

COGREENEU

European Cooperation Against Climate Change



Funded by
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Thematic Report

The development of the Green Deal in the European Union and how the climate change affects to the local communities

Partners



Associated partners



This project is part of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme. This programme aims to protect and promote the rights and values enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular by supporting civil society organisations active at local, regional, national and transnational level. Project number 101081257.

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1. Introduction

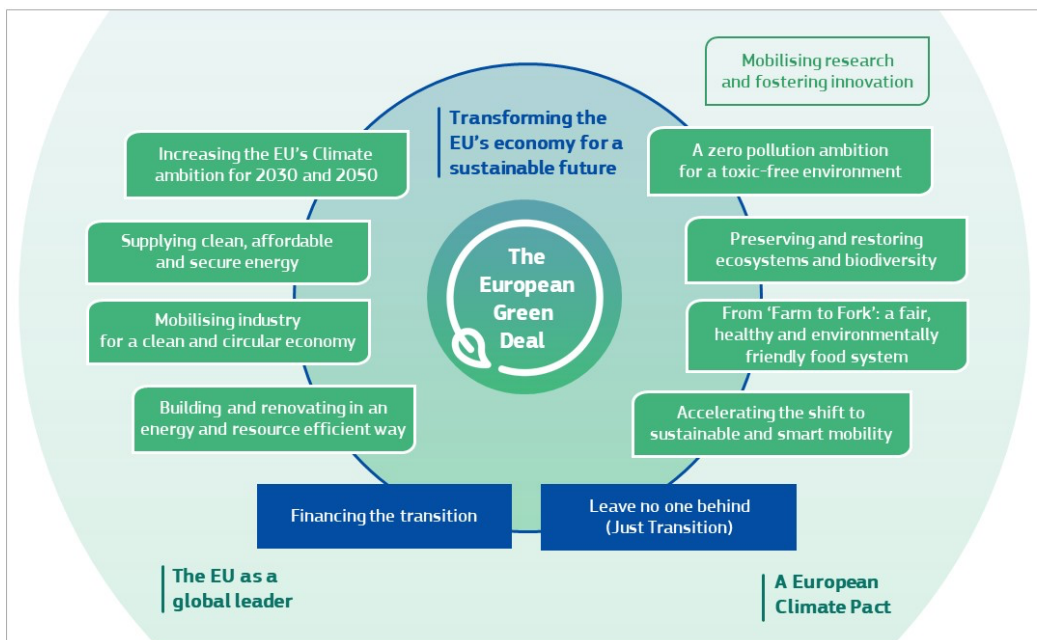
1.1. Global and european context of *climate change*

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges, with impacts ranging from extreme weather events to disruptions in ecosystems and human health. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), unprecedented changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and sea levels are driven by human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels. Europe, like other continents, is experiencing these shifts through increased frequency and intensity of **heatwaves, wildfires, floods, and biodiversity loss**.

In response to these threats, the European Union (EU) has positioned itself as a *global leader in climate action*, committed to not only mitigating the impacts of climate change but also promoting a sustainable and resilient society. The **EU's climate strategies** focus on an ambitious and transformative approach that addresses environmental, economic, and social dimensions comprehensively.

1.2. The European Green Deal: Objectives and strategies

The *European Green Deal*, introduced by the [European Commission in December 2019](#), is the EU's framework for achieving sustainable development and climate neutrality by 2050. As a transformative policy package, the Green Deal establishes ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while fostering sustainable economic growth, environmental conservation, and social equity across all EU member states.



The overarching objective of the European Green Deal is to achieve *climate neutrality by 2050*, with interim goals such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

To meet these targets, the Green Deal defines several **key strategies**:

1. Transition to clean energy

The Green Deal prioritizes the decarbonization of the EU's energy sector by increasing the adoption of **renewable energy sources** such as **wind, solar, and hydrogen** while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. This includes enhancing energy security, lowering dependence on imported energy, and promoting energy efficiency improvements in buildings and clean energy technologies.



2. Sustainable industry and circular economy

To minimize waste and resource consumption, the Green Deal promotes a circular economy, where products and materials are **reused, repaired, and recycled**. This approach advocates for sustainable manufacturing, reduced packaging waste, and responsible product design, especially in high-impact sectors such as steel, cement, and textiles.

3. Building and renovation

Recognizing that buildings account for a significant portion of the EU's energy consumption and emissions, the Green Deal launched the **"Renovation Wave"** initiative to double annual renovation rates. This aims to enhance energy efficiency, reduce energy poverty, and create green jobs within the construction sector.

4. Farm to Fork Strategy for Sustainable Food

The **"Farm to Fork"** strategy addresses the environmental impact of agriculture by promoting sustainable food production practices. It targets the reduction of pesticide, fertilizer, and antibiotic

use, encourages organic farming, and supports biodiversity, fostering a fairer and more environmentally friendly food system.



5. Protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

The Green Deal includes a biodiversity strategy to **protect** natural habitats, reforest degraded areas, and restore ecosystems. This is crucial for maintaining environmental health and ensuring resilient communities and economies across Europe.

6. Sustainable and Smart Mobility

The Green Deal promotes the shift to cleaner, safer, and more efficient transportation options. This strategy supports **public transportation**, **electrification of road transport**, and the development of rail infrastructure to reduce emissions in one of Europe's largest greenhouse gas-emitting sectors.

7. Just transition mechanism

Acknowledging that the transition to climate neutrality will impact certain regions and sectors, the Green Deal's Just Transition Mechanism provides financial and technical support to those most affected. This mechanism, which includes the **Just Transition Fund**, aims to ensure that no one is left behind, assisting workers and communities dependent on fossil fuels in their shift to sustainable livelihoods.

The European Green Deal represents a pioneering, balanced approach to sustainability, aligning environmental goals with economic and social development. This **roadmap** combines regulatory measures with financial incentives, including substantial funding from the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan and the EU's seven-year budget, where one-third of the €1.8 trillion investment is earmarked for Green Deal initiatives.

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Through projects like COGREENEU, citizens—particularly young people—are encouraged to engage actively in these objectives, empowering local communities to contribute to a sustainable future for Europe.



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2. The European Green Deal and its Implementation in the EU

The European Green Deal is the European Union's comprehensive strategy to address climate change and environmental degradation, aiming to transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient, and competitive economy. Its primary objective is to achieve **climate neutrality by 2050**, ensuring no net emissions of greenhouse gases, economic growth decoupled from resource use, and that no person or place is left behind.

To implement this ambitious plan, the Green Deal encompasses a wide array of policies targeting key sectors such as **energy, industry, agriculture, and transportation**. These policies are designed to promote sustainable practices, enhance biodiversity, and stimulate innovation in green technologies. The European Commission has adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport, and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

To support member states and local communities in this transition, the EU has established various funding instruments and support frameworks. One third of the €1.8 trillion investments from the **NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan**, and the **EU's seven-year budget**, will finance the European Green Deal.

These mechanisms are designed to ensure that regions with different economic conditions and resources can effectively pursue sustainable initiatives.

For countries participating in the **COGREENEU** project—Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania, and Belgium—the Green Deal offers substantial opportunities to leverage these policies and resources. By aligning local actions with the Green Deal's objectives, these countries can enhance their efforts in combating climate change, promoting sustainable development, and building resilience within their communities.

2.1. Key Policies of the Green Deal

The European Green Deal encompasses a set of ambitious *policies* aimed at guiding the European Union toward climate neutrality. These policies target several key areas, with measures designed to transform energy production, promote sustainable land use, reduce industrial emissions, and encourage circular economy practices.

Climate Action and Emissions Reduction: At the core of the Green Deal is the *EU Climate Law*, which legally binds the EU to its 2050 climate neutrality target and establishes an intermediate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. This policy includes sectoral targets to ensure emissions reductions across various industries, from energy to agriculture.

Energy Transition and Clean Power: The Green Deal's energy policy focuses on increasing renewable energy use and improving energy efficiency, targeting a fully decarbonized

energy sector by mid-century. The EU's *Fit for 55* package, a collection of policy proposals, includes revisions to the Renewable Energy Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive to meet these goals.

Circular Economy and Sustainable Industry: The *Circular Economy Action Plan* encourages sustainable manufacturing and waste reduction by supporting the production of durable and recyclable products. Industries such as textiles, electronics, and plastics are subject to circular economy standards that aim to minimize waste and reduce resource dependency.

Farm to Fork Strategy: The Green Deal includes the *Farm to Fork Strategy*, which promotes sustainable agricultural practices, aims to reduce the environmental footprint of food systems, and ensures food security. It sets targets to reduce pesticide use by 50% and fertilizers by 20%, as well as expanding organic farming to cover at least 25% of EU farmland by 2030.

Biodiversity Strategy: This policy prioritizes the protection and restoration of ecosystems, with goals to plant 3 billion trees by 2030 and protect 30% of the EU's land and marine areas. This strategy reflects the Green Deal's commitment to reversing biodiversity loss and preserving natural resources for future generations.

Sustainable and Smart Mobility: The EU's sustainable mobility policies focus on reducing emissions in the transport sector, which currently accounts for approximately 25% of total EU greenhouse gas emissions. By promoting public transport, supporting rail over air travel, and incentivizing electric vehicles, the Green Deal aims to reduce transport-related emissions by 90% by 2050.

2.2. Funding and Support Mechanisms at the European Level

The successful implementation of the European Green Deal relies on substantial funding and support mechanisms at both the EU and member state levels. The European Commission has outlined a range of financial instruments to support these efforts:

NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan: One-third of the €1.8 trillion allocated through the EU's recovery fund and its seven-year budget is dedicated to Green Deal initiatives. NextGenerationEU, the primary vehicle of this financial package, aims to help member states address the economic impact of COVID-19 while simultaneously funding green and digital transitions.

Just Transition Mechanism: This fund, with an initial budget of €17.5 billion, is designed to help regions and sectors most affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy. The Just Transition Mechanism provides grants, loans, and technical assistance to support workers and communities in shifting away from fossil fuel-based industries. The goal is to ensure that the shift to a green economy is inclusive and leaves no one behind.

Horizon Europe: As the EU's research and innovation framework program, Horizon Europe allocates a significant portion of its budget to green research projects. It funds innovation in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience. This funding not only supports the Green Deal objectives but also advances scientific breakthroughs essential to the green transition.

InvestEU Programme: InvestEU facilitates public and private investment in projects aligned with the Green Deal, particularly in sustainable infrastructure and climate innovation. This program offers guarantees and loans for high-risk investments, thereby mobilizing resources for sustainable growth and helping close funding gaps in green technology.

European Climate Bank: The European Investment Bank (EIB) has pledged to become Europe's climate bank, aiming to provide €1 trillion in climate-related investment by 2030. The EIB supports projects that align with Green Deal objectives, such as renewable energy installations, energy-efficient buildings, and sustainable transportation.

2.3. Expected impact on COGREENEU participating countries

The Green Deal offers significant opportunities and challenges for COGREENEU's participating countries—Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania, and Belgium. By accessing EU funds and aligning local policies with Green Deal objectives, these countries can enhance their climate resilience and pursue sustainable development strategies that reflect their unique geographic and economic contexts.

Spain With its **diverse ecosystems** and significant **agricultural sector**, Spain stands to benefit from the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies. Access to the Just Transition Fund is essential for regions like Asturias and Andalusia, where coal mining and heavy industry are predominant, to support a smooth transition to sustainable economic activities.

Italy Italy's **biodiversity** and **agricultural** heritage align well with the Green Deal's focus on biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. Italy can leverage funding from the European Climate Bank to advance **green mobility** in urban areas, particularly in cities like Milan and Rome, where reducing air pollution and promoting public transport are priorities.

Cyprus As an island nation facing **water scarcity** and **extreme temperatures**, Cyprus can benefit from Green Deal funds dedicated to **climate adaptation** and **water management**. The EU's support mechanisms will be crucial in enhancing Cyprus's resilience to climate change, including improvements in sustainable water usage and renewable energy.

Greece Greece is particularly vulnerable to **wildfires** and **heatwaves**, making it a key beneficiary of the Green Deal's climate adaptation strategies. Access to funds for **biodiversity** and **forest management** will support Greece's conservation efforts, while investments in **clean energy infrastructure** could help reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

Lithuania Lithuania is well-positioned to take advantage of EU support for **clean energy transitions**, particularly in expanding its wind energy capacity. Programs like Horizon Europe provide opportunities for innovation in renewable technologies, while **green mobility** funding could support the electrification of transport in urban centers.

Belgium With a strong focus on sustainable urban planning, Belgium can leverage Green Deal policies to promote **ecological transport** solutions. The country's commitment to **circular economy** practices aligns with EU initiatives on waste reduction, offering opportunities for Belgium's urban areas to become models of sustainable city planning.

The European Green Deal thus provides a structured framework through which COGREENEU's participating countries can address local climate challenges. By tapping into EU funding mechanisms and adopting Green Deal-aligned policies, these countries are equipped to make impactful strides toward **sustainability** and **climate resilience**, while supporting the EU's overarching goal of a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

3. Impact of climate change on local communities

Climate change poses an immediate threat across Europe, manifesting in diverse forms such as **heatwaves, flooding, droughts, and forest fires**. These events challenge **natural ecosystems, public health, agriculture, infrastructure, and economic stability**.

Local communities, each with unique geographic and socioeconomic contexts, are particularly vulnerable to these disruptions, prompting the European Green Deal to emphasise local adaptation strategies. Success in these adaptations depends on collaboration among citizens, local governments, and organisations, implementing solutions aligned with Green Deal goals.

This section explores the specific climate challenges faced by European communities and highlights the tailored approaches for adaptation in COGREENEU project countries: Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania, and Belgium. It illustrates the shared yet distinct ways these regions enhance resilience within a unified European framework.

3.1. Common challenges in European local communities

Climate change has become an unavoidable reality across Europe, impacting both urban and rural communities in diverse ways. While the specific effects of climate change vary by region, several overarching challenges are shared by local communities across the continent. These challenges influence public health, economic stability, infrastructure resilience, and environmental integrity, posing urgent threats that require coordinated and localized responses.

Extreme heat and drought

Southern Europe, especially Mediterranean regions like Spain, Italy, Greece, and Cyprus, faces severe droughts and increasingly intense heatwaves. Rising temperatures accelerate evaporation rates, deplete water resources, and reduce soil moisture, which in turn threatens agricultural productivity and public health. High temperatures also exacerbate the urban heat island effect, particularly in densely populated areas where limited green spaces further intensify heat.

Forest fires

Mediterranean countries are at particular risk of wildfires due to dry conditions and hot summers, which have become more frequent and intense. Countries such as Greece and Italy experience repeated fire outbreaks, which devastate ecosystems, increase air pollution, and lead to substantial economic losses. Communities near forested areas face threats to homes and infrastructures, while the resulting loss of vegetation reduces natural carbon sinks and increases soil erosion risks.

Flooding and rising sea levels

Flooding is a critical concern in northern and western European regions, including Belgium and parts of Lithuania, where rivers and coastal areas are especially vulnerable. Climate change-driven increases in rainfall intensity overwhelm drainage systems, leading to frequent and severe floods that damage properties, disrupt transport networks, and threaten human life. Additionally, rising sea levels pose significant threats to coastal areas, where saltwater intrusion endangers freshwater supplies and agricultural lands.

Loss of biodiversity and habitat degradation

Biodiversity in Europe is under pressure from habitat destruction, pollution, and shifting climate zones. This is especially concerning in countries with rich ecosystems, such as Spain and Italy, where unique species and habitats are threatened by climate-driven changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. Biodiversity loss destabilizes ecosystems, reducing natural resilience to climate impacts and diminishing ecosystem services, such as pollination and water purification, that are essential for human and environmental health.

Agricultural impacts and food security

Agriculture, a cornerstone of many European economies, is increasingly affected by unpredictable weather patterns, such as late frosts, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall. Countries like Lithuania, Greece, and Spain, which have large agricultural sectors, face declining crop yields and reduced soil fertility due to these changes. This not only threatens food security but also places economic pressures on rural communities, where farming is a primary livelihood.

Health risks and public safety

The increase in extreme weather events directly impacts public health, as heatwaves raise mortality rates, particularly among vulnerable populations such as the elderly. Floods, wildfires, and air pollution pose additional health risks, and the emotional stress associated with climate-related losses affects mental well-being. Countries are facing growing demands for healthcare services that can address climate-related illnesses, as well as the challenge of creating emergency response systems capable of handling frequent, large-scale environmental crises.

EU and Green Deal Response to Common Challenges

The European Green Deal provides a comprehensive framework to address these challenges, offering guidance and support to ensure that local governments can adapt their strategies to meet both national and local needs. Through initiatives like the **Just Transition Mechanism** and **NextGenerationEU**, the EU is allocating resources to assist communities in [climate resilience](#), [sustainable development](#), and [public health improvements](#).

In particular, **REPowerEU** is an initiative that tackles the dual challenges of energy dependence and sustainability, encouraging local transitions to [renewable energy sources](#), especially in areas where extreme weather has destabilized energy supply chains. The **Green Deal's Circular Economy Action Plan** also addresses resource scarcity, incentivizing [waste reduction](#), [recycling](#),

and **sustainable agriculture** to strengthen local economies against climate-related economic pressures.

These shared climate challenges highlight the urgent need for coordinated responses that incorporate both local knowledge and EU support. While climate impacts differ across regions, the European Green Deal fosters collaboration by providing a structured approach that addresses the interconnected nature of environmental, economic, and social challenges. This approach empowers local communities to adopt innovative, context-specific solutions that improve resilience, reduce emissions, and enhance quality of life.

3.2. Local adaptations to extreme climate events

Communities across Europe are increasingly prioritizing climate adaptation strategies to address the growing frequency and severity of extreme climate events. These **local adaptations** are essential for reducing the vulnerability of both urban and rural areas, mitigating environmental impacts, and protecting public health. Through the European Green Deal, the EU provides crucial guidance and funding to support these adaptation efforts, enabling communities to develop solutions tailored to their specific climate risks.

Water conservation and drought management

Southern European countries such as **Spain** and **Cyprus**, where water scarcity poses a significant risk, are implementing advanced water-saving measures and sustainable water management practices. For instance, Spain has expanded the use of **drip irrigation** in agriculture, significantly reducing water consumption compared to traditional methods. Cyprus, which faces prolonged droughts, has invested in **desalination plants** and **reservoir construction** to secure water supply. These efforts are supported by the EU's **CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)** and climate adaptation funds, which provide financial incentives for drought-resistant agriculture and water-efficient technologies.

Forest fire prevention and reforestation

Mediterranean regions, notably **Greece** and **Italy**, are highly susceptible to wildfires due to dry summers and increasing temperatures. To combat this, Greece has invested in creating **firebreaks** and enhancing early-warning systems with advanced technology, such as **drone surveillance** and **satellite monitoring**. These tools help in detecting fires early and managing resources more effectively. Additionally, reforestation projects focused on planting native, fire-resistant tree species like pines and oaks reduce fire risks while promoting biodiversity. Italy's adaptation strategies also include the protection of natural landscapes and restoration of degraded lands to support ecosystem resilience. The EU's **Life Programme** and **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)** are critical in financing these fire prevention and reforestation initiatives.

Flood control and infrastructure resilience

In regions prone to heavy rainfall and river flooding, such as **Belgium** and **Lithuania**, communities are adapting by enhancing urban infrastructure to better manage water flow. Cities like **Vilvoorde** in Belgium have implemented **green and blue infrastructure** solutions, including parks, **green roofs**, and **water retention basins** that absorb excess rainwater and alleviate the pressure on drainage systems. Vilvoorde's initiatives, supported by EU cohesion funds, are designed to reduce flood risks while mitigating the urban heat island effect. Additionally, Belgium is collaborating with neighboring areas to develop regional flood control strategies, recognizing that flood management is often more effective through cross-border cooperation.

Urban cooling and green spaces

To address the challenges posed by rising temperatures and the urban heat island effect, particularly in cities, **Italy** has emphasized the expansion of green spaces and urban greening initiatives. In cities like **Milan** and **Rome**, local governments are creating **pocket parks**, **green walls**, and **urban forests** that help cool the environment, improve air quality, and provide residents with shaded, cooler areas during heatwaves. Italy's national government, along with EU support through **Horizon Europe**, is promoting research and innovation to optimize urban design for climate adaptation. These cooling strategies not only reduce heat exposure but also increase community access to green spaces, enhancing quality of life.

Coastal protection and sea-level adaptation

Coastal regions, including parts of **Cyprus** and **Greece**, are vulnerable to sea-level rise, which threatens infrastructure, freshwater sources, and tourism. To combat these threats, Cyprus has implemented **coastal management programs** that include building **sea walls**, restoring sand dunes, and creating buffer zones that protect against erosion and storm surges. In Greece, measures such as **mangrove restoration** and the reinforcement of natural barriers along the coastline help mitigate the effects of rising seas. EU funds, specifically through **Interreg Europe**, facilitate cross-border projects that improve coastal resilience and preserve vital ecosystems.

Agricultural resilience and climate-smart farming

The agriculture sector in Europe, vital to food security and rural economies, is increasingly adapting to climate variability. In **Spain**, farmers are adopting climate-smart practices, including the cultivation of drought-resistant crop varieties and precision agriculture to optimize water and fertilizer use. **Lithuania** is also implementing agricultural innovations, such as **no-till farming** and **cover cropping**, to enhance soil health and reduce erosion, which are supported by the EU's **Common Agricultural Policy**. These practices not only help farmers cope with adverse climate conditions but also contribute to carbon sequestration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The European Green Deal and supporting programs provide essential funding and policy frameworks to facilitate these local adaptation efforts. Through the **NextGenerationEU** recovery plan and the **Just Transition Mechanism**, the EU is helping regions most affected by climate change secure resources for sustainable adaptation. Programs like **REPowerEU** support the transition to renewable energy sources, making energy systems more resilient to extreme weather

events, while the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** assists in creating climate-resilient infrastructure and enhancing environmental protection in vulnerable areas.

3.3. Role of citizen participation in responding to climate change

Citizen participation is at the heart of the European Green Deal, emphasizing that the transition toward a sustainable future requires **engagement** from all segments of society. Local involvement is crucial not only for implementing effective policies but also for ensuring their long-term sustainability. Across Europe, participatory frameworks are being developed to empower communities to play an active role in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, with the support of various EU programs.

In many cities, such as Vilvoorde in Belgium and Milan in Italy, participatory budgeting has become a powerful tool that allows citizens to influence environmental initiatives directly. Through this model, residents propose and vote on projects like urban greening, renewable energy installations, and recycling programs. This not only gives people a voice but also builds public ownership of green policies, increasing the likelihood of success and fostering a shared commitment to sustainability.

Education and awareness play equally vital roles in empowering citizens to engage with climate action. Programs like **Eco-Schools** in **Greece** and Italy involve students in hands-on projects, from waste management to energy conservation, fostering environmental responsibility from a young age. In addition, public awareness campaigns in Spain and Lithuania have been instrumental in increasing climate literacy among adults, particularly in rural areas where sustainable practices in agriculture and conservation are becoming crucial. By enhancing understanding, these programs create a proactive and informed public, ready to support local climate actions and adopt sustainable lifestyles.

Community-led projects also provide valuable avenues for direct action. Across Greece and Italy, reforestation initiatives and conservation efforts often rely on local volunteers who plant trees, restore degraded lands, and protect biodiversity. These projects, frequently funded by the European Social Fund Plus, strengthen environmental stewardship at the grassroots level, encouraging people to actively contribute to their communities' resilience against climate change. In Spain, river clean-ups and biodiversity conservation efforts bring people together, fostering a community spirit while enhancing local ecosystems.

The European Green Deal also recognizes that youth are essential to the climate movement, supporting their active involvement through programs like Youth for Climate and COGREENEU. These initiatives give young people a platform to voice their concerns, collaborate with local governments, and contribute innovative solutions. In Lithuania and Belgium, for example, youth groups are working with local councils to promote clean energy and sustainable mobility, creating a generation of climate leaders who will drive future environmental change.

Civic activism and grassroots movements amplify the impact of citizen participation, holding policymakers accountable and pushing for ambitious climate action. The Fridays for Future movement, which began as a youth-led initiative, has mobilized millions to demand stronger climate policies. In regions like Italy and Cyprus, local environmental groups have formed partnerships with NGOs to promote sustainable practices, organize community events, and advocate for green policies. By raising awareness and generating public support, these movements keep climate issues at the forefront of the political agenda, reinforcing the Green Deal's call for transformative action.

Supporting these grassroots efforts, the European Green Deal includes several funding mechanisms aimed at empowering citizens to make sustainable choices. The Social Climate Fund and the European Climate Pact provide financial and technical resources that encourage communities to implement energy-efficient solutions, embrace renewable energy, and support low-income families in making eco-friendly transitions. These resources bridge the gap between policy and practice, ensuring that climate initiatives are accessible and inclusive, especially in vulnerable regions.

Through these participatory initiatives, Europe demonstrates that addressing climate change is not only a governmental responsibility but a shared endeavor. By integrating citizen perspectives, supporting community-led projects, and amplifying youth voices, the EU is creating a resilient foundation for sustainable development. The collaborative nature of these efforts ensures that climate action is grounded in real-world challenges and priorities, driving meaningful change at both the local and continental levels.

3.4. The Green Deal's role in local communities and its diverse implementation across Europe

The European Green Deal represents a transformative approach to tackling climate change across the continent, yet its effectiveness depends largely on how local communities adopt and adapt its principles to fit their unique contexts. From renewable energy transitions to urban greening and sustainable agriculture, European cities and regions are implementing Green Deal policies in ways that reflect their geographical and socioeconomic characteristics, illustrating a balance between a unified European framework and locally tailored solutions. This approach not only reinforces climate resilience but also brings tangible improvements to local quality of life, economic growth, and environmental health.

In **Spain**, the city of Altea exemplifies how local governments are integrating Green Deal objectives with a strong emphasis on carbon neutrality. Through the "Altea Zero Emissions" initiative, the city focuses on cleaner transportation, the creation of urban green spaces, and energy-efficient infrastructure. By aligning these efforts with EU climate goals, Altea aims to lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce urban heat, and foster a healthier environment. The agricultural sector, vital to many regions in Spain, is also shifting towards sustainability under the Green Deal's Farm to Fork Strategy. Farmers are increasingly adopting organic practices and water-saving techniques to mitigate the impact of frequent droughts, which are intensified by the Mediterranean climate.

Together, these initiatives contribute to Spain's national emissions targets and underscore the value of locally applied, EU-supported climate action.

Italy has made significant strides in both sustainable agriculture and urban greening—two Green Deal priorities that resonate deeply within its diverse landscapes. Rural farmers are turning to eco-friendly practices such as organic farming, soil regeneration, and water conservation, which support both agricultural resilience and the EU's goal for sustainable food systems. In cities like Milan, urban greening projects are transforming the urban fabric, with green rooftops, urban forests, and pocket parks reducing air pollution, providing shade, and combating the urban heat island effect. These initiatives not only align with the Green Deal's broader objectives but also adapt to the specific needs of Italy's urban and rural areas, enhancing the resilience of communities against climate impacts.

In **Cyprus**, where water scarcity and sea-level rise pose pressing challenges, the Green Deal's focus on climate resilience has driven critical investments in water management and coastal protection. Coastal cities are fortifying their shorelines with sea walls, restoring dunes, and establishing buffer zones to guard against storm surges and erosion. In addition, Cyprus is embracing advanced water-saving technologies, such as desalination and rainwater harvesting, to address prolonged droughts. These adaptations protect essential resources and support the sustainability of sectors like tourism and agriculture, which are crucial to the island's economy. By integrating these measures into local infrastructure, Cyprus is better prepared to withstand the effects of climate change, preserving both its natural landscapes and economic stability.

Greece faces similar climate risks, particularly from extreme heat and wildfires, prompting communities to adopt Green Deal-supported measures in fire prevention and forest management. Local governments are enhancing early-warning systems, creating firebreaks, and conducting reforestation with fire-resistant species, such as pine and oak, which not only mitigate fire risks but also support biodiversity. Greece has also advanced sustainable tourism practices that promote conservation, positioning eco-tourism as both an economic and environmental asset. These local adaptations are underpinned by EU support, helping Greece maintain its natural resources while contributing to broader Green Deal objectives.

In **Lithuania**, the Green Deal's energy transition goals have been embraced with a strong emphasis on expanding renewable energy sources like wind and solar. Local councils and communities are collaborating to increase clean energy capacity, promoting job creation and energy independence. Furthermore, public campaigns encouraging energy efficiency in homes and businesses are reducing energy consumption, which aligns with the EU's commitment to carbon neutrality. Lithuania's shift towards green energy not only strengthens its economy but also positions the country as a leader in renewable energy within the Baltic region, showcasing the Green Deal's potential to transform energy systems sustainably.

Belgium has prioritised sustainable urban infrastructure to address the challenges of urbanisation and frequent flooding. Cities such as Vilvoorde are implementing "green and blue" infrastructure solutions, including parks, green roofs, and water retention basins, which are integrated into urban design to enhance flood resilience and improve biodiversity. These projects contribute to cooler

urban spaces during heatwaves and create environments that foster both ecological and social well-being. Additionally, Belgium's commitment to circular economy practices is evident in waste reduction and recycling programs, reflecting the Green Deal's objective to minimise resource dependency. By incorporating nature-based solutions into urban planning, Belgium demonstrates how the Green Deal empowers cities to address climate challenges while promoting sustainable development.

Together, these diverse local adaptations illustrate the Green Deal's flexibility and its role as a catalyst for community-driven transformation across Europe. Each region tailors EU policies to address specific climate issues—whether through coastal protection in Cyprus, urban greening in Italy, renewable energy in Lithuania, or agricultural resilience in Spain. This adaptive approach enables communities to contribute to Europe's climate targets in ways that are relevant to their local realities, creating a robust foundation for achieving climate neutrality. Through the Green Deal, local governments, organisations, and citizens are not only protecting their environments but also fostering economic growth, public health, and social resilience, ensuring a sustainable future that is both effective and equitable.



4. Country experiences

4.1. Spain: Local Initiatives in Energy Transition and Sustainable Agriculture

- **Energy Transition:** Spain, with its abundance of solar resources, has made significant advances in installing solar systems in local communities, especially in urban areas like Altea. Through the "Altea Zero Emissions" project, the municipality promotes the use of solar panels on public and residential buildings, incentivizing carbon emissions reduction. The initiative also encourages the use of electric vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure and creating low-emission zones, aligning local policies with the Green Deal's decarbonization goals.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Agriculture in Spain, particularly in areas with high climate variability, faces the challenge of water scarcity. Supported by the Farm to Fork Strategy, farmers are adopting sustainable agricultural practices such as drip irrigation and the use of drought-resistant crop varieties. These practices not only improve water use efficiency but also contribute to agricultural resilience and long-term sustainability in vulnerable farming regions.

4.2. Italy: Biodiversity Projects and Green Mobility

- **Biodiversity Conservation:** In Italy, reforestation projects in regions like Tuscany aim to preserve biodiversity and restore degraded ecosystems. Efforts include planting native species to ensure that new forests are compatible with local ecosystems, supporting biodiversity while improving carbon sequestration. These projects align with the EU's Biodiversity Strategy, which promotes the protection of natural habitats and the conservation of local flora and fauna.
- **Green Mobility:** Cities like Milan have implemented sustainable mobility infrastructure, including a network of cycling lanes and low-emission zones. The creation of "green mobility areas," accessible only by electric or non-motorized vehicles, significantly reduces pollution and improves air quality. This green mobility strategy is designed not only to reduce the city's carbon footprint but also to enhance public health by minimizing residents' exposure to pollutants.

4.3. Cyprus: Climate Change Adaptation and Water Management

- **Water Management:** Water scarcity is a critical issue in Cyprus, and local authorities have adopted advanced water management measures to address it. The construction of desalination plants and the promotion of rainwater harvesting technologies allow communities to secure a more stable water supply, even during prolonged drought periods. These solutions align with the Green Deal, which promotes the efficient use of natural resources in regions vulnerable to climate change.

- **Climate Adaptation:** As an island nation, Cyprus is especially vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Local communities have implemented dune restoration projects and constructed natural barriers to protect coastal areas. Additionally, authorities have developed evacuation and response plans for intense storms, helping to mitigate the impacts of extreme climate events on infrastructure and homes.

4.4. Greece: Resilience to Wildfires and Heat Waves

- **Wildfire Prevention:** Greece has intensified its fire prevention efforts through the creation of firebreaks and reforestation with fire-resistant tree species. These projects include advanced monitoring technologies and early-warning systems that allow for a rapid response to contain fires before they spread. These EU-supported efforts are essential for forest conservation and the safety of communities in fire-prone regions.
- **Heatwave Resilience:** Heatwaves pose a growing health risk in Greek cities, especially in Athens. Urban greening programs have gained traction in recent years, with tree planting in urban areas and the creation of green spaces that help reduce urban temperatures. These initiatives enhance cities' resilience to extreme heat events, protect public health, and make urban environments more livable.

4.5. Lithuania: Clean Energy and Youth Participation

- **Renewable Energy:** Lithuania is leading the shift to renewable energy in the Baltic region, focusing on expanding wind and solar energy projects. With the support of the Green Deal, the country has significantly increased its clean energy generation capacity, reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and fostering energy self-sufficiency. This energy transition also creates local jobs and supports economic growth in rural areas.
- **Youth Engagement:** In Lithuania, youth participation programs play a key role in raising awareness and educating citizens on sustainability. Through eco-education initiatives and youth-led projects such as recycling campaigns and renewable energy workshops, young Lithuanians are actively involved in climate action. This strengthens citizen engagement and ensures that the next generation is prepared to lead future sustainability efforts.

4.6. Belgium: Sustainable Urbanism and Ecological Transport

- **Sustainable Urban Infrastructure:** In cities like Vilvoorde, green and blue infrastructure projects integrate nature into urban environments, providing multifunctional benefits. Green roofs, water retention areas, and urban parks improve the city's flood management capacity, promote biodiversity, and reduce urban heat. This approach to sustainable infrastructure also fosters a sense of well-being among residents and creates more climate-resilient environments.

- **Ecological Transport:** Belgium has invested significantly in ecological transport systems, with major developments in public transport networks and cycling lanes. These initiatives aim to reduce reliance on private cars by encouraging citizens to choose low-emission alternatives. Additionally, Belgium is working on electrifying bus fleets and developing charging points for electric vehicles, aligning its transport policy with the Green Deal's sustainability goals.



5. Youth Survey Results

This section analyzes the results of a survey conducted with young people from the countries participating in the COGREENEU project. The survey aimed to assess the level of knowledge, perception, and attitude of European youth toward the European Green Deal and environmental policies at both European and local levels. Distributed in multiple languages (Italian, Lithuanian, Spanish, Greek, English, and Dutch), the survey captures perspectives from young people in diverse cultural and geographical contexts, providing a broad view of climate and environmental perceptions across Europe.

Objectives of the Survey

The main goal of this survey was to gain a detailed understanding of European youth's familiarity with the European Green Deal and their degree of engagement and interest in sustainability policies. Additionally, it aimed to gauge young people's level of concern about climate change and their commitment to implementing mitigation actions in their daily lives. This data will help local and European actors better understand the needs, concerns, and expectations of youth concerning climate and environmental policies.

Structure of the questionnaire

The survey was structured into several sections, each aimed at exploring specific aspects of youth perceptions and behaviors toward climate change and the European Green Deal:

- **Demographic Information:** Participants were asked about their age, gender, country of residence, and educational level to contextualize their responses and enable segmented analysis.
- **Knowledge Level of the European Green Deal:** This section assessed young people's familiarity with the European Green Deal, including whether they had heard of it and how they obtained this information. The aim was to identify key sources of information and the general level of awareness about this European initiative.
- **Opinions on Environmental Policies:** Through questions about their level of concern regarding climate change and environmental policies at both local and European levels, this section sought to capture young people's perceptions of the effectiveness and relevance of these policies. It also evaluated their involvement in environmental activities and interest in participating in future Green Deal-related projects.
- **Mitigation Actions and Citizen Engagement:** Finally, the survey explored actions that young people are taking in their daily lives to mitigate climate change, such as recycling, using sustainable transport, and responsible consumption. Their willingness to receive more information and actively participate in environmental initiatives and Green Deal projects was also assessed.

Methodology and scope

The survey, conducted in six languages, captured a representative sample from the project's partner countries, with a total of **227 responses** distributed as follows: Italian (60), Lithuanian (60), Spanish (55), Greek (34), English (14), and Dutch (4). The linguistic and cultural diversity of the sample adds value to the analysis, offering a broad and diverse view of youth perception of the European Green Deal across different European regions.

This introduction sets the stage for the detailed analysis of the results obtained, which is presented below, structured around three key areas: knowledge and perception of the European Green Deal, opinions on European and local environmental policies, and a concluding analysis with observations based on the identified trends.

Overview of demographic insights

The demographic composition of the survey respondents offers valuable context for interpreting their perspectives on the European Green Deal and environmental policies. The insights from age, gender, country of residence, and education level provide a nuanced understanding of how different groups relate to climate and sustainability issues.

- **Age**
 - The majority of respondents fall within the 18–24 and 25–30 age ranges, representing over 75% of the total participants. These groups are notably engaged with environmental issues, as evidenced by high awareness levels and strong opinions on the Green Deal's importance.
 - A smaller portion of respondents (under 10%) are younger than 18 or older than 30, showing that the survey primarily captures the perspectives of young adults, often university students or early-career individuals.
- **Gender**
 - The survey shows a higher representation of male respondents, with 57% identifying as male and 42% as female. Less than 1% preferred not to disclose their gender.
 - While both genders demonstrate similar levels of environmental concern, slight variations appear in perception and engagement, with females showing slightly higher interest in participating in local climate actions. These insights could inform targeted engagement strategies to ensure balanced representation and involvement.
- **Country of Residence**
 - Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Greece, Cyprus, and Belgium are the primary countries represented, aligning with the project's participating countries. Spain, Italy, and Lithuania together account for nearly 70% of the responses, suggesting that youth from these regions have significant input in the results.
 - Each country shows unique trends in awareness and engagement. For instance, Lithuania reports the highest awareness of the Green Deal, while Greece and Cyprus exhibit

particularly high concern about climate change, likely reflecting immediate environmental challenges in these regions, such as heatwaves and drought.

- **Level of Education**

- Education level among respondents is predominantly university-level or higher, with over 60% having completed or currently pursuing higher education degrees. Approximately 20% have secondary education, while a small fraction (under 5%) indicated other forms of education.
- This demographic skews toward more educated youth, which may correlate with the high levels of Green Deal awareness and environmental concern observed in the results. Respondents with university-level education or higher also tend to report stronger familiarity with the specific policies within the Green Deal, likely due to greater exposure to academic or institutional discussions on climate and sustainability.

5.1. Level of Knowledge and Perception of the European Green Deal among Youth in the Participating Countries

The survey results show that European youth demonstrate a substantial awareness of the European Green Deal, with 78% of respondents (177 out of 227) reporting familiarity with the initiative. This awareness varies somewhat across countries:

- **Lithuania:** Lithuania boasts the highest awareness level, with 85% of young respondents indicating familiarity with the Green Deal, reflecting a well-established understanding of the Green Deal's objectives within the country.
- **Spain and Italy:** Among Spanish and Italian respondents, 80% and 75%, respectively, have heard of the Green Deal. These figures indicate a strong awareness of the initiative in both countries, potentially due to active national discussions on climate policies.
- **Greece and Cyprus:** Greece shows an impressive 82% awareness, and Cyprus follows with 70%, showing robust familiarity in Mediterranean regions, where climate issues like heatwaves and water scarcity are prevalent.
- **Belgium:** Although representing a smaller sample size, 50% of Belgian respondents reported familiarity with the Green Deal, suggesting room for further outreach and education in this region.

In terms of information sources, the survey identified **social media** as the primary channel through which young people learn about the Green Deal, with 65% (115 respondents) citing it as their main source. This finding underscores the importance of digital platforms in reaching youth. Additionally, **educational institutions** play a key role, with 50% of respondents gaining knowledge through their schools or universities, and **traditional media outlets** (TV and newspapers) were also significant, particularly in Spain and Italy. These sources highlight both the opportunities and

challenges of conveying complex policy initiatives to young people in a way that is accessible and engaging.

The general perception of the Green Deal among respondents is positive, **with 70% (124 individuals) of those familiar with the initiative viewing it favorably**. This group perceives the Green Deal as an *essential step* towards addressing climate change and promoting sustainability across Europe. However, 20% of respondents hold a neutral stance, indicating that, while they have a general awareness of the Green Deal, they may not fully grasp its specific policies or implications. This trend points to an opportunity to provide more detailed, practical information about the Green Deal's impact on local communities and individual lifestyles.

5.2. Opinions on European and local environmental policies

The survey results reflect strong opinions among youth on both European and local environmental policies, emphasizing their engagement and concern for climate issues. Regarding their level of concern about climate change:

Very concerned: 60% of respondents reported being very concerned about climate change, underscoring a shared sense of urgency across countries. This concern was especially notable in Mediterranean countries like Greece and Cyprus, where climate impacts such as wildfires and rising sea levels are immediate challenges.

Somewhat concerned: 25% of respondents indicated they were somewhat concerned, acknowledging the importance of climate action but with less intensity than the majority.

Not very concerned or not concerned at all: Only 15% expressed limited concern, suggesting that awareness and concern about climate change are high among European youth.

When asked about the effectiveness of **European vs. local environmental policies**, respondents had varied opinions. Many view European policies, like the Green Deal, as crucial for setting ambitious climate goals and fostering cooperation among EU countries. Around 68% expressed confidence in EU-wide initiatives, believing they are necessary for addressing climate change on a large scale. However, approximately 40% of respondents felt that **local policies lack effectiveness or sufficient support** for environmental sustainability, particularly in areas like renewable energy access and public transportation. This response pattern suggests that *young people perceive a gap between the overarching goals of European policies and the tangible actions seen at the local level*.

Furthermore, the survey revealed strong interest in greater local engagement opportunities. A significant portion of respondents expressed a desire for their municipalities to implement more Green Deal-aligned initiatives, such as urban greening, improved recycling programs, and renewable energy incentives. This demand for local action reflects a readiness among youth to

support environmental efforts but with an expectation of more visible results and community-focused projects.

5.3. Conclusions and analysis of the survey results

1. **European youth are generally informed and concerned about climate issues, with many showing familiarity with the European Green Deal and supporting its aims.**
2. **Social media and educational institutions play a critical role in raising youth awareness of climate policies, underlining the need for accessible, youth-focused communication channels.**
3. **There is a disparity in understanding the Green Deal's specific goals and local applications; many young people desire more practical information on its impact on their daily lives.**
4. **Enhanced communication linking EU policies with local actions could address this information gap, particularly through digital and school-based initiatives.**
5. **Youth across Europe express a strong sense of urgency on climate change, especially in regions highly affected, leading to calls for more impactful local policies aligned with EU goals.**
6. **Young people show a strong interest in engaging directly in climate initiatives, indicating that youth engagement should focus on creating local, Green Deal-aligned involvement opportunities.**
7. **The survey highlights the Green Deal's potential to resonate with youth if supported by concrete, community-based initiatives that enable active participation in climate solutions.**

6. Conclusions

6.1. Reflections on shared experiences and lessons learned

The analysis of the COGREENEU report reveals several crucial insights regarding the implementation of the European Green Deal, highlighting both the shared experiences across European communities and the valuable lessons that can guide future efforts. Foremost among these insights is the adaptability of the Green Deal framework, which has proven essential for allowing communities to tailor policies to meet their unique environmental, social, and economic challenges. This flexibility has facilitated the application of Green Deal initiatives in diverse contexts, such as climate-resilient agriculture in Spain and renewable energy expansion in Lithuania, enabling local actors to engage with the Green Deal's broader goals while addressing region-specific needs.

Another significant finding is the importance of collaborative efforts in enhancing the impact of Green Deal policies. Effective climate action requires active engagement from multiple sectors, including government entities, civil society, and private stakeholders. The report showcases how cross-sectoral partnerships, as seen in Greece's community-led conservation initiatives, contribute not only to the successful implementation of policies but also to their long-term sustainability. By fostering collaboration, the Green Deal has empowered local communities to tackle climate challenges more effectively, creating synergies that reinforce resilience and environmental stewardship.

The role of funding accessibility in driving meaningful change cannot be understated. EU funding mechanisms, such as the Just Transition Fund and NextGenerationEU, have been instrumental in supporting regions that are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, enabling them to implement Green Deal-aligned projects. Access to these resources has been vital for addressing disparities and promoting climate resilience in communities with varying levels of economic resources. However, the report also highlights the need to ensure that funding remains equitable and accessible to all communities, especially those most in need, to guarantee that the benefits of climate initiatives are distributed fairly.

Youth engagement has emerged as a powerful force within the Green Deal framework, as demonstrated by survey findings that reveal high levels of environmental awareness and concern among European youth. Young people are not only informed but also eager to participate actively in sustainable initiatives, a factor that can have lasting impacts on local and national climate policies. By engaging the next generation, the Green Deal cultivates a dedicated cohort of future leaders committed to climate action, thereby strengthening the continuity of sustainability efforts across generations.

Yet, the report identifies challenges in communicating Green Deal objectives effectively. While awareness of the Green Deal has grown, there remains a gap in understanding the specific policies and their local relevance. Clearer communication that links the overarching objectives of the

Green Deal with tangible local benefits would enhance public engagement and deepen the sense of ownership among citizens. This approach is essential for ensuring that communities not only support but also actively participate in Green Deal initiatives.

The experiences shared across COGREENEU communities underscore the importance of a flexible, collaborative, and inclusive approach to climate policy. The adaptability of the Green Deal, coupled with equitable access to resources, active youth involvement, and effective communication, provides a robust foundation for achieving sustainable, community-driven change. As European communities continue to implement Green Deal policies, these lessons serve as guiding principles for refining and strengthening climate actions in the future, fostering a resilient, environmentally conscious Europe.

6.2. Recommendations to increase the local impact of the Green Deal, with special attention to youth participation

To enhance the local impact of the European Green Deal, it is essential to focus on strategies that not only foster community engagement but also empower youth participation, recognising the role of young people as critical agents in the transition to a sustainable future. Based on the findings of the COGREENEU report, several targeted recommendations emerge to strengthen the Green Deal's local impact and ensure that its objectives resonate with citizens at the grassroots level.

Firstly, strengthening communication and educational outreach tailored specifically for young people will bridge current information gaps and deepen understanding of Green Deal policies. By collaborating with educational institutions and capitalising on the reach of social media, local authorities can deliver accessible, youth-oriented content that explains the relevance of Green Deal initiatives within local contexts. This approach not only enhances youth awareness but also inspires meaningful engagement by illustrating the practical implications of the Green Deal on their communities and daily lives.

Supporting youth-led initiatives is equally essential. By offering financial and technical support for projects driven by young people—such as urban greening, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy workshops—local authorities can foster a sense of ownership and leadership among the younger generation. Empowering young people with the resources to initiate and manage these projects builds both environmental resilience and civic responsibility, enabling youth to contribute actively to local Green Deal objectives.

Increasing formal opportunities for youth involvement in policymaking is another effective strategy. Establishing platforms such as youth councils or Green Deal advisory boards at the local level would provide young people with a voice in climate decision-making processes, ensuring that their perspectives and priorities are reflected in adaptation and mitigation strategies. Such structures would not only amplify youth voices but also encourage local governments to integrate their innovative solutions and insights into broader policy frameworks.

To further support community-level Green Deal initiatives, enhancing funding accessibility is crucial. Simplifying the application process for small-scale projects and creating dedicated grants for local adaptation efforts would encourage more widespread participation, particularly in areas with limited resources. Expanding financial support for community-led projects can drive significant progress toward climate resilience, particularly where smaller, targeted initiatives can make a substantial impact.

Developing local awareness campaigns that clearly demonstrate the tangible benefits of Green Deal policies in terms of infrastructure, public health, and quality of life can also reinforce public support. By showcasing specific outcomes—such as improved air quality, green spaces, and resilient infrastructure—local campaigns can help residents understand and appreciate the value of Green Deal policies in their immediate surroundings.

Finally, promoting cross-community knowledge-sharing networks will enable regions to benefit from the successful practices of others. Establishing formal partnerships and facilitating the exchange of best practices across municipalities can enhance local adaptation strategies, fostering innovation and collective resilience. Initiatives that encourage collaboration across borders can further reinforce these efforts, building a unified yet locally relevant response to climate challenges.

These recommendations underscore the need for targeted, inclusive strategies that resonate with communities and empower young people as active contributors to the Green Deal. By focusing on education, youth leadership, accessible funding, and community-driven campaigns, local authorities can maximise the impact of the Green Deal at a grassroots level. This comprehensive approach not only advances local climate goals but also fosters a generation of engaged citizens dedicated to building a sustainable and resilient future for Europe.

A decalogue to enhance the local impact of the European Green Deal

- 1. Strengthen Communication and Education for Youth:** Collaborate with educational institutions and leverage social media to provide accessible, youth-oriented information on Green Deal policies, highlighting their relevance in local contexts.
- 2. Support Youth-Led Initiatives:** Offer financial and technical support for projects led by young people, such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy workshops, and urban greening. This fosters youth leadership and their commitment to local Green Deal objectives.
- 3. Establish Platforms for Youth Participation in Local Policy:** Create youth councils or Green Deal advisory boards at the local level to give young people a voice in climate decision-making, ensuring their perspectives are reflected in adaptation and mitigation strategies.

4. **Enhance Funding Accessibility for Small-Scale Projects:** Simplify application processes and establish dedicated grants for local adaptation efforts. This would encourage wider participation, especially in under-resourced areas, and support impactful, community-led projects.
5. **Promote Local Awareness Campaigns on Tangible Green Deal Benefits:** Develop campaigns that clearly communicate the specific local benefits of Green Deal policies, such as improved air quality, green spaces, and resilient infrastructure, helping residents appreciate the value of these initiatives.
6. **Encourage Cross-Community Knowledge Sharing:** Facilitate networks for sharing best practices across municipalities, allowing regions to benefit from each other's successful adaptations and fostering collective resilience.
7. **Empower Youth in Environmental Leadership Roles:** Provide mentorship and resources to equip young people to lead community projects that align with Green Deal goals, building environmental resilience and civic responsibility.
8. **Integrate Youth Perspectives into Broader Policy Frameworks:** Involve young people in policy development discussions at local, national, and EU levels, ensuring that their innovative ideas and priorities are incorporated into Green Deal strategies.
9. **Highlight Practical Impacts of the Green Deal in Daily Life:** Use community forums, workshops, and social media to illustrate how Green Deal initiatives affect citizens' everyday lives, fostering a stronger connection to the policies.
10. **Facilitate Cross-Border Collaborations:** Encourage partnerships between communities in different regions or countries to enhance adaptation strategies and build a unified response to climate challenges, creating a resilient and sustainable future across Europe.