

POLICY ROADMAP REPORT

SMART-

Coordinated by:



In Partnership with:



Co-funded by:



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

624643-EPP-1-2020-1-PL-EPPKA3-EU-YTH-TOG

POLICY ROADMAP REPORT



EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

SMART-Y's EU Virtual Hackathon brought young people from different Europe together, in a virtual environment, uniting them under a single purpose: infusing creative energy to seek solutions to rural challenges through the proposal of policies, following the "Green and sustainable Europe" pole star towards the realisation of Smart Villages.



NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

National Policy Labs were an opportunity to present the project ("Idea development & prototyping workshops, the" EU Virtual Hackathons" and the Local Living Labs) together with young people, to youth workers and policy-makers to finalise the policy recommendations after their feedback.

LOCAL LIVING LABS

Living Labs were organised in all 10 countries with the objective of co-creating a smart policy ecosystem on a local level in rural areas, responding to the Smart Villages strategy and more in general to the "Green and Sustainable Europe" Youth Goal.



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

To further promote the Hackathon platform and truly empower young people, we organised "Idea development and prototyping" workshops to transform the winning ideas into concrete policy recommendations before the launch of ad hoc crowdfunding campaigns.



AUSTRIA



INNOVATIVE EDUCATION CENTER

LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Transportation (rural mobility and village logistics). Sustainable rural planning and development.
- Digitalization.
- Role and use of ICT for empowering rural areas.
- Employment opportunities (inclusion, diversity). Employment opportunities for youngsters and green job opportunities.

EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas:

- Multi-step Reduction in Food Waste - reduce organic waste by collecting it from household to be processed and used to make fertilisers.
- Smart Energy Management - a device to manage the household installations to identify and reduce energy waste.



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Sensenergy Starter - is an energy monitoring system that gathers the electricity data and transmits it to visualize on three options (including hardware on a small touch screen in individual living spaces, mobile interface to make executive summaries for administrative roles and web app to be used by technical enthusiasts via its sufficient dashboard) As human beings, we are unaware of our electricity consumption and spend a lot, so we need an innovation that provides support to be aware of the energy usage and control it.
- Fertilizer - a set of sensors and dispensing devices aimed at reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers.
- Green Mail - using sensor monitors located near the mail boxes on the entrances of the shops for all the general adds and brochures online

NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Initiatives like SMARTY are giving more information on what smart villages are.

The main idea of the Austrian smart villages' communities is the usage of already existing resources (like old unused buildings into the social hubs, resource centers, and so on) showing young people that they may have the same opportunities and access to information, workshops, education, and exchange without moving to big cities. Non-formal education, hackathons, labs, workshops, and online courses are forcing up-to-date skills that young people do not gain at schools



CYPRUS



ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ
KIBRIS GENÇLİK KONSEYİ
CYPRUS YOUTH COUNCIL

LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Strategic plan to prevent wildfires
- Develop an environmental culture in rural areas
- Youth engagement



EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas:

- Multi-step Reduction in Food Waste - reduce organic waste by collecting it from household to be processed and used to make fertilisers
- Rainwater Collecting: design water containers to collect and filter rainwater to make communities more self-sustainable. :



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Coffee Recycling team "SaveMore" - reducing organic waste by collecting coffee grounds from households and industries to be processed and used to fertile plants in the parks.



NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Young people should be more involved in local governance or at least be consulted because they sometimes have the ideas and necessary expertise that will help the development or transition to "smart villages".

There are many solutions/good practices, as well as some policies, strategies, and laws that can be implemented to have more sustainable and smart communities. The citizens, especially young people in rural areas, are not informed about available funding or policies that are in place to tackle the issues mentioned above (e.g., placing solar panels in houses, and upgrading the energy efficiency of houses).



GREECE



LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- More sustainable transportation: pedestrians, bicycles, transportation with electric means, option to have uber-like services due to the outer connection of the village
- Upgrade of leisure-time spaces
- Creation of a Youth Club as a place of gathering and activation of young people

EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas:

- Marine Pollution Awareness Campaign, create an informative class for schools to raise awareness about the problem of marine pollution
- Sustainable micro-urban community, an information campaign on how to reduce everyday waste for the general population .
- Wind Catchers, create blueprints for a rethought version of “Wind-catcher” towers, an ancient refrigeration and ventilation method for buildings



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Marine Pollution Toolkit - a toolkit to fight marine pollution, while educating people not to pollute and informing them about the consequences of pollution.
- More Efficient And Effective Waste Collection And Treatment - the app aims to educate about recycling and help manage garbage in a more eco-friendly way.
- Wind Catchers Team - creating blueprints for a rethought version of “Wind-catcher” towers, an ancient refrigeration and ventilation method for buildings in the middle east.

NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

It is important to promote a sustainable way of living, strengthen the connection between young people, NGOs, schools (teachers), and local authorities and to find a way for collectively moving towards a better quality of life in terms of sustainability. Young people have the will to live more sustainable than older generations, but lack of means, either because there is limited support (financial and other), or that they are not aware of possible funding opportunities.



ITALY



LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Accessibility of green areas
- Unsustainable food education
- Illegality (e.g. incorrect waste disposal, payment of relevant taxes, etc.)
- Lack of sustainable public/private transport
- Unsustainable waste management

EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas:

- Modernise Local Parks: The restoration of local parks to make them more sustainable, educational and enjoyable to spend time by people of every age
- Plastic-Eater Fungi Container: creation of a sealed container full of plastic-eating fungi in order to reduce plastic waste



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Complaster - research on accelerating the decomposition of synthetic polymers by selected species of fungi, with the goal of creating special household devices in which fungi will consume plastic packaging
- Gardement - a living tower with meeting space that will stand in a central location in the city



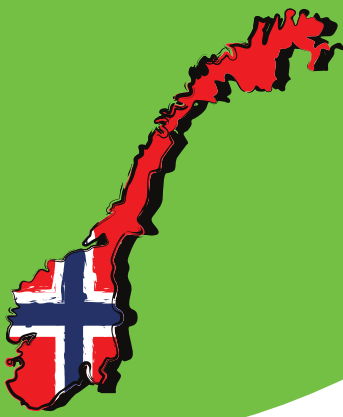
NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Initiatives like SMARTY are useful to attract young people to their rural hometowns so that they do not continue to overpopulate urban municipalities in the face of rural depopulation.

The involvement of the policymakers in the implementation of innovative projects is a transformative and necessary initiative that requires an investment of time, (no less than 3 years for generating a real impact). It is considered of vital importance to support initiatives that arise in rural areas and focus on the most affected groups such as young people



NORWAY



VOLDA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Marine pollution specially concerning the plastic litter in the oceans and the coastline
- Waste of food and clothing and the need for recycling and sustainable production
- Lack of responsibility and action from both politicians and citizens

EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas:

- Plastic Recycling, broad implementation of plastic shredders for households
- Marine Pollution Awareness Campaign, create an informative class for schools to raise awareness about the problem of marine pollution



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Recycling Makerspace, a recycling maker space where anyone can come and use any of my machines and tools, for a monthly subscription
- Marine Pollution Toolkit - a toolkit to fight marine pollution, while educating people not to pollute and informing them about the consequences of pollution.

NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

It is recommended to develop more teaching materials on plastic waste management, with different programs for different age groups, including kindergarten. Join forces with young people engaged in various technological aspects related to sustainability to brainstorm new innovations together. Encourage collaboration and innovation among youth to generate ideas and practical solutions for a cleaner future in their town or village.



POLAND



LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Lack of equal conditions for self-development /education/cultural access for people living in rural areas
- Transport-related social exclusion
- Access to healthy food



EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas

- Rethink Urban Transportation, a collection of green practices to shift the regular commuting routine to more sustainable practices
- Sustainable micro-urban community, an information campaign on how to reduce everyday waste for the general population.
- Rainwater Collecting: design water containers to collect and filter rainwater to make communities more self-sustainable. :

NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Young people feel that their voice is not sufficiently heard by decision-makers and therefore not included in local policies. They see the problem of polluted air and insufficient action on the part of politicians to eliminate the factors that cause air pollution. For example, there is not enough money to put air sensors on school buildings. There is a lack of funding opportunities for innovative and green projects. Young people do not have access to information on how to secure funding to realise their ideas.

IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- More Efficient And Effective Waste Collection And Treatment - our app aims to educate about recycling and help manage garbage in a more eco-friendly way.
- Energy Management Team - a collection of green practices to shift the regular commuting routine to be more sustainable, rethink street lines and lights to prioritize public transport alternative movement, awareness campaigns, better transport apps, and payment systems.
- Fertilizer - a set of sensors and dispensing devices aimed at reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers.



ROMANIA

geyc

A way for a better you!



EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas::

- Guide of Green Practices: a training and step-by-step guide of good green practices and sustainable development.
- Alternative Mobility: a massive gathering of data from transport, both public and private, and the overall road composition of communities, in order to reduce traffic and pollution.

NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Collaboration and effective communication between all the relevant actors is key. There are some steps taken at local/regional levels towards achieving green cities. However, more efforts are needed, especially in the efficient use of European funding. There are also some individual efforts towards achieving sustainability as well, however, most of the citizens feel powerless when it comes to thinking of bringing a real positive change. They lack the competencies to mobilize more people and also the opportunities to network with other key stakeholders and share their ideas and good practices.

LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Lack of quality education and easy access to reliable information sources regarding green and sustainable practices in their local community
- Poor sustainable and green infrastructure
- Lack of response to polluted areas from the authorities and stakeholders



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Sustainable Urban Communities is made to raise awareness about the importance of having a sustainable way of life in urban communities. Through cooperation, we can reach our goal to train people to change their living habits in order to experience a more sustainable future.
- Use your bicycle! - an app and a community for cyclist where you can plan your trip according to the bicycle lanes from Bucharest.



SLOVAKIA



LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Integrated transportation
- Greenery - green places in the city
- Effective waste management
- Education in green topics - eco-literacy
- Energy independence

EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

1. Winning ideas:
 - Sustainable micro-urban community, an information campaign on how to reduce everyday waste for the general population.



IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- More Efficient And Effective Waste Collection And Treatment - our app aims to educate about recycling and help manage garbage in a more eco-friendly way.

NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Young people can also contribute to public transportation improvements by promoting its benefit among their peers.

NGO/ Youth organizations can include this topic in their educational activities in order to promote the usage of public transportation among young people



SLOVENIA



LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Active involvement of youth in local, national, and international politics
- Public transport in rural areas
- Developing competencies of the 21st century



EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas:

- Modernize Local Parks: The restoration of local parks to make them more sustainable, educational and enjoyable to spend time by people of every age
- Rethink Urban Transportation, a collection of green practices to shift the regular commuting routine to more sustainable practices.

IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Energy Management Team - a collection of green practices to shift the regular commuting routine to be more sustainable, rethink street lines and lights to prioritise public transport alternative movement, awareness campaigns, better transport apps, and payment systems.
- Coffee Recycling team "SaveMore" - reducing organic waste by collecting coffee grounds from households and industries to be processed and used to fertile plants in the parks.
- Complaster - research on accelerating the decomposition of synthetic polymers by selected species of fungi, with the goal of creating special household devices in which fungi will consume plastic packaging
- Abandoned - low-cost revitalisation of abandoned parks and playgrounds in cooperation with the local community

NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Young people want to be more involved in local decisions; schools and businesses working together; improvement of public transport; the better appearance of the city; there are many unused buildings (e.g. failed enterprises), lack of pedestrian crossings



SPAIN



LOCAL LIVING LABS

Challenges:

- Lack of investment in education
- Drought
- Public Transportation



EU VIRTUAL HACKATHONS

Winning ideas:

- Plastic-Eater Fungi Container: creation of a sealed container full of plastic-eating fungi in order to reduce plastic waste



NATIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLES

Citizens are as full of problems as they are full of solutions, each part seems really concerned about their town's issues and had some proposition to tackle them. Many young people had lost confidence in their institutions, many see the changes as impossible or overwhelmingly bureaucratic and time-consuming.

IDEA DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPING WORKSHOPS

- Complaster - research on accelerating the decomposition of synthetic polymers by selected species of fungi, with the goal of creating special household devices in which fungi will consume plastic packaging
- Gardement - a living tower with meeting space that will stand in a central location in the city



POLICY ROADMAP REPORT



RECOMMENDATIONS

On a European level, the idea of SMART villages or cities is not so well-known and developed, so there is a need for funding for grassroots projects with the help of the cities and villages that are implementing already practices in these directions. Citizens need to be more engaged in the process of funding solutions for the problems they are facing in the community.

In the framework of the roundtables that took place in the 10 different counties, the citizens underline the necessity for laws to prevent food waste and restrictions for the use of individual transport.

A common online platform to spread the projects and promote future activities conducted at the local level would be a solution for the projects initiated at the grassroots level that need follow-up and mentorship.

At the local and regional levels, the authorities should encourage and motivate residents to use public transportation and green means of transportation by providing incentives and promoting the benefits of these modes of transportation. At the same time, prohibiting or restricting cars from entering certain areas of the city, particularly historical parts and city centres will reduce congestion and CO2 emissions.

A way to involve citizens and young people in the decision-making process can be by creating dedicated spaces where they can come up with initiatives and ideas related to public and green transportation and have the possibility to fund their ideas for the local community.

Offering free training on sustainability to personnel in local administration would increase the knowledge and awareness of sustainable practices and at the same time it would support the education of the general public on sustainability and community building.

Encouraging schools to have their own cafeterias with local products to promote sustainable and locally sourced food would help the education of young people by presenting positive examples of sustainable eating.

Promoting local natural resources with tourism potential to support sustainable tourism and raise awareness about the importance of preserving these resources.

Creating more green spaces within cities to improve air quality, reduce urban heat island effects, and provide opportunities for recreation and relaxation. Connecting green spaces outside of cities through sustainable local and regional public transport to promote sustainable and eco-friendly mobility options.

Coordinated by:



In Partnership with:



Co-funded by:

