

greenACT

Project number: 2020-3-RO01-KA205-094853

European Union and National Environmental Policies

Tavo Europa

YOUNG PEOPLE'S HANDBOOK

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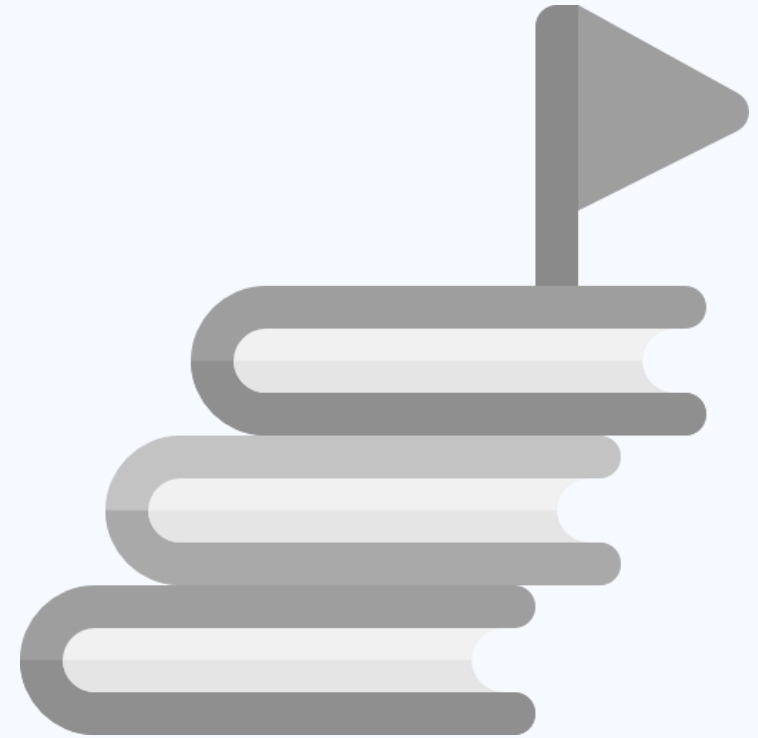
TOPICS

1. Environmental protection policies.
2. Environmental governance.
3. Environmental laws, policies and legislations.
4. European international environmental agreements and goals.
5. Examples of good practices.


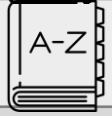







LEARNING GOALS

- This module will provide a basic understanding of environmental policies at the European Union and national level. Environmental protection policies, legal frameworks, and good practices will be presented, demonstrating the efforts of governments and societies to achieve effective environmental protection and current challenges. The provided information will be useful for active environmental action.



KEY SYMBOLS

Symbols	Explanation
	Definitions
	Case study
	Additional Resources
	Tips
	Activities
	Reminder
	Video

1. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES



Environmental protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals, organizations and governments. Its objectives are to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and, where possible, to repair damage and reverse trends.

The countries of the European Union have agreed to jointly achieve the following goals:

- To protect, maintain and nurture the EU's natural capital,
- To make the EU economy a green and competitive, resource-efficient and low-carbon economy,
- To protect EU citizens from negative environmental impacts and risks to health and well-being.

Tools and procedures to achieve the objectives:

- 1) environment action programmes (8th EAP),
- 2) horizontal strategies (Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Farm to Fork Strategy),
- 3) international environmental cooperation (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES),
- 4) environmental impact assessment and public participation (environmental impact assessment – EIA, strategic environmental assessment – SEA),
- 5) tools for implementation, enforcement, and monitoring (The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law – IMPEL, Environmental Implementation Review, the European Environment Agency – EEA, the European Earth Observation Programme – Copernicus, etc.).



***Q&A on environmental protection and climate policy
- EU explained***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qcnzKTSQ50>





Explore your area! Environment reflections

- Groups of 3-4 people.
- Aim is to identify the environmental protection problem in the area.
- 30 minutes for monitoring.
- 30 minutes for discussing.

Debriefing questions:

1. What environmental violations do I notice around me?
2. Who owns the territory and who is legally responsible for its maintenance?
3. Which institutions in my country are responsible for environmental protection?
4. How can I contribute to changing the situation?
5. What could be done in general to change the situation both in my country and in the EU?
6. What could be the main obstacles preventing the situation from changing?

2. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



Environmental governance includes policy, rules and norms that govern human behavior and it also addresses who makes decisions, how decisions are made and carried out, the scientific information needed for decision-making and how the public and major stakeholders can participate in the decision-making.

The European Commission's assessment framework for environmental governance covering these dimensions:

- Transparency.
- Participation.
- Access to justice.
- Compliance assurance/accountability.
- Effectiveness/efficiency.

It is still an ongoing process.

- The European Commission released the first edition of the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) in February 2017. The Commission continues to develop its approach to assessing environmental implementation and has commissioned this initial framework for an assessment of environmental governance.



Development of an assessment framework on environmental governance in the EU Member States, final report, May 2019

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/environmental_governance/pdf/development_assessment_framework_environmental_governance.pdf



Learn about your country in the context of the European Union! Group discussion

The goal is to discover and collect data related to the home country.

Debriefing questions:

1. What environmental governance actions do I notice in my daily life?
2. How do member states coordinate their actions with the EU in order to achieve adequate environmental protection?
3. How does my country look in the general context?
4. What environmental protection challenges seem to be the most important?
5. What breakthroughs have already been achieved or can be achieved in the near future in my country?

3. ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND LEGISLATIONS



The Single European Act of 1987 introduced a new 'Environment Title', which provided the first legal basis for a common environment policy with the aims of preserving the quality of the environment, protecting human health, and ensuring rational use of natural resources.

EU Environmental policy is being formulated in environment action programmes since early 1970s:

1st – Programme of Action of the European Communities on the Environment (1973-1976)

2nd – European Community Action Programme on the Environment (1977-1981)

3rd – Action Programme of the European Communities on the Environment (1982-1986)

4th – EEC Fourth Environmental Action Programme (1987-1992)

5th – Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development (1993-2000)

6th – the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme (2002-2012)

7th – the Seventh Environment Action Programme (2014-2020)

The 8th Environment Action Programme till 2030:

- The document supports the environment and climate action objectives of the European Green Deal.
- 2050 vision: we want to ensure wellbeing for all, while staying within the planetary boundaries.
- Calls for active engagement of all stakeholders at all levels of governance, to ensure that EU climate and environment laws are effectively implemented.
- Forms the EU's basis for achieving the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.
- Aims to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and regenerative economy, which gives back to the planet more than it takes.
- Recognises that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on the healthy ecosystems within which we operate.

EU legislation in force concerning the environment:

- Nature and biodiversity.
- Integrated pollution control.
- Air pollution.
- Water pollution.
- Noise pollution.
- Environmental impact assessment.
- Genetically modified organisms.

Environmental Regulatory Framework – Legislation:

- Covers a vast landscape of different topics enacted over many decades.
- The key regimes that aim to protect the environment are established by a mix of Regulations, which apply directly in member states, and Directives, which set the framework in the relevant area but are then transposed by member states into national law (giving member states scope to implement the framework in a manner suitable for the national context).
- The European Commission issues a significant amount of delegated legislation, which provides more detailed implementation rules and guidance.

The main environmental regimes and key associated legislation include:

- Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC): Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) (2010/75/EU).
- Air quality framework, which establishes ambient air quality objectives as well as controls on source air emissions: Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and various associated Directives.
- Water framework, which seeks to manage water resources, improve water quality, prevent water pollution and generally protect the water environment: Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and various related Directives, and the IED.
- Waste framework, which seeks the reduction of waste and appropriate management of waste including hazardous waste, and places controls on shipments of waste: Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).

Other key regimes include:

- Environmental impact assessment (EIA): Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU).
- Nature and biodiversity protection: Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
- Environmental liability for environmental damage: Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC).
- Energy and climate framework:
 - the Effort Sharing legislation (which forms part of a set of policies and measures on climate change and energy) (Effort Sharing Decision (406/2009/EC) and Effort Sharing Regulation ((EU) 2018/842);
 - Emissions Trading Directive (2003/87/EC);
 - Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) and (Renewable Energy Directive II) (RED II) ((EU) 2018/2001) (together, the Renewable Energy Directives);
 - Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU).

Regulatory Authorities

- Member state bodies act as regulatory authorities in relation to matters covered by EU law.
- EU bodies act as regulator in certain respects in relation to various centralised EU environmental regimes.

Financial support for environmental projects:

- LIFE 2014-2020 is an EU co-financing program that aims to contribute to the development, implementation and updating of EU environmental policy and environmental legislation.
- LIFE aims to facilitate the integration of the environment into other policy areas and to achieve sustainable development in the EU. The LIFE 2014-2020 regulation entered into force in December 2013.
- 2 sub-programmes: Environment and Climate Action.
- The environment sub-programme covers environmental protection and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; environmental management and information.
- Climate Action includes climate change mitigation; adaptation to climate change; climate management, and information.



Youth and Environment Europe – YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/YEEPrague>

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'YEE network'. The channel has 66 subscribers. The navigation menu includes HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. The 'Uploads' section is active, displaying a grid of video thumbnails. Each thumbnail includes a title, view count, and upload date. The videos cover topics such as 'Basic international environmental law', 'How to create an impactful digital environmental campaign', 'Run4Nature | Workshop Teaser | #GreenTrack', 'Time for YOUTH to Speak Climate | Training Course', and 'Local Youth Environmental Assembly'.

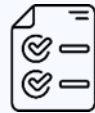
YEE network
66 subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS CHANNELS ABOUT

Uploads SORT BY

Video Title	Duration	Views	Upload Date
Basic international environmental law ...	43:25	12 views	6 days ago
How to create an impactful digital environmental...	2:03	6 views	13 days ago
How to create an impactful digital environmental...	1:53	25 views	2 weeks ago
Run4Nature Workshop Teaser #GreenTrack	1:45	31 views	2 months ago
Run4Nature - Nature Restoration Workshop ...	54:43	20 views	3 months ago
Time for YOUTH to Speak Climate Training Course ...	2:32	101 views	3 months ago
Time for YOUTH to Speak Climate Participants Narv...	2:25	170 views	3 months ago
Local Youth Environmental Assembly #2 UNEA 5.2	54:52	6 views	3 months ago
Local Youth Environmental Assembly #1 UNEA 5.2	50:49	5 views	3 months ago
EU Environmental Law 101 Workshop	26:16	17 views	3 months ago



Attend online workshop!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEcOrdhTiJo>

join us online on the 23 February at 5pm CET

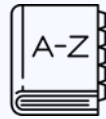
**EU ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW 101 WORKSHOP**

26:16

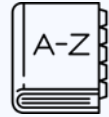
Debriefing questions:

1. Which environmental laws of the European Union are best known?
2. Which environmental laws of the European Union should be presented more widely?
3. How does knowledge of the legal framework change attitudes towards the environment?
4. What punishments for disregarding environmental requirements could be the most effective?
5. Do I know about workshops on the topic of environmental protection taking place in my country?

4. EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND GOALS



The European Green Deal presents a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The European Green Deal aims to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and stop climate change, revert biodiversity loss and cut pollution. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



The European Union's Green Deal, Explained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gShVdPOp1D4>



Based on the European Green Deal, it has the following six priority objectives:

- Until 2030 to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and neutralizing the climate by 2050.
- Increase adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change
- Progress towards a renewable growth model, decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation and accelerating the transition to a circular economy.
- To achieve zero pollution, including to air, water and soil, and to protect the health and well-being of Europeans.
- Protect, conserve and restore biodiversity and strengthen natural capital (in particular air, water, soil and forest, freshwater, wetland and marine ecosystems).
- Reduce production and consumption-related pressures on the environment and climate (especially in the areas of energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and the food system).

Main challenges in implementing The Green Deal:

- Allocation of financial resources both at the level of the European Union and Member States.
- Attracting private funds for program implementation.
- Global problems in the financial sector.
- Agreement between member states and societies when making decisions.
- Acceptance and regulation of various restrictions.
- Finding compromises with other continents.



Sustainable Development Goals explained with 3 useful tips | Environment SDG Sustainability

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfOgdj4Okdw>



Main priorities, according to the United Nations:

- Accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals, including reducing mortality, reducing social exclusion and others.
- Address climate change, while facilitating mitigation and adaptation action on the ground, promoting climate financing, executing agreements on reducing emissions, and so on.
- Force consensus around a post-2015 sustainable development framework and implement it, meaning defining a new generation of sustainable development goals and mobilizing the UN system to support relevant strategies, etc.

The main challenges of sustainable development:

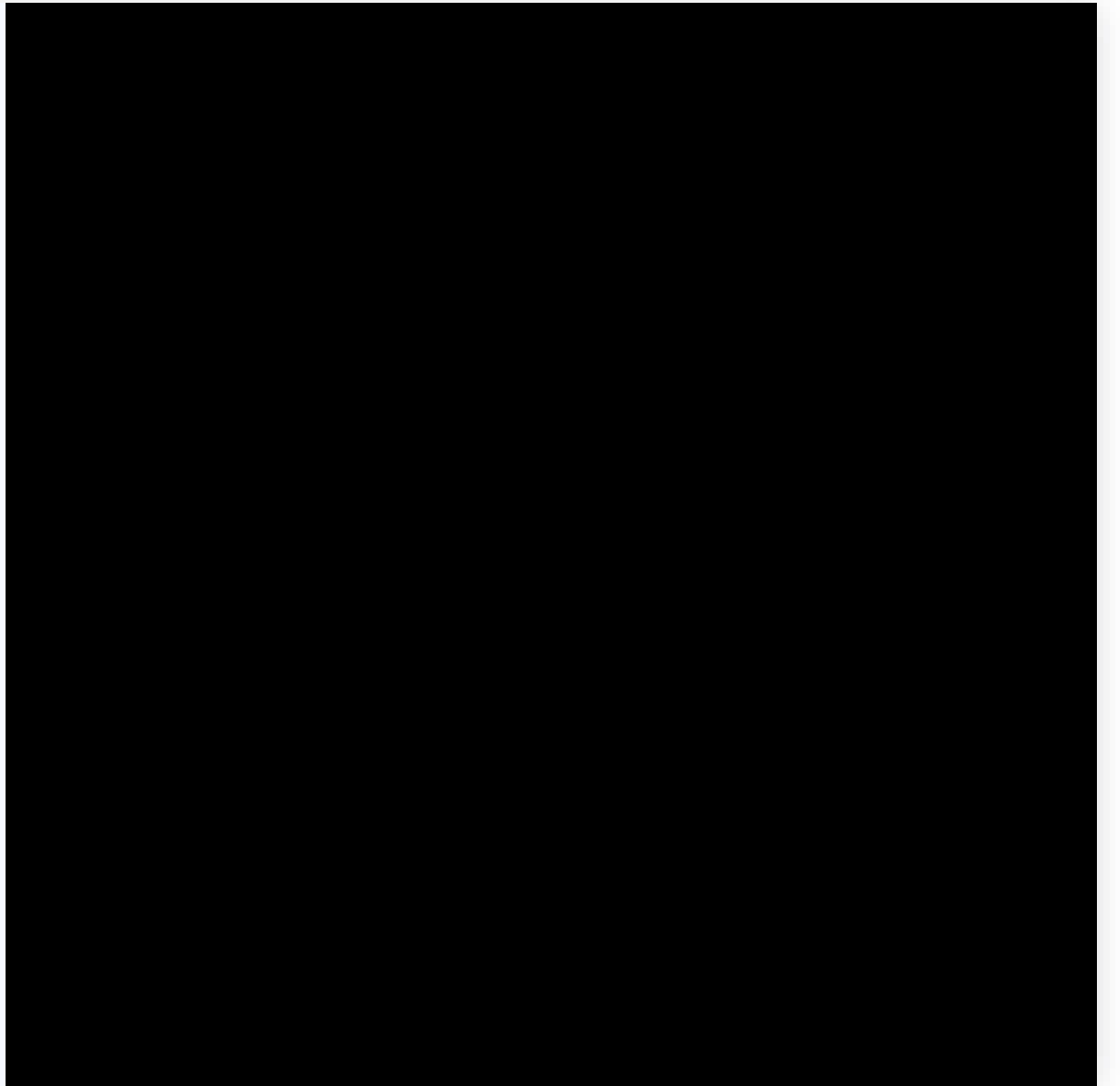
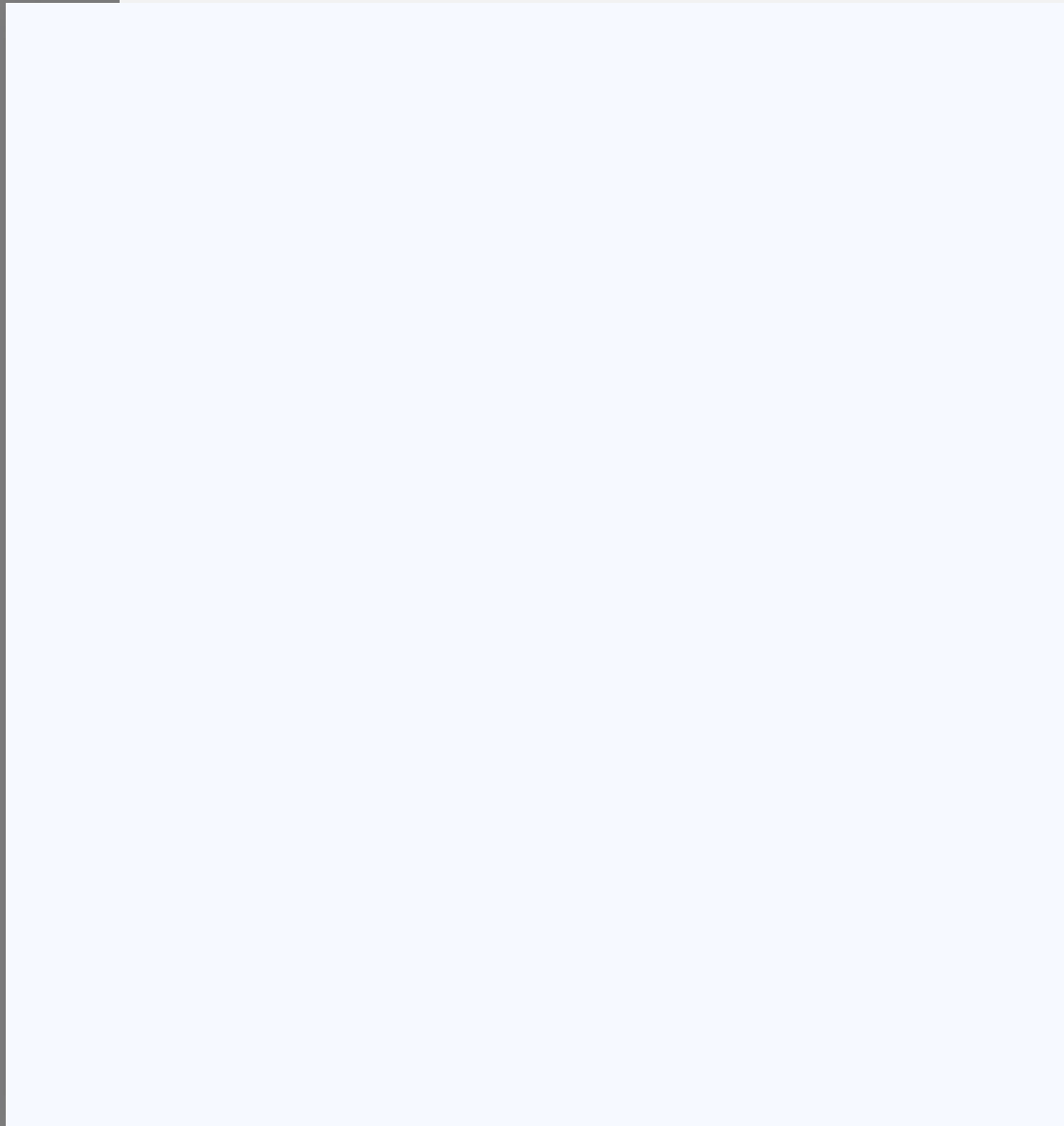
- Lack of financing from state budgets and little attraction of private funds.
- Disengagement from countries experiencing armed conflicts and other disturbances.
- Consequences of natural disasters.
- Corruption flourishing in some countries.
- Little involvement of some state structures.

Citizens' role in environmental agreements:

- Pressure on governments.
- Personal initiative.
- Allocation of personal funds.
- Contribution to raising more conscious generations.

Debriefing questions:

1. What changes caused by the green deal can be observed in everyday life?
2. Which sustainable development goals seem to be the easiest to achieve and which are the most difficult?
3. How can the state and citizens work together to achieve the set goals?
4. What kind of environment and its protection can be imagined in ten years?
5. How to maintain attention to environmental protection in the face of other global challenges?



5. EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES



Find good practices in your area!

There are many examples of good practices in Europe that show the conscious and responsible behavior of governments and society towards nature. However, we do not always recognize these practices and are aware of them. A visit to a local institution or to the organizers of various initiatives will significantly broaden understanding and encourage involvement in meaningful activities.

Debriefing questions:

1. Is the activity of this institution/initiative widely known in my environment?
2. Which goals of the institution/initiative are considered short-term and which long-term?
3. What resources are most lacking to achieve the goals?
4. How can you personally contribute to the ongoing activities?
5. Does the activity of this institution/initiative have analogues in other countries?

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<https://greenactproject.eu/>



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