

SE and climate change

MODULE 6

This module is designed to provide participants with knowledge and prepare them for a wide range of employment and training opportunities. Specifically, through this module, participants will explore how businesses and organisations contribute to environmental sustainability and social equity. They will gain insights into fundamental concepts like responsible resource management and the impacts of climate change on different communities. Through real-world examples, such as the Huerto Solar La Jeresa, participants will see practical applications of sustainable practices in action.

START

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is one of the results of the **Better Cooperate! project**.

The project Better Cooperate! Education through and to the values of the social economy as a way to reinforce the society is a project combining the fields of education and social entrepreneurship in the activities of. Its aim is to increase the capacity of the social economy sector to carry out educational activities in the field of social entrepreneurship and thus to formulate an effective response to the challenges of the modern world and to increase the initiative and entrepreneurship of young people and their effective inclusion in the social and professional life of their societies.

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Better Cooperate Course

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SE and the primacy of
the values over the gain

2

SE and the inequities

3

SE and the local
development

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transformation

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SE and the ageing
society

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SE and the climate
change

INTRODUCTION

Module 6: SE and climate change

The social economy is a crucial part of Europe's economy, comprising 2.8 million enterprises and organizations, such as: cooperatives, mutuals, associations, social enterprises.

These entities employ around 13.6 million people and represent 8% of the EU's economy.

Social economy businesses focus on promoting solidarity, local development, gender equality, social inclusion, and sustainable practices, while maintaining independence from public authorities.

Promoting values and principles such as:

- prioritizing people and social goals over capital
- democratic decision-making
- transparent management
- valuing contributions based on work rather than financial investments

In this module, we will focus on sustainable practices and how the social economy can help fight climate injustices.

START



But first.... Let's have a moment of self-reflection!

Give your answer to the following questions and don't forget to write down the letter correspondent to your answer: you will need it to calculate your profile at the end of the test!

→ Next



But first.... Let's have a moment of self-reflection!

Where do you usually buy fresh products (fruit, vegetables...)?

A- At a large international supermarket

B- At a local supermarket or small chain

C- At a cooperative or local farmers' market

Send

→ Next



But first.... Let's have a moment of self-refelction!

How do you deal with food waste at home?

C- I compost organic waste

A- I often throw food away

B- I try to plan meals and use leftovers

Send

→ Next



But first.... Let's have a moment of self-refelction!

Where do you usually have your coffee or breakfast outside home?

C- At a cooperative-run café or social enterprise

A- At a multinational chain or franchise

B- At a local bar or café

Send

→ Next



But first.... Let's have a moment of self-refelction!

How do you usually get to work or school?

A- By car, alone

B- By public transport or carpool

C- Walking or by bike

Send

→ Next



But first.... Let's have a moment of self-refelction!

What do you do with clothes you no longer use?

C- I donate or exchange them through a social economy initiative (swap, local second-hand, etc.)

B- I take them to a recycling bin or a charity

A- I throw them in the trash

Send



Discover your profile!

Majority of A



Majority of B



Majority of C



→ Next



Foundations of Sustainability and Climate Change Action

Understanding the drivers behind climate change, including both natural phenomena and human activities, sheds light on the urgency of addressing our growing carbon footprint and its significant impact on the environment.





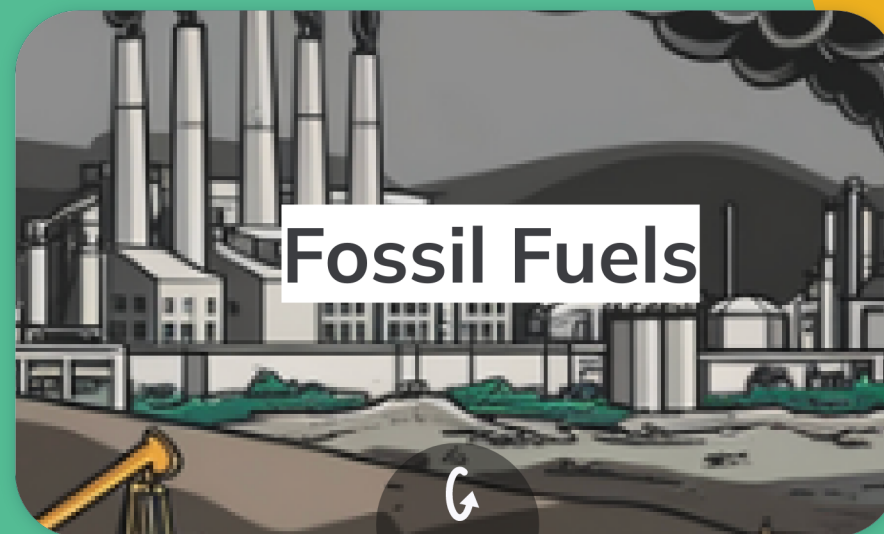
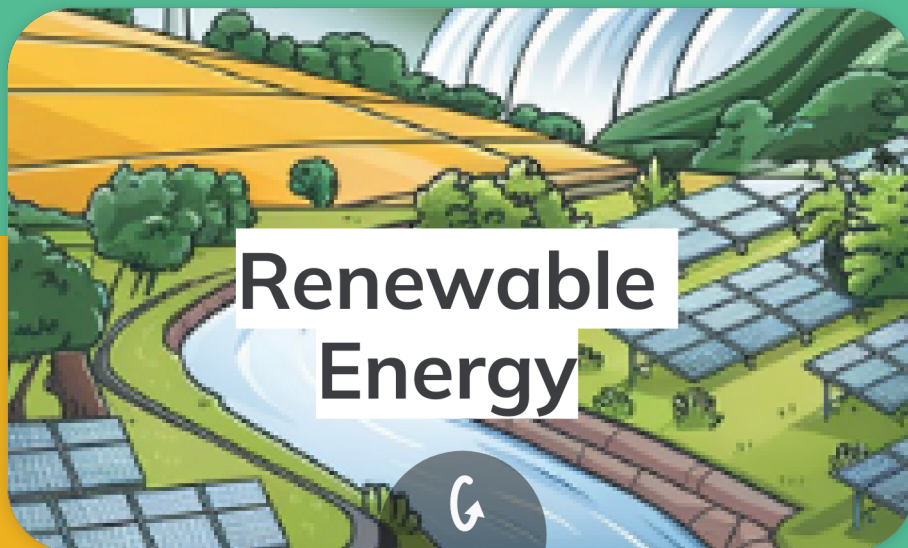
The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reports that GHG concentrations in the atmosphere peaked in 2019, reaching levels comparable to over three million years ago. During that period, Earth experienced temperatures approximately 3°C higher and sea levels 10 to 20 metres above present levels. According to the Global Footprint Network, the carbon footprint continues to expand endlessly.



Foundations of Sustainability and Climate Change Action

Generating renewable energy creates far lower emissions than burning fossil fuels. Transitioning from fossil fuels, which currently account for the lion's share of emissions, to renewable energy is key to addressing the climate crisis.

Moreover, renewables are now cheaper in most countries, and generate three times more jobs than fossil fuels. Some examples of renewable energies are solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy and bioenergy.





Another way of helping our planet is by implementing a circular economy.

Basically, it's about minimising waste. Instead of throwing things away when we're done with them, we try to keep their materials in use by recycling them. This creates more value and helps us use resources more efficiently.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Way of making and using things that involves sharing, leasing, reusing, fixing, and recycling items for as long as we can. This helps extend the life of products



Climate Justice and Social Equity: Understanding the Nexus

Understanding climate justice and social justice is like recognizing two pieces of a puzzle that fit together perfectly. Both are crucial for building a world that's fairer and greener for everyone. Let's break it down:

Climate justice is all about realising that climate change hits some communities harder than others, even though they're not the ones causing it.

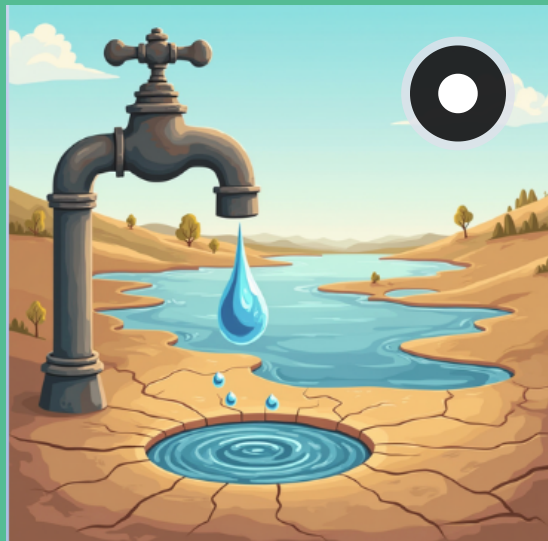
People in low-income countries, minorities, Indigenous People, women, and those with disabilities are facing the worst of it. They're dealing with things like floods, wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat, and they often don't have the money or support to deal with these challenges.





Climate Justice and Social Equity: Understanding the Nexus

Some communities have a tough time getting clean water. It's a clear case of environmental injustice. We know that not everyone has the same chances to access water. Climate change messes with water in two big ways:



Because of climate change, water is getting scarcer and more expensive. This means some people, especially women and kids, struggle to get enough clean water. They spend a lot of time fetching water, which takes away from school and other important things, and it puts them at risk of getting hurt or taken advantage of



unicef



According to UNICEF, four billion people (almost two thirds of the world's population) experience severe water scarcity for at least one month each year and over two billion people live in countries where water supply is inadequate.



Climate Justice and Social Equity: Understanding the Nexus

Climate change and environmental degradation pose significant challenges for future migration patterns, necessitating policy solutions centred on preparedness, sustainable development, and international cooperation. These impacts are disproportionately felt by communities and individuals least responsible for the emergence of these phenomena.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, droughts, heat waves, and cyclones were responsible for 23.7 million internal displacements in 2021. While the majority of these displacements occurred within national borders, a portion of the affected population was forced to seek safety and protection across international boundaries.





The Sustainable Development Goals: A Blueprint for Global Progress

In order to face all these issues, in recent years, there's been a growing global focus on tackling our planet's biggest challenges. At the forefront of this effort are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals, set by the United Nations, aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030.



They provide a roadmap for governments, businesses, and communities worldwide to work together towards a better future. Covering issues like ending hunger, ensuring good health, and fighting climate change, the SDGs are crucial for creating a more equitable and sustainable world.



The Sustainable Development Goals: A Blueprint for Global Progress

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



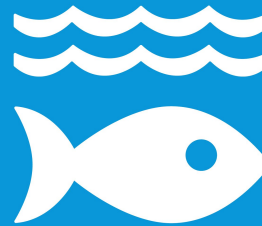
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



From 2000 to 2018, the percentage of people with access to electricity rose from 78 to 90%, while the number of those without electricity decreased to 789 million.

However, with the global population on the rise, the demand for affordable energy is also increasing, leading to significant climate impacts due to reliance on fossil fuels.

To reach Sustainable Development Goal 7 by 2030, it is essential to invest in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and thermal power, enhance energy efficiency, and ensure universal access to energy. Expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology for cleaner and more efficient energy production worldwide will not only spur economic growth but also contribute to environmental sustainability.

11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



More than half of the global population resides in urban areas. By 2050, this figure is projected to rise to two-thirds, totaling 6.5 billion people. Achieving sustainable development hinges on substantial changes in the construction and administration of our urban environments. The rapid expansion of cities, driven by population growth and migration, has led to the proliferation of mega-cities, particularly in developing regions, accompanied by the increasing prominence of urban slums. Sustainable urban development entails fostering employment opportunities, establishing secure and affordable housing options, and cultivating resilient societies and economies. This necessitates investments in public transportation, the creation of green communal spaces, and the enhancement of urban planning and management through inclusive and participatory approaches.



15. LIFE ON LAND

Human survival depends on both land and sea for food and livelihoods. Plant-based foods make up 80% of our diet, and agriculture is a key economic sector. Forests, covering 30% of the Earth's surface, provide habitats for many species, clean air and water, and help combat climate change. However, 13 million hectares of forests are lost yearly, leading to desertification of 3.6 billion hectares, mainly affecting poor communities. Despite protecting 15% of land, biodiversity remains at risk, with nearly 7,000 species illegally traded. Urgent action is needed to preserve natural habitats and biodiversity, crucial for global food security, climate change resilience, and peace.



14. LIFE BELOW WATER

The Earth's oceans are vital for sustaining life and mitigating climate change. With over three billion people depending on marine ecosystems, it's concerning that 30% of the world's fish stocks are overexploited. Additionally, oceans absorb 30% of carbon dioxide emissions, but ocean acidification has increased by 26% since the industrial revolution, and marine pollution is at critical levels. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to protect marine ecosystems and address these challenges through conservation and sustainable practices.



6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

As we have seen, water scarcity affects over 40% of people globally, a number expected to rise with increasing temperatures. Despite improvements in water sanitation for 2.1 billion people since 1990, decreasing drinking water supplies are now a global concern.

More countries are facing water stress due to rising drought and desertification, with projections suggesting one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages by 2050.

Achieving safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 demands investments in infrastructure, sanitation facilities, and ecosystem protection.

13. CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is a global crisis with far-reaching consequences. Greenhouse gas emissions have exceeded 50% of 1990 levels, leading to significant global warming and lasting changes to our climate system. The resulting climate-related disasters have caused immense economic losses and human suffering, with millions of lives affected. To address these challenges, efforts were underway to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to assist developing nations in adapting to climate change and promoting low-carbon development. Supporting vulnerable regions aligns not only with Goal 13 but also with other Sustainable Development Goals. However, urgent action is needed to limit global warming to prevent irreversible damage, requiring determined political will, increased investment, and collaborative efforts.

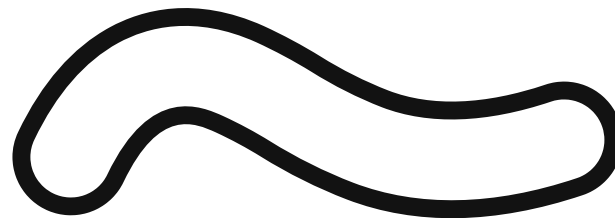


In a nutshell, when we talk about climate justice and social justice, we're really saying that we need to make things fair for everyone. It's not just about protecting the environment; it's about making sure that everyone has an equal chance to thrive, no matter who they are or where they're from. And that's something worth fighting for.





***And now let's test
the new learnings!***





Quiz

Question 1/6

What are some characteristics of the social economy?

Reliance on public authorities.

Promotion of democratic decision-making.

Focus on individual profit.

Send



Quiz

Question 2/6

Why is reducing the carbon footprint important?

To decrease the impact of carbon dioxide on the planet.

To encourage economic growth.

To increase dependence on fossil fuels.

Send



Quiz

Question 3/6

What are examples of renewable energy sources?

Solar and wind energy.

Coal and oil.

Natural gas and nuclear energy.

Send



Quiz

Question 4/6

How does climate change affect access to clean water?

It increases water scarcity, particularly for vulnerable communities.

It increases the availability of clean water for all.

It decreases water scarcity, particularly for vulnerable communities.

Send



Quiz

Question 5/6

What is the main focus of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

To end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

To promote tourism and economic growth.

Send



Quiz

Question 6/6

How are climate justice and social justice interconnected?

They are unrelated concepts.

Both are essential for building a fairer and greener world.

Climate justice benefits only wealthy communities.

Send



Your Carbon Footprint Challenge

Imagine that you're an investigative reporter
on climate change.
Today, your mission is to uncover the size of
your own carbon footprint!

**Discover your carbon
footprint!**



Your Carbon Footprint Challenge

Now that you know the size of your own carbon footprint, write a little text where you reflect on the impact it has on the planet and think about ways in which you could minimise it.

Write your answer here.

Send



Climate Justice and the Social Economy Group activity

Climate change affects communities worldwide in different ways. This activity will help you explore real-world challenges and think critically about their impacts and solutions.

Activity Guidelines:

- Download the worksheet and four scenario cards.
- Select one scenario card describing a climate change challenge.
- Use the worksheet to answer the questions.

**Download
the worksheet**



Get inspired by who is already doing it!

Discover some projects that implemented new strategies and created innovation in the field:





In short, Huerto Solar La Jeresa is not only a symbol of innovation and sustainability, but also an eloquent testimony of how community collaboration can lead to concrete solutions to contemporary environmental challenges.



Congratulations! You have completed the Module!



You have now gained a deeper understanding of the main challenges and impacts of climate change related to social economy. By recognizing these challenges, you are better equipped to act impactfully on the environment around you and to plan projects on the social economy field which are implementing a sustainable approach.

Key Takeaways:

- Know key terms related to social economy and climate change
- Recognize the different types of environmental and social injustices, as well as economic disparities, that exist within the context of climate change and social economy initiatives, and identify strategies for addressing them, such as equitable resource allocation, community engagement, and policy advocacy.
- Recognize the role of guidance in promoting sustainability and social responsibility and understand how to create a culture of accountability and innovation that starts from the top down.
- Build awareness of the impact of climate change and social inequalities on a global scale and their effects on diverse communities and company cultures, fostering empathy, understanding, and collective action.



Would you like to explore this topic further?

READ/EXPLORE

+ READ MORE

Huerto Solar La Jeresa

+ READ MORE

SDGs

+ READ MORE

Footprint Calculator

+ READ MORE

Climate Change

+ READ MORE

Climate Justice

Congratulation! You have completed the Better Cooperate online course!

Next step of this journey is to bring these notions in your own projects!

Do you still have doubts on some of the topics?
Go back to the past modules to read them again!

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Discover more about Better Cooperate! project on our website

