

CENEET

SUSTAIN



able

URBAN



space



POLICY BRIEF



Co-funded by
the European Union

CeNEET

in a nutshell

CeNEET, is the acronym of “Circular Economy as an employability tool for NEET population”, which is an Erasmus+ Key Action 3, European Youth Together project funded by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission.

The aim of the project is to encourage and equip NEET people (not in education, employment or training) to seize the opportunities of the circular economy and related practices of re-use, repair, up-cycling etc. in order not only to find employment but also to become active in environmentally sustainable work practices and opportunities that will open up in their countries the next years. The main project’s objective is to support and promote green skills to NEET populations in order to help them accumulate in the work market with a green and environmentally friendly mindset.



The consortium consists of 5 organisations:

TAG GREEN

SÜDWIND



micro
kosmos

**CONNECT
BRUSSELS**

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Introduction

Nowadays, there's a lot of migration to cities. Because of that, cities grow bigger and more living spaces are needed. To provide enough homes, green spaces are being turned into buildings. This destroys our environment and harms our well-being. To achieve a more sustainable world, this needs to change.

For these reasons, a path toward sustainability must be supported, advocated and maintained. Sustainability means for the human species to be able to co-exist with the planet earth and its environment without destroying either. This should be endlessly possible without having to limit the needs of living standards for future generations. In order to fulfill this, it is necessary to focus on the three dimensions of the sustainability triangle: the social, the economic and the environmental dimension.

With the help of this policy brief, we would like to educate everyone about this topic. It doesn't matter what age, financial background, cultural background, gender or religion a person has, they are affected by the loss of green areas. Our aim is to encourage people to take action.

through the application of principles related to sustainability and the circular economy, we aim at the development of a more sustainable, accessible and inclusive society. Our expected results can be established as follows:

- We aim to cultivate the habit of green mindset;
- We aim to knowledge about the risks and propose sustainable development goals;
- An increasing the communication technologies in industrial production
- An increase of financial supports for green businesses
- An increase of information in schools and social media regarding the circular economy model, its opportunities and challenges.



What does sustainable development mean?



The development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Even the narrow notion of physical sustainability implies a concern for social equity between generations, a concern that must logically be extended to equity within each generation.



References

Brundtland Report (1987)

What does circular economy mean?



Circular economy provides the economic system with an alternative flow model, one that is cyclical.

Unlike traditional recycling the practical policy and business orientated circular economy (hereafter CE) approach emphasizes product, component and material reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishment, repair, cascading and upgrading as well as solar, wind, biomass and waste-derived energy utilization throughout the product value chain and cradle-to-cradle life cycle.



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(Korhonen, Honkasalo, & Seppälä, 2018)



**Sustain
The Planet
Sustain
Our Future!**

#SDGtargets

WHAT IS A

SUSTAINABLE URBAN SPACE

A sustainable urban space is a city or urban area that has been designed, planned, and managed in a way that promotes long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

It seeks to create a balance between economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection, while minimizing negative impacts on the planet and future generations.

This involves adopting practices such as reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy, improving public transportation, enhancing green spaces, reducing waste, and creating opportunities for community engagement and participation.

The ultimate goal of sustainable urban spaces is to create healthy, livable, and resilient cities that provide a high quality of life for all residents, while preserving natural resources and protecting the planet.



Urban centres: how green they are



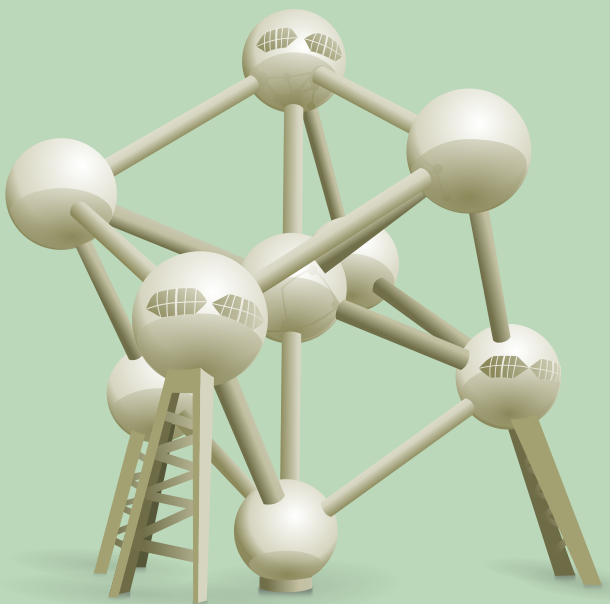
Athens

Athens has 17% of total green infrastructure: this is due to being a densely populated area and to its urban expansion.



Vienna

With 44% of green space, Vienna is one of the greenest city in Europe. Unfortunately this green areas are unevenly distributed and not always public.



Brussels

A recent study by Brussels Environment has revealed that 54,4% of Belgium's capital is made up of green spaces. Brussels is in world top 10 for cities going green the fastest.

Turin

The Piedmont city, transformed from an industrial city to a green city, is 42% covered with historical greenery



Sustainable Urban Space

In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on the importance of creating sustainable urban spaces that promote environmentally friendly practices and enhance the quality of life for residents (European Environment Agency).

Greenhouse gas emissions

According to the European Environment Agency, urban areas in the EU are responsible for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting the urgent need to promote environmentally friendly practices in cities.



EU actions

The EU has set ambitious targets, such as the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The European Commission has adopted a set of proposals to transform EU climate, energy, transport and taxation policies to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

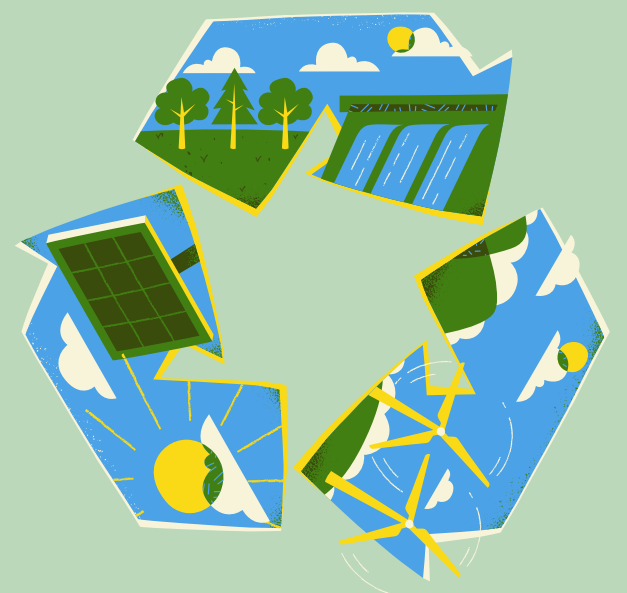
€1 billion investment

Investment

in 2020, the European Investment Bank approved over €1 billion in funding for sustainable urban development projects across the continent.

Renewable energy sources

Renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, accounted for over 34% of the EU's electricity production in 2020, according to Eurostat.



Real Cases around the World

Karela office park, Athens

The Karela office park, is a creature creation of demand team in 2008, and constitutes the only ecological office park and the greenest building in Greece. The most unique part is the green roof that consists of eleven-acre green space, which is the largest of its kind in the Balkans and one of the largest in Europe. Some other benefits, include reduce the use of air conditioners and artificial light, and increase the natural shading and natural light.



IKEA Vienna Westbahnhof

One good example for urban green space is the IKEA Vienna Westbahnhof. It's a big building with not only many plants and vertical gardens but also with insects hotels and beehives. It uses electricity from its own photovoltaics and is a car free area. Thanks to all the plants and trees, the neighbouring area is cooled down by up to 1.5 °



ZIN tower, Brussels

One of the most pivotal policy changes implemented by the Brussels region to shift towards sustainable urbanism was the decision to impose passive standards for new construction projects in 2015, making the region the first in the world to enforce this by law. ZIN will be fully integrated into its urban ecosystem and will be open to the city. It is a highly innovative project as much for its architecture as for its design and respect for the environment, notably in terms of energy near-neutrality and circularity.

Precollinear Park, Turin

Begun in June 2020, the project aims to breathe new life into a decommissioned and abandoned streetcar line by creating a temporary urban park. During the summer and autumn, the park hosted numerous cultural and leisure activities, becoming a space of creativity and sharing – open to all.





Sustain the planet

Sustain our future!

UPCYCLE YOUR CITY

The upcycling of abandoned areas in your city can turn concrete jungles into green cities. Try to start a new project or find ongoing projects in your city to join and transform abandoned spaces.



*Before thinking that a place is
abandoned think about how
you can use it.*

Applying upcycling techniques
to the urban context

OPPORTUNITIES

ONE ACTION, MANY CHANGES

With your actions, you can have an impact on the city and its society. Making the city greener and participating in projects will strengthen the community, and improve biodiversity, peoples mental and physical health and the cities image.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

**IN LINE WITH THE
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES**



**MAKE CITIES AND
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
INCLUSIVE, SAFE,
RESILIENT AND
SUSTAINABLE**

Applying upcycling techniques to the urban context

BARRIERS

NOT AS EASY AS YOU THOUGHT

ECONOMIC BARRIER

Upcycling materials
have high market prices.
Low-price ones are of
low quality



CULTURAL BARRIER

Lack of motivation to
boost business and
upcycling techniques to
their production

Shortage of affordable resources such as space, time, skills, equipment that doesn't allow the increase of upcycling even though there is the will for it.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

PEOPLE
+ PLANET

PROFIT

#SDGs2030

WHAT IS A GREEN POLICY

A green policy is the commitment to sustainability and environmental management that society is prepared to make. Having a formal green policy shows to all of us that managing environmental issues is a high priority for everyone.



Green Policy results

Positive outcome

One positive outcome of green policy could be: more social programs about environment and sustainability. At Yale University there's the idea of "green bank", in order to co-ordinate public- and private-sector in renewable-energy projects, which has been adopted internationally also for the green energy. This includes the zero - free policies are a key priority for any organisation that has committed to Green Economy. These policies support the ban of single-use plastics at any stage of the production cycle.



Advantages

Some of the advantages are: reduction of production and costs resulting in a more responsible use, reduction of waste through recycling and reuse of products that have reached the end of their life cycle, creation of new jobs (ex. Project managers, consultants, teachers, ...) and increase in sales that address environmental issues and respect the planet.

Conclusion

We believe that the values of sustainability and social equity are fundamental factors to achieve human and environmental well-being. We have to take actions and implementing a green and sustainable concept that supports both our planet and society.



reduce
reuse
recycle

Conclusions

and future research needs

Working towards greener urban areas brings many benefits.

Cities should implement sustainable urban spaces because they offer a wide range of benefits for both the environment and the well-being of residents. Sustainable urban spaces promote the efficient use of resources, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and protect natural habitats and biodiversity. Additionally, they provide numerous benefits for residents, such as improved air quality, increased access to green spaces, and enhanced transportation options. By prioritizing sustainability, cities can also create more equitable and inclusive communities, by providing affordable housing, creating job opportunities, and promoting social cohesion. Ultimately, the implementation of sustainable urban spaces is key to building healthy, livable, and resilient cities that can meet the needs of present and future generations.

We believe that the values of sustainability and social equity are fundamental factors to achieve human and environmental well-being. We have to take actions and implementing a green and sustainable concept that supports both our planet and society. There might be obstacles in the way, but as positive examples show, there all are solvable.

A good step towards a sustainable world is transforming our everyday surroundings.

So start now!

**"Nothing is lost,
everything is transformed."**

Antoine Laurent de Lavoisier

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For more information:

<https://ceneet.eu>

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