



# INTRODUCTION

## THE GREEN INCLUSION SEMINAR

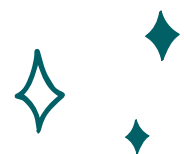
This seminar was the first of its kind and aimed to start discussions to better understand this new field that we are trying to envision: the nexus of *green inclusion* and its meaning for the youth sector. We looked for a better understanding of the struggles of young people with fewer opportunities and the barriers they experience to participate in green projects, and also how to bring green emphasis to projects with more vulnerable young people.

It was hosted in Amersfoort, Netherlands by the Dutch National Agency of Erasmus+ (Netherlands Youth Institute) with the support of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, and the German and Belgian French-Speaking National Agencies.

We hoped to discuss the different realities from these two sides of green and inclusion; to find some preliminary solutions (or a base for solutions) for organisations and projects; and to find common ground between the two European horizontal priorities.



This report includes, as mentioned in its title, the nouns and adjectives green and inclusion. Green is about respect for the environment, sustainable development, and everything that contributes to the protection of the planet and climate justice. Inclusion refers to the action of integrating a person or a group of people, to put an end to their exclusion (social, economic, gender, etc.). The concept of *green inclusion* is the overlap section between those two concepts (see Section 4 for more details).





## A LITTLE WELCOME LETTER, FROM YOUR RAPPORTEURS



Dear Reader,

What follows is a collection of inputs gathered during the Green Inclusion seminar. The seminar had 36 participants from 11 countries and ran over 3 days, 16–18 November 2022. An internal report is available **HERE**, which gives detail of what happened, and how the outputs were created. What you are reading now is an external report which aims to spread the discussions, recommendations and outputs to a wider audience, to continue growing the interest and action for *green inclusion* in European Programmes.

This document is structured in 8 sections. Each one focuses on a particular aspect, and it is hoped that the contents of each section could also be used in a stand-alone fashion, if needed. We are looking for the content of some of these sections to be built on, expanded; used for further activity, strategy, development.

With this report, we want to promote the development of more research on the subject; the creation of different trainings; the expansion of new networks; the deployment of political advocacy and lobbying for political change; and finally, more projects and activities for more young people. That hope is why we spent time gathering the information and putting it here for you to read.

We hope that you find the contents useful, and that it does indeed help you, and others, to do more and better *green inclusion* with young people in Europe.

Thank you

Susie Nicodemi and Agathe Denais  
Reporters, Green Inclusion Seminar, November 2022





## WHY INCLUSION? A PRIORITY OF EU PROGRAMMES

Inclusion is often seen as the way to include people facing access barriers or having fewer opportunities. There are several policy initiatives of the European Commission where inclusion is a key objective to ensure more people are included in education, training and youth work.

People should be able to actively participate in the democratic processes and in public life, regardless of their background or circumstances. Modern societies and political systems rely on the inclusion of diverse people. In this respect, participating in European Programmes can contribute to develop a sense of shared citizenship and to foster a greater involvement in society.

There are barriers that different target groups may face to access the opportunities in the programmes. By addressing these, it should ultimately lead to more and better projects either directly involving people with fewer opportunities, or focussing on inclusion and diversity issues.

## WHY GREEN? ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION: ANOTHER PRIORITY OF EU PROGRAMMES

Environment and climate action were added as a horizontal priority within the Erasmus+ Programme. As described in the Programme Guide, Erasmus+ is considered a key instrument for building knowledge, skills, and attitudes on climate change and supporting sustainable development both within the European Union and beyond.

Concretely, priority will be given for funding by the European Programmes to projects that on the one hand aim at developing competences in various green sectors. On the other hand, priority is given to enabling behavioural changes for individual preferences, cultural values, awareness, and more generally supporting active engagement for sustainable development. The Programme also supports the use of innovative practices to make learners, staff and youth workers true actors of change (for example to save resources, reduce energy use, waste and carbon footprint, opt for sustainable food and mobility choices, etc.).

## WHAT ARE SALTOS?

There are systems and structures to support the priorities of the European Programmes, including green and inclusion. One of those, are the network of SALTO Resource Centres (Support for Advanced Learning & Training Opportunities).

The Inclusion & Diversity SALTO Resource Centre is based at JINT (National Agency for Belgium-Flanders).



It provides resources supporting young people with fewer opportunities, for all the National Agencies that deliver the Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps Programmes.

By offering opportunities for training, exchange and reflection on inclusion practice and diversity management, SALTO Inclusion & Diversity works towards the visibility, accessibility and transparency of its inclusion and diversity work and resources, and towards making 'inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities' and 'positive diversity management' a widely supported priority.

In 2022, the 11th SALTO Resource Centre has been created by the European Commission: on Sustainability and Green Transition. Based in Bordeaux, France, it will support all the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) National Agencies (all sectors) in the implementation of the Programmes' priority: "environment and fight against global warming".

## THEME AND RATIONALE FOR THE SEMINAR

The *green inclusion* seminar was planned and delivered under this framework: it was created to have a transversal approach of the two European Programme priorities, with SALTO Inclusion & Diversity and a preparation team of National Agencies working together to make it happen. Between them, they connect to a large number of youth structures and a large number of activities and practices from which it is important to draw inspiration. This helped to match the reality on the ground with a global concept of *green inclusion*. The structured dialogue of these youth structures within the seminar is at the heart of this report.

Looking more closely at how the priorities of green and inclusion connect, we can see the challenges that young people with fewer opportunities (YPWFO) are facing. For example, YPWFO are the first to feel the consequences of climate change, while they are often the last to be heard and are often not responsible for the most devastating practices. Also, mainstream solutions to fight climate change are more easily available for well-off people, while young people with fewer opportunities often lack resources to use them, or are not so easily included in green projects. In the context of the Erasmus+ Programme, measures to make projects greener might raise barriers or even exclude YPWFO to participate.

In short, there's a clear need to connect the fields of green and inclusion.



## OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR



This seminar aimed to explore the field of green and inclusion and develop awareness about the lived realities of YPWFO and organisations of the youth sector regarding green transitions and climate change. Also, it explored how the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes can make a positive change for young people with fewer opportunities, considering environment and climate action. The seminar took an intersectional approach on climate justice and sustainability, and questioned the mainstream perceptions of sustainable behaviour.

The overall intention of the seminar was to set the scene for *green inclusion* in order to develop a line of activities (in various forms) within the framework of the European youth programmes Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. There were several objectives. The seminar aimed to:

- Identify common ground and create a common understanding on *green inclusion* by exploring the concepts inclusion and green from an intersectional perspective;
- Understand the broader themes that are connected to *green inclusion* and climate justice (for example post-colonisation, poverty, gender differences, identity, disability, etcetera);
- Develop awareness in green organisations, movements and initiatives about lived experiences of young people with fewer opportunities and find ways of making a positive change together;
- Collect struggles that green organisations, movements and initiatives are facing when it comes to including young people with fewer opportunities and find ways to reach out to them and engage them through Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps;
- Explore how Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps can amplify the voice and participation of young people with fewer opportunities in the green transition and in climate action;
- Create connections and provide a space for networking and collaboration according to overlapping fields of interest.

In this report, we will first present the current picture, including the challenges/blockers for more and better *green inclusion*, and then the strengths of the field. Then we gather expressed needs, tips and recommendations from the participants, as what is needed to improve *green inclusion* work.



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# GREEN INCLUSION



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