

LEARNING FOR AND IN SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



PROJECT

WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

The project aims to harness the potential of **Real-World Laboratories (RWLs) & Experiments as places of mutual learning** for sustainable and resilient urban development, with a particular focus on strengthening the role of young people in these processes. The project is conducted in cooperation with universities, municipalities, and schools in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Lüneburg as a “reference municipality” in Germany.

WHAT IS EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

ESD is a learning approach that empowers individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values, needed for a sustainable future. It emphasizes the understanding of connections between social, economic, and environmental issues and encourages responsible behaviour to tackle global challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss. ESD equips learners to make informed choices for a sustainable world (UNESCO 2020).

ESD

WHAT IS A REAL-WORLD LABORATORY (RWL)?

RWL

A Real-World Laboratory is “an experimental approach towards creation of knowledge and contribution to societal change rooted in the transdisciplinary research mode”.

Characteristics:

- Contributing to societal transformation
- **Experiments as core research method**
- Transdisciplinarity as core research mode
- Scalability and transferability
- Building on learning and reflexivity (Bergmann et al. 2021, Schäpke et al. 2018)

PROJECT VISION

Expanding the potential of innovative approaches such as Real-World Labs as settings for mutual learning

Promoting youth participation and capacity building in sustainable urban development processes

Focusing different levels of learning by combining individual learning with organisational and societal learning

Learning from (inter-)cultural perspectives by exploring how findings can be transferred to international contexts

OVERVIEW OF THE REAL-WORLD EXPERIMENTS



CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY

Cooperation between the Viljandi secondary school and the university in Tartu with the support of Viljandi’s city government, Folk Music Center and Viljandi Culture Academy in order to gather and test ideas on how to promote green (school) events and festivals.

📍 VILJANDI, ESTONIA



SORT FOR GREEN

Cooperation between the local municipality, waste management company and the universities in Valmiera and Riga, to test biological waste sorting and fostering (student) awareness and learning about sustainable waste segregation.

📍 VALMIERA, LATVIA



URBAN GARDENING FOR EVERYONE

Cooperation between the UNESCO school in Gargzdai, the city government, retirement home and Klaipeda University to pilot a new urban gardening system, focused on the inclusion of people with disabilities.

📍 KLAIPEDA, LITHUANIA

PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Capacity building workshop & trainings to develop competences



Continuous knowledge exchange, research and evaluation



Dissemination of the project results by the establishment of a ESD Wiki website



Project-related seminars and students exchanges to foster youth participation

Literature:
Bergmann, M. et al. (2021): Transdisciplinary sustainability research in real-world labs: success factors and methods for change. *Sustainability Science*, 16(2), 541–564.
Schäpke, N. et al. (2018). Jointly experimenting for transformation? Shaping Real-World laboratories by comparing them. *Gaia*, 27(1), 85–96.
UNESCO (2020). Education for Sustainable Development. A roadmap. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING (ISDL)

The Institute for Sustainable Development & Learning (ISDL) is a central, cross-faculty institution at Leuphana University Lüneburg. The aim of the institute is to research and support transdisciplinary learning processes for sustainable development.

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Scan here to visit the ISDL project website