

Erasmus+ Generation for the Earth

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EU Policy framework



European Green Deal

- Schools, universities & training institutions as key actors
- Recognised role of education in driving systemic change
- Green Deal directly linked to learning for sustainability



European Education Area

- Green education as a specific EEA focus topic
- June 2022: **Council Recommendation on learning for the green transition**
- Clear roadmap for transformative change + Supports Member States in embedding sustainability



Union of Skills

- Build basic skills for digital and green transitions
- Up-skilling and re-skilling across all education sectors
- **GreenComp** European competence framework for sustainability

From policy to implementation



Peer Learning & Exchange

Knowledge Sharing

Dedicated **EEA Working Group** on school education facilitates mutual learning between Member States on embedding sustainability in national education systems



Specific Working Group

Policy development

Learning for sustainability sub-group as part of WG on school education — shares evidence, good practice and develops guidance for policymakers



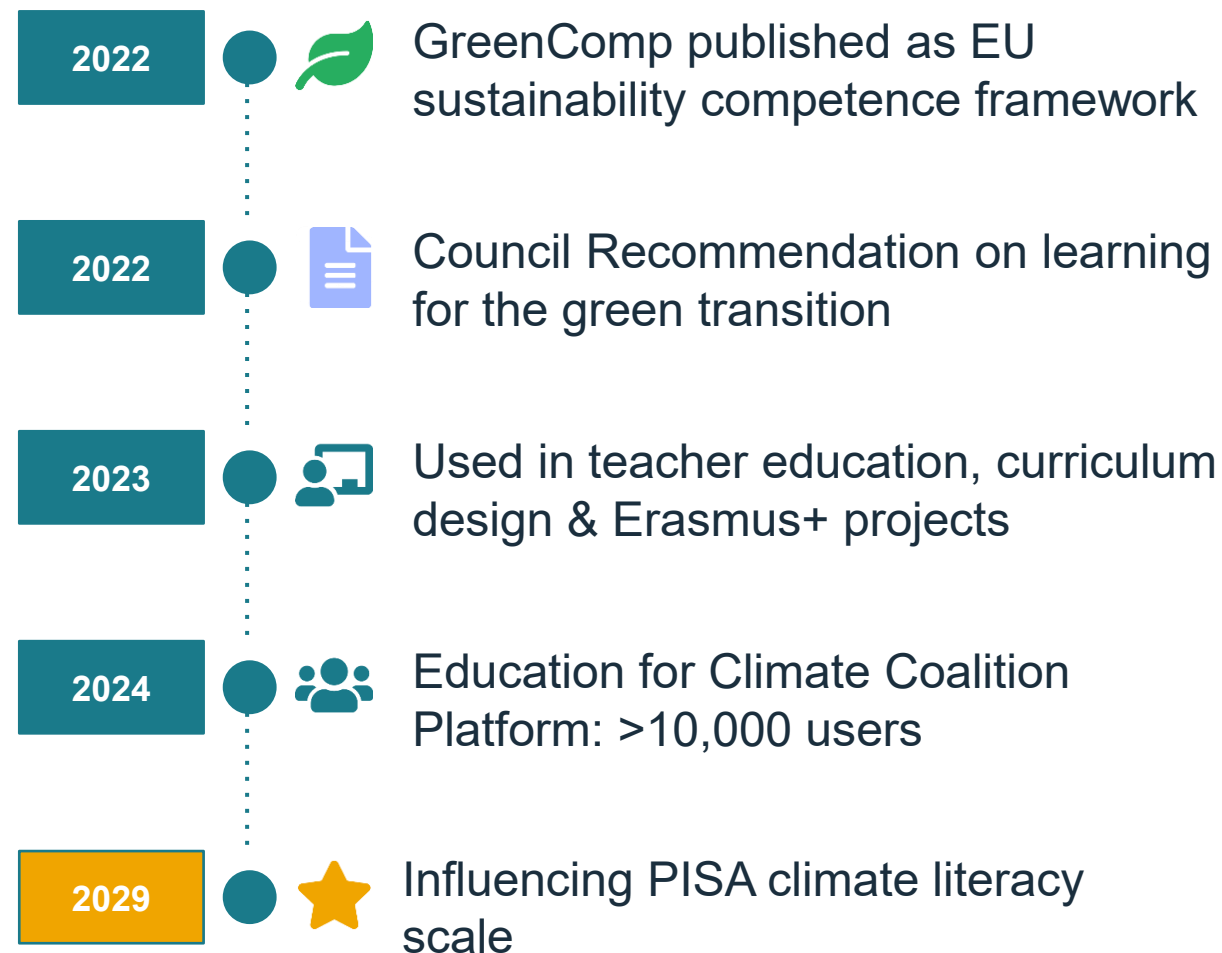
EU Funding Support

Financial instruments

Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, Horizon Europe and structural funds supporting green education projects, research and capacity building across the EU

GreenComp: a common European sustainability competence framework

- Assesses knowledge, skills & attitudes
- Used in:
 - Teacher education programmes
 - Curriculum design
 - Development of learning material
 - Erasmus+ & Horizon projects
- To support GreenComp, the Commission:
 - Established a community of practice:
Education for Climate Coalition Platform
 - Study on GreenComp use cases



Education for Climate Coalition under Erasmus+



Online platform to share knowledge & innovation amongst education stakeholders

>10,000
registered users

Builds cohesive communities across 5 priority areas for green education across Europe

education4climate.eu



Green Skills



Teacher Training



Behavioural Change



Education-Research interaction



Awareness Raising



Priorities

Environment and the fight against climate change — a horizontal priority embedded across all programme actions and sectors



Strategy

Green strategy for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps launched November 2024 — to engage, inspire and motivate participants in the green transition.



Projects

More than 15,000 Erasmus+ projects on environment, climate & green education since 2014 across all programme sectors

What the Erasmus+ Programme Guide says for Higher Education

“ HEIs must promote environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme. ”



Sustainable Transport

Use sustainable means of transport for student and staff mobility activities wherever feasible



Green Events

Organise events in a more environmentally friendly way, including reduced waste and emissions



Digital Administration

Paperless, digital processes for all programme administration and reporting



Awareness Raising

Among participants about measures to reduce carbon and environmental footprints abroad



Monitoring Progress

Monitor and report progress towards achieving more sustainable student and staff mobility



Institutional Commitment

HEIs commit to embedding sustainability as an institutional priority across the programme

European Universities alliances and the green priority

Example: Una Europa Alliance

- Connects 11 leading European research universities
- Sustainability as a core focus area
- Pioneer: **joint Bachelor in Sustainability** at 3 universities — common core (Year 1) + 6 tracks (Years 2–3)
- Micro-credential programme in sustainability — interdisciplinary, learner co-created
- Equips future leaders to tackle climate change through research and innovation



Joint Research

Pooling **expertise and equipment** for climate and environmental research



Shared Curricula

Joint development of cutting-edge green courses and micro-credentials



Industry Links

Cooperation with research departments and green industries for real-world impact



Climate Literacy

Fostering climate and environmental literacy across all student disciplines

Blended Intensive Programmes with green priority

Short-term physical mobility + compulsory virtual component — reducing travel while maintaining international collaboration



Organised by ≥ 3 HEIs



Virtual Component



Under KA1

Example: CIVIS BIP for Biology students, hosted by ULB (Brussels)

CIVIS European University Alliance organised a Blended Intensive Programme for first-year biology students at ULB, combining virtual seminars on biodiversity and sustainability with a physical lab immersion — significantly reducing the overall carbon footprint compared to a full mobility programme.

SALTO: Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities

SALTO

GREEN

<https://saltogreen.eu/en/>

The SALTO Green office integrates sustainability and climate action into Erasmus+.

Based in France, operating under the aegis of the French National Agency.

Mission: supporting Erasmus+ projects in implementing environmentally sustainable practices.



Green Projects Collection

Curated collection of best green Erasmus+ and ESC projects



Green Contact Points

Network of national contact points for green transition



Climate Fresk

Large-scale dissemination of climate literacy workshops



NA Greening Survey

Annual survey on sustainability in National Agencies



Podcasts & Webinars

Regular content on green practices for programme beneficiaries



Green Strategy E+/ESC

Programme-wide green strategy development & implementation

Erasmus+ and ESC: programme mechanisms for green transition



Green Travel

Financial incentives for participants using sustainable transport: train, bus, bike, shared car



Green Priority Projects

Projects directly addressing environmental sustainability receive priority in selection



Mainstreaming Green

All projects embedding green practices in their activities and outputs



Blended/Virtual Mobility

Reducing travel through digital cooperation tools while maintaining international collaboration



DiscoverEU

Young Europeans travelling Europe by train — promoting sustainable exploration



European Solidarity Corps

Volunteering projects focused on environmental protection and sustainability action

Sustainable mobilities: where do we stand?



Green Travel

Additional travel grant (28–205€) for participants using sustainable transport for the majority of their journey



500km Rule

Below 500km:
sustainable means of transport
encouraged/required
for mobility activities



Extra Support Days

Up to 6 additional days of individual support for longer travel times due to sustainable transport choices

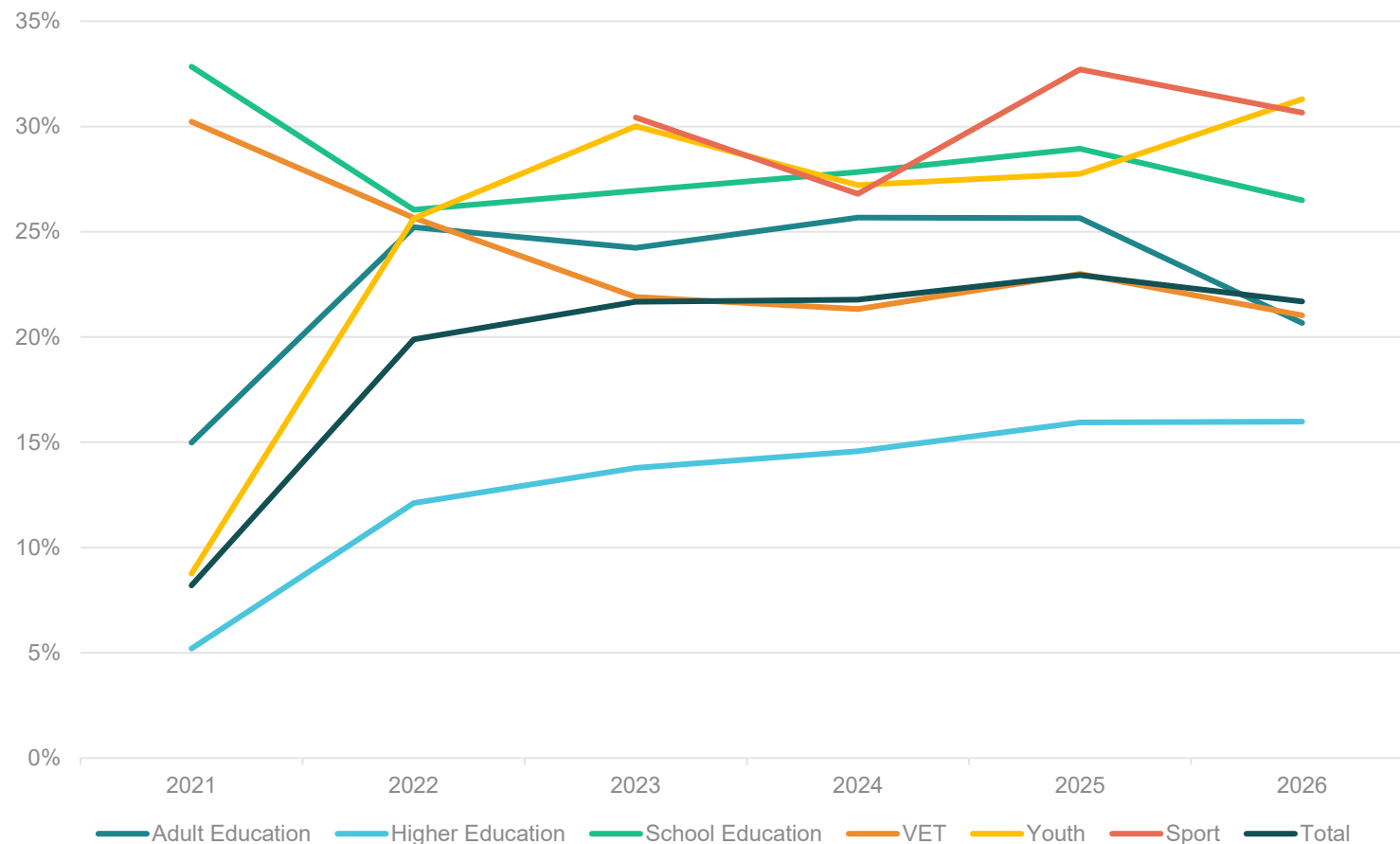
Funding rules for green travel in Erasmus+

Top ups for Green Travel: **bike, train, bus, shared car and boat** (combined with other sustainable means of transport)

Distance	Standard Amount	Green Travel Amount
10–99 km	28 €	56 €
100–499 km	211 €	285 €
500–1,999 km	309 €	417 €
2,000–2,999 km	395 €	535 €
3,000–3,999 km	580 €	785 €
4,000–7,999 km	1,188 €	1,188 €
8,000 km or more	1,735 €	1,735 €

Green mobilities trend: 2021–2024

% green mobilities by sector (per year, not per call)



From 8% → 22%
Average all sectors
(2021–2024)



Lowest: HE – 16%



Highest: Youth – 31%

Green Skills Awards – European Training Foundation (ETF)

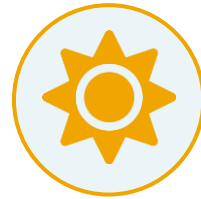
Recognises real-world solutions that empower individuals and communities to drive sustainable change. From cutting-edge digital tools to community-based training programmes — proof that climate action starts with education.

2025 Green Skills Award Winners — announced January 2026



North Macedonia

**Best Business Concept
for Green Innovation**



Türkiye

Solar School Project



Spain

Power Steam



Progress made, but not yet systemic

✓ Progress & Achievements

- ✓ Curriculum reforms advancing across EU Member States
- ✓ Teacher training investments increasing in green competences
- ✓ Research supporting sustainability education
- ✓ Greener school infrastructure developing — energy, food, waste

⚠ Challenges & Gaps

- HIGH** Learning for sustainability not yet fully systemic across EU
- HIGH** Significant skills gap risks slowing the green transition
- MED** Uneven progress across Member States — wide disparities
- MED** Teacher preparation for green competences still insufficient
- MED** Green education not consistently assessed or monitored

New measures for green travel?



Minimum travel hours?

Setting a minimum threshold of travel hours for green travel grant eligibility



Expand the 500km rule?

Increasing the mandatory / recommended green travel rule to a higher distance threshold



Redefine sustainable transport?

Revision of the definition to include **boats** and other low-emission modes of transport



Non-financial incentives?

Public recognition, certifications, eco-friendly rewards to motivate participants to travel green



Build community & pride?

Creating a sense of shared identity among participants who commit to sustainable travel



Better data & monitoring?

Improving data collection and monitoring frameworks to track progress on sustainable mobility

Questions & Comments?

Thank you

Albert Sesé Ballart, DG EAC

Brussels, 15 April 2026

