

# Sustainable Development Goals LABS





# Introduction to the project

It is undeniable that a conscious, critical and participatory society encourages a society developed, cohesive and capable of generating positive social changes, influential in public policies. In this sense, in 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations established 17 Sustainable Development Objectives (SDG) to create a new global model capable of combating the social problems transversal to all societies.

However, European citizens tend to adopt unconscious attitudes rather than incite social change. In line with these causes, an OECD (2012) survey on adult skills has recognized that 4.9% to 27.7% of adults have the lowest level of literacy and 8.1% to 31.7% level in numeracy (PIAAC).

## OBJECTIVES

### General

To be a project of adult education, training and training, with low levels of competence, articulating the theme of social responsibility before the ODS.

### Specific

- Develop key lifelong learning skills for adults with low skills;
- Disseminating the ODS of Agenda 2030;
- Develop solutions at local level for national and European commitments;
- Contribute to the development of participatory, co-built and socially innovative solutions and the sharing of best practices;
- Design and implement a project that contributes to active citizenship in the field of sustainability;
- Design and implement participatory methodologies in an active participant citizenship perspective;
- Contribute to the valorization of the territory, identifying problems, debating answers and presenting solutions as a cultural construction of each society;
- Have a set of methodologies and tools that can be replicated by other organizations across Europe and in all communities interested in putting the issue on their agenda;
- Developing and strengthening networking, operational capacity and sharing of good practice at European level of organizations;
- Promoting European values.



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# Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU's program for education, training, youth and sport.

Erasmus+ came into force on January 1, 2014. This Programme, resulting from the merger of seven previous programs, consolidates the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under a single support framework and extends opportunities to a wide variety of people and organizations.

It is intended to support education, training, youth, and sports activities in all sectors of lifelong learning, including Higher Education, Vocational Training, Adult Education, School Education, Youth Activities and Amateur Sports training.

The Erasmus+ program was created on the basis of the Erasmus initiative, famous for the opportunities it offers university students and higher education teaching staff in terms of mobility for learning, internship or training purposes.

Erasmus+ now covers five major areas of education and training:

- Opportunities for school education for employees and institutions;
- Opportunities for education and professional training for students, apprentices, interns, employees, institutions and companies;
- Opportunities for higher education for students, employees, institutions and companies;
- Opportunities for adult education for employees, institutions and companies;
- European integration opportunities for academic and research staff and institutions.

This program is financed by Erasmus+.



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# Erasmus+ Education and Training Agency

The Erasmus+ Education and Training National Agency (E+ ET NA/AN E+ EF) is a mission structure integrated into public administration: it has administrative and financial autonomy for awarding grants under the joint supervision and jurisdiction of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Welfare. The Agency ensures the management of the programme in the fields of education and training. The Programme's objectives are:

- To increase the scope and impact of the Erasmus+ Education and Training Programme in Portugal;
- Guarantee quality in Programme execution and in the NA performance;
- To increase efficiency in the use of funding resources in education and training and that of the NA;

The National Agency plays an important role as an intermediate structure for the qualitative development of the Erasmus+ Programme in:

- To promote Programme performance and stimulate policy development in areas supported by the Programme.
- To support external organisations to heighten the impact of the Programme in Portugal.
- To support new applicants and underprivileged groups to remove obstacles to their full participation in the Programme.

The NA uses a variety of tools to manage activities already developed and under development given the available resources and documents for monitoring and performance evaluation; a variety of indicators for effectiveness, efficiency and quality which take into account the annual and multi-annual objectives and their respective annual achievement goals, cooperating with the European Commission.

This project is financed by Erasmus+ and supported by the Portuguese Erasmus+ Education and Training Agency.



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# Introduction to the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The SDG agenda is a plan of action for people, the planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets that we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.



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# What is a Sustainable Development Goals Lab? - The structure

## INTRODUCTION

The SDG Labs are interactive workshops that each project partner carried out in their own country to involve people with fewer opportunities and to disseminate the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The methodology used during the labs was shared between 1 Trainer and 3 Facilitators for each Partner during the Training Course held in Agueda, Portugal, at the Lead Partner "Psientífica" in February 2020.

## FIGURES INVOLVED

The figure of the trainer has a strong knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, has know-how on the topic and on the methodologies of formal, non-formal and informal education. They are also a figure who has actively contributed to the training of facilitators, to the promotion of European values and to encouraging complementarity between participants and facilitators.

Facilitators are people who have shown a deep motivation and a real interest in the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, are willing to learn different methodologies, acquire new skills, and are particularly sensitive to social issues. The figure of the facilitator was essential in the coordination and running of the Labs to intermediate between the participants and the Trainer.

The participants in the workshops are adults, most of them with fewer opportunities, with economic difficulties, geographical obstacles, cultural differences, social obstacles, etc., who showed interest in the project theme and were willing to contribute to social change by finding local solutions.

Through participation in the workshops, participants

- Have contributed to the enhancement of the territory;
- Have become aware, responsible, active, and raise awareness to citizens through the identification of problems and solutions aimed at changing/improving the place where they live;
- They have shaken their consciences by becoming aware that everyone can and must make a difference.



# What is a Sustainable Development Goals Lab? - The structure

## METHODOLOGY

For the organization of the workshops the project partners followed a common methodology structured in the following phases:

1. Involvement of local partners to identify the project target, consisting of at least 25 adults with fewer opportunities.
2. Calendaring of meetings

The structure of the workshops, shared by all Partners, was as follows:

1. Presentation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
  - a. Introduction of the purpose of the workshop, engagement of participants and communication of the working methods
2. Division of participants into groups. Each group was provided with post-its, colours, pens, and a CANVAS MODEL board.
3. Choice of objectives to be addressed
4. Dialogue in the group and identification of the problems that each participant perceives about the objective to be addressed
5. Group dialogue and identification of objectives/solutions closely related to the problems identified in the previous phase
6. Group dialogue and elaboration of two different project proposals, one for the public body and one for the private body.
7. Plenary presentation of group work
8. Evaluation activities, reflection on own learning and feedback with participants.

## RESULTS

The participants obtained tangible and intangible results from the workshops.

In the first case, concrete project proposals were elaborated which will serve as inspiration for future projects.



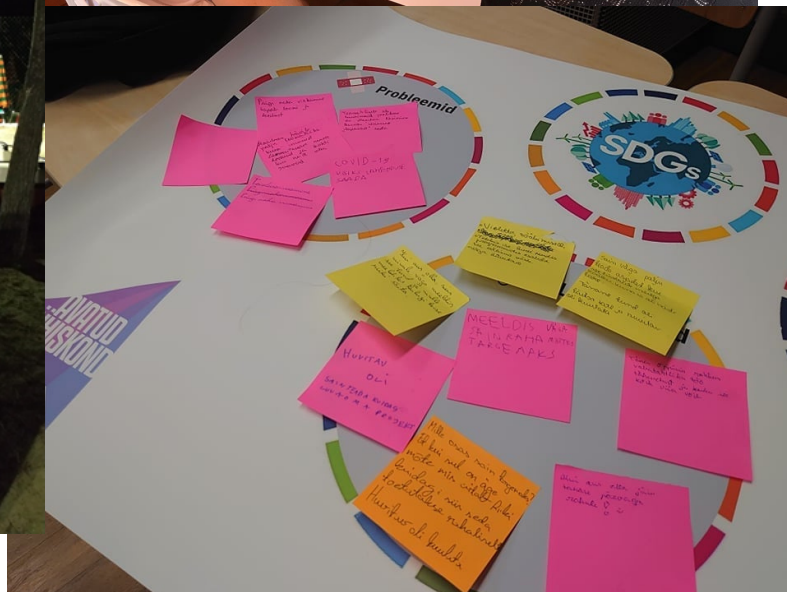
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# What is a Sustainable Development Goals Lab? - The structure

In the second case, the participants, together with the facilitators and the trainer, developed and implemented transversal competences and the 8 key competences identified at European level:

- multilingual competence
- personal, social, and learning-to-learn competence
- social and civic competence in the field of citizenship
- entrepreneurial competence
- cultural awareness and expression competence
- digital competence
- mathematical competence and basic competence in science and technology
- functional literacy.





# Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal



## Proposals by Estonia

Avatud Ühiskond MTÜ has been organizing participatory cafés with youth councils, regional non-governmental organizations and local advocacy groups since 2019. Participatory cafés are a meeting place for regular people, officials and decision-makers, with the common goal of finding solutions to current problems in terms of Sustainable Development Goals.

The participatory cafés are over by October 2021 and it is nice to note that the participation of people, and opportunities to have a say in shaping one's operating environment, is increasingly valued in decision-making processes and in society. This year the topics chosen for the participatory cafés were particularly important and offered an opportunity to have a say in issues concerning the future of Estonia. By 2035, the majority of the participants will be in their prime and thus contributing to state sustainability as well as development. Involving people already helps to develop strategies as in what kind of country people would like to live in in the future. Sustainable Development Goal cafés had the primary goal of advocating for solutions to local problems.

Participatory cafes took place all over Estonia: in Harjumaa, Raplammaa, Järvamaa, Tartumaa. Cafes gathered 400 participants within 16 meetings, including local or national decision-makers (officials, heads of local governments, members of rural municipality or city councils, school leaders, youth workers). This year, 17 SDG goals selected among people were discussed in participatory cafés as a result of brainstorming.

We emphasize that all the proposals represent the ideas of the people who were present in the idea laboratories. We thank all the collaborators, attendees and decision-makers who exchanged ideas in the cafés!

We are looking forward to meeting you in SDG participatory cafes all over Estonia!

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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 1: No Poverty

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. The stratification level in Estonia is rising. The Sociological Matthew effect takes place where wealthy people are becoming more wealthy and poor people become poorer.
2. Gender pay gap is the highest in Europe
3. Poverty creates political, social and ethical conflicts.
4. Wealthy people are consuming and wasting extensively

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. The taxation system in Estonia creates inequality and distributed poverty. The taxation system is based on a neo-liberal stance from the beginning of 1992. The present system is not sufficient for the needs of the current society. The social tax should be lowered and at the same time, income taxes should be raised. The solution would support small entrepreneurs and reduce accumulating capital to wealthy people.
2. The taxation system could motivate the citizens to donate with an option of having tax-exemption on donations to accredited NGO's.
3. The public sector should help with reconciling family and professional life. Kindergartens are inaccessible for families which prevent females from taking part in the labour force in a way that is enabled for men.
4. People should donate unnecessary items to second-hand shops such as Uuskasutuskeskus. Donating, in general, should be popularized.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. People like food and cooking, but it can also lead to unnecessary waste of food. In Estonia, 50,000 tons of food is thrown away every year, and an average family does not consume 50 kg of food - that makes several hundred euros thrown away in the bin every year.
2. Schools and students are wasting too much food without realising the consequences of their actions.
3. Awareness about ethical food is low. Consumers are supporting the waste of food by purchasing unethical products because of low awareness.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Local storage bins and food banks should be created where households can take their overleft items.
2. A food application that would remind the household of what they have in the refrigerator and what is about to expire soon. Plenty of items is wasted because the household forgets or does not remember what they have bought until the expiration date has already passed.
3. Preference should be given to food products that have been produced organically and in accordance with the principles of fair trade.
4. Overleft food should not be thrown away, instead, community composters should be placed near the communal trash bins.



# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Gaining trust among young people, which favours honest and direct access to concerns sharing and preventing problems at an early stage;
2. Parents often do not see a problem in young people's alcohol consumption or parents behaviour motivates young people to drink alcohol;
3. Consumption of toxins is widely reported in the media and the public, which normalizes it for young people;
4. Alcohol and tobacco products are too readily available.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Pay attention to the dissemination of information on the harm that mind poisons cause consumption and their effects on the body, mind and health;
2. To explain the problems arising from poisoning to families, to do exploratory work parents, provide opportunities for counselling;
3. Limit alcohol consumption and prevent the availability of alcohol to minors among;
4. Pay attention to each other's youth work institutions (youth centres) cooperation, not competition for young people;
5. Cover more positive news in the media about young people's activities and own initiatives;
6. Be more aware of the consequences of alcohol consumption (talking about mental and social problems);
7. Encourage young people to notice other relatives who are severely addicted or overwhelmed problems, encourage you to help get out of it;
8. To increase the possibilities of psychological counselling;
9. Provide an alternative to young people with more positive leisure activities opportunities.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Motivation to consume alcohol follows often young people surrounding from the circle of acquaintances;
2. Stereotypes prevalent on social media (alcohol as positive leisure popularize the consumption of toxins);
3. Improve the availability of positive leisure opportunities (especially in small towns where they are currently limited or few), which would reduce alcohol consumption;
4. Change the positive image of alcohol consumption prevalent in society, which motivates people intoxicants;
5. Detect young people's mental health problems early to avoid aggravation.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Create additional opportunities for young people to spend weekends, which would keep them away from parties where poison poisons are used;
2. Introduce public communication through an understanding that fun can be without consuming toxins;
3. Invite schools to talk to experts about the free life of toxins and people with different experiences of the harm of mind poisons (experience stories);
4. Provide education and youth workers with the necessary knowledge to support young people early detection of mental health problems and discreet support;
5. Increase the availability and quality of counselling services that would help reduce the reduction of social or mental health damage.

**Thoughts of the participants:** *"Toxicants are tried too early! This is not normal." "Forbidden things are always more interesting." "Young people often raise their parents. Maybe some young people should educate them too on poison if he has acquired it at school. At least it could happen open discussions between parents and children. " "Spend your time usefully not drinking it down!" "There must be the courage to be yourself!"*



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 4: Quality Education

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Students are afraid to express their opinion at school because they are afraid of negative feedback from classmates or the teacher;
2. Young people do not have to express their opinion in direct communication and it is safer the solution is for them to do it by typing. Young people get used to it take advantage of anonymity and dare to express themselves more when writing.
3. Students will start using the phone during class if the class does not excite them and they need to find action.
4. Direct communication with children decreases at an early age than the parent gives hand over the phone to a small child and avoid contact with him, is practised to communicate through social media.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Apply inclusive and student-centred teaching methods, treat students positively try to understand and empower them;
2. To create a feedback system in general education schools where it is possible to give feedback to teachers' lessons/teaching methods/attitudes so that teachers can identify themselves complement it;
3. More practical communication tasks could be done in school lessons (group work, seminars, role-plays) and use related teaching methods, with a view to young people's communication skills and self-expression fix;
4. Introduce school satisfaction surveys that gather input from school offerings opportunities and quality of learning.

**Thoughts of the participants:** *"Teachers could positively motivate students in their lessons to give them courage answer and have an hour to say."*



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 5: Gender Equality

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Attacks on the LGBTQI + community have increased;
2. Reduce negative attitudes towards LGBTQI + community activities in the media (which has caused tensions between opponents and supporters of the community);
3. Several related initiatives and activities have been criticized LGBTQI + community;
4. Limited access to information and counselling services for sexual minorities in the community.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Create opportunities for enhanced dialogue and outreach to the LGBTQI + community on;
2. To prevent bullying related to LGBTQI + issues at school, to finance anti-bullying initiative;
3. To deal with LGBTQI + related issues in school objectively and as a part of sexuality education program;
4. Create opportunities for counselling and LGBTQI + community support events in the form of.

Comments from young people: *"Bullying is not normal in any form, but it should be pointed out that the school bullying rate for LGBTQ youth is 77%, while it is generally among young people that are only 20%."*



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. The quality of properly treated wastewater, public water supply quality, groundwater abstraction and surface water status.
2. The local citizens are using tap water for watering the plants which creates water shortage.
3. Disposing of hazardous chemicals or waste water in the wild as it may cause water pollution

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. The local citizens should store raining water to water the plants instead of tap water.
2. There should be more options for public toilets.
3. Trash-bins should be more widespread
4. Participate in International Water and Toilet Day campaigns





# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. There needs to be better access to clean fuels and technologies, and more progress is needed in integrating renewable energy into final consumption in buildings, transport and industry. There is also a need to increase public and private investment in energy, and to focus more on regulatory frameworks and innovative business models to change global energy systems.
2. The infrastructure is dependant on Estonian coal and domestic market which keeps the electricity prices low. As the electricity price is low the people are wasting a lot unnecessarily

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Travelling by train, bicycle or on foot should be preferred. Public transportation should be used instead of private vehicles or taxis.
2. Individuals should observe their energy usage and turn off electrical appliances that are not necessary
3. Choose a green energy package for households.
4. If possible, produce some of the energy needed with solar panels or wind energy
5. While organizing events the amount of produced CO2 should always be calculated. The appearance of CO2 should be either prevented or compensated after the event (e.g plant a tree).



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

In the participatory cafés of Harjumaa, the focus was set by the participants on increasing inclusiveness of people with disabilities and special needs. Better involvement of people with special needs to the labour force will increase the options to enable decent work and therefore foster economic growth. Young people discussed prejudices and obstacles that prevent people with fewer opportunities and special needs to access decent work.

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Young people with special needs are often in an awkward position at public events, often young people may go unnoticed and helpless as a result;
2. Insufficient coverage of the topic at school and lack of practical experience of young people support for young people with special needs;
3. Lack of practical information when organizing events and with special needs not taking into account;
4. Lack of implementation of research and instructional materials for people with special needs involvement.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Preference should be given to goods whose producers pay attention to the environment, workers' rights and support entrepreneurship in developing countries
2. Try to find out where and under what conditions your favorite brand's clothes are made
3. Specify the needs and background of the young person when registering for the event ready to adapt the environment to the specifics of the young person;
4. Provide preliminary information when organizing events and whether it is possible to participate in the activities also be taken by a young person with special needs;

# Proposals by Estonia

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

5. Involve more young people with special needs in camps and other joint events;
6. Involve more young people with special needs in organizing events in local governments;
7. To map and further study the situation of young people with special educational needs In Estonia.

Comments from young people: *"Young people with special needs are separated in schools into separate classrooms that do not allow to develop tolerance in ordinary young people and creates an exclusionary attitude with special needs against young people. "It's not about them, it's about us! We need to change our behaviour for young people with special needs in a relationship!" "We don't pay attention to young people with special needs around us or we just try to avoid them."*





# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Infrastructure and economic progress depends to a large extent on the availability of information and communication technologies. Access to high-speed internet via optical cable or 5G is necessary.
2. Lack of investments in industry innovation.
3. Sharing economy is under-regulated. Digital platforms are taking advantage of the workers by not enabling social security and benefits nor considering the well-being of a worker in the sharing economy sector.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. High-speed internet is not accessible outside of urban areas. Lack of availability of internet access declines the competitive advantage Estonia has in front of other countries. Outdating digital infrastructure withholds the progress of rural areas. Digitalization in Estonia would enable exporting digital goods to undeveloped countries.
2. Prefer companies that follow environmentally friendly production principles.
3. Support companies that are making investments for an eco-friendly environment.
4. Support companies that are compensating their own created CO2 emissions.
5. Sharing-economy should be prone to more transparency. The companies providing sharing-economy services should be reliable for the social security of the individuals working in their platform.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

In the participatory cafés of Järvamaa, the focus was set by the participants on reducing regional inequality. Participation cafés analyzed the impact of previous programs and integration between different nationalities. Discussed Estonian-language education and study opportunities in Russian-language schools and how to do it to offer young people wider opportunities to acquire the Estonian language and culture.

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. To take into account the abilities and peculiarities of different local governments in learning the Estonian language on offer;
2. To harmonize the capacity of schools to organize language learning, which is currently the case is variable in Ida-Virumaa;
3. To support the interaction and daily communication of different communities In Ida-Viru County;
4. To explain Estonian culture and make applying for citizenship more attractive.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. To provide more language learning opportunities for the residents of Ida-Virumaa (incl. To offer opportunities for young people to learn Estonian outside school through hobbies);
2. To offer opportunities for student exchange within Estonia, to increase Estonian and communication between Russian-language schools;
3. To introduce Estonian culture to the Russian-speaking community living in Ida-Virumaa and provide opportunities to participate in cultural activities;
4. To support and empower Estonian and Russian-speaking students in schools developing communication and creating joint study groups and groups;
5. Provide support services to schools students with personal coaching in language learning;
6. To introduce Estonian citizenship as an attractive opportunity to be associated with Estonia.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

In the participatory cafés of Harjumaa, the focus was set by the participants on the connection of young people with their homeland and culture. The board "Preserving cultural sustenance" focused on the sustainability of smaller settlements around Tallinn. The young people discussed making their home more active and common about the possibilities of creating a participatory culture in one's own local government. How to support a young person's involvement in their own home after leaving? Young people and parents also discussed in the panel "Invitation to Life" prejudices against vocational training institutions as of how to make vocational schools more attractive?

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Ensure the sustainability of smaller settlements, including leisure opportunities, accessibility in small towns and variability on an equal footing with centres of attraction;
2. To promote the participation of young people in the activities of the local government (decision-making);
3. To preserve local traditions and develop *folklore* culture in urban society;
4. Valuing small towns as an equivalent alternative to large cities.



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## Proposals by Estonia

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

1. Preserve and promote existing local and local traditions culture through joint activities and events aimed at the residents of the rural municipality;
2. Implement a system of elective courses and points at a local school that recognizes the participation of young people in local community activities;
3. Involve young people more into organizing local events;
4. Increase info spread to youth councils, societies, associations and opportunities for student councils to support the participation of young people in local community decision-making;
5. Support and fund local (youth) associations; and different forms of youth participation in order to increase local government and youth communication;
6. Develop existing and create additional leisure opportunities locally at a level that is affordable for the residents of the municipality (eg cinema, swimming pool, bowling visits).

**Thoughts of the participants:** *"Nevertheless, young people consider their homeland expensive and want it here come back in the future ". "The culture of small places must be preserved, but still life must be developed within the limits of the mind"*



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Every year, one third of all food produced ends up in rubbish bins, or 1.3 billion tonnes, and almost a billion people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water. Although natural water is free, it requires resources to transport, which makes it too expensive and inaccessible for many.
2. The range of goods produced on the basis of fair principles is also growing - almost 30,000 products with fair trade labels have been produced worldwide. This means that no child or slave labor has been used to obtain the raw materials for these products, and workers have a safe working environment and adequate pay. Part is also invested in the development of the whole community. The challenge is to find out how to foster the change faster.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Prefer domestic and Fair Trade labelled products
2. Preference is given to companies that adhere to the principles of sustainable development
3. Avoid disposable dishes and plastic straws
4. Give your old but well-kept clothes, books and furniture to a recycling centre
5. Buy only the things you really need
6. If possible, repair and recycle materials
7. Prefer a short shower instead of a bath
8. Replace your light bulbs with energy-saving light bulbs
9. Prefer vegetarian food



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 13: Climate Action

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Climate change can feel no borders. Fighting climate change takes international cooperation and agreements.
2. There is no longer a country or region in the world that is not affected in any way by climate change and its consequences. Climate change has led to an increase in forest fires, floods, storms, desertification and prolonged droughts, which are already having a major impact on the livelihoods of people and communities, and even more so in the years and decades to come.
3. People in developing countries are particularly vulnerable, who often lack the resources to adapt to the changes that come with it. It is therefore important for developed countries to make a greater contribution and for poorer countries to be helped to move towards lower CO2 emissions and to provide affordable alternative energy sources.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. The Green Deal should provide funding opportunities to private companies for adopting more sustainable ways of operation.
2. Medium and large-sized companies should be required to map their carbon footprint and produce a risk assessment. The company should therefore take actions to reduce ecological footprint which will be rewarded by the incentives. If the companies decline to form a risk assessment then they should be obligated to pay ecological excise.
3. The Green Deal should support non-governmental initiatives that would support individuals by compensating for their ecological footprint.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 14: Life Below Water

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. The oceans and seas have been seen for centuries as a source of endless fish stocks. As a result of this attitude, 90% of the world's fish stocks are now fully exploited, overfished or collapsed. Overfishing has become one of the biggest threats to the ocean ecosystem. Although it may seem profitable to fish as much as possible from an economic point of view, in addition to the diversity of marine life, local communities also suffer from overfishing, whose economic and social well-being depends on the continued existence of fish.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Improving policies and practices that can help in preventing marine litter that results from coastal tourism and recreational activities. Plastic food and drink containers originate from beach facilities and recreational events, due to improper behaviour of consumers but also to lack of incentives and structures for prevention, collection and recycling of waste.
2. Non-governmental incentives should be supported that foster cleaning the beach.
3. Prefer locally sourced fish or MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) labelled fishery products.
4. Find out from your local shops and restaurants if they offer sustainably caught fish and seafood.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 15: Life on Land

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Desertification and deforestation caused by human activity and climate change are a major challenge for the millions of people living on the brink of poverty, whose main source of income comes from agriculture.
2. Preserving forests and halting desertification is also key to maintaining the planet's species richness.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Behave responsibly in nature and especially in nature reserves
2. Avoid printing things when there is no immediate need to do so, and print on both sides if possible
3. Find out from stores how their own products are made and give preference to companies that follow the principles of sustainable development in production
4. Prefer domestic products
5. Compost your food waste
6. Add more vegetarian food to your menu: they use less natural resources than meat
7. Companies should be liable for mapping their carbon footprint. By the end of every year, the companies should compensate their carbon footprint directly themselves or by supporting a licenced green initiative.
8. Public sector should support verified initiatives that would make it easier for individuals to donate to actions that would compensate for the individuals' personal carbon footprint.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In a state governed by the rule of law with strong institutions, there is a more stable society and the government has more resources to improve the well-being of the people.
2. Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion reduces people's trust in institutions, making the people apathetic and institutions less trustworthy.
3. The people feel excluded from political processes.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Participatory budgets in local governments should be expanded. The sense of belongingness to a community can be increased by enabling the citizens to be part of the decision-making process.
2. Empowering the citizens by enabling them to take part in a decision-making process by creating digital systems that would behave as a communicative channel between experts, citizens and stakeholders.
3. Exercise your right to choose the leaders of your state and local government
4. Express support for improving the rights of minorities
5. Take the floor if you feel that someone's rights are being violated
6. Report potential corruptive behaviour.



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# Proposals by Estonia

## GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. A well-functioning sustainable development agenda requires strong cooperation between governments, the private sector and civil society. Partnerships based on shared values and vision are needed at global, regional, national and local levels.
2. Certain sectors, such as information and communication technologies, infrastructure, renewable energy and transport, require long-term investment, as well as from abroad. In addition to better dissemination, action is needed to ensure equal access for both men and women. There is a need to restructure supervisory systems and regulations to increase the share of foreign investment and further strengthen sustainable development.
3. It is important to achieve a partnership between the public and private sectors and civil society, drawing on their experience and relevant funding schemes.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

1. Internationalization to share good practices and create initiatives. Solidarity Corps, Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, ESF & LIFE Programme are good examples of opportunities that help with internationalization.
2. Broad problems, such as climate change, need action that extends beyond borders. Intercontinental concerns will require common mechanisms to be adapted. European-wide climate change law and therefore a common climate change prevention taxation would be applicable.
3. Incentives should be made that would motivate companies to collaborate with non-governmental organizations for the purpose of supporting sustainable development goals.



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# Proposals by Portugal

Psientífica is the coordinating organization in this project and was able to organize, in total, 10 Labs (4 online and 6 in person) that involved 59 adults, that originated the proposals presented below. We could only reach this number, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic with the collaboration of IEPF (Institute of Employment and Training), which allowed us to use their students and classrooms to implement this activity.

It was challenging working with this particular target-group, since most of them did not know about the SDGs and, in the beginning, had a hard time fully understanding and comply the tasks.

With the help of the facilitators, the participants were able to identify the problems and create proposals.

We hope that little by little, we can change the world.

Ana Mendes

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Youth Worker and Psychologist in Psientífica and Águeda's Youth Center.





# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 1: No poverty

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In 2019, more than 1.6 million people in Portugal live below the poverty risk threshold. Two out of five households live on a maximum of 833 euros a month and 9.5% of the employed population in Portugal was poor in 2020.
2. The covid-19 pandemic aggravated social inequalities, rising the number of people living in poverty.
3. In recent years there has been an exponential increase in house rents, and minimum (and average) wages do not follow this increase. This is particularly visible in Lisbon and Porto

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Creation of an office to support and clarify doubts about the social support that already exists and to assist on filling the documentation);
2. Hiring more social support technicians and health professionals;
3. Local municipalities should create social housing with lower rents for young couples and families in need;
4. Provision of a city hall van to pick up people from the outskirts of the city in order to assist them in their tasks (doctor's appointments, etc.);
5. Educate in schools about financial management and make this type of workshop/education available for adults;
6. Improve information (simpler language, for example) on social security;
7. Creation of a law regulating the values of leases, which are currently much higher, compared to the average salary;
8. More oversight and punishment due to corruption.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. According to a survey carried out during the first lockdown (in 2020) in Portugal, one in three Portuguese (33.7%) is afraid of not having income to pay for food, and 8.3% admit they are already experiencing this difficulty;
2. In addition, the Portuguese waste around 1 million tons of food per year;
3. There is a need to produce and consume more ethically.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Creation of partnerships between local restaurants and supermarkets to provide food that is about to expire at free or a low cost to families in need;
2. Incorporate classes in the national education plan to financial literacy;
3. Raise awareness to consume national products and have a healthy diet – Create partnerships with nutritionists to teach healthy recipes on a budget.
4. Sell at a lower cost exported products to developing countries.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Companies could donate products/food to local organizations that work with families in need;
2. Raise awareness to avoid food waste.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 3: Good health and well being

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Even though we have a partially free and good health system there is some specialities that are still lacking from our national health system (SNS), like dentists and psychologists;
2. There is a long waiting list to access the speciality in SNS and most people can not afford private healthcare.;
3. SNS does not pay well, so a lot of health care professionals either choose to work with private companies or to immigrate for better conditions;

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Hiring more doctors, nurses, and other specialties (such as dentists, psychologists, etc.);
2. Make dental care accessible to all users;
3. Create an online appointment system so that there are fewer queues in the health centers;
4. Efficient and strict supervision of doctors' schedules;
5. Fair remuneration (higher) for physicians, nurses and health workers;
6. Extend free access after pandemic (to not pay moderator fees);
7. Better face-to-face care in medical stations, hospitals, etc. – more empathetic and understanding attitude;

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. More accessible and cheaper appointments in the private sector;
2. More encouraging to companies in order to provide health insurance for their employees;
3. Private clinics could adjust prices according to the income of their clients.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 4: Quality Education

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Some schools, especially in remote areas, are old buildings and lack some basic things like a functional roof (often it rains indoors in some particular areas), hot water, air-conditioning, etc.
2. Teachers lack training when dealing with "complicated children" and minorities;
3. The local municipality often does not know the reality of the schools, so the real problems can not be addressed.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Greater preparation of schools for pandemics and other events;
2. The school can give create an office to provide information to families about the social support that exists and how to apply;
3. Improving infrastructure – for example taking out asbestos roofs and placing thermal tiles;
4. Improving the transport network for children and young people by synchronizing them with school schedules;
5. Training teachers about emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills and interculturality in order to have a better relationship with children, how to mediate conflicts, and how to be inclusive.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Create protocols so that children in need can have the option to attend private schools.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 5: Gender Equality

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Gender inequality takes many different forms, depending on the economic structure and social organization of a particular society or any particular group within that. Although we speak of gender inequality, it is usually women who are disadvantaged relative to similarly situated men.
2. Women often receive lower pay for the same or comparable work, and are frequently blocked in their chances for advancement, especially to higher positions.
3. There is an imbalance in the amount of housework and child care a wife does compared to her husband, even when both spend the amount of time in paid work outside the home.
4. Although there is an evolution in raising awareness to LGBTQ+ people, the public sector still does not give a voice to them, and this was visible in the last *censos* that did not include gender options, only sex (female or male).

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Incorporate in the school program class to teach about gender equality, which can include raising awareness of domestic violence, demystifying gender roles, etc.;
2. An efficient inspection to make sure the quotas for women in companies are being done; also to provide free education to women in companies, in order to reach the quotas for higher position jobs (if needed);
3. More public funding/investment in the treatment of the aggressors - related to violence in general, hate crimes and domestic violence.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Create a positive atmosphere so everyone can reach out and report sexual harassment and other forms of violence at work;
2. Companies should make an effort into hiring people from underprivileged backgrounds.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In Portugal, unfortunately, it is very usual for companies to dispose of their chemical waste in the rivers since it pays off to just pay the fine afterward;
2. In some beaches and hiking trails you do not have trash available, which makes it easier for people to litter;
3. We have a good water treatment, however, there is a need to have more public free water fountains.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Implement more control and security at the beach and rivers;
2. Apply heavy fines and other legal consequences to the ones who pollute – including companies;
3. Make trash cans and ashtrays more available at the beach and hiking trails;
4. Increase financing to electric boats since they are more eco-friendly.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Organize walks to clean the nature (beach, trails, riversides, etc);
2. Implement recycling at every home, by making strong and effective campaigns.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Compared to the low wages, electricity prices in Portugal are quite expensive, mainly due to the high tax burden;

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Citizens should vouch for the state for a more affordable electricity pricing, based on a dynamic matrix that would take into consideration usage intervals, energy certification that assesses the CO2 emissions, and the relative income level of each household.
2. Giving incentives to the population for families to create their own energy;
3. Creation and use of more sustainable appliances, which spend less energy.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Companies should focus more on renewable energy, through state incentives;
2. It should be implemented, during shopping, to use glass containers, which each customer brings;
3. Opt for a more varied diet, with the consumption of different vegetables. and consumption of less (or none) meat.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. We have precarious work conditions, including contracts, infrastructures, materials provided, etc.
2. There is a lot of highly qualified young people who can not find decent work conditions in their country so they are forced to emigrate or to have a low paying job;
3. Our minimum wage is one of the lowest in Europe and it needs to be upper to accompany the increase of rents and life, in general.
4. During the pandemic the government gave support to the companies that never reach the employees;

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Providing training to employers, since the beginning;
2. Giving directly support to employers and not businesses – support often does not reach those who should have them, by right;
3. To encourage companies to provide better conditions for employees, such as a durable employment contract, necessary material, etc.;
4. Encourage companies to hire young people, ex-prisoners, minorities, etc.;
5. Financial incentive to create new jobs;
6. Aid in the quantitative and qualitative development of companies;
7. Creation of jobs adapted to people with disabilities.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Possibility of flexible schedules in order to facilitate collaboration with employees;
2. Increased supervision in companies (check for employment contracts, illegalities are being committed, etc.);
3. Create feedback systems so that the employer has a voice about company procedures.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. A lot of public infrastructures are old and need to be updated in order to be more inclusive and sustainable;
2. There are some rural places that do not have a good telephone and internet signal;
3. There is a need to educate all generations to digital literacy, this was highly visible during online school;
4. Most of the homes are not well built, which causes problems with humidity, cold in the winter, bad plumbing, etc. - which generates health problems and economic investment;

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Reformulate old public buildings in order to have more efficient technology and an efficient heating system;
2. Create incentives for companies to go green and reinforce the ones who already follow sustainable principles;

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Phone companies should collaborate and make an effort to provide telephone and internet coverage in the whole country.



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# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 10: Reduced Inequalities

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. There is still a wage gap between men and women working in the same sector;
2. In Portugal, Romani people and immigrants are still stigmatized by the population, which leads to worse living conditions.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. The Municipality in partnership with the Local Parish should create a place of accommodation for people with financial difficulties;
2. The government should create incentives for companies to hire minorities and stigmatized groups (for example, ex-cons).

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. We should all make an effort to include everyone around us and to stand up everytime a right is being taking away.



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# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 11: Sustainable cities and communities

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In rural places, young people tend to vandalize their surroundings because there is no entertainment for them;
2. The lack of employment opportunities leads young people to leave the places where they were born, believing they can find a better future.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Create a space for the estate of companies that were part of the city's history;
2. Preserve local traditions and reinvent *fado* singing;
3. Create more incentives for families to reallocate to small villages and also provide essential services nearby - supermarkets, hospitals, schools, etc.
4. Create social spaces, activities and work for young people in rural areas, so they are not tempted to move into big cities and therefore contribute to the desertification of small places.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Companies should make an effort to adopt eco-friendly practices and to work in a network so they can make a greater impact.



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# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. The consumption of meat among the Portuguese is four times higher than that recommended in the Food Pyramid;
2. As we saw before, we waste food and need to learn how to shop and eat more ethically;
3. Portugal did not reach any target for urban waste. Each Portuguese produced 512 kilos of waste, above the European average. Of the total waste, 41% went to landfill.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Encouraging children to recycle in schools and at home;
2. Organize the institutions that at the end of the day have an excess of food in order to have a collection and distribution by the most in need;
3. Encouraging people to walk more and use individual means of transport less;
4. Create appealing information campaigns to encourage healthier eating and to reduce waste.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Implement recycling and reusable systems at work, to make it more eco-friendly;
2. Prefer energy-saving light bulbs.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 13: Climate Action

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In the past years, we are experience hotter summers and cold winters, more forest fires, droughts, and other natural disasters.
2. Although 2021 is the first year with the lowest number of fires since 2011, forest fires are the main issue in Portuguese summers and still, there is an infective answer on how to prevent, fight and alert the population for them.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Improve the response to natural catastrophes, in particular forest fires - improving the mechanisms and training;
2. Make firefighting a profession rather than volunteering work;
3. Heavy fines and more control to companies that release toxic waste into rivers;
4. Raise awareness to the population about sustainable lifestyle.
5. Legislating and giving incentives to buyers – for example, having machines to exchange plastic by train tickets.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Creation of a state incentive for companies to go green;
2. Raise awareness for carbon footprint reduction;
3. Companies should make an effort to reduce greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 14: Life Below Water

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Intensive fishing, especially sardine is an issue in Portugal. In 2020, the national sardine fishing quota was initially set at 6,300 tons for the campaign that ran from June 1st to July 31st (1,300 tons more than the previous year), but was later increased to 12,705 tons, allowing for the siege fleet to be set to capture an additional 6,405 tons of sardines as of August 1st.
2. In 2021, the number of beaches with pollution episodes increased 80% in the summer. Since the opening of the bathing season, 45 national beaches have been advised against or have banned bathing because of poor water quality. In extreme cases, 20 of these beaches were even temporarily closed.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Effective imposition of fines to those responsible for pollution, waste, etc.;
2. Invest in more policing in order to better detect and prevent marine litter that results from tourism and seasonal "occupational" of the beach and sea;
3. Set limits to circulation of recreational boats/ships.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Cleaning of the shores and marine coastline - local organizations should organize this kind of initiative;



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# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 15: Life on Land

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Some forests (even the ones that belong to the state) are abandoned which puts them at a higher risk of forest fires;
2. Eucalyptus plantations have been increasing in Portugal and this is a problem for the conservation of fauna and flora, for the conservation of soil resources, for the management of water resources, for protected spaces, and for the correct planning of the territory.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Plant more octane species, this is because these plants are more adapted to the soil and climate conditions of our territory and are more resistant to pests and diseases, as well as to long periods of drought. This way they don't need as much maintenance or special care.
2. The government should pay more attention to cleaning the forest and bush that belongs to the state;
3. Educate people for forest surveillance;
4. Effective inspection (and enforcement of fines) of the forest;

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Raise awareness to the plantation of trees and to take care of nature;
2. Improve the public transport system so people can use them more;
3. Make an effort to buy locally and to support stores that follow sustainable principles.



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# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Corruption perception index in Portugal is quite high, and the periodic evaluations carried out over the last few years reveal that the measures adopted have had little impact in terms of improving the performance of our country in relation to the index which is well below the average values for Western Europe and the European Union.
2. In Portugal, corruption is estimated to be equivalent to 8-10% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), approximately 20 billion euros.
3. In 2019, only 30.79% of voters went to the polls to vote on the last European elections. In the last municipal elections, held on 1st October 2017, abstention was 45.03% – the second-highest percentage in local elections. The record was reached in the municipal councils of 2013, in which there was an abstention of 47.40%. There is a need to bring people closer to the government.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Education for the law to the general public, so they can know the rights and the legislation and feel more empowered and involved in the decision process making;
2. A more balanced and less corrupt justice system.
3. To fight the exclusion of the political process, there should be specific funding to programs that bring together people (in particular youngsters) and local decision-maker figures and experts.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Improve the companies' and government transparency;
2. Improve the protection of people that report corruption.



# Proposals by Portugal

## GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. There is a need to involve every country in order to reach the SDGs, not only government wise, but also the private sector and civil society.
2. First world countries have the responsibility to assist developing countries in reaching sustainability.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Make public funding for project implementation less bureaucratic and more accessible for small non-profit organizations;
2. Make use of Erasmus+ programmes to disseminate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Improve cooperation with developing countries for sustainable development;
4. Take as an example some governance strategies of the Nordic countries and implement them in Portugal, such as good public investment in infrastructures and education.

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Make it easier, less bureaucratic, and less expensive to cooperate with developing countries in different areas;
2. Create more synergies with other European countries in order to share good practices in sustainability.



## Proposals by Italy

Ilmiolavoro srl is engaged in the field of learning in different sectors, Adult education, School, VET, Higher Education and youth.

Ilmiolavoro srl has a long expertise in using active teaching methods. These approaches produce high value in terms of learning; the use of these approaches make the learner more active and responsible on own learning.

Ilmiolavoro srl also uses participatory methods such as Inquire Based Learning, Problem Based Learning, Open Space Technology, Appreciative Inquiry.

Thanks to this expertise Ilmiolavoro srl has organised and implemented the Workshops focused on the Sustainable Development Goals with a very diversified target group of adults.

All the LABS have been implemented in Roseto degli Abruzzi, a city located by the sea. The first Lab was implemented in September 2019, before COVID. The participation was very high. It was carried out outdoors in a natural environment, a reserve on the Adriatic Sea.

The advent of COVID slowed down the activities but, in 2021 all Labs have been realised in presence, some outdoors some indoors.

The Labs brought together 261 participants in 7 meetings attended by adults. A dialogue process has been developed on all 17 SDG goals. The main problems and challenges, the goals to be achieved and some significant useful proposals have emerged. In most proposals an active involvement of public bodies is expected. However, there are also proposals involving private organisations.

The LABS were organised with the collaboration of some local organisations: Guide del Borsacchio Association, Dr. Walter Costantini (a training provider on civil service), Mediterraneo Music Bar and La Cura Bookshop, Liceo Saffo (Upper Secondary School). We would like to thank all the staff of Ilmiolavoro srl, the collaborating organisations, the participants and the media who were interested in the SDG LABS.

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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 1: No poverty

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. There are 736 million people in the world who live on less than USD 1.90 a day. In Italy, territorial differences persist: almost half (44.4%) of individuals living in the South are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, while in the North 18.8% of the population is in this condition.

The main challenges are:

1. Inequal access to resource
2. Static distribution of the benefits and lack of social elevators
3. Low education on sharing resources and recycling
4. 2 millions of Italian families are below the poverty line
5. 80% of the world's wealth is in the hands of 20% of the population

It could be very useful:

1. To reduce the resources wastes
2. To provide an equal redistribution of resources
3. To provide education about the concept of need and access to resources
4. Reducing fast fashion
5. Allocate 2x1000 of personal incomes for poor families
6. Foster education and work as measures to fight poverty

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Outreach campaign on the promotion of education and training long life. The qualification is a way to have more opportunity to find a good job and to do proper transition between one role to another.
2. Distribution of universal income as a measure to help people with important difficulties (drugs addiction, mental illness, disabilities etc) to live an acceptable life.



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 2: Zero hunger

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Since 2014 the number of people in the world suffering from hunger has risen again, in 2017 it was 821 million. In Italy from 2010 to 2017 the use of pesticides and herbicides in agriculture decreased by 20%, but between 2016 and 2017 the use of fertilisers increased.
2. Food waste and high resources consuming production processes
3. 820 millions of people in the world haven't enough food
4. In Italy one person waste 65kg of food every year
5. It could be very useful to:
6. Throw away less food and recycle more
7. Rethinking the culture of necessity
8. To provide more nutrition education
9. Consume fewer animal products to reduce livestock farming in favour of agriculture

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Outreach campaign on food education, recycling and waste avoidance

#### Private Sector Proposals:

1. Organisation of a pick-up service for unconsumed food and products with an expiry date
2. Recycling food education in the schools
3. Local service withdrawal of unsold food
4. Modify laws about distribution of unsold food for supermarket, canteen and commercial activities
5. Reduce of fast fashion, intensive farming

# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Progress has been made on a global scale: from 9.8 million children under five who lost their lives in 2000, to 5.4 million in 2017. In Italy, after a strong downward trend until 2016, the road fatality rate in 2017 has returned to increase.
2. In Italy there is an high rates of accidents at work and accidents on the road. Furthmore there is an early mortality.
3. For more people it's difficult to access to physical and mental diagnosis and treatment
- 4.
5. Other important challenges are:
6. Abuse of alcohol and drug between young people;
7. COVID reminded us that there are transmissible diseases
8. Dispersion of toxic substances in the environment

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Promoting the development of public services through professionals who provide information to citizens on how to access prevention, diagnosis and treatment.
2. Use unused areas or areas confiscated from the mafia to create meeting places and facilitate access to users of all ages to achieve community welfare





# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 4: Quality Education

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. There are 750 million illiterate adults in the world, two thirds of whom are women. In Italy there are still great inequalities between regions, due to the gap between the South and the national average, which is evident in the proportion of graduates aged 30-34 (21.6% in the South, compared with the national average of 26.9%) and in the early exit from the education system, which stands at 18.5% compared with the Italian average of 14%.

The main challenges are:

1. Problems related to education in Distance Learning during and after the COVID;
2. Lack of Information Technologies equipment, tools in the school system;
3. 3,2% of students is affected by SLD, the support for students with specific learning disabilities (SLD) is insufficient.
4. Italy ranks third in the EU for early school leavers (around 500,000 young people). School drop-out is an important phenomenon
5. 12,3% of young people don't have a PC, over 5% of families don't have an internet connection

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public and Private Sector Proposals:

1. Implement ICT equipment in the schools, in order to promote the proper digital/teaching skill of the teachers and of the headmasters, the promotion of the best learning platform
2. Creation of a strong connection between the school system and the communities (enterprises, society, public administration, third sector), through the diffusion of work-based learning and the service-learning
3. Ordinary work of a psychologist in the schools
4. Better cooperation between schools and local health center



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 5: Gender Equality

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Worldwide, women represent 39% of the workforce, but hold only 27% of managerial positions. In Italy there has been a significant improvement from 2010 to 2017, thanks to the increase in the share of women in decision-making bodies and on the boards of directors of listed companies, but the EU average is still far off.
2. A situation of strong inequality between men and women persists at work and in places of power.
3. Women earn on average less than men.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposal:

1. Using high-impact social campaigns to raise awareness in communities about women's capabilities to reduce prejudices

#### Private Sector Proposal:

1. Incentivising organisations (companies, public bodies etc) that adopt transparent evaluation systems based only on capabilities





# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Worldwide, 785 million people do not have access to drinking water. Since 2014, the number of Italian households reporting inefficiency in the water management system has increased (10%), with better performance in Northern Italy than in Central and Southern Italy.

The main challenges related the goal are:

1. Water leakage of 41%
2. Irregularities in water supply. There is a big problem of water losses, the infrastructure are old and damaged. Furthermore, there is a water loss in intensive livestock farming
3. 40% water lost during transport
4. 30% of households complain about water supply discontinuity
5. In many parts of Italy, the water is polluted.

It could be very useful:

1. Regularising water supply
2. Greater institutional control of water resources for industry
3. Renew water transport systems
4. Rainwater harvesting systems in 80% of households

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposals:

1. More investment in sanitation and maintenance could increase the availability of water. The expected fund for recovery and resilience could help to renew the water distribution system in all the country.
2. A wide education program in all sectors (School, VET, Adult Education, Higher Education) could change the culture and reduce the water loss



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Worldwide, the share of energy from renewable sources has reached 17.5% of final consumption. In Italy, the leaders in clean energy consumption are Valle d'Aosta (89%) and the autonomous provinces of Trento (45%) and Bolzano (66%), while the national average is still 17%.
2. The main challenges are:
3. High presence of old nuclear power plants in Europe. Few old and inactive plants are also in Italy. These type of plant produce radioactive waste. It is very difficult to store this waste in a safe place. There is a great risk of radioactivity leaking out and damaging the health of communities.
4. Lack of renewable energy sources in the schools, public and private facilities. Fossil sources of energy are still used. They produce pollution and have an important effect on climate change and people's health.
5. Pollution caused by consumption of fossil fuels used for travel

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Encourage the construction of facilities such as mills, dams and wind turbines to store renewable energy. Promote the hydrogen energy production, building plants, facilities, equipment, funding the research.
2. Implement of big project of solar panels installation in public facilities
3. Supporting sustainable work by purchasing electric bikes for workers



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. The overall unemployment rate fell to 5% in 2018. In Italy, unemployed young people not in education or training (Neet) reached the highest levels in the EU. Moreover, very strong territorial differences remain, with regions in the South far behind those in the Centre and North in terms of economic output and employment.
2. There are a lot of inequalities generated by the technological development. The technologies do part of the tasks implemented by the workers. Mainly the adult workers have difficulties to up-skill or re-skill their job profile, their role. The risk to become unemployed is very high. The COVID accelerated the automatization, robotization, the use of the Artificial Intelligence by the enterprises (production and services). A lot of inequalities are emerging.
3. Inequality in employment between men and women. In many cases men earn more than women. Men are in power positions more than women.
4. In many sectors the exploitation of workers is increased. Mainly immigrants are exploited.
5. Difficulties for young people to enter new working environments. In order to have a satisfactory job, in Italy a lot of skilled young people are forced to go in north Europe.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Support adult workers in their job transitions through a National Program of assistance. They could be accompanied in career guidance pathways that could help them to accept the idea to adopt a life long learning approach in their life.
2. Enhancement of technological basic skills by promoting free training courses for young people. Online open educational resources could be implemented with creative common licence. An outreach campaign should foster the use of these resources.
3. Founding a public school in places where eradicating hunger is impossible. Training the younger generation helps train people for sustainable work



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Globally, businesses in high and medium technology sectors are growing, accounting for 45% of the total value of production. In Italy, indicators relating to the spread of broadband, internet use, the rate of researchers and the share of goods transported by rail are improving.

The main challenges are:

1. The diffusion of emerging technologies is important for the global competitiveness of Italian companies. But the distinctive leverage will be the human new skills. There are a lot of problem to re-skill and up-skill the workers
2. A lot of companies have difficulties to understand the fast changes in the global markets
3. Lack of investments in research and innovation is a problem.

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposal:

1. An important program of re-skilling and up-skilling of the Italian workers could increase the wealth expectations.

### Private Sector Proposal:

1. Training programs on:
  - Artificial Intelligence literacy addressed to all workers could connect them to the emerging world;
  - A new emerging skill that people have to develop to do transition that pay



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In many countries, the share of wealth in the hands of the 1% of the population is growing. In Italy, the situation has improved since 2015, thanks to the recovery in the rate of change in per capita household income for the poorest 40% of the population and that for the total population. On the other hand, the risk of poverty is increasing and territorial inequalities and the gender gap remain high.

The main challenges are:

1. Inequality in access to services due the lack of skills in the use of the technologies. It could be a big problem in health services, in public service, in bank services etc, especially for elder people. It could generate difference in treatment between people. It is a consequence of a spread indifference and insensitivity to the frailty of others.
2. In order to create a family, in Italy the young people don't have a lot of public support. Generally they can use also own resources with the help of parents. It is an obstacle in the creation of new families, especially in childbearing.

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Create a program that support elder people in the use of new technologies. In this program it could be expected:
  - events that can attract citizens' attention and where they can receive input about useful technologie to access services;
  - community course in which the elder people, in a friendly way, can learn to use these useful technologies to access the services.
2. Foster a program of state help through loans without interest that young people can repay in 30 years.



# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Around 3.5 billion people live in cities, a number that is set to rise to five billion in 2030. The Italian situation is worse than in 2010, but since 2015 there has been a recovery due to an improvement in the proportion of municipal waste sent to landfills as a proportion of total waste collected (from 56.80% in 2006 to 23.40% in 2017). The concentration of PM2.5 and PM10 in urban areas is decreasing, by 37% and 25% respectively compared to 2006. On the other hand, the unauthorized building index is increasing.

The main challenges are:

1. Social exclusion is an increasing phenomenon. After the COVID a lot of people don't have enough money to satisfy their primary needs. They are people that before the COVID didn't have problems, then they lost their job and now are unemployed.
2. In the big cities, there is a high rate of pollution. It is caused by the means of transport, by the heating systems in homes and by some polluting enterprises. Especially during the winter, on some days it's very hard to walk and live in these cities. This pollution has also an important impact on Climate change.

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Synergistic institutional development: pacts of understanding between public bodies to intervene effectively in the territory
2. Innovative training courses for the integration of socially excluded people into the community and the world of work
3. The promotion of an outreach campaign addressed to the adult and elder people to adopt sustainable behaviour could help to improve the situation. For this target group emotional video-spots are very effective. The campaigning could generate autonomous proper behaviour in the citizens
4. A plan with incentives to adopt heating systems powered by renewable energy sources.



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Globally, the ecological footprint is growing at a faster rate than GDP. Italy is making progress in the material circularity index and in the percentage of waste recycling, while the decrease in domestic material consumption per unit of GDP is constant. Latium is the region that shows the greatest progress.

The main challenges:

1. In the industry sector, approach to use the resources and raw materials is linear yet. We create product that at the end of life won't be recycled. The current raw materials global crisis can have an impact on the future availability of the products.
2. Especially boomers waste a lot of resources. Their style of consumption does not suit the current situation of the world's population: 80% of the resources are consumed by 20% of the population.

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposal:

1. To promote a national program of circular economy in all sectors; incentives could help the companies to change the productive processes. A new manufacturing sector in the recycling field could emerge with new jobs.

### Private Sector Proposal:

1. Large retailers could incentive responsible consumption suggesting proper ways to avoid the waste.



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 13: Climate Action

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In 2017 the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere reached new record levels, more than 405.5 ppm (parts per million), equal to 146% of pre-industrial levels. In the last 10 years there are the six hottest years ever, five of them recorded from 2015 onwards. Italy's greenhouse gas emissions have increased again since 2014. Three quarters of these come from the production sector, while the rest are caused by household consumption.
2. The main challenge is related with the rising temperatures during all year. In summer a lot of burn happen, droughts emerge, in agriculture there are problems, people live in an inhospitable environment. The high temperatures generates:
  - Torrential rain and flooding
  - Violent weather phenomena
  - Hydrogeological disasters

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposal:

1. Increase green public transport services and promote the use of them in adult population.

#### Private Sector Proposal:

1. It is important to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and introduce carbon pricing measures.

# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 14: Life Below Water

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. The global share of fish stocks in a biologically sustainable condition fell from 90% in 1974 to 67% in 2015. For Italy, the situation improved until 2015 but then worsened dramatically in the following two years, mainly due to overfishing, which stood at 83.3% compared to a European average of 42%.

The main challenges are related to:

1. Italian fish stocks are almost entirely overfished. Only 1.7% of marine areas protected, compared to the 30% expected by 2030. A systemic approach to implementing the Marine Strategy and sustainable co-management of fisheries are needed.
2. One important problem is related to the food poisoning from microplastics.

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposal:

1. A program of incentives for the small-scale fishing that can be integrated with touristic purposes.

#### Private Sector Proposal:

1. Large fishing fleets can be converted into boats that clean the sea of plastic. This conversion could be promoted by the creation of a market for plastic recycling.





# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 15: Life on Land

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. Natural resources have declined since the 1950s in a manner unprecedented in human history. One species in eight is at risk of extinction. For Italy, the trend is extremely negative, caused by the marked worsening of elementary indicators relating to land fragmentation and land consumption.

The main needs and challenges are related to:

1. Excessive plastic consumption
2. Lack of awareness of their environmental impact
3. Low use of public transport
4. Lack of civic sense
5. During the COVID the disposal of masks.
6. Excessive water waste

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Environmental education in the schools and in the adult education. A program able to change the culture of people.
2. Promotional campaign of trees planting and plastic collection that have the potential to improve the environment situation



# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. The murders of human rights activists, journalists or trade unionists are increasing: between January and October 2018, 397 were killed in 41 countries. The situation in Italy worsens significantly, mainly due to an increase in prison overcrowding (114 inmates per 100 available places in 2017). At the regional level, most of the negative variations are in Northern and Central Italy, while in the South this trend is reversed.

The main challenges are:

1. There is a lack of civic education in very many young and adult people. The COVID has made this problem more acute. Uncertainty and fear of the future have made people reckless in their behavior.
  2. Violent behavior could be generated also by the large use of too many violent video games
  3. A lot of social discrimination is based on mass closed-mindedness on religious, ethnic, and sexual aspects
  4. Unreliability and lack of control over online trafficking
- It could be useful to:
    - Ensure more protection for disadvantaged groups
    - Promote help and support for families with disabled people, especially in this historical period, who are left alone by the institutions
    - Promote tolerance and solidarity among the new generations

### To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:

#### Public Sector Proposals:

1. Promoting peaceful and more inclusive societies for sustainable development by facilitating access to justice for people with fewer opportunities. The online court could be the future of justice. It could be limited to some types of disputes and could require low costs for people.
2. Promote learning activities on how to “dialogue” in a proper way in the different sectors of education. A national program could involve national broadcasting (RAI) and the most important social media.



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# Proposals by Italy

## GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

### Key needs and challenges related to the topic:

1. In 2018, public aid to developing countries decreased by 2.7% compared to 2017. After six years of steady increase, spending on Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Italy fell significantly in 2018, with a reduction of 21.3% in real terms compared to 2017, a figure set to fall further according to the forecasts in the 2019 Budget Law.

The main challenges are related to:

1. Indifference of "superpowers countries" towards poor countries
2. Lack of cooperation between countries
3. Little involvement of young people in European projects
4. Disinformation

**To respond to the challenge, participants made the following suggestions:**

### Public Sector Proposal:

1. Create a global program to empower young people in supporting important global organization to reach the SDG by 2030. The strategy could be based on using the level of open-mindedness of young people. They are still free from selfishness that can limit sustainable development in the world.



## Contact Information

For further information of the project:

<http://psientifica.org/sustainable-development-goals-labs/>



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