



SUSTAINABLE PARTICIPATION GOALS



RECOMMENDATION PAPER



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European Network for Transfer and Exploitation of EU Project Results



POLYLOGOS





SPGs
SUSTAINABLE PARTICIPATION GOALS



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I

INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets is a universal plan of action for the prosperity of the people and the planet, to be implemented by all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership. The adoption of the Agenda at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015 came with the pledge that no one would be left behind, committing on having Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. The 17 Goals were declared to be integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.

Within the declaration, the starting context that made it necessary to adopt the action plan was described as follows (“Our world today”):

“We are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern. Global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiralling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. Natural resource depletion and adverse impacts of environmental degradation, including desertification, drought, land degradation, freshwater scarcity and loss of biodiversity, add to and exacerbate the list of



challenges which humanity faces. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. Increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States. The survival of many societies, and of the biological support systems of the planet, is at risk.”

Almost 9 years later, what is our world like today?

Achieving the SDGs would benefit all, fostering the well-being of present and future generations. These are topics of fundamental importance for enabling today’s young people to grow up in a fairer, more peaceful, more inclusive and less polluted world.

When the Agenda was launched, the commitment was to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; to end poverty in all its dimensions; to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels; to achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care; to build strong economic foundations for all our countries; to make fundamental

changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services; to ensure safe and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status; to conserve and sustainably use natural resources; to build peaceful and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights.

Where have we improved? Where is it still urgent to act before it is too late?

To us, it is clear that what has been achieved so far is not enough.

The recommendation papers presented here are the direct result of the reflections and interactions between young people between 16 and 25 years, who took part in the **SPGs - Sustainable Participation Goal** project, during local and transnational implementations of group activities, which occurred between June 2023 and July 2024.

While designing the SPGs project, our choice was to focus on three Goals:

- **N° 5 Gender equality.**
- **N° 8 Decent work and economic growth.**
- **N° 13 Climate action.**

Our recommendations are addressed at local decision-makers in the Paris and Centre-Val de Loire region (France), the Ligurian region (Italy), the Lisbon and Tagus valley region (Portugal), the Transylvania region (Romania), and to European decision makers.

We really hope that they will be taken into consideration in forthcoming political planning because everyone's future depends on it, including our own.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
Source: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material



WATER



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II

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN DECISION MAKERS



SDG 5

Gender Equality

This section delivers recommendations for European decision makers, collected within the partnership, on how to integrate SGD 5.

1

Integrate gender equality into school curricula by ensuring a non-patriarchal perspective. In schoolbooks, history is still too often reported only and exclusively from the male point of view, which is why it is necessary to review the content by ensuring inclusion and diversity of views. It is not about rewriting history, but about shifting the focus and also highlighting the success stories of women who have made a difference. It is pressing to curb the perpetuation of gender stereotypes, which, in children's books, still often sees the female figure caged in the roles of a mother or housekeeper, while the male figure is heroic and adventurous. Promoting education in gender equality from a young age means promoting mutual respect.

2

Introduce students in schools to the knowledge of gender identity and increase activities related to sex education. Education about feelings, illustrating the infinite ways in which people can live their gender identity, would allow more and more people to learn not to "be afraid" of what they do not know. Education about feelings and devoting more time to sex education are elements that are still minimal in school curricula and often taught only through a scientific approach.

3

Guarantee access to education for young women and provide specific grants for women depending on their merit, but also on specific family or environment conditions that might

prevent them from accessing schooling and higher education. It is by empowering, but also by allowing women to develop their potential without impairments that we can create more equality. Given that men are always put first in our society, it is necessary that actions are taken to counterbalance that factor.

4

Emphasise the importance of education and life principles.

Support educational initiatives that instil positive life principles and promote gender equality from an early age. Education is the foundation for shaping attitudes and behaviours. By integrating gender equality and ethical principles into the curriculum, future generations can develop a more inclusive and respectful outlook.

5

Appeal to member states to ensure that all women and girls have access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and education, including safe contraception and legal abortion. Nowadays, several countries are facing a controversial loss of social rights, but European institutions can reverse this trend by imposing policies and regulations on these matters.

6

Harmonise maternity and paternity leave

to balance professional and personal life equally for men and women. Continuing to give longer maternity leaves is a way to reiterate that women are a more important family figure than men and should have a more nurturing and caring role within the relationship. It is also discriminatory of male same sex couples that are parents. Having a similar amount of time for paternity and maternity leaves would mean allowing at a systemic level for parents to define their roles within the family the way they see it fit and to allow for dads to take on a more nurturing role for their kids.

7

Put a stop to the gender pay gap through clear legislation

and put companies through regular and random audits, to check that the legislation is respected. The salary gap and, therefore, the lower spending power of women has a big responsibility in gender inequality, it promotes the idea that women can achieve less than men and strips them of their ability to be as independent and autonomous, especially if they live with men. This is a very important step toward women empowerment, but mostly towards allowing them financial freedom.



8

Guarantee contractual protection for women returning to work after maternity leave. There should be strict implementation and monitoring of legislation promoting gender equality across Europe, including measures to combat discrimination in the workplace. Sanctioning discriminatory behaviour ensures accountability and fosters a fairer work environment. All too often, pregnant women are at risk of losing their jobs, or, when they return from their maternity leave, they find a very hostile work environment. Bringing children into the world is a choice but should be a free one and cannot be a source of economic or social penalisation, or an obstacle to independence.

9

Enforce strict regulations to prevent the marginalisation and exploitation of women, ensuring equal opportunities based on merit. Recognising and addressing the marginalisation of women, including in religious contexts, and ensuring that qualified women receive opportunities based on merit rather than political affiliation, promotes a more equitable society. This can also include legislative measures to ensure equal pay for equal work and removing gender-specific taxes.

10

Try and respect parity within the European Parliament. The examples of gender equality should come from “above” and the European parliament could impose that the lists of deputies that we can vote for have an equal number of men and women and a good representation of different ethnic groups as well. The same could be imposed on in-country parliaments and governments.

11

Promote advocacy campaigns on gender equality at European level and at member states level, actively lead by the European Parliament. These campaigns should be designed and implemented by the active participation of a diversity of women and girls both as professionals, as representative of formal and informal groups and as citizens. MEPs could monitor these campaigns also by reinforcing their links with their local supporters.

12

Introduce continuous training for public officials on gender equality. Implement ongoing training programmes for public officials on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Regular training can raise awareness, reduce discriminatory practices, and equip public officials with the tools to support gender equality effectively.

13

Creating a mandatory training focused on gender equality and discrimination pattern for law enforcement, to be implemented by outside specialised institutions to ensure the quality of the education and the impartiality of the evaluation method. Anyone who does not attend the training or does not pass the final evaluation test cannot possibly become a person authorised to exercise power over citizens. As authoritative figures are invested with special powers and with the liaison role between government and citizens, law enforcement representatives should be the safest and most educated, also on gender equality matters.

14

Introduce state subsidies for mothers who have to feed their children with infant formula. In many cases, women who are unable to feed their children by breastfeeding have to bear very high costs for the purchase of infant formula. Nutrition of newborns should be a guaranteed right for everyone.

15

Control the prices of feminine hygiene items such as tampons, pads and menstrual cups. Beginning with puberty, women incur expenses for the management of their period on a regular basis and at costs that are often significant. The EU could give a worldwide signal by making these articles, which are fundamental and not optional, accessible to all women, regardless of their economic status.

16

Raise awareness on the topic of consent both in private and public settings as critical step for achieving gender equality. One of the most frequent forms of disrespect towards women and girls by men and patriarchal institutions is their misuse of the consent notion. In recent years, we saw different policies in the field of Health and Education advocating for a change of perspective and focus when talking about consent, but it remains a crucial factor in the relationship between different genders.

17

Promote gender equality as an ideal without extremism. Encourage gender equality as a guiding principle, avoiding extreme measures and



polarising language. Striving for gender equality should be a fundamental goal, but to many people who are not familiar with the principles, it can feel alienating and look like a strange obsession. By fostering a balanced approach and using a language that people can relate to and understand, the EU can promote fair treatment and opportunities for all genders without polarizing the debate.

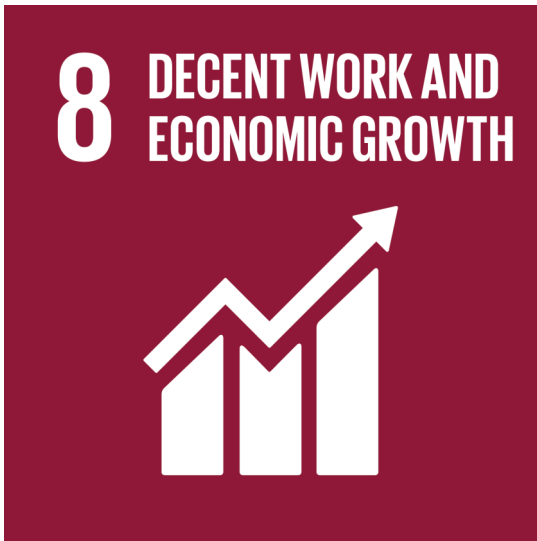
victims of violence have access to safe and confidential support services. The EU should also oblige member states to implement effective strategies to prevent and combat gender-based violence, including support for victims and rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators.

18

Raise awareness about issues related to gender-based hate and discrimination. Invest in awareness-raising and information campaigns to educate the public and promote positive narratives about gender equality. Gender equality can only be achieved if people from diverse communities understand, accept and embrace the principles. Traditional gender roles, gender discrimination and gender-based violence are deeply rooted in the culture of many European countries. Raising awareness and educating the public in a respectful and thought-provoking way will help to build trust and credibility among constituents and stakeholders.

19

Increase funding for shelters and support centres for the victims of gender-based violence. Ensure



SDG 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

This section delivers recommendations for European decision makers, collected within the partnership, on how to integrate SGD 8.

20

Finalise the standardisation of all diplomas at a European level to facilitate the mobility of young graduates and the possibility to work abroad. This would not only give more weight to European studies throughout the world, but also allow students to move within Europe during their studies and to find a suitable job in any European country, instead of being tied to the one country they were educated in. It would boost the sense of belonging to the common European citizenship in young people, reducing nationalism and strengthening cohesion.

21

Standardize university pro-grammes aimed at working students, who in some countries have to buy additional textbooks in order to take exams as

non-attendance students, while the courses' annual planning is not flexible enough to meet the needs of a worker. Under these conditions, a student who needs an income to support themselves during their studies ends up spending more time and money on earning a degree than one who can economically afford to focus full-time on studying and attending classes.

22

Promote and encourage education development by supporting initiatives to enhance education systems across member states, focusing on quality and accessibility. As education is the foundation of a progressive society, by investing in and promoting robust educational frameworks the EU can ensure that future generations are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for the modern world.



23

Invest in non-formal and informal education in order to prepare the next generations for the jobs of the future. It is fundamental to give the same importance to professional and technical competences and to life competences and soft skills, also including cultural competencies in each individual's curriculum.

24

Change the perception of manual labour. Promote the manual know-how and give the same credit to these talents and skills as to other types of work, by providing equal workers' right and salaries to people in manual labour as to people working at desks. The lower salaries, the more difficult working conditions as well as the bad social recognition that some manual work gets, brings fewer and fewer people towards wanting to do these jobs rather than desk jobs, even in cases where it could actually suit their capabilities and interests. It is also necessary to advocate for EU-wide campaigns to de-stigmatise manual labour and emphasise its essential role in society. By promoting the value and dignity of manual work, the EU can help address labour shortages in critical trades and ensure that these professions receive the respect and recognition they deserve.

25

Enforce non-discriminatory measures within the workplace. There needs to be an equality-based scheme for employment so that everyone really gets a chance, and so that the workplace is inclusive. Consciously making an effort to have people from diverse backgrounds in the workplace and within the work team would ensure that everyone gets a fair opportunity, regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability.

26

Harmonise the member countries' laws on minimum wage and ensure that a minimum wage is mandatory in each country. That could be done following a specific price-of-living indicator in each European country and ensuring that minimum wages are built up on this standard – which would make the living cost equivalent in every country. This way, we would ensure a decent quality of life for every worker within the European union and ensure similar comfort conditions in every country as well.

27

Advocate for recruitment processes across EU countries to assign greater relevance to the actual skills and abilities of the candidate rather than to the type of



diploma acquired, by testing more candidates in practice to determine whether they would fit for a job rather than excluding the large majority by simply looking at CVs. That way, people from lots of different backgrounds and countries of origin could apply to a much larger range of jobs and access employment without being discriminated against on school-based results, too closely linked to the place where they were born and to their economic capacity to bear the cost of their studies.

28

Advocate for EU-wide standards to ensure decent working conditions and increase penalties for employers who do not comply with legal obligations regarding safety at work. The incidence of life-threatening work-related accidents is still very significant in many EU countries. A new control mechanism and stricter sanctions must be formulated to ensure that employers and employees are equally protected. Fair compensation and improved working conditions are fundamental to worker satisfaction and economic stability.

29

Establish a European exchange programme between workers of the same category. As it happens for students, it would be personally

enriching as well as highly formative for workers employed in the same field to be able to participate in exchanges with other countries. It would be particularly useful in areas relating to new technologies, education, renewable energy and sustainable production systems with the aim to strengthen the competences of European citizenship, beyond national borders, on issues of vital importance for the future of the EU.

30

Establish European trainings and exchange programmes among craftsmen. In a world that tends progressively to technologies and specialisation, craft professions are increasingly at risk of extinction. The threat is that some professions disappear – not because they are no longer needed, but because nobody has been able to preserve and pass on the competence. It is necessary to set up programmes to maintain these jobs and develop artisans' skills, including through the introduction of new approaches that protect the environment.

31

Secure workers' rights, including the right to unionise and collective bargaining. Both are important as a protection of the litigation in the labour court against the onslaught





from the employers' sectors. Today, the precarity of contracts is directly connected to the atomisation of the individual bargaining. European growth must be in accordance with human development criteria.

32

Encourage the entrepreneurial spirit among young people and support local entrepreneurship and innovation. Provide financial support and resources to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and innovative start-ups, including social businesses. Entrepreneurship and innovation, including social innovation, are crucial for economic growth and job creation. Facilitating access to funding, training, and resources can stimulate economic development and foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the EU.

33

Invest in useful and sustainable infrastructure while supporting green economic growth and digital innovation. The European economic growth must be in line with the principle of taking care of the "Common Home", have a Human Rights focus and be based on human development criteria, defined by the UN. Investing in green infrastructure and technologies accelerates the transition to a low-carbon economy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions

and environmental impact. Sustainable infrastructure projects enhance productivity and efficiency in various sectors by providing reliable energy, transportation, and communication systems.

34

Ensure that everyone has access to high-speed internet regardless of their location, avoiding disparity linked, for example, to centre vs. peripheries, north vs. south, and urban vs. rural areas. This would decrease inequalities and promote fair economic growth. It is crucial to invest in digital infrastructure, including high-speed broadband networks and data centres, to support digital transformation and innovation across all sectors.

35

Increase effort in reducing the environmental impact of economic activities. There is no future for an economic growth based on extractive resources, attacks on biodiversity systems and emissions of carbon. EU policies need to strengthen compliance mechanisms and monitoring systems to ensure that businesses adhere to environmental regulations and achieve set targets. It is also necessary to support corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that focus on reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices throughout the supply chain.



36

To face an economic growth based on fairness and social justice, European decision makers must **appeal for a large end strong cooperation between member countries and European institutions**, mainly the European parliament and European Council. Improve the coordination of economic and social policies at European level in order to ensure that laws are coherent and effective in promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work. It is also important to create bodies with the role of monitoring laws and policies implementations.

37

Support developing countries in their efforts to achieve economic growth and decent work. Our “Common Home” is shared with third countries with whom we need to cooperate, sharing knowledge and resources to help them building strong and inclusive economies. This must be achieved by applying cooperation strategies based on mutual respect, in a win-win cooperation form, refraining from the submissiveness of one country to another.

38

Improve electoral integrity and accountability. Implement stricter regulations and oversight to ensure elected officials remain committed to public service rather than personal gain. Ensuring transparency and accountability in the political processes can help prevent corruption and build public trust. This includes monitoring the use of public funds and ensuring that elected officials act in the best interest of their constituents while safeguarding the dignity of the European workforce.





SDG 13 Climate Action

This section delivers recommendations for European decision makers, collected within the partnership, on how to integrate SGD 13.

39

Support waste collection and management initiatives by promoting EU-wide schemes for waste collection in open spaces, alongside public awareness campaigns. A minimum number of garbage bins in each street could be imposed by law – while travelling through Europe thanks to the SPGs project, we noticed that not all countries have the same rate of bins available in public spaces, which might make people feel entitled to throw garbage on the ground, both in the city and in rural areas. Establishing a legislation at European level would ensure that every country in Europe makes a step forward in reducing littering, with a positive impact on everyday quality of life. Effective waste management is

crucial for reducing pollution and protecting ecosystems. By supporting these initiatives, raising awareness about their importance and providing opportunities for exchange of ideas and knowledge, the EU can encourage community involvement and responsibility towards a cleaner environment.

40

Forbid the use of disposable plastics. This type of packaging is among the most damaging for the environment and is extremely harmful for humans as well as for the animal world. By forbidding disposable plastics at European level, we ensure that everyone changes their consumption habits and favours a less polluting lifestyle. That would also drastically reduce the amount of



waste that each family produces and could make a big difference in the pollution emission of European Union as a whole, while protecting the ecosystems.

41

Impose stricter norms on vehicles to improve air quality, as the CO₂ emitted by the everyday use of our cars is still too high. At the same time, it is necessary to invest in the public transport system by extending it to areas not served to date and making it more efficient and economical so that people are encouraged to use it instead of their private cars.

42

Promote green transportation infrastructure to drastically reduce EU carbon footprint. Advocate for the development of eco-friendly public transport systems and infrastructure for electric vehicles. Green transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves air quality.

43

Invest in education to sustainable urban mobility by promoting the use of bicycles as means of transport, private or shared ones, through awareness raising and promotional campaigns, economic incentives to

purchase and international dedicated days. Bicycles are alternative means of transportation that respect the environment while contributing to the physical well-being of the people who use them.

44

Support sustainable agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect biodiversity. Stop the use of harmful pesticides that hurt people and damage the environment. Offer better support to agricultural workers that decide to move to a more organic production, even if that means reducing productivity in terms of quantity. Agricultural pollution is one of the greatest sources of pollution on the planet, but the cost of reducing it cannot be borne by farmers. They must be encouraged to initiate this change by offering them economic incentives and tax relief.

45

Impose drastic laws on carbon emission for big companies or individuals with very high carbon footprints. Set a price on CO₂ emissions and invest revenues from the carbon pricing system in measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change and in clean technologies. Recognise a certain level of carbon emission as a crime





passible of law pursuits so that the risk incurred by offenders is significant enough to induce them to adopt more virtuous behaviours.

46

Set a final date for the phase-out of coal, oil and natural gas and really commit to respecting it. Remove fossil fuel subsidies to make clean energy more competitive and invest in renewable energy projects. Encourage broader adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar, hydroelectric, and wind power through funding and policy support. Transitioning to renewable energy is critical for reducing reliance on fossil fuels and combating climate change. MEPs can facilitate this shift by promoting policies and investments in sustainable energy technologies. This will ensure that nobody is left behind in the green transition, and that green energy sources will be affordable for everyone.

47

Implement stricter policies and regulations to improve energy efficiency in buildings, transportation and industry, and enforce penalties for non-compliance to ensure that the regulations are taken seriously and have the desired impact. Buildings, transportation and industry together account for the majority of global greenhouse gas

emissions. Energy efficiency directly reduces the amount of energy needed to perform tasks, thereby decreasing the burning of fossil fuels and the resulting carbon dioxide emissions. It is fundamental to support research and development of cutting-edge energy-efficient technologies at EU level through grants and subsidies.

48

Invest in a permanent collaboration between European universities for the periodic organisation of calls for ideas that will allow European students to present their proposals of social innovation to mitigate the effects of climate change which are systematically affecting all countries nowadays. Providing for the funding of worthwhile projects would allow the testing of social impact pilot actions, through the launch of new start-ups or the setting up of collaboration with existing companies.

49

Expand protected natural areas, and to secure and allocate EU funds for reforestation projects, the development of green spaces, orchards, and organic vineyards. These actions are essential for carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation and require significant investment, which the EU can help provide through dedicated funding



programmes. Forests and natural ecosystems are vital carbon sinks, absorbing significant amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere. At the same time, healthy soils in reforested and protected areas store carbon, preventing its release into the atmosphere. Expanding protected areas safeguards habitats for diverse species, promoting biodiversity and ecosystem stability. Biodiversity-rich areas provide essential ecosystem services, such as pollination, water purification, and climate regulation, which are crucial for human well-being.

50

Restore urban greenery by providing each year for the planting of trees and the creation of green areas respecting a fixed quantitative standard at European level and based on the number of inhabitants of the area concerned. The presence of urban greens makes cities more liveable by purifying air quality and mitigating the effects of extreme climatic events. For example, soil absorbs water in case of heavy rain, trees offer shade and cool areas against hot weather. Strictly check those standards and provide sanctions for European cities that do not respect them. Urban living conditions are deteriorating every year, with enormous damage to the health of their citizens.

51

Discourage wild animal trafficking.

Wild species are often overharvested for commercial purposes, leading to population declines and even extinction. The wildlife trade is a major driver of biodiversity loss, impacting thousands of species worldwide. As every species plays a specific role in its ecosystem, the removal of certain species due to trade can disrupt food chains and ecological balance, leading to unforeseen consequences for entire ecosystems. In fact, wild species contribute to the genetic diversity necessary for ecosystems to adapt to changes and stresses, such as climate change and diseases. As wildlife trafficking is often linked to organised crime and corruption, discouraging it at EU level will also contribute to promoting the rule of law.

52

Support diplomatic efforts and international cooperations to end conflicts and promote peace.

Armed conflicts often lead to the destruction of ecosystems, deforestation, and habitat loss, exacerbating biodiversity loss and reducing carbon sinks. They can also result in significant pollution of air, water, and soil due to the use of explosives, oil spills, and chemical





weapons, which can have long-term environmental impacts. The EU needs to support diplomatic efforts to mediate and resolve conflicts through peaceful dialogue and negotiation, prioritising non-violent solutions, by investing in peacebuilding initiatives that address the root causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality, and resource scarcity, fostering long-term stability. By prioritising peace, MEPs can help create a more stable and sustainable environment for implementing ecological initiatives.

53

Develop and promote green financial instruments like green bonds to attract investments in sustainable projects. These instruments can significantly accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy by attracting investments in initiatives that address climate change, promote environmental sustainability, and foster economic growth. By offering attractive returns and aligning with investors' growing interest in sustainability, green financial instruments can draw in private capital, complementing public funding for climate action. Investments in green projects stimulate economic activity and create jobs in emerging sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable transportation.

54

Support research projects focused on climate mitigation and adaptation technologies. This can include grants, subsidies, and tax incentives for both public and private sector R&D initiatives. It can also be done by encouraging partnerships between universities, research institutions, and private companies to leverage diverse expertise and resources or by establishing innovation hubs and incubators that can provide startups and researchers with the necessary resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities to develop and scale their innovations. It is fundamental to invest in research to improve the efficiency and reduce the cost of solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable energy technologies. At the same time, it is crucial to support the development of sustainable bioenergy sources such as algae-based biofuels and waste-to-energy technologies.

55

Invest in circular economy initiatives aiming to minimise waste and make the most of resources by creating closed-loop systems where products, materials, and resources are reused, refurbished, and recycled. By reducing the need for new raw materials, the circular economy



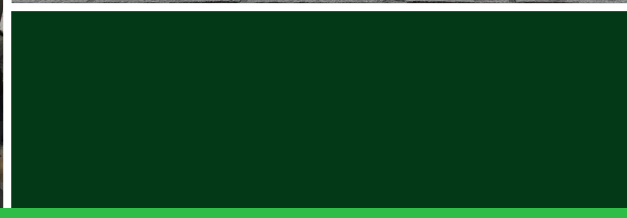
decreases energy consumption and emissions associated with extraction, production, and transportation. At the same time, a circular economy creates new opportunities in recycling, repair, and remanufacturing industries, fostering economic growth and job creation. European policies could encourage manufacturers to design products that are durable, easily repairable, and upgradable to extend their lifecycle and reduce waste. The policies could be enforced by establishing schemes that hold producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products, including take-back, recycling, and final disposal. Incentives should be provided for companies that adopt sustainable practices and use recycled materials in their production processes.

56

Establish and enforce standards for sustainable fashion production, covering aspects such as the carbon footprint, waste reduction, and ethical labor practices. Provide incentives for companies that adopt sustainable and eco-friendly materials such as organic cotton, recycled fibers, and biodegradable fabrics. In this regard, we consider it extremely important to support the growth of second-hand clothing markets and sharing platforms that encourage consumers to buy and sell pre-owned clothing.

Policies and investments should be supported by EU level awareness raising campaigns to educate consumers about the environmental impact of fast fashion and the benefits of sustainable alternatives, encouraging them to make mindful purchasing decisions, focusing on quality over quantity and prioritising sustainable brands.

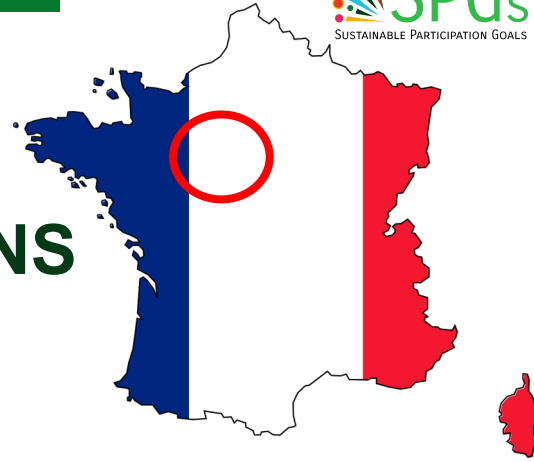






III

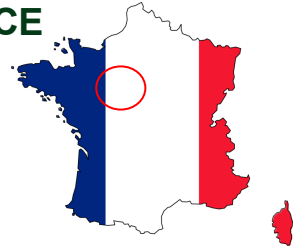
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL DECISION MAKERS



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FRANCE

This section lists recommendations from France, deducted from the activities and mobilities implemented in France by Théâtre de l'Opprimé, in the **Paris and Centre-Val de Loire region**.





SDG 5 Gender Equality

1

Ensure that influential media, which nowadays play a big role in everyone's life and in understanding of the world, display a large array of potentiality and avoid enforcing norms as to what people should be, depending on their gender. It is important to raise awareness on the topic by disseminating a more humanised and less objectified image of women, because it is by displaying women as full beings that we will stop people from picturing them as less than men.

2

Increase awareness raising campaigns on the issue of violence against women, expanding their audience and deepening causes and possible responses. We need to talk about this specific type of violence in schools, job place, churches, sport fields and any public spaces, offering free information groups or classes on how these issues may affect our lives or the lives of our loved ones and how to react to them efficiently. Because the most common form of violence hides within the domestic walls, it is the most difficult to fight and a permanent threat to equality between women and men.

3

Strengthen sanctions and liability in case of sexual harassment, not only against those who commit the act, but also against people in socially relevant positions who, while informed of the facts and having received a complaint, decide not to take action by not reporting the case to competent authorities.

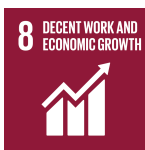
4

Strengthen regulations against sexual harassment within the workplace. Only by making the workplace a safe space where adequate measures are taken to prevent sexual harassment (trainings and education, regulation, prevention measures and reaction procedures) we allow women to work to the full of their abilities and lower the inequalities between men and women.

5

Educate people, especially young generations, to recognise gender stereotypes with the aim of reducing gender biases. It is important to raise awareness about the importance of male education on these subjects and understanding that gender inequality defeats both genders and not only women.





SDG 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

6

Facilitating access to the labour market for young people. Our socioeconomic background affects the quality and amount of information we have in order to understand how to approach a job search. Knowing where to look for work and how to do so is indeed a privilege, especially for young people who are not highly educated, while it should be accessible information to all. Spreading knowledge of the main tools and channels for finding a job is the first step towards achieving decent work for all.

7

Raising awareness of gender stereotypes within the workplace. Access to certain professions remains the exclusive prerogative of a specific gender, preventing those who remain excluded from being able to pursue their dreams and fully apply their potential. Raising employers' awareness of gender discrimination would make them more likely to ensure that their work teams respect the principles of inclusion and diversity.

8

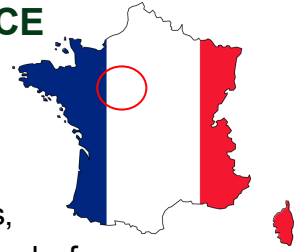
Organise find-a-job fairs and CV-writing workshops to help people looking for job opportunities and properly applying to open job positions, especially in popular neighbourhoods. The current support system is inefficient and does not respond to the needs of the population, especially to those of people with fewer opportunities living in socially disadvantaged areas.

9

Encourage local companies to offer paid internships and graduate programs. The result would be both to help young people enter the work force with practical and on-the-job experience and to ensure the companies that they are employing someone who already knows how to work, while paying young people internships would allow for them to cover their expenses, as not everyone has the privilege of not needing monthly income to support themselves.

10

Enforce a support system for small local businesses, allowing them a chance to flourish, thus creating new job offers in a virtuous circle. Local entrepreneurship could be encouraged by offering open classes in business management, facilitating access to funding, especially at the start of the activity and especially if young people are embarking on that journey.



SDG 13 Climate Action

11

Make it mandatory for every local shop to avoid giving away unnecessary plastic bags and favour paper bags, even better fabric bags from ethical supply chains. It is still too easy to see the public space littered because of all the waste that people have easily and constantly access too. As well as raising citizens' awareness, it is necessary to make it compulsory for their local providers to be more respectful of the environment.

12

Introduce, within school programmes, practical activities of environmental education such as garbage collection in public spaces (streets, squares, parks, beaches), planting and weeding in green areas, creation of shelter houses for animals (strays, birds, insects), to be repeated periodically. That way, young people would really become aware and motivated to pay more attention to the environmental impact of their actions.

13

Develop more bicycle paths and pedestrian's areas. Many popular neighbourhoods lack pedestrian and bicycle pathways, and more generally,

urban design. Because of this, daily life is less organised for a sustainable lifestyle and encourages people to use the car in their routine. We could also have more local stores that are accessible by foot. Urban design is very important to the development of a good social life inside of any neighbourhoods and to ensure its inhabitants can live a sustainable lifestyle.

14

Advocate for people to consume less meat. This could be done through a marketing campaign, for example by establishing agreements with major supermarket chains so that they do not sell meat for a day a week ('no meat Tuesday'). Considering that it is universally recognised that intensive meat consumption is harmful for health and that the meat production industry is one of the main sources of pollution on the planet, it is imperative that people reduce demand for meat so the offer will change accordingly, or vice versa.

15

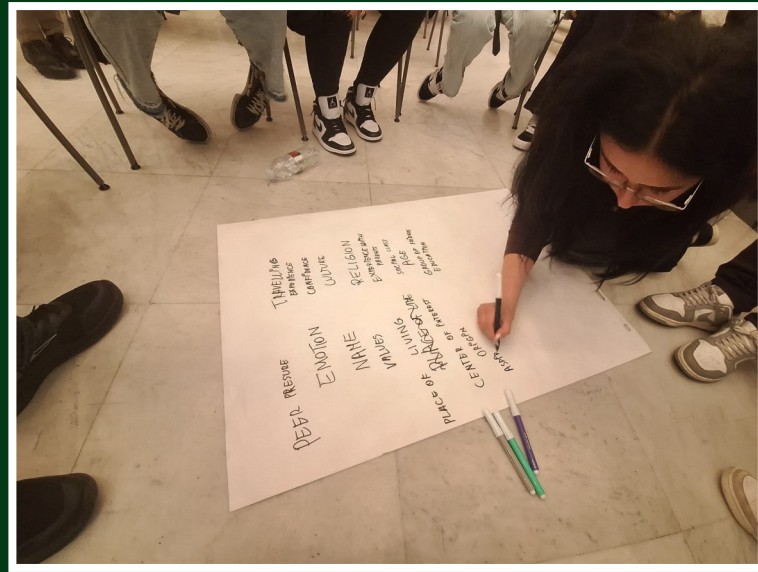
Reduce product packaging by using fully recyclable materials and avoiding packaging altogether where feasible. Encourage the sale and purchase of bulk products that reduce packaging to zero when bringing with you your own container, bottle or jar, with economic incentives for sellers that result in lower prices for consumers, and by applying tax relief.





RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ITALY

This section lists recommendations from Italy, deducted from the activities and mobilities implemented in Italy by Agorà, in the **Ligurian region**.





SDG 5 Gender Equality

1

Make the use of CVs where gender is not specified mandatory. The possibility of evaluating a professional profile before knowing the gender allows an objective and non-prejudiced assessment of competences that could otherwise preclude a woman's or LGBTQ+ community member's opportunity.

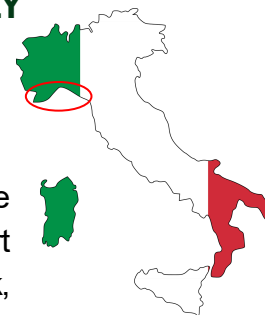
2

Include emotional and relationship education into school curricula, starting in elementary school. In Italy, there are many cases of femicide, almost always the motive is a relationship gone wrong. We must learn to manage feelings, to refuse and to accept rejection, to respect people's dignity, to avoid toxic jealousy and possessiveness, to be together without losing freedom. We must learn it while we are young and be ready to teach it to our children in order to break the chain of gender-based violence that still prevails in our society today.

3

Cleaning the media of stereotypical representations of gender roles, which have a negative impact on everyone – men, women and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We should all be

ITALY



free to feel how we feel, love who we want, practice the sport we want, choose studies, work, passions according to our preferences and attitudes. Stereotypical representations, though less widespread than in the past, have not yet disappeared and continue to undermine the process of achieving gender equality.

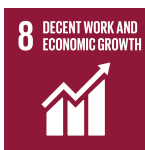
4

Prevent the victims of aggression from being questioned for their clothing or attitude, as if wearing a certain garment or attending a certain place at a certain time could make being assaulted legitimate. Women have the same rights as men to the choice of clothing or places of attendance, which must be safe for everyone and without distinction whatsoever. Public institutions must be at the forefront in stating that this type of argument cannot and will not be tolerated, discouraging and sanctioning its use by formal means.

5

Introduce gender identity education courses for school staff, hospital staff, law enforcement and, in general, all persons holding positions of reference being more or less specialised and for a more or less vast audience. Gender identity is a topic that is being explored more and more among young people, while it remains difficult for the older generations to understand. It is necessary to smooth the gap, especially in contexts where people who lack understanding are figures who should be reference points for young people.





SDG 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

6

Include in school curricula an education about job contracts, norms of safety at work, rights and duties of the workers. Our lack of knowledge on these issues when we enter the job market makes us more vulnerable to forms of exploitation and undeclared work.

7

Require that curricular internships are being paid, providing for an economic contribution or alternative forms of remuneration such as cultural opportunities or vouchers for the purchase of school supplies. More and more internships are being presented as opportunities for students while, in fact, they are only a way for the company to benefit from free labour.

8

Extend the opportunities for internships or study experiences abroad by expanding subsidies for low-income families. Programmes that allow young people to experience

studying and training abroad are generally exclusive opportunities accessible to privileged families. Although many of these opportunities provide a selection that takes into account the merit of the individual, the economic capacity of the family remains indispensable in ensuring the economic sustainability of the student during the period abroad.

9

Introduce free formal certification of skills upon reaching the final year of high school. Allowing young people to finish the cycle of secondary school studies with a path of formal validation of skills which enable them to approach the job market with a more specific skills set and concrete elements to be included in their CV.

10

Introduce innovative policies in favour of young seasonal workers, often underpaid or forced to work in precarious and poorly protected conditions. Facilitate the regulation of this type of worker through the introduction of new contractual forms that provide for pension benefits and sick leave.



SDG 13 Climate Action

11

Introduce the possibility of obtaining school training credits through the organisation of environmental events and initiatives aimed at public spaces clean-up (e.g. streets, parks, beaches), maintenance of natural areas or urban greenery, conservation of biodiversity (e.g. planting of specific vegetation that encourage bees pollination).

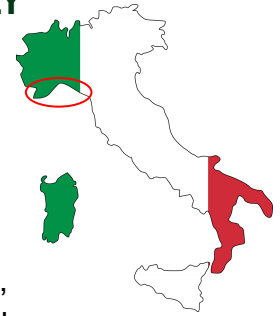
12

Removal of bottled drinks vending machines in schools and their replacement with water dispensers and supply of reusable water bottles to students. This is an incredibly small investment compared to the benefits of spreading this simple sustainability practice.

13

Increase the number of bins for the collection of plastic bottles and other highly recyclable materials that provide vouchers and discounts for citizens who use them. These bins, the result of a very positive initiative

ITALY



both from an environmental and social point of view, are effective, but still not widespread enough.

14

Establish and make mandatory an application for an agile display of household resources consumption (electricity, gas, water). Having a greater awareness of the consumptions we make would encourage monitoring with benefits that are both economic and safeguarding resources.

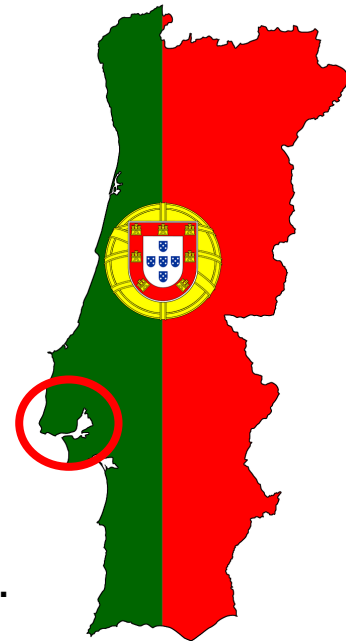
15

Feed the virtuous circle of circular economy fashion by establishing places suitable for direct "swapping" where you can exchange clothing, electrical and digital appliances, home furnishings and more. It is unfortunately, still too difficult to find places where unused objects can find new life, or where objects that are no longer working can be repaired, while it is too easy to dispose of them by throwing them in the trash and buying newer versions, perhaps of poor quality and cheap price that will soon break. Providing space for the direct exchange of goods between citizens reduces the amount of waste and increases the level of social cohesion.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PORTUGAL

This section lists recommendations from Portugal, deducted from the activities and mobilities implemented in France by CAI, in the **Lisbon and Tagus Valley region**.





SDG 5 Gender Equality

1

Promote educational programmes in schools and communities that address topics such as gender stereotypes, violence against women and girls, and sexual and reproductive rights. During the compulsory school from 5th till 12th years old, students have 90 minutes every week dedicated to raise awareness about a topic that teachers and students can choose out of a formal list. This could be achieved by adding gender equality and related topics to that list.

2

Implement awareness campaigns in different social media to promote gender equality while encouraging and training young people as the forefront in fighting gender stereotypes and violence related to gender diversity. The campaigns could involve young people of different genders in order to be more effective and efficient in terms of communication and build up a peer-to-peer gender education.

3

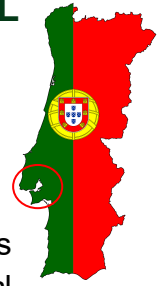
Ensure gender equality within municipal council, effectively allowing women to participate in policy definition and decision-making. Local council should also ensure equal representation of women at all levels

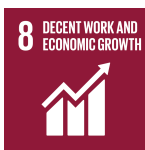
4

Engage in combating gender-based violence in domestic settings by establishing mechanisms at the local level for prevention through awareness raising. All community members have to be aware that reporting can save lives and reduce the chances for the offenders to perpetrate violence. Social control is everyone's responsibility and reducing violence can be achieved by promoting a culture of respect and tolerance in our communities. Citizen assemblies could be created where these measures can be designed and discussed.

5

Launch a wide local campaign to promote equal earnings for women and men doing equal work or work of equal value. The gender pay gap in Portugal stands higher than the European average and has only changed minimally over the last decade. The position in the hierarchy influences the level of pay: less than one in ten of the top Portuguese companies' CEOs are women. Local authorities could provide subsidies for local companies that respect gender equality within the organisation also by ensuring the presence of women in managerial roles, while including disincentives for those who do not.





SDG 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

6

Invest in vocational and educational training adapted to the needs of the local labour market. We think it is important to create and maintain jobs linked to cultural heritage and know-how while ensuring that young people have the competencies necessary to obtain these jobs. That means that technical and professional competencies are transmitted without a generational gap to the youth that are invited to recreate and improve these techniques using new means. It is also important to provide a practical learning context that allows people to update their skills and adapt to changes in the labour market in a smooth trajectory.

7

Create a favourable business environment for local entrepreneurs (men and women) especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, paying particular attention to youth entrepreneurship. Measures that could be taken: simplifying bureaucratic processes for opening

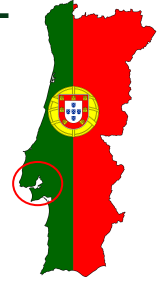
and managing companies; reducing administrative burdens for companies; offer tax incentives for companies that create local jobs; attract investment and create job opportunities within the local community. Local sustainable economic growth is crucial in influencing human development.

8

Engage in promoting local products such as agriculture crops, foods linked to local dietary and technologies, local construction techniques and crafts developed within the local communities. Communities must be encouraged to buy from local producers in order to increase the local employment and reduce their carbonic footprint.

9

Finance mentoring programmes organised by local organisations to help young people to effectively prepare themselves for their future jobs. The mentoring groups could be led by local professionals with experience, competence and willingness to contribute to shaping a more inclusive society, thus improving social cohesion within our communities.



10

Promote collaboration between the public and private sector, ensuring and encouraging synergies and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda SDGs at a local level. Sometimes we hear arguments like that there is an incompatibility between traditional industries and the achievement of SDGs in terms of water quality protection, air pollution reduction and so on. Local authorities could strengthen the collaboration between universities, companies and governmental bodies to drive innovation and introduce solutions to face the SDGs' challenge.

11

Ensure a living wage and protect workers' rights, including the right to unionise and collective bargaining, while providing for measures to ensure their voices are heard. Most of the members of the community are part of the active labour market. They discuss workplace topics with their families, friends and social groups, often coming up with proposals for better working conditions. Hence the importance of applying bottom-up participatory strategy, strengthening workers' rights means contributing to social cohesion.





SDG 13 Climate Action

12

Be the campaigning vanguard on repairing and reuse common items such as electronics, clothes, furniture and others. The production chain is still generally highly polluting, causing high carbon emissions at each stage from the extraction of raw materials to manufacturing and transporting goods to market. To protect the climate, we need to buy fewer things, shop second-hand, and repair what we can. Local decision makers can fund awareness raising campaigns, the opening and running of repair centres, circular economy initiatives from local organisations or private citizens, swap events, opening centres for the collection of items in good conditions which can be exchanged, sold or donated, etc.

13

Financially support businesses or private citizens' initiatives to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The first step is promoting or, even better, making energy efficiency diagnoses

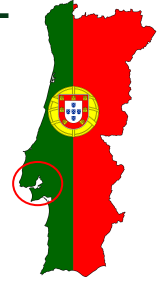
in homes, apartments, and workplaces compulsory. After that, local governments could encourage the retrofitting of residential, commercial, and public buildings with energy-efficient technologies and improved insulation; establishing and enforcing energy performance standards for new constructions to ensure they meet high energy efficiency criteria; offering tax incentives, discounts, or grants to property owners who adopt green building certifications.

14

Engage in taking proper care of green areas. In urban greenery, prefer native plant species and replace non-native ones, especially those considered invasive. Plants, animals and insects depend on each other. Most insects do not eat non-native plants, which means birds and other species lose a food source and biodiversity suffers. Even a single tree or shrub can offer a refuge to various animal species, but refrain from using insecticides and other chemicals while taking care of them.

15

Promote awareness raising campaigns to educate about proper waste disposal, and establish economic sanctions for companies



and citizens who do not comply, while strengthening control and supervision measures. Humans, animals and plants all suffer from land and water contaminated by improperly discarded garbage. Local decision makers could fund clean-ups in parks, rivers, beaches and beyond. Every year, people throw out 2 billion tons of trash, of which about a third causes environmental harms, poisoning soil and water supplies.

16

Cooperate with other cities and communities to share knowledge and experience in implementing effective climate policies. Speak up and get other local governments to join efforts and take action. Working together is one of the quickest and most effective ways to make a difference. Let citizens and business owners know you support bold changes – from plastics-free products and packaging to zero-emissions vehicles, and appeal to other local governments to follow your lead.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ROMANIA



This section lists recommendations from Romania, deducted from the activities and mobilities implemented in France by Polylogos, in the **Transylvania region**.





SDG 5 Gender Equality

1

Promote gender equality in public offices, the workplace, and in positions of authority. Implement a fair, equal opportunities and merit-based evaluation system, and provide continuous training courses for public officials on the topic of "Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls". Women are frequently discriminated against in public places, not just by men but also by other women. Raising awareness and educating public officials and employers about the importance of gender equality and how to be gender sensitive will help reduce discrimination and promote women into leadership roles. Objective evaluations, continuous training and sanctions for discrimination can help to ensure a fairer working environment. Increasing women's representation in positions of power can ensure that their interests and perspectives are adequately represented, contributing to more equitable policies and promoting gender equality.

2

Create safe spaces for women to express their opinions. Establish community centres and public spaces where women can express their opinions, discuss issues that are relevant to them, and report abuse or discrimination in a safe and protected environment. Many women have experiences of being silenced by violence or threats of violence, and for that reason they often avoid expressing their opinions and participating in public discussions. Providing a safe place for women to express their opinions is essential to prevent violence and abuse of power, and to strengthen their role in society. These centres can offer a space for women to play an active part in democratic life, they can provide support and counselling, and contribute to a safer and more just environment for women and men, boys and girls, in all their diversity.

3

Implement support programmes for the mental and emotional health of men, promoting free expression in a formal setting. Encouraging men to express their emotions and seek help for mental health issues can help reduce gender stereotypes and create a healthier balance between

genders, and safer and more just society for everyone. This helps prevent people falling into extremes and supports the ideal of gender equality.

4

Ensure pay equity for women and men in the same positions and encourage women to apply for leadership roles. Eliminating pay disparities and actively promoting women to leadership positions will boost their confidence and self-esteem, offering them equal career opportunities and contributing to the development of a more equitable society. Also, the pay for traditionally women-dominated professions (such as medical nurses and teachers) should be raised, just as they should be granted higher status and respect in society.

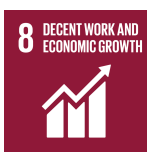
5

Promote education and awareness on gender equality through the organisation of workshops, seminars, and educational programmes in schools to combat gender stereotypes. Educating the community about the importance of gender equality and combating stereotypes from a young age will contribute to creating a more equitable and inclusive society. Collaborating with schools, training

teachers and organizing educational events are concrete steps towards achieving this goal.

6

Implement and promote sexual education programs in local schools. Effective sexual education can reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and improve sexual health. Providing accurate and accessible information is essential to enable young people to make informed choices.



SDG 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

7

Elevate the status of manual labour. Launch public awareness campaigns to de-stigmatise manual labour and highlight its value in society. Manual labour is often considered low status by society; however, they are essential jobs and should be more appreciated and respected. By shifting societal views and emphasising the importance and respectability of manual labour, local politicians can address labour shortages in critical trades such as masonry, painting, and mechanics. This can also help attract more individuals to these essential professions.

8

Promote job opportunities in underappreciated sectors. Develop initiatives to attract and retain qualified professionals in undervalued sectors like education. By offering incentives (such as further education opportunities, additional bonuses and opportunities for growth), and improving working conditions in

sectors such as education, local politicians can ensure a steady supply of well-trained personnel. This is crucial for maintaining high standards and preventing future problems associated with a lack of skilled educators.

9

Simplify bureaucratic processes and increase transparency within local governments to enhance efficiency and trust. Making the public processes simpler and easier to access and navigate (documents, decisions, public funds expenditure, etc.) will improve accountability measures and can restore public trust in local authorities. This, in turn, will create a more positive image of local governance and improve citizen engagement and satisfaction.

10

Advocate for fair wages and enhanced working conditions across all sectors. Implement policies that encourage or mandate fair and competitive wages for all sectors. Mandate that all employers provide efficient and appropriate safety equipment to protect employees from workplace accidents. Decent pay and good working conditions are fundamental to attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. Furthermore, by ensuring that all

workers have the necessary protective equipment, local politicians can help reduce the incidence of workplace injuries, leading to healthier work environments and reducing the economic burden of injuries on the healthcare system. By focusing on these aspects, local politicians can improve job satisfaction and economic stability within their communities.

11

Support local entrepreneurship and technological advancement. Provide grants, low-interest loans, and mentorship programs for local entrepreneurs, particularly in innovative and sustainable sectors. Supporting local entrepreneurship and staying abreast of technological advancements can drive economic growth and job creation. This benefits creative entrepreneurs and innovators and allows them to create new and necessary solutions to the most pressing issues in society. By fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, local politicians can help their communities thrive and adapt to future challenges.

12

Ensure that all workers have access to reliable and affordable transportation to and from their workplaces. Facilitating easy access

to transportation is crucial for enabling workers to reach their jobs without difficulty, thus improving productivity and job satisfaction. This can also expand the potential workforce by making more jobs accessible to people living farther from urban centres.

13

Promote the creation and expansion of designated agricultural zones to boost local commerce and sustainability. Developing agricultural zones can stimulate local economies, create jobs, and ensure food security. These zones can serve as hubs for both production and innovation in agricultural practices, enhancing economic growth and sustainability.



SDG 13 Climate Action

14

Address real polluters and prevent man-made fires. Implement stricter regulations and monitoring for industries responsible for significant pollution and take preventive measures against intentional fires. By focusing on the true sources of pollution and actively preventing fires, local politicians can effectively tackle environmental degradation and improve air quality. This includes enforcing compliance with environmental standards and ensuring accountability for polluters.

15

Promote waste collection in open spaces. Organise community clean-up campaigns and provide adequate waste management infrastructure in public areas. Encouraging public participation in waste collection can raise awareness about environmental issues and foster a culture of responsibility.

16

Develop necessary infrastructure for recycling, especially for substances that currently

have no dedicated recycling processes in place. Implement mandatory recycling regulations for households and businesses. Establishing local recycling facilities can significantly reduce waste and facilitate the proper disposal and reuse of materials. It can also cultivate a culture of environmental responsibility among residents and businesses.

17

Develop more parks, green spaces as well as bicycle lanes and electric buses to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable urban mobility. These measures can significantly reduce reliance on motor vehicles, lowering fuel consumption and pollution levels. They also improve public health and quality of life by providing safe and pleasant areas for recreation and transportation.

18

Launch reforestation projects and protect existing forests to absorb CO₂ and preserve biodiversity. Forests play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Reforestation and forest conservation help maintain ecological balance and protect diverse species, ensuring environmental sustainability.



ROMANIA



19

Actively participate in international climate initiatives and develop local adaptation policies to safeguard vulnerable communities. By engaging in global efforts like the Paris Agreement, local politicians can access shared knowledge and resources to combat climate change. Developing adaptation policies will help our community prepare for and mitigate the impacts of climate-related events such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves.

20

Increase the installation of photovoltaic systems in multiple areas to reduce reliance on artificially generated electricity. Expanding solar energy use can help decrease greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy independence. This shift to renewable energy sources, and making it inclusive for everyone, is crucial for reducing the environmental footprint of local energy consumption.

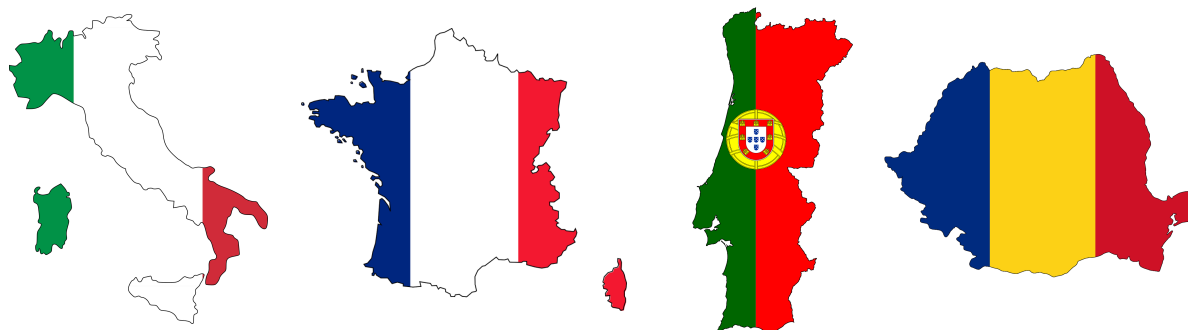




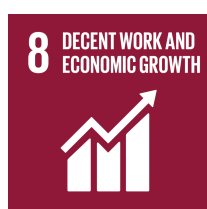


IV

CONCLUSIONS



CONCLUSIONS



As young people, we live in a world where gender equality is still a dream, where many still struggle to find decent work and opportunities for economic growth, where climate change has become a threat to the existence of human life.

In this document we presented some systemic measures and some concrete proposals that can be implemented, both at European and local level, to achieve SDGs n° 5 Gender equality, n° 8 Decent work and economic growth, and n° 13 Climate action.

We believe that the first step to combat discrimination and

stereotypes is to act through education. Schools play a crucial role in achieving gender equality by shaping attitudes, behaviours, and opportunities for children and young people. As foundational institutions in society, schools have the potential to challenge stereotypes, promote equal opportunities, and empower young people to reach their full potential, regardless of their gender identity.

We urge both local and European decision makers to integrate gender perspectives into all stages of policymaking, programming, and project development. Gender mainstreaming requires assessing the implications for women and men of

any planned action, in all areas and at all levels, aiming at addressing the specific needs and priorities of both genders, for a fairer society.

Equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay. There are still too few incentives to facilitate women's participation in the world of work, and there is not support for working mothers who still have too much trouble combining life and work.

Ensuring decent work for future generations is the only way to build sustainable and inclusive growth. Access to decent work opportunities helps bridge the gap between different socio-economic groups, promoting equality and social cohesion. It ensures that all individuals, regardless of gender, race, or background, can contribute to and benefit from economic growth.

We are extremely concerned about climate change as one of the most pressing challenges of our time, with profound implications for the environment, for economies, and for societies worldwide. The earth's average surface temperature has risen significantly over the past century due to human activities, particularly because of burning fossil fuels and due to deforestation. This warming trend is expected to continue, leading to more frequent

and severe heatwaves, droughts, and other extreme weather events. The rapid melting of polar ice caps and glaciers contributes to rising sea levels, threatening coastal communities and ecosystems. Climate change alters habitats and disrupts ecosystems, putting many plant and animal species at risk of extinction. Increased carbon dioxide emissions lead to ocean acidification, harming marine life, particularly coral reefs and shellfish.

We believe that the European Union should adopt more effective environmental policies to mitigate the impacts of climate change, requiring countries to use alternative and environmentally sustainable systems of production and ensuring strict financial sanctions for those failing to comply with these regulations. At the same time, we consider it essential to provide support for ecological innovation and incentives for local governments, as there are still too few power plants using renewable sources and it is impellent to renew the agricultural system and that of livestock.

We believe it is crucial to invest in education and awareness of environmental protection in schools and educational institutions of all degrees and grades, offering people the opportunity to participate and contribute to research and



experimentation through school and extracurricular programmes.

While biodiversity is constantly evolving, human activity impacts it greatly, causing alarming rates of decline in species and genetic diversity worldwide. Half of the world's forests have already disappeared. Privatisation, trade liberalisation and increased exports of meat and crops, such as soy and palm oil, have led to a massive increase in large-scale plantations, triggering further deforestation. The heavy use of pesticides and genetically modified crops also causes water pollution, soil degradation, and a reduction in genetic diversity. Biodiversity loss is driven by human activity, in the context of a globalised economic system based on endless extraction, production and consumption, with no respect for planetary boundaries.

Gender equality, sustainable economic growth and climate action concern all of us, and each of us is responsible for their achievement.

No one can do it all alone – but we can do it together.

We believe that our countries, and the European Union as a whole, have the potential to be a beacon of progress in these fields and demonstrate global leadership in building a more

sustainable future for everyone, but this requires a firm commitment from political decision-makers at all levels. We also believe that young people have a crucial role to play in building a better future. We must be the voice of change, demanding action from our leaders and working together to create a world where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential and where everyone can thrive in harmony with the planet.

By working together, young generations and decision makers, we can make the difference. We promise to make you hear, if you promise to listen.



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POLYLOGOS

LE T.O.
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DE L'ÉCRÉAN