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## Training for Youth Workers



Train the Trainer Course is ready and its implementation already started in Romania and Bulgaria.

The course contains 8 dedicated modules:

- Module 1 - What is social eco-innovation?
- Module 2 - How to support young people in collaborating on ideas and projects to boost entrepreneurship, innovation and active citizenship in the field of environment and fight against climate change?

## Find an Eco-Innovation

An eco-innovation refers to a fresh idea, product, or process designed to protect the environment and benefit the economy. It involves coming up with clever solutions to environmental issues by using resources wisely, reducing waste, and promoting sustainability. Eco-innovations can be found in different areas like energy, transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing. They often involve creating new technologies, practices, or products that are kinder to the environment compared to traditional methods.

You can find a lot of eco-innovative ideas on our webpage <https://youthsociallab.eu/category/eco-innovations-en/>.

From Food Composting Centers, to Vertical Farms or Food Monitoring and Meal Planning App.



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As you know, youth are very creative and love to work in communities. They only need, some guidance on how to implement sustainable solutions.

This guidance can be found following our training courses on Saving Resources, Carbon Footprint and Preserving Biodiversity, that can be used in our Educational Platform - <https://youthsociallab.eu/courses/>.

If you are interested to use our platform, send us an email to: [office@terramileniultrei.ro](mailto:office@terramileniultrei.ro) and we are giving you all the instructions on how to use the platform.



## Youth's Opinions about our Project

Do you want to find what was our trainees opinion at the end of the training course?

Take a look at some of their testimonials:

Following this course, I learned new and very interesting things that I hadn't even suspected before. For example, in one of our meetings, we all measured our carbon footprint and realized that, although I try to be as eco-friendly as possible, I still have a rather large carbon footprint. At first, I didn't realize that the consumption of meat in my diet had such a significant impact on the climate. Thus, I became aware of my influence on the environment and started looking for solutions to reduce this footprint." I.U. 20 years

"This experience proved to be not only a challenge but also a profoundly transformative journey in understanding and appreciating the importance of environmental protection. Through a series of courses

and practical activities, I explored essential topics such as resource conservation, carbon footprint, and biodiversity, aspects that helped me realize the role each of us can play in preserving our planet." I.T. 20 years

"The training significantly contributed to my personal and professional development. I gained practical skills, as well as a deeper understanding of environmental policies and how they can be influenced. I also learned the importance of perseverance and continuous effort in achieving environmental goals.

One of the most important lessons was realizing the impact of my own actions on the environment. The internship made me reflect on my lifestyle and how I can contribute to a more sustainable future. It inspired me to adopt more eco-friendly habits and to promote this mindset within my circle of friends." F.G. 20 years



"The Youth Social Lab training was an invaluable opportunity for my professional and personal development. Through courses, workshops, and meetings with specialized trainers, I gained valuable knowledge about eco-social innovation, public environmental policies, and climate change." I.C. 20 years

"The course 'Preserving Biodiversity' was a revelation in understanding the complexity of the relationship between socio-economic development and biodiversity conservation. I learned that biodiversity is not just an ecological concept but also an essential foundation for human well-being and sustainable development. C. A. 24 years



## Second Annual Meeting of Partners in Sofia

On the 9th of May, we celebrated Europe's Day with a meeting between all the partners involved in the project. Our meeting took place in the city of Sofia, where multiple topics have been on the agenda.



We are continuously evolving the concept of the YSEI Lab, and thanks to the great chemistry between our organizations, progress is moving at a fast pace.

A big "thank you" to Social Innovators, Bulgaria, for being the awesome hosts of this annual meeting. The more people take part, the better it is for the climate!

## Eco-Quest: A Youth-Led Sustainable Living Card Game Concept from YSEI Lab

Sofia, Bulgaria – A team of young innovators from the YSEI Lab has developed an exciting new idea, Eco-Quest, an educational card game designed to inspire

sustainable practices among youth. This concept, which blends physical and digital experiences, aims to engage players aged 10 to 18 in eco-friendly challenges while teaching them about sustainability in a fun and interactive way.

### Eco-Quest Concept: Engaging Youth in Sustainability through Play

Eco-Quest is not just a game; it is a tool to educate and inspire young people to embrace sustainable living. The idea was first created by a team of young people in **June** and then reviewed and refined by a second team in **September**. Their collaborative work has led to a comprehensive concept that integrates critical environmental issues with an engaging, hands-on learning experience.

The game consists of a variety of card categories, each designed to teach different aspects of sustainability:

- **Challenge Cards:** Present real-life tasks like reducing waste, conserving biodiversity, or lowering carbon footprints, rewarding players with points for eco-friendly actions.
- **Scenario Cards:** Players make decisions in everyday situations, such as shopping or energy use, to learn about the environmental consequences of their choices.
- **Design Thinking Cards:** These guide players through the eco-design thinking process, encouraging them to solve environmental challenges creatively as a group.
- **Nature Connection Cards:** Promote outdoor activities such as species identification or mindfulness in nature. Some cards are made from seed paper, allowing players to plant them after use, directly contributing to nature.



- **Sustainable Actions Cards:** Teach players about the circular economy, encouraging them to make sustainable choices like reusing and recycling, earning them points for eco-friendly decisions.



## Digital Features for an Enhanced Learning Experience

To complement the physical card game, Eco-Quest includes the possibility of digital features. A dedicated app could offer mini-games, quizzes, and sustainability tips, while augmented reality (AR) or virtual reality (VR) elements could provide visualization of environmental impacts, like plastic pollution in oceans or the growth of plants when players plant seed paper cards.

## Eco-Friendly Design and Production

Eco-Quest will use eco-friendly materials such as recycled, biodegradable, and upcycled materials for the cards. Some cards may be printed on seed paper, allowing players to plant them after use, reinforcing the game's sustainability message. The packaging will be minimal, replacing plastic with reusable bags.

## Moving Forward: Development and Testing

Currently in its conceptual phase, Eco-Quest has the potential to be widely adopted once it is developed

further. The next step is creating a prototype for testing, with the aim of refining the game based on initial feedback. Collaboration with environmental organizations and educational institutions will help maximize its impact and reach.

## A Youth-Led Movement for Sustainable Change

Eco-Quest is a prime example of how youth-led initiatives can create meaningful change. By making sustainability education fun and interactive, the game empowers young people to lead the way in fostering eco-conscious behaviours and creating a more sustainable future for all.

## Together with Youth for Our Climate Goals in Austria

The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology (BMK) is dedicated to involving young people in Austria to help achieve crucial climate, energy, and environmental objectives. This initiative underscores the importance of fostering youth awareness and responsibility, contributing significantly to the circular economy and sustainable development.



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## Voluntary Environmental Protection Year

The **Voluntary Environmental Protection Year** is an essential component of this initiative. It combines educational and career orientation elements, providing young people the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills in environmental protection, nature conservation, and climate action. Participants engage in various activities such as climate protection workshops, ecological farming, and nature conservation projects. This program is open to individuals aged 18 and above and can last up to 12 months. The immersive nature of this program ensures that participants gain hands-on experience in sustainability practices, preparing them for future roles in environmental stewardship.



Photo by Mikhail Nilov: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/a-person-in-blue-crew-neck-t-shirt-holding-a-sprout-7475185/>

## Environmental Education Forum

The **Environmental Education Forum** is another pivotal aspect of the initiative. Serving as a comprehensive platform for environmental education and sustainable development, it offers a wide range of materials, workshops, and events designed to promote environmental awareness and proactive actions among the youth.

The forum supports educators, multipliers, and young people by providing resources that integrate sustainability into their educational practices and everyday lives. Through this platform, young Austrians are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to become active participants in the country's environmental efforts.



Photo by: Kaboompics.com: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/a-students-studying-together-in-school-7692682/>

These elements of the program align perfectly with the goals of the **Youth Social Eco-Innovation Digital Lab**, emphasizing the importance of youth engagement, environmental education, and practical experience in sustainability initiatives.

Resources:

<https://www.bmk.gv.at/ministerium/organisation/oe-jugendstrategie/klimaziele.html>

<https://www.umweltbildung.at/about-us/>

<https://bildung2030.at/english-info/>

<https://jugendumwelt.at/fuj/ueber-uns/>



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