

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	6 - garagErasmus ASBL (garagErasmus)
PIC number:	899790140
Project name and acronym:	Ec(h)o-cultures — ECHOCULT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	14
Event name:	Learning Garage - Green Skills Edition
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Belgium, Brussels
Date(s):	30th March to 2nd April 2025 + 11th June to 15th June 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://garagerasmus.org/highlights-from-learning-garage-green-skills-edition/
Participants	
Female:	38
Male:	35
Non-binary:	
From Belgium:	6
From Italy:	33
From France:	2
From Portugal:	2
From Germany:	1
From Greece:	3
From Netherlands:	1
From Georgia:	2
From Sweden:	1
From Romania:	2

From Austria:	1		
From Montenegro:	1		
From Turkey:	3		
From Luxembourg:	2		
From Brazil:	1		
From Spain:	4		
From Czechia:	2		
From Mauritius:	1		
From Armenia:	1		
From Slovakia:	1		
From Estonia:	1		
From USA:	1		
From Colombia:	1		
Total number of participants:	73	From total number of countries:	23

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The two training cycles of the Learning Garage - Green Skills Edition, held in Brussels in May and June 2025, brought together over 70 adults and young adults from more than 20 countries.

These trainings align with the project's overall aim to mobilise citizens, particularly young people, to take action against climate change and to highlight the increasing importance of green skills in the job market.

Designed as a campaigners' lab, the programme, which was similar in both training cycles, focused on providing practical tools that participants could apply in their professional contexts.

Participants were selected through an open call launched by garagErasmus and disseminated through its institutional channels, including the official website, newsletters, and social media platforms. The call targeted young professionals, students, and recent graduates with a demonstrated interest in sustainability, environmental action, and civic engagement.

The selection process was based on motivation, personal interest, previous experience in community or climate-related initiatives, and the potential of applicants to act as multipliers within their local contexts. Particular attention was given to ensuring gender balance, geographical diversity, and representation from both EU and non-EU countries. As a result, 73 participants from 23 countries were selected, creating a rich and diverse international environment for exchange and collaboration. All participants were required to travel to Brussels to attend the training in person. To confirm their commitment and ensure proper logistical organisation, garagErasmus collected proof of travel for each participant, including tickets and travel receipts, prior to the start of the event. This procedure served as evidence of their confirmed participation and readiness to engage fully in the programme.

Programme Overview:

Day 1

Arrival of Participants

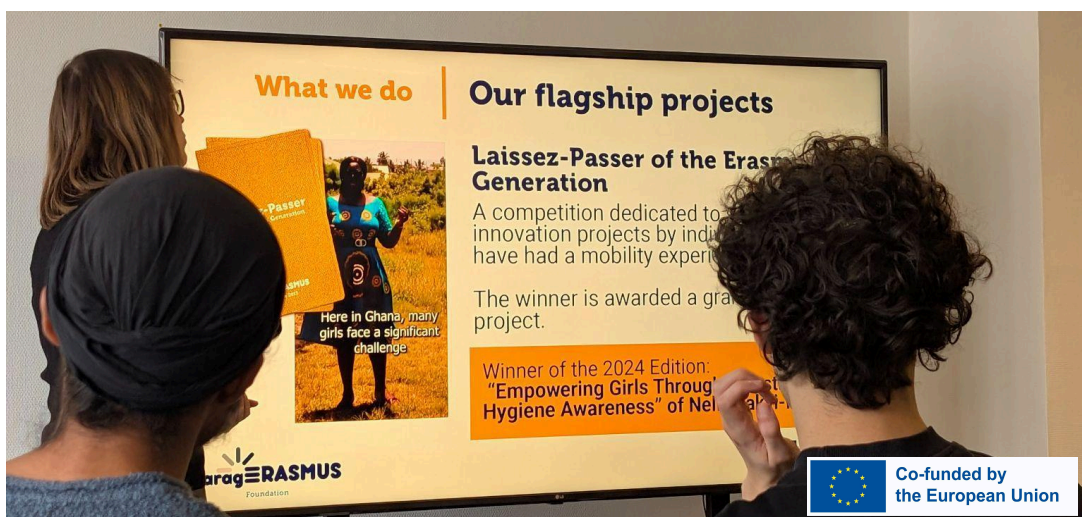
All participants arrived in Brussels throughout the day. Many took the opportunity to explore the city informally, depending on their arrival times. A networking dinner in the evening organised by garagErasmus set the tone for the days ahead, encouraging early connections and a collaborative atmosphere.



Day 2

Welcome Session

The day started with a welcome session at the garagErasmus office. The team introduced the mission, goals, and ongoing initiatives of garagErasmus, especially in the area of sustainability. The Echo-Cultures project was explained in detail, and participants were encouraged to remain involved with upcoming activities under this project.



Getting to Know Each Other

Interactive activities, such as icebreakers and team building activities, were conducted to ensure participants got to know each other, and most importantly felt comfortable and encouraged to have open exchanges among themselves throughout the training.



EU Policies and the Green Deal: a policy overview

This 45-minute session offered a deep dive into the European Green Deal, with participants working in small groups to analyse specific policies using the “Why? How? What?” framework. Each group explored the rationale, implementation methods, and practical impact of their assigned policy.

Nancy Chadwick (Crowdfunding Leads), Friederike Moeller (Green European Foundation), and Cinta González Sentís (Federation of Young European Greens), three experts in the sustainability field, were present in the session to answer to participant's questions.

Following their research and discussion, groups presented their findings to the wider cohort, prompting further insights and contextualisation from the experts.



Discussion with Policy Makers and Experts

This interactive session included the participation of the experts of the previous section and was structured around a “moving debate” format.

Participants physically positioned themselves in the room according to their stance, visually mapping agreement or disagreement along a continuum. After stating their reasoning, participants could shift positions as they listened to others' arguments, demonstrating the evolution of perspectives through open dialogue.

While no elected officials took part in this session, the term “policy makers” refers to professionals working in European and international civil society organisations that actively contribute to shaping policy discussions and sustainability agendas. Their interventions helped participants connect policy frameworks with real-world applications and advocacy strategies. The debate explored the balance between economic growth and environmental protection, the impact of youth activism, and the interplay between individual and systemic responsibility in addressing climate change. The experts contributed throughout the session, offering reflections that added institutional context and strategic insight.

The experts who participated in both the *EU Policies and the Green Deal* session and the *Discussion with Policy Makers and Experts* were:

- **Nancy Chadwick**, *Circular Economy Communications Officer, Generation Climate Europe (GCE), Paris* – Expert in circular economy, sustainable communication, and youth engagement in climate policy.
- **Cinta González Sentís**, *Secretary General, Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), Brussels* – Specialist in youth activism, civic participation, and European-level sustainability policy.
- **Friederike Moeller**, *Programme Manager, Green European Foundation (GEF), Brussels* – Expert in environmental policy, green transition education, and sustainable development.

Their contributions were instrumental in linking the theoretical and policy-oriented components of the training with practical perspectives from the European sustainability ecosystem.

The discussion tackled key themes including provocative statements, on the balance between economic growth and environmental protection, the power of youth activism, and the role of individual versus systemic action in addressing climate change.

The experts actively contributed throughout the moving debate and concluded with reflections that added policy context and strategic insight.



Brussels City Treasurer Hunt

A treasure hunt around the city of Brussels was organised. The participants were divided into different teams and they all had the same list of tasks to complete under 2h.

The tasks included the visit of different landmarks in Brussels, from Grand Place to the European institutions, and taking visual content to prove their accomplishment.

Bonus points were given for photos/videos of participants with sustainable urban features in the city. Some of the content we received included photos with bicycles, second hand shops, vegan restaurants, chargers for electric cars, among others.

The photos and videos were also shared in the personal social media of the participants, attracting more visibility for this project, and most importantly for the values it represents.



Day 3

Visit to the House of European History and the Parlamentarium

Participants had the opportunity to visit the House of European History, as well as the Parlamentarium. This was the occasion for them to get closer to European history and politics, an important aspect to take into consideration during the afternoon's sessions on advocacy.



Local-Level Advocacy

This training session focused on building participants' understanding of advocacy at the local level, encouraging them to see themselves as agents of change within their communities.

The session began with a discussion around the core question "What is advocacy and why does it matter?", followed by an exploration of its various forms, from grassroots mobilisation to institutional

engagement. Through interactive discussions and real-life examples, participants examined how advocacy operates across local, national, and European contexts, and how committed individuals can influence change through informed action.

The session also introduced practical entry points for community-level engagement, such as identifying local stakeholders, crafting persuasive messages, and understanding local governance structures. Emphasis was placed on the idea that effective advocacy does not require institutional authority, but rather clarity of purpose, community insight, and strategic communication.



Bootcamp4Campaigners: from theory to action

This session served as a hands-on follow-up to the earlier advocacy training, encouraging participants to move from theoretical understanding to practical action.

Emphasising a “learning by doing” approach, the activity placed participants in the role of campaigners, challenging them to identify a real issue relevant to their community and design a feasible advocacy-based solution. Working in small groups, they applied strategies and insights from previous sessions to develop campaign-style responses, which they later presented for peer feedback.

The format promoted critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork while creating a safe, supportive environment for participants to test ideas and refine their advocacy skills. This session effectively bridged theory and practice, empowering participants to confidently translate knowledge into meaningful community engagement.



Day 4

Green Deal and Green Skills: addressing labour market needs in a sustainable way

This activity focused on helping participants navigate the evolving job market through the lens of sustainability.

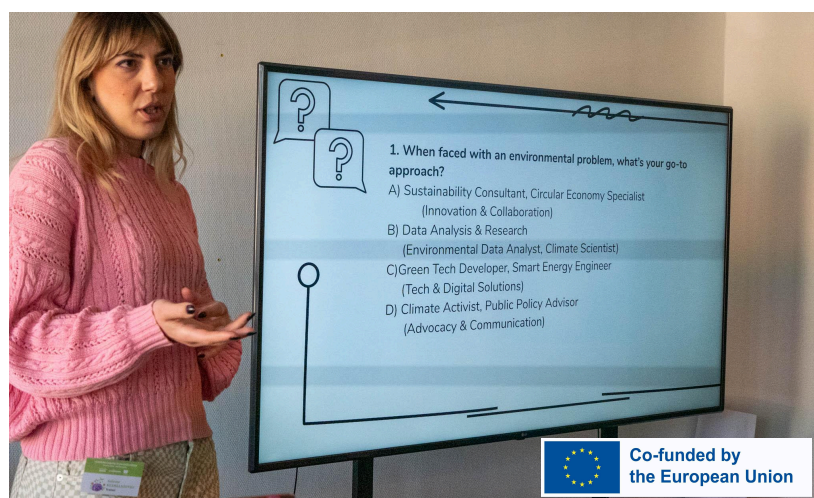
The session began by introducing the European Green Deal and the concept of green skills, competencies that are increasingly vital in a labour market shaped by environmental and climate priorities. Participants explored how these skills can enhance employability and contribute to a more sustainable economy.

The practical component of the session guided participants in building strong, impactful CVs using tools such as Europass and Canva. Special attention was given to identifying and effectively showcasing green skills in both résumés and cover letters.

The session concluded with a hands-on activity where participants practiced the “Elevator Pitch” technique, learning how to present themselves confidently and concisely in job application or networking scenarios. This exercise encouraged participants to think critically about their own career paths and the importance of equipping themselves for the green transition.



Departure of participants



The event took place entirely in situ and included both classroom-based and experiential learning activities, such as visits to the House of European History and the Parliamentarium, as well as the Brussels City Treasure Hunt.

Feedback:

After the event, garagErasmus collected the feedback from the participants through an anonymous google forms, confirming its significant impact:

Participant 1: "I appreciated the constructive interaction and the lack of hierarchy established between speaker and participants."

Participant 2: "I appreciated the knowledge transmitted (few but key concepts), the interesting agreement/disagreement activity with the experts. I also think the instructions for activities were very clear."

Participant 3: "It was one of the most engaging sessions I have ever attended, the visuals, the tone of voice, the active activities and the knowledge from the trainer. Especially I appreciated the honesty and the creation of such a free and safe space."

Participant 4: "A unique experience that opens our eyes to problems that are often trivialized. Thank you for the opportunity to see the European Union programs and their impacts."

Participant 5: "I think the training was rich in info and clear and I appreciated interacting with enthusiastic speakers who make everyone feel comfortable and welcome ... I think the activities were very useful and concrete and team working was great."

Participant 6: "It was a super interesting and well structured training. The activities were well prepared and it was quite engaging. I like the real use of all that we learn during the sessions and the motivation that the trainers transferred to the group."

Participant 7: "The main strength of this activity was the ability to engage participants from very different backgrounds and being able to make them feel comfortable while strengthening teamwork. The Learning Garage was also very careful about involving speakers that are well prepared in the field."

Participant 8: "I appreciated the amazing environment created by all the members and the use of different spaces for the different sessions, like going outside to the park or the visit to the House of European History."

Participant 9: "Thank you for all the work you have done, we could really see the amazing efforts made to make everyone feel welcomed and safe, it was one of the first trainings I felt so at home. It clearly shows the dedication and motivation put forth by the organizers, trainers."

Participant 10: "Thank you a lot for providing this training, it has been an incredibly fun time and I was able to get to know lots of cool people around Europe which I think is a very important goal in itself! Would happily be part of another training and would highly recommend it to others".