by myself. I try to buy second- hand clothes, if I must buy new ones, I choose clothes made from recycled materials.

Didn’t happen

Changing weather

does not affect me much.

I don’t have this experience.

We are all human addicts to the climate because it is a big part of our lives.

The seasonal climate is becoming increasingly unstable. As a result, farmers who grow vegetables or fruit suffer. As a result, product prices rise, especially if there was a drought that year and not enough vegetables could be grown. This problem is especially relevant for winemakers, when grapes must grow under specific conditions and maybe one day, we will not be able to enjoy wine at all.

I don’t have answer.

For example, frosts in May damage the flowers of fruit trees grown in my garden, so my family no longer bears fruit.

Also, the unusually rainy and cold period when the trees ripen the fruit, promotes the development of viral diseases of the fruit trees, which causes the tree to ripen the fruit immediately after being rotten.

The most elementary thing — the air we breathe becomes more polluted, so we harm ourselves even when we breathe.

Less snow in Winter.

I don’t have

My flowers bloom in my garden later.
Didn't happen
Didn't submit
No
I want to ensure a clean future for my children.
Direct effect: COVID-19, polluted air in the city, possible microplastics in food. Indirect effects: global pollution (CO2 emissions, methane from landfills, pollution from the fashion industry, etc.)
The rainfall is increasing, and for me personally it has a negative effect on the emotional state.
Less clothes to prepare for winter. Lack of winter has a bad effect on mood.
A sudden drop in temperature can cause you to get sick faster.
No.
Rain, winds affecting life.
The woods dried up.
Pollution.
I feel stressed because I see nature changing.
Didn't happen.
I 'live' in a climate, so it's impossible that it won't affect my life.
Changing weather changes my plans; food becomes more expensive; water becomes more expensive; pollution worsens health because we breathe polluted air
Climate change is having a major impact on the current increase in human migration. Migrants are not always welcomed in our society and cause not only economic but also social changes that affect us all. Climate change is also affecting my career. I have always wanted to contribute to activities that reduce climate change and help us to adapt next to the changes.
For now, it's not affecting me personally, but most of the population is facing challenges due to climate change.

1.2. Future impact of those findings and knowledge of the young population in Lithuania

Most of the participants are aware of the current environmental issues. They should not be allowed to distract their attention from the few, but only present a portion of the target group that is not so confident in their knowledge. The number of young adults who are not pick up trash which belong not to them, and methods is an indicator of the gaps in their target group's expectations. This data also helps us identify what actions and solutions can be made to improve the lives of our young adults. This method will help us to assure that the young adults we're going to be working with have a future impact on the environment. The more they see the importance of keeping up with the latest threats to our environment, the more they'll be satisfied with our work. 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 because we already see that they have knowledge about climate change.

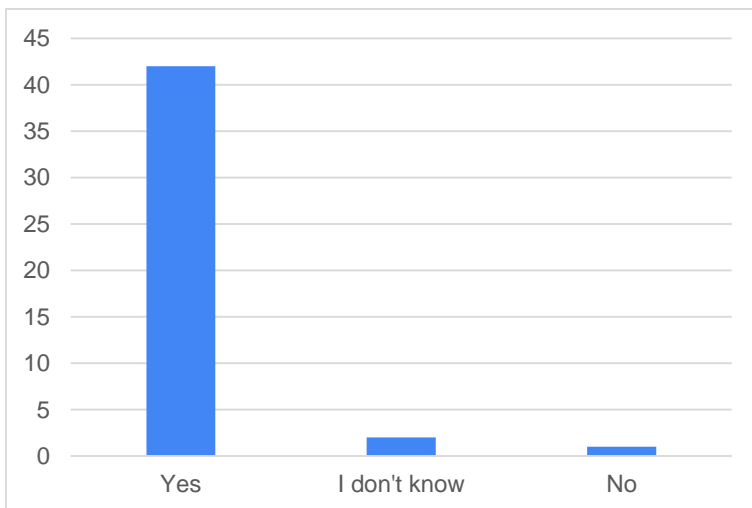
2. DESKTOP RESEARCH RESULTS DETAILED AS WELL AS THE BACKGROUND RESEARCH ON THE POLICIES IN LITHUANIA

Key findings of Chapter 2:

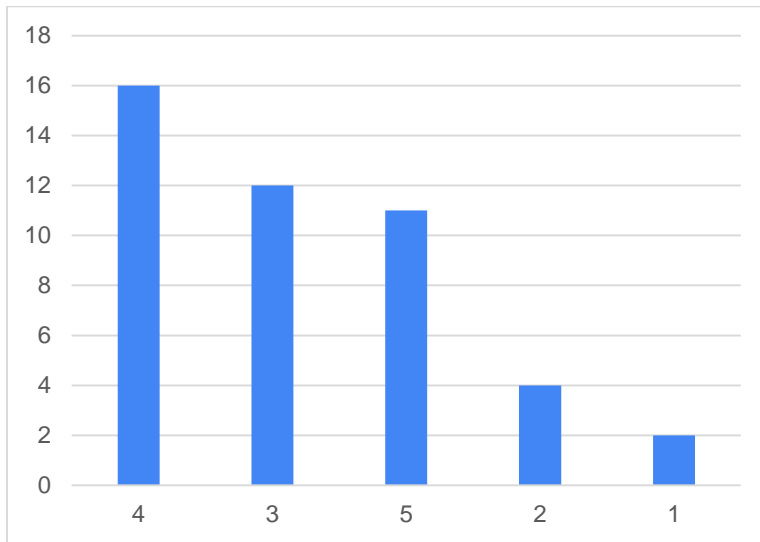
- 1) The European green deal, EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and The Innovation Fund have been determined as the most popular policies amongst the respondents.
- 2) Participants stated that Air Pollution, polluted lakes and rivers, waste in parks, streets, alleys, etc. and illegal deforestation and logging as the main ecological problems in Lithuania. Most participants have supported their answers with full examples.
- 3) Three main bodies that might initiate the positive changes are: society, NGOs and government (both local and national).
- 4) Participants of the survey have also given advice on how to improve the environmental awareness among the local community. That includes education, social initiatives, and improvement of infrastructure.

2.1. Desktop Research in Lithuania

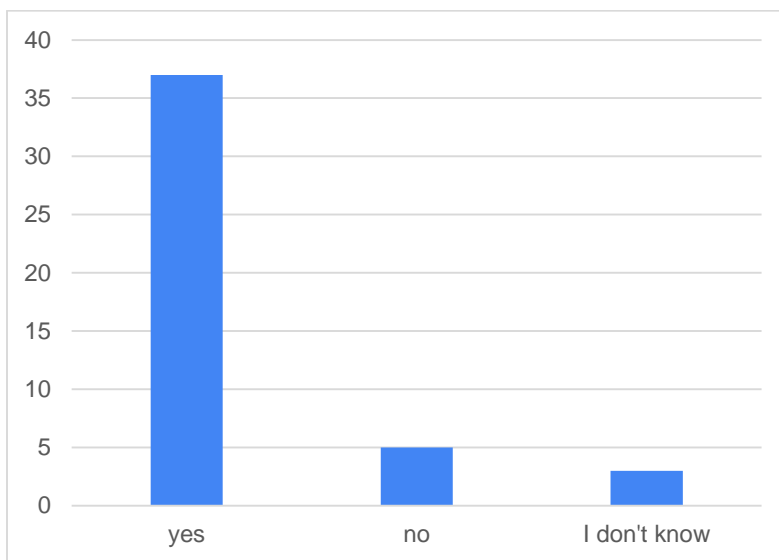
- Question “Does your town have separate waste containers?” The main tool that helps people to follow the recycling rules is having enough waste containers in the nearest area. The majority people marked that they have. It shows that the possibility to recycle is ensured by the local authorities, so the waste policy might be seen as going in a positive direction.



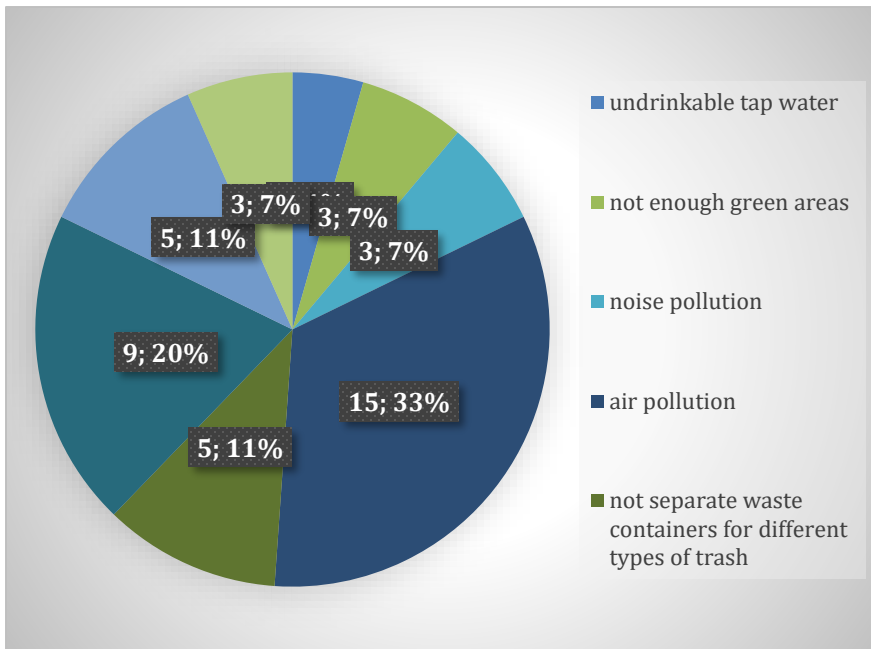
- Question “How frequent is the alternative transport (walking, biking, bus, train, carpooling, car-sharing, electric vehicles) promoted in your area?” The majority piece answered that alternative transport is promoted in their area frequent. We can often see people with e-bikes in Lithuania.



- Question “Does your town have drinkable tap water?” The majority young people chose positive answer. It shows that Lithuanian water has decent quality.



- Answers to “Please select the 3 main ecological problems on your local level”.



Three options received the most points:

- Air pollution.
- Illegal deforestation.
- Polluted lake and river water.

In the *Please explain why you chose the above*, the participants stated:

Probably because they are talked about a lot.
because these are the main problems from my environment.
Hard to use household resources.
Although there are rubbish bins in parks, which are often overcrowded and then littered around, the dumping of food waste with co-waste makes it difficult to re-sort it and the decomposition of methane gas in common landfills.
Grigeo scandal, port stevedoring, many trees were cut down during the berth management.
1. Not all people are able to collect garbage after themselves, leaving it in various places. 2. I don't know if it's illegal, but I see felled trees everywhere more and more often. 3. Seeing contaminated water has become an amazing thing.
they are in my city.
1. Vilnius districts suffer from excessive construction of apartment buildings and their prioritization in place of green zones for residents. This would reduce the need to travel to the city center or the highway to stay in beautiful surroundings. 2. Biofuels generated from food waste would not only reduce food wastage and methane emissions from food decay, but also reduce the need for non-renewable fuels. 3. Vilnius suffers from an excessive number of cars, especially during peak periods.
I don't have a lot of problems.

Garbage in the stream and surrounding area, noise pollution impairs sleep quality, unpleasant odors.
The lakes are not very clean. I often notice garbage in these places. It's hard to escape the noise.
in polluted water bodies it is unsafe to swim and poor living conditions for the surrounding animals.
All of these problems are visible every day.
Sustainability and ecology are promoted in my city, but these are, in my opinion, the 3 most sensitive areas that the city faces in terms of ecology.
I live in a big city where, on average, everyone has a car.
The house stands too close to the highways.
I live in the countryside, so the pollution here is very minimal.
because they exist.
I live in a small town, so only one other garbage I see is relevant.
because these problems prevail in my living environment.
I live near a coniferous forest, people not only litter it but also like to cut down trees illegally, especially before Christmas. and noise pollution often distracts sleep, making it difficult to calm down after a day.
Because they are relevant in my area.
Until now, the problem of wastewater from garden communities in Vilnius district has not been solved, therefore often wastewater is discharged into streams or lakes on the sides.
The problem of air pollution in Vilnius is still good because public transport is underdeveloped, so people still prefer to choose a private car. There are also too few bike paths connecting neighborhoods, so people immediately rule out choosing to travel by bike to the destination they need.
Noise pollution is caused by the intensive operation of transport and trolleybuses, as their noisy roar and the passage of so-called "mustaches" during cable breakage makes a lot of noise.
Wanting a quieter and greener city.
They describe 3 local ecological problems.
There is a forest near my place of residence where people leave a lot of rubbish. Although the situation has improved a bit lately, I still find garbage sometimes. Also nearby are the high streets from which the house is noisy during peak hours.
Because I live in a city, the biggest pollution comes from transport. Also, many green areas are littered.
Mostly disrupts my daily life.
Because they are the most obvious and directly affect me.
I think because they are most relevant to me. For example, I am not interested enough in forests, so I do not know if this is a sensitive problem, but I am constantly faced with marked problems (polluted water, air, and simply dropped and left behind waste), so it is easiest to observe.
Water reservoirs turn green every year; disposable cups, packages, etc. are left in the forests; increased levels of particulate matter in the air are reported from time to time.
There are contaminated reservoirs where there are no separate containers for different wastes.
There is constant deforestation in my area, which is leading to a reduction in green areas and, as a result, an increase in air pollution.
There are massive deforestations in my village, lots of rubbish and little rubbish bins near water bodies, fishing spots and resorts.

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.

However, participants stated that there are three main bodies solving the pollution problems:

- Social initiatives and active civic participation.
- People.
- NGOs.

40 young adults believe the leaders at a local level should take action on raising more awareness on pollution. There are some of their answers on how to improve the environmental awareness among the local community:

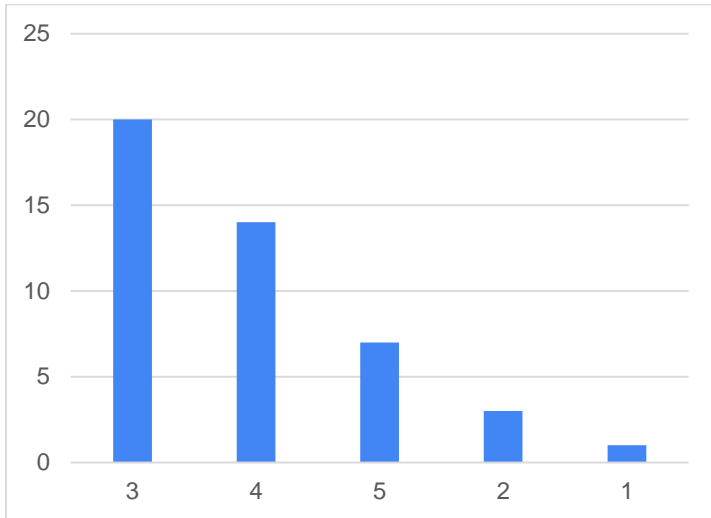
- Lessons, events, workshops.
- Campaigns to encourage recycling people.
- Events for environmental awareness.
- Projects, for example, "Darom".
- Create accounts on "TikTok" with specific content.

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

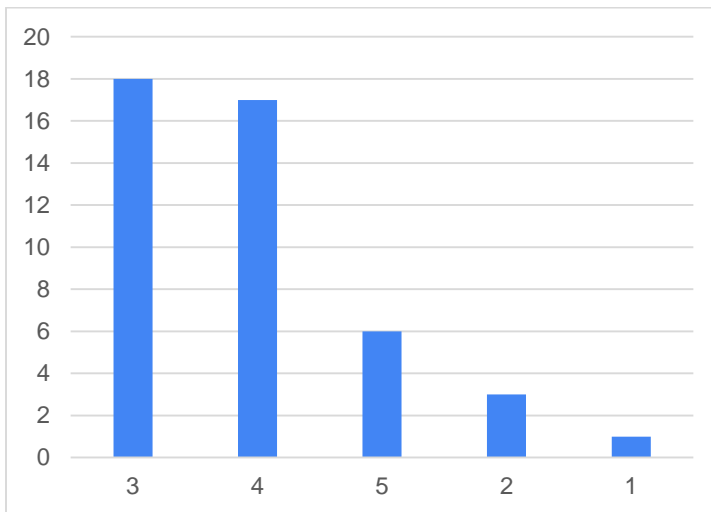
- Polluted lakes and rivers.
- Illegal deforestation.
- Air Pollution.

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

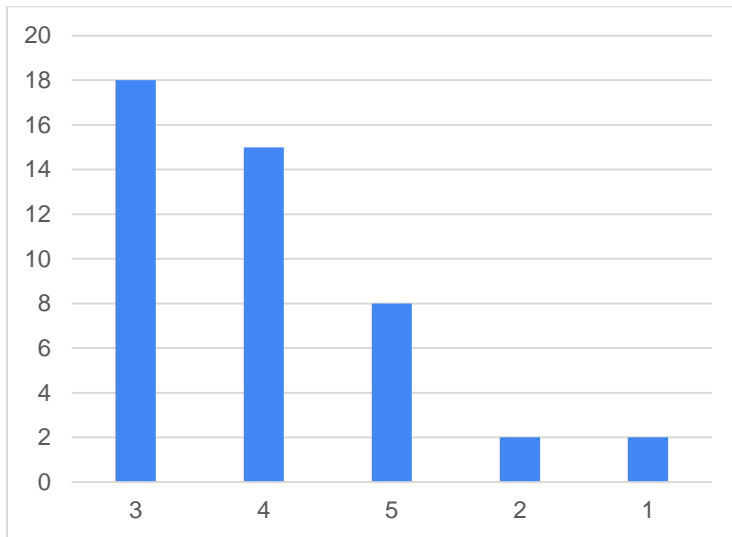
- Tax increase for companies with high levels of pollution.
 - Educate people.
 - More containers sorting.
 - Try to give up plastic.
 - More control of deforestation.
 - More funding for electric cars.
 - Reduce car traffic.
 - Stricter laws.
 - Promote organic food production.
- Question "Do you think that the government in Lithuania has implemented the EU policy on environmental protection related to changes in the circular economy, waste management and climate change?" The answers show that most of the participants might not be aware of the EU policy and the exact actions that are taken by Lithuanian authorities. There is a need to keep people well informed.



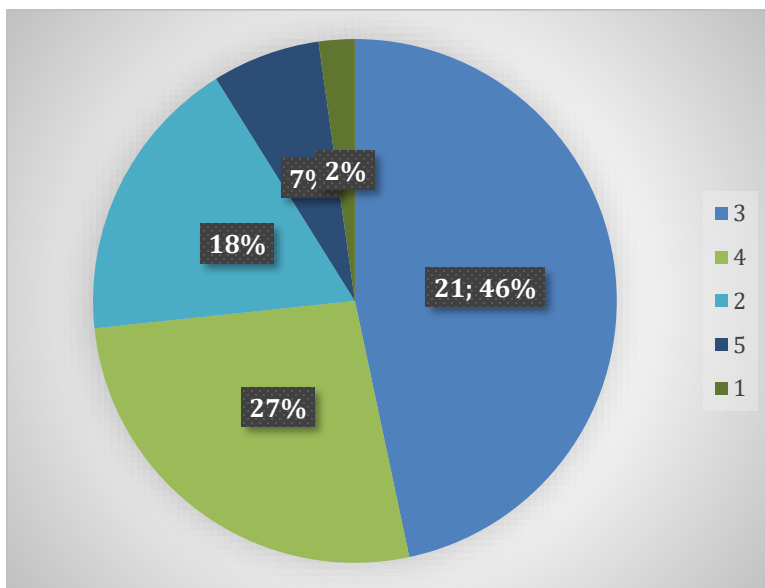
- Question "Do you think that the government in Lithuania has implemented the EU policy for environmental protection related to the protection, preservation and consolidation of natural capital?". Same as in previous questions, there are some doubts among the respondents. But the general attitude is positive.



- Question "Do you think that the government in Lithuania implements the EU policy for environmental protection related to health insurance and quality of life of citizens?" The answers show that the attitude towards this is really positive, only a few respondents believe that national government do not implement the EU policy.



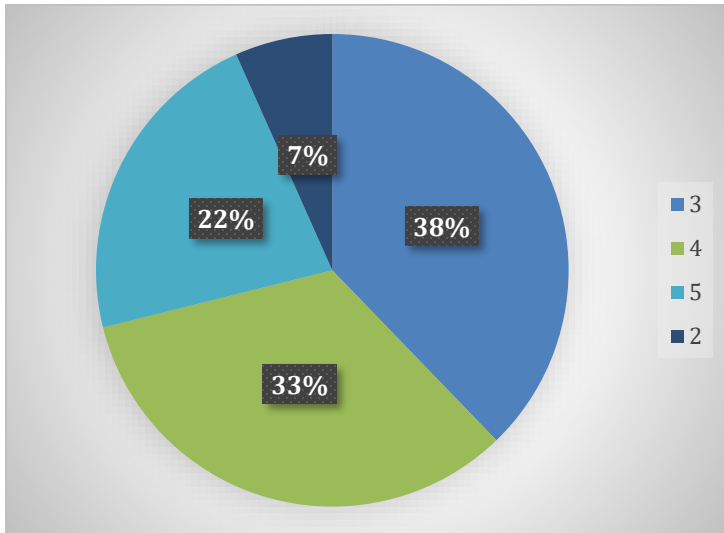
- More than 48% of the respondents believe they are somewhat capable of influencing the national environmental policies, but 2 % believe that they will not be able to do it.



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

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

- 71% of the respondents believe that Lithuania's 17 - sustainable development goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) are an important thing. Only a few respondents consider it insignificant. That correlates with previous answers that show young people as really interested in ecology and willing to behave environmentally friendly.



2.2. Background research on the policies in Lithuania

Taking into consideration our previous research, we have concluded the following practice for the best one currently being implemented in Lithuania:

Name of the practice	We are doing
Responsible organization/public body	Lithuanian Republic Ministry of the Environment
Website	https://www.mesdarom.lt/
Summary	The project We are doing, which partner is Lithuanian Republic Ministry of the Environment, is the biggest project in Lithuania. The main aims of the project is to make Lithuania cleaner, raise awareness on issues which are related with environment protection. Their vision is clean and healthy environment without trashes. The project wants to inspire to choose smarter design, production and consumption.
Target group	Lithuanians and all age groups
Geographical location	Lithuania
Reached audience/number of participants	Every year participants numbers are increasing. In 2015 years participated 250 000 people.
Results of the practice	According to the Lithuanian Republic Ministry of the Environment, volunteers and participants brought 770,18 tons of trashes which belongs to nobody.

3. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FURTHER IMPACT

Desktop research and survey results confirm that there are any environmental challenges in Lithuania that the government and society must find a way to overcome. 45 participants (18-30 years old) that took a part in the survey stated that the main issues are: air pollution, illegal deforestation, rivers and lakes pollution. It is believed that three main bodies that might solve the pollution problems would be social initiatives, society as whole and NGOs.

Possible solutions to solve these problems are various. Firstly, that would be education. There is a great need to educate people from a very young age about environment, ecology, and nature. For example, there could be campaigns to encourage recycling and increasing environmental awareness. As mentioned before, project “Darom” (“We are doing”) is one of the positive examples how to involve people in environmentally friendly activities. Positive change could be done by influences, too. For example, “TikTok” platform could be used for increasing the knowledge of young people.

Another way is to ensure that existing legislation is complied with. It is important to have high fines for those who cause harm on nature consciously. There should be a very strict control of deforestation and an aim to promote organic food production. Besides that, government needs to invest more money on water infrastructure.

Finally, the proper infrastructure is required to help people behave in an environmentally friendly manner. That means that there should be enough recycling containers, possibilities to purchase electric cars, solutions that help to reduce car traffic.

It is very important that local and national authorities acknowledge that the current situation must be changed. The government could support initiatives and implement significant changes. However, all change can only be achieved with public help.