

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR "SUSTAINABLE CITIES SUSTAINABLE FUTURE" (SCSF) PROJECT

1. Introduction

The "Sustainable Cities Sustainable Future" project aims to educate high school students, parents and residents neighbouring school about sustainable urban development through interdisciplinary activities, fostering awareness and skills for building sustainable communities. The objectives of the SCSF Project are to develop a waste management and donation system in partner countries and to create awareness about zero waste and donation, to build a waste management and donation centre, to create a system and documentation about waste sorting, to build up capacity in partner organizations, to contribute to circular economy of Europe effective use of resources and donation; and to involve at least 400 beneficiaries in the SCSF project and educate them waste-conscious.

This plan outlines strategies to ensure the project's long-term environmental, social, and economic impact, in line with EU regulations and Erasmus+ priorities.

2. Alignment with EU Policies

This project supports:

- **The European Green Deal** by promoting sustainability awareness among youth.
- **EU Urban Agenda** goals, focusing on education about urban sustainability, mobility, and green spaces.
- **Erasmus+ Key Priorities**, especially environmental and digital education.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly:
 - **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**: Equipping students with knowledge to address urban challenges and learn about waste management.
 - **SDG 1 (No Poverty)**: Promoting donating what you do not use.

3. Environmental Sustainability

- **Curriculum Integration**: Embed sustainability topics, such as renewable energy, urban waste management, and eco-friendly transportation, into classroom activities.

Most of the students get the training given in the context of the SCSF Project. Nearly 120 of them were graduated and are out in society with the awareness of waste management, sorting and donation. They have an influence on their families, university friends and people at work places.

Waste management and waste sorting training will be tradition of İMNAL. In Kocaeli, thanks to SCSF Project, İMNAL is the only school which has separate waste dustbins inside the classrooms. Waste management and waste sorting trainings will be given the newcomers to school (9th Grades) and their parents at the beginning of the school year in October. Also the school will organize trainings for residents and adults on Waste Management and Sorting.

In Romania, also the schools will continue to give trainings for pupils and continue to work as a Waste Management and Donation Centre in the neighbourhood.

- **Green Campus Initiative:** Eco-friendly practices within the school, such as waste segregation, energy-saving measures, and tree-planting campaigns will be developed in coordination with the Provincial Directorate of National Education, Kocaeli.
- **Project Outputs:** Develop resources such as a sustainability handbook and digital presentations to disseminate information widely.

The outputs developed will be shared on the website of the SCSF Project for use. People can download this and learn about the SCSF Project. The organizations which will organize waste management and sorting training can download the presentations in all languages of the partner organizations.

- **Sustainable Events:** Organize workshops, field trips to green facilities, and environmental campaigns, ensuring minimal waste and carbon emissions.

İMNAL will organize field trips to İZAYDAŞ (which is a waste management organization of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality) every year and try to get professional training on the field of waste sorting and recycling and curricular economy.

- **Training programme development:** Organize trainings for schools, parents and communities within green economy and EU mission soil.

Promote teachers trainings within KA1

Future activities – Sustainability actions

Sustainability actions for Climate Action Programmes for Students

Schools play a vital role in **shaping environmentally responsible citizens**. To maintain and expand climate action programmes, they can implement the following strategies:

1. Integrating Climate Action into the Curriculum

- Include **sustainability topics** in subjects like science, geography, and economics.
- Introduce **project-based learning** on climate change, renewable energy, and waste management.
- Encourage students to conduct **climate research projects** and present solutions.

2. Establishing Green School Initiatives

- Set up **waste sorting and recycling stations** in school buildings.

- Develop **school gardens** to teach about sustainable food systems and biodiversity.
- Organise **tree-planting drives** and urban greening projects with community partners.

3. Student-Led Environmental Clubs

- Form **eco-clubs** where students lead climate awareness campaigns.
- Engage students in **local and international climate initiatives** like Erasmus+ projects.
- Encourage participation in **climate action challenges and hackathons**.

4. Partnering with Local & Global Organisations

- Work with **municipalities, NGOs, and environmental experts** for hands-on workshops.
- Join **global programmes like Eco-Schools or UNESCO Green Schools**.
- Collaborate with universities to bring **climate research and innovation** to schools.

5. Using Digital Tools & Awareness Campaigns

- Develop an **online platform** where students track their carbon footprint.
- Use **social media and school websites** to promote climate-friendly practices.
- Conduct **awareness events, competitions, and sustainability fairs**.

6. Encouraging Everyday Climate Action

- Implement **energy-saving policies** like turning off lights and using solar panels.
- Promote **sustainable transportation** (bike-to-school days, public transport incentives).
- Reduce **single-use plastics** in school cafeterias and encourage reusable alternatives.

By embedding **climate consciousness into education, infrastructure, and student activities**, schools can create **long-lasting environmental impact and inspire future generations** to take action.

4. Social Sustainability

- **Student Empowerment:** Equip students with skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration to address sustainability issues.

The schools will activate school clubs collaboration in improving the brainstorming in the field waste management and organize campaigns for donation, textiles, books, etc.

- **Community Engagement:** Partner with local municipalities, NGOs, and businesses in İzmit to amplify project impact.

İMNAL will be partner for some projects of İzmit Municipality of permaculture farming and use of waste water for that.

At the same, İMNAL will activate Mother-Child Award Market with the help of İzmit Municipality. In this initiative, citizens bring waste from their home and it is integrated to Çınar Card (a credit card like application of the municipality). They can get credits on Çınar Card and use these credit in several supermarkets, shops, etc. İMNAL has the container in the school and it will have a weighing scale and a record tool in 2025. In addition to these, a container for textile and oil from the municipality will be delivered to school.

Kocaeli Municipality Zero Waste and Environment Directorate will support the school in terms of professional training for students and teachers.

- **Inclusive Education:** Ensure all students, regardless of socio-economic background, participate and benefit from the project.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Facilitate cross-border collaboration with EU partner schools, fostering mutual learning and cultural appreciation.

The partnership for several related issues will continue in EU and outside the EU.

5. Economic Sustainability

- **Budget Efficiency:** The project partners allocated Erasmus+ funding effectively to maximize the project's reach and quality.
- **Local Partnerships:** Each partner will try to find ways to collaborate with local businesses and sponsors to sustain initiatives, such as workshops and community events, beyond the project's lifecycle.
- **Fundraising and Grants:** Each partner will seek additional funding through local grants, crowdfunding, and EU programs for follow-up projects.
- **Student Enterprises:** The pilot countries Türkiye and Romania will encourage students to develop sustainable business ideas, such as recycling initiatives, to generate long-term economic benefits.

6. Long-Term Impact and Policy Recommendations: Türkiye and Romania will share findings and recommendations with local authorities for integration into urban policies and try to take part in the trainings and voluntary work.

- **Alumni Network:** The schools will create a network of project alumni who can act as ambassadors for sustainability in their communities.
- **Replication and Expansion:** The project partners will develop a framework to replicate the project in other schools in Türkiye, Romania and the EU.
- **Digital Repository:** The coordinator and İMNAL will maintain an online repository of project materials, ensuring continued access and use by educators and students.

7. Partnerships and Collaboration

The project benefits from active collaboration with: Kocaeli Metropolitan and İzmit Municipality for local urban initiatives.

EU partner schools to exchange ideas and practices.

- NGOs for expertise in sustainability education and project execution.
- Local businesses for logistical and financial support
- C4G and Intercollege training courses developers

8. Conclusion

The Waste Management and Donation Centres in Turkey and Romania will remain in operation after the completion of the SCSF project. So everyone will be able to use and bring the waste and materials to these centres. The materials used in LTTs and local trainings will also be shared.

The organisations in TR and RO will found waste management centre and will experience the most concrete impact. First of all, these organisations will experience local cooperation with the legal authorities and may be founder of some concepts locally in terms of waste management and resources and also have an effect on their ranks about waste management and disposal at global level. They will improve their organisational capacity. They will be models for other schools and organisations in their cities, at outer most in their countries. Linking their experiences with the national ongoing projects such as Zero Waste, they will have an impact on countries waste management policy. The pilot organisations will be willing to open up to and appreciate new ideas coming from other European countries and have a better understanding of collaborative working in European context at the end of the project.

The teachers and staff inside the pilot organisations will gain a new perspective: European collaborative team work and interdisciplinary cooperation. They will find opportunities for other project ideas. The participants of LTT activities will be qualified trainers of waste management. They will find possibilities to educate people in different medium of trainings. They will work actively in awareness raising campaign of the project.

Parents, students and residents nearby the organisations in Turkey and Romania will gain awareness on waste management, disposal, and resource efficiency in a European context and analyse the good practices and legislations.

The "Sustainable Cities Sustainable Future" project commits to equipping the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and values needed for a sustainable urban future. By fostering awareness, collaboration, and long-term action, the project will contribute to İzmit's local development and align with EU sustainability goals.