

GREEN LEADERSHIP

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

TIME FOR AN UPDATE!

Two international events have marked the past months of the Green Leadership project! The project brought together 45 students from Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania for an international green hackathon held in Riga. Eleven mixed Baltic teams tackled real-life sustainability challenges presented by companies that face these issues. This event was the final activity foreseen in the implementation of innovative student engagement methods in the participating schools.

The school year 2025/2026 started with an inspiring conference held in Tartu, Estonia, to share project findings and lessons learned! This time the focus was turned towards the VET school teachers and staff to inspire them on adopting the Green Leadership approach in their work.

Keep reading to discover all the latest updates from our cross-Baltic initiatives!

FINALISATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

As the project is approaching its conclusion, the efforts are now turned towards communication and dissemination activities to promote in the project countries the work achieved within the project. It is still not too late get involved and learn from the Green Leadership's experience.

The last in-person partner meeting took place on 5 September 2025 representing a bitter-sweet moment for the project managers involved. A moment to look back on the achievements of the project and to align on the last steps for a successful project closure.

CONTENT

- PROJECT UPDATE
- INTERNATIONAL GREEN HACKATHON: AGENTS OF CHANGE
- CULTIVATING GREEN SKILLS CONFERENCE
- QUICK GREEN TALKS
- JOIN THE PROJECT
- ACTIVITIES: UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS
- PROJECT RESOURCES
- PROJECT PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL GREEN HACKATHON: AGENTS OF CHANGE

The green hackathon “Agents of Change” was held in Riga, Latvia on 2-4 April 2025, bringing together 45 VET students from Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. Unlike many competitions where teams are formed from students of the same country, this hackathon mixed participants into eleven international teams. This gave students the unique opportunity not only to work on sustainable solutions for the future but also learn to cooperate with cross-culturally .

Two hackathon challenges were proposed by companies. **Schwenk**, a construction material manufacturer, asked students to propose a solution to make green economy jobs appealing and accessible to the future work force. **BTA**, an insurance company, encouraged students to imagine innovative tools to help young people in the Baltic states adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. Working with real challenges is key to motivate the students and show that sustainability is not a theoretical term.

The first day was dedicated to getting to know each other, a visit to Riga old Town, an introductory sustainability workshop and finally a team-building scavenger hunt in city. The hackathon itself took place on 3-4 April during which the teams worked on their ideas, guided by mentors and experts. On the final day, students presented their ideas to a jury, followed by the award ceremony. The three-day programme combined exploration, teamwork, and innovation.



The first prize was awarded to **Team Zephyr** that imagined a platform for young people to access information about green jobs and engage with professionals from the green economy to ask questions and understand from their experience what these jobs imply. The second prize went to **Team Mist** who developed the concept of a summer camp for youth to learn about sustainability, which stood out among the hackathon ideas by its focus on in-person human connection and knowledge transition. The third prize was given to **Team Green**, which designed a demo platform promoting sustainable agriculture addressing one of the sectors playing key role in the green transition.



The Green Leadership project emphasises the need to involve businesses and this was successfully achieved in the international hackathon. In addition to the direct engagement of **Schwenk** and **BTA**, as well as the **World Wildlife Fund Latvia**, several household brands supported the hackathon with their products to make this a memorable experience for the students. The involved businesses liked how the “Agents of Change” hackathon allowed to experience true international cooperation, how it fostered societal engagement and supported development of several green skills. The companies recognised that such experiences are meaningful to develop sustainability as a value and leads to a generation of green innovators in the Baltic region.

THANK YOU!





INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "CULTIVATING GREEN SKILLS"



The conference "Cultivating Green Skills" on September 4 at Tartu Vocational College gathered more than 80 educators, project managers, sustainability experts, and business representatives from across the Baltic region. In addition to the project presentation, keynote speakers highlighted the importance but also the challenges of integrating sustainability into education. Speakers originated from Estonia, Latvia and Finland giving a comparative perspective of the sustainability in education issue.

A panel discussion "Future-Proof Skills: What Green Competences Do Employers Want?" with representatives from A. Le Coq, Thermory, Eesti Metsameister, and Sykli provided practical insights into the green skills most valued in business today. Complementing this, interactive workshops introduced teachers to engaging methods such as green hackathons and circular economy lessons, equipping them with tools and ideas to integrate sustainability into daily learning. The event underlined that collaboration between education, business, and policy is essential for building a sustainable future.





Define the goal and strategy – Decide whether the focus is on systemic change or smaller actions, and activate administrative units so everyone is aligned.

Base sustainability on knowledge and data – It is not about gut feeling but about responsibility, ethics, and evidence-based decisions.

Empower institutions as change agents – Educational institutions play a key role in influencing and driving sustainability.

Ensure committed leadership and resources – Leadership must support and ideally lead the transition, recognizing that sustainability requires proper funding, not voluntary or hobby-level effort.

Foster co-creation and shared responsibility – Sustainability is a collaborative process that involves working together across roles and sectors.

QUICK GREEN TALKS:

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



Vaidilē Kruliūtē,
Teacher and Training
Coordinator at VESK

1) What did you find inspiring at the Cultivating Green Skills conference? I was inspired by the emphasis on sustainability in education and the way both education and business sectors are working together on this.

2) Did you pick up on a practical tool or idea that you would like to try in your work? Yes, from “How to Teach Green Competencies” I got ideas on methods to engage students more.

3) Have you acquired a green skill in the last year? Yes, I learned to include circular economy topics in lessons encouraging greener habits.



Hanna Uibokand,
AS A. Le Coq, ESG
Specialist

1) What green skill is most valuable for employers?

The most valuable green skill is systems thinking, the ability to understand connections between environment, economy and society, and to translate this into practical, sustainable solutions.

2) How to keep young people interested in sustainability?

Young people stay engaged when sustainability feels relevant and empowering. This happens through hands-on projects, by giving them space to take the lead and by showing that green solutions can also be used to solve real-life problems.

3) Share one take-away from the Cultivating Green Skills conference? My main take-away was that cooperation between educators, employers and communities is essential to ensure that learners really do gain relevant green skills and knowledge for the future.



Baiba Pārpūce,
Project Manager,
Ogres tehnikums

1) What did you find inspiring at the Cultivating Green Skills conference?

I was impressed by how the path to sustainability was made clear and approachable, using everyday examples that resonated strongly. What stood out most was their ability to present sustainability not as a side activity, but as a structured process grounded in meaningful actions.

2) Did you pick up on a practical tool or idea that you would like to try in your work?

As a vocational school focused on technical professions, we recognize the importance of prioritizing soft skills as a complement to technical expertise. We also see great potential in visualizing sustainability values throughout the school environment, making it easier for young people to identify with green thinking.

3) Have you acquired a green skill in the last year? Yes, I've started driving an electric car. As a result, I've learned to plan my trips more consciously.



JOIN THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Regional Events

Baltic Green Leadership pieredze: kā jauniešu iniciatīvas un līderība var turpināties Ropažu novadā

Baltic Green Leadership experience: how youth initiatives and leadership can continue in Ropaži Municipality



15 October 2025



Garkalnes bibliotēkā, Vidzemes šoseja 33b, Garkalne, LV

Zaļās prasmes: domā, mācies, rīkojies.

Green Skills: Think, Learn, Act.



17 October 2025



Latvijas Tirdzniecības un rūpniecības kamera, Rīga, LV

Yhdessä Maailmalle – kansainvälistä yhteistyötä ammatillisessa koulutuksessa

"United for the World" – International collaboration in Vocational Education



21 October 2025



Online



Ilgtspējīgs paldies!

A Sustainable Thank You!



23 October 2025



Vidzemes Tehnoloģiju un dizaina tehnikums, Priekule, LV



Rohefoorum

Student's Green Forum



27 October 2025



VOCO Tartu Vocational College, Tartu, EE



Seminaras Tvarumo kompetencijose ugdomas klasėje ir už jos ribų

Workshop Developing Sustainability Competences in and Beyond the Classroom



28 October 2025



Verslo ir svetingumo profesinės karjeros centras, Žirmūnų g. 143, Vilnius, LT

DID YOU FIND SOMETHING INSPIRING ?

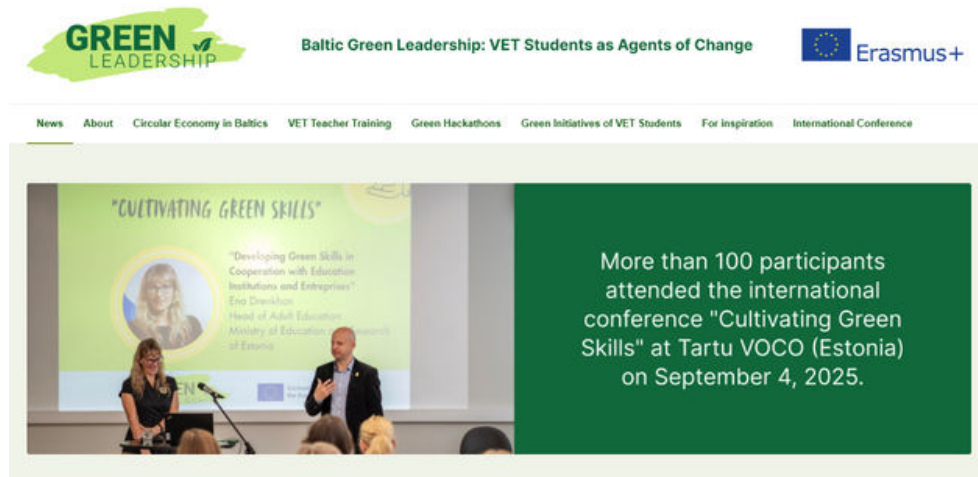
USE THE GREEN LEADERSHIP RESOURCES :

[HTTPS://BALTICGREENVET.EU/](https://balticgreenvet.eu/)

OR SCAN THIS QR CODE

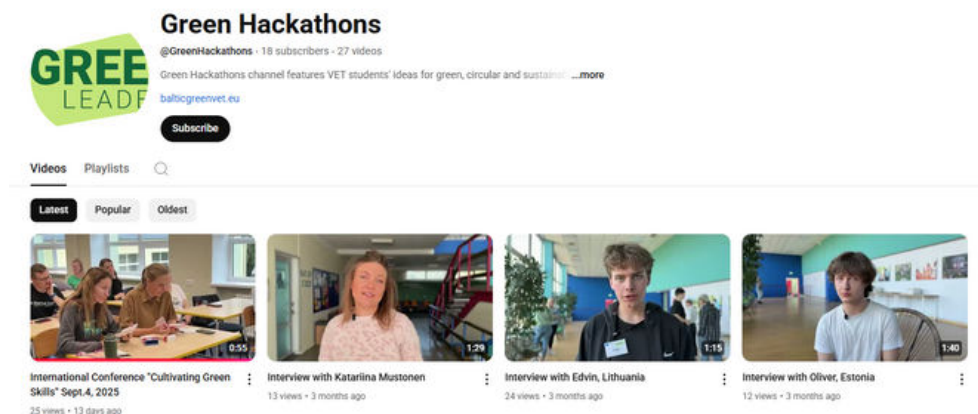


- Best practices in sustainability
- Compendium
- Teacher training programme including GreenComp framework, circular economy and carbon footprint topics
- Student engagement plan
- Hackathon preparation materials
- Green hackathon challenges
- Conference presentations



**SUSCRIBE TO THE PROJECT'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL
AND GET INSPIRED BY THE GREEN HACKATHONS
AND STUDENTS IDEAS:**

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@GREENHACKATHONS](https://www.youtube.com/@GREENHACKATHONS)



KA220-VET – Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training

Project no.: LV01-KA220-VET-000089171

Project period: 01/11/2022–31/10/2025

**THE LATVIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Latvia)**

Contact: Ms Linda Lappuke
linda.lappuke@litrk.lv



BALTIC BRIGHT (Latvia)

Contact: Ms Vita Žunda
zunda.vita@gmail.com



**VIDZEME TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL (Latvia)**

Contact: Ms Katrīna Stalšāne-Purvinska
katrina.stalsane@vtdt.edu.lv



**BUSINESS AND HOSPITALITY TRAINING CENTRE
(Lithuania)**

Contact: Ms Aušra Netikšienė
ausra.netiksiene@vesk.lt



SYKLI (Finland)

Contact: Ms Nina Maarit Partanen
ninamaarit.partanen@sykli.fi



TARTU VOCATIONAL COLLEGE (Estonia)

Contact: Ms Kaire Mets
kaire.mets@voco.ee



ESTONIAN AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM (Estonia)

Contact: Ms Ilze Salnāja-Vārv
ilze.salnaja-varv@memu.ee



**Co-funded by
the European Union**