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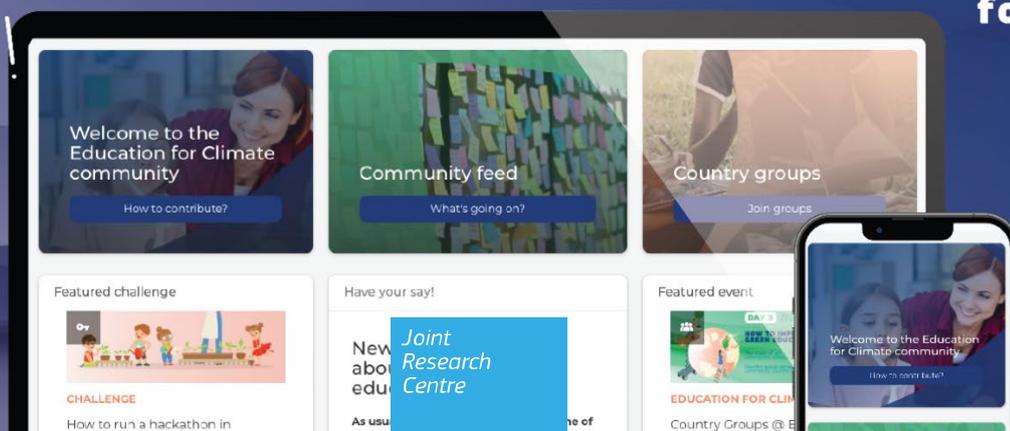
Education for Climate Coalition

*Annual Report 2022
Administrative Agreement
JRC 35917*

SZKOLA, S.
DENIGOT, T.
WILLIQUET, F.
NAPOLI, V.
THIJS, A.
2023

Join the COMMUNITY!

Education for Climate



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Contact information

Education for Climate Secretariat
<https://education-for-climate.ec.europa.eu/community/>
EC-EDUCATION-4-CLIMATE@ec.europa.eu

EU Science Hub

<https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu>

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Abstract

The [Education for Climate Coalition](#) is a flagship initiative of the European Education Area and the Green Deal hosted by the European Commission. As a community of practice, it enriches both the Council recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development and the European sustainability competence framework (GreenComp) for taking action on education for climate challenges on the ground.

It mobilises the education and training community to work towards achieving a climate-neutral and sustainable Union. It seeks to do so by upscaling, supporting and promoting co-created actions around 5 co-innovation labs: training teachers, bridging education with science, developing green skills and competences, raising awareness, and changing behaviours

2022 saw the Coalition move from its inception, co-design and platform launch phase into its support, build-up and co-working on participatory challenges phase. This included three main axes of action: (1) wider promotion and outreach, (2) community engagement and concrete challenge support, and (3) platform and community adaptation, including feature and practice improvement and co-innovation where applicable.

This report presents a synthesis of this work for community accountability.

Executive summary

Climate change is a wicked problem – challenges are complex, stakeholders manifold, timing urgent and resources scarce (Rittel and Webber 1973). Where solutions to those problems can only be better or worse in the social systems they engage, the Education for Climate Coalition as participatory community of practice aspires to respond to this conditionality of climate change by being a boundary-spanning system innovation endeavour (Catana et al. 2021, OECD 2022).

As a community of practice, it aims at sustainably empowering these climate education “groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly” (Lave and Wenger 1991, 1996) to understand, (re)design, and envision sustainability education actions together (OECD 2021, 2022).

The Education for Climate Coalition thus stimulates cross-organisation/member collaboration and knowledge sharing via bringing groups with different knowledge perspectives together and strengthens their capacity to work and learn creatively together to address this wicked problem.

Policy context

The green and digital transitions are priority goals of the European Commission and one of the six dimensions of the European Education Area and the Green Deal.

In 2022, the European Commission carried out three actions to strengthen European education capabilities for sustainability education: (1) a Council recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development mentioning the Coalition as engagement vector, (2) the European sustainability competence framework (GreenComp), and (3) a community of practice called Education for Climate Coalition, co-hosted by DGs EAC and JRC, mobilising education and training actors, pupils and students to share and co-create innovative education solutions focusing on five priorities: collective awareness raising, linking education with science, green skills development, teacher training, and promoting behaviour change.

This was framed by 2022 as European Year of Youth and will be continued by 2023 as the European Year of Skills.

Key highlights

2022 saw the Coalition move from its inception, co-design and platform launch phase into its support, build-up and co-working on participatory challenges phase. This included three main axes of action: (1) wider promotion and outreach, (2) community engagement and concrete challenge support, and (3) platform and community adaptations. This report presents a synthesis of this work for community accountability.

Within the first semester of 2022, the community (then at >3500 members) has hosted an engaging variety of community discussions and community events that have established the basis to launch six participatory community challenges tackling diverse aspects of making sustainability education tangible in co-innovation labs. Moreover, the first flagship Policy and Practice Forum took place, inviting the community to exchange- and action-driven meeting spaces between green education policy and practice. The growing pan-European community appreciates this immensely.

The second semester of 2022 strengthened local community outreach and concrete participatory engagement around the Coalition’s challenges and country groups. Six further participatory community challenges were launched and country groups promoted for holistic participation opportunities to engage and support in local languages (9 country groups open, 8 additional ones under facilitation take-up).

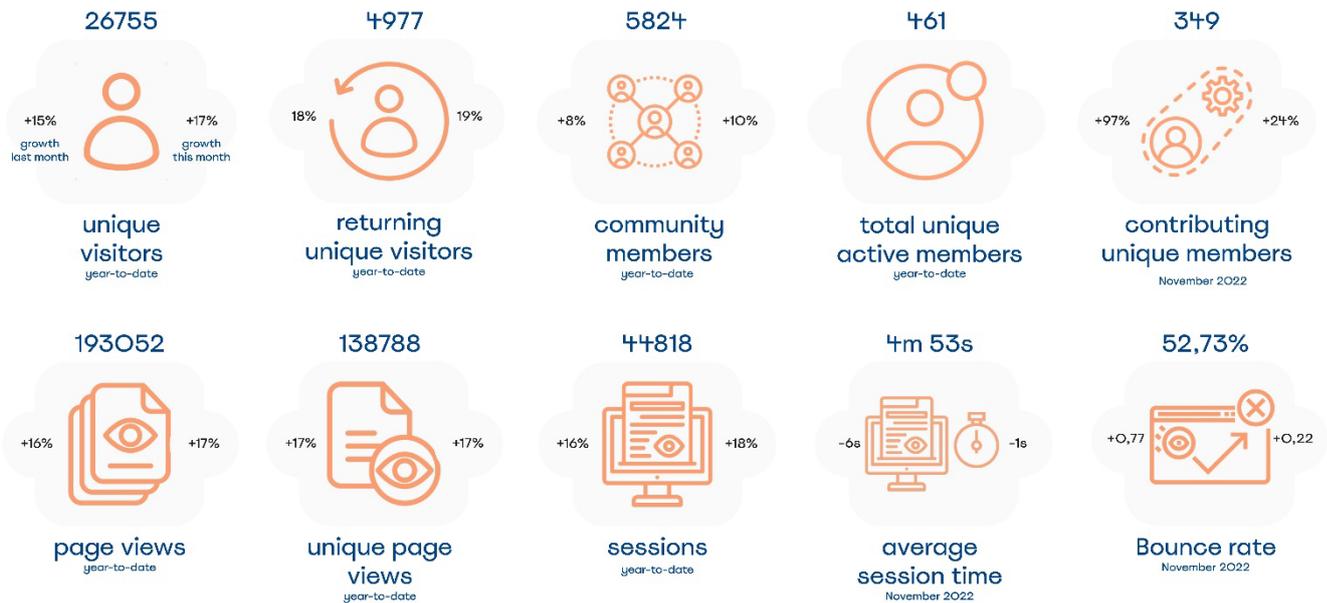
The flagship Education for Climate Days under the theme of “Climate resilience: co-creating learning for sustainability” invited to gather on 3 focus days covering, respectively, climate change challenges, green education solutions, and innovative implementation actions within six interactive sessions ranging from high-level panels to community agora.

Furthermore, the Coalition was present at the European Week of Regions and Cities via a participatory session on leveraging regional collaboration and community stories and at the COP 27, focusing on inspiring and innovative green education projects together with the Climate Pact.

Figure 1: 2022 Coalition growth figure highlights

source: authors

1/1/2022 - 30/11/2022



Transactional members – broadest reach of the community, may only connect to access specific community elements to consume. Measured by the following.

Unique visitors: unique webpage visit by a community member. Every visitor is counted once, even if they visit the website many times during the day (source: webanalytics)

Page views: the total amount of how many Coalition pages were viewed (source: webanalytics)

Sessions: a session is started once a webpage visitor opens the webpage and can include multiple page views (source: webanalytics)

Average session time: how long a visitor stayed on a webpage – length indicates engagement with content (source: webanalytics)

Bounce rate: the percentage of sessions during which visitors viewed only that page and didn't continue to another page view = $\{ \text{Bounces} / \text{Entries} \} * 100\%$ (source: webanalytics)

Peripheral members – newcomers to the community who engage on a limited, interest-based basis. Measured by the following.

Returning unique visitors: recurring unique webpage visits by a community member across time (source: webanalytics)

Unique page views: the amount of how many Coalition pages were viewed by unique community members (source: webanalytics)

Community members: registered account on platform (source: platform statistics)

Participating members – participate actively in community life by commenting, liking, voting – the more active ones contribute to community deliverables by sharing and creating content. Measured by the following.

Total unique active members: registered account that logged in to like on events + topics + posts + discussions (source: platform statistics)

Contributing unique members: registered accounts that created a topic or event; created a post; commented on topics; events or posts; or enrolled to an event in a given month (source: platform statistics)

1 Introduction

Climate change, biodiversity depletion and natural resources scarcity require urgent action. As a wicked problem, climate change poses challenges that are complex: stakeholders are manifold, timing urgent and resources scarce (Rittel and Webber 1973). It requires systems innovation for transformational change - via new and different action and engagement lenses.

Why?

As the latest IPCC report (2022) outlines, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to rise at alarming speed. Without urgent and immediate actions, median global warming is projected to rise to 3.2°C by 2100. And without rapid and deep cuts across all sectors and regions – emissions to be halved until 2030 - it will be impossible to limit global warming to 1.5°C in the short run.

And where the choice of explanation determines the nature of the problem's resolution and where there's no immediate and no ultimate test of this solution to a wicked problem, it is of utmost importance to generate actions that can be carried along participatory systems responsibly.

Wicked problems thus need innovation beyond the known, locked-in visions of doing: agile systems innovation in all areas – from how institutions work to come to decisions to citizen engagement in those endeavours.

What?

Research argues that collective action facilitated by international organisations, like the EU, is more likely to mainstream environmental policy and increase their action contribution when they work closely with local actors, when at the same time connecting and brokering knowledge, practice and expertise between the engaged community (of practice) and institutional competences (Bail 2021, Dörfler and Heinzl 2022).

How?

The green and digital transitions are priority goals of the European Commission and one of the six dimensions of the European Education Area. Education plays a key role in responding and adapting to the incoming systemic changes by developing and bridging the knowledge, skills, behaviours, and values that will enable (young) Europeans to become engaged and responsible professionals and citizens.

In this regard, the European Commission carried out three actions in 2022 to strengthen European education capabilities for sustainability education: (1) a Council recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development mentioning the Coalition as engagement vector, (2) the European sustainability competence framework (GreenComp), and (3) a community of practice called Education for Climate Coalition.

As participatory community of practice hosted by the European Commission offering facilitation opportunities to the community, the Coalition aspires to respond to these conditionalities of climate change as a wicked problem by being a boundary-spanning system innovation endeavour (Catana et al. 2021).

The Coalition is the European participatory education community to support the changes needed for a climate-neutral society, co-hosted by DGs EAC and JRC. Community members (students, teachers, stakeholders) can own or join participatory community challenges to design and drive the changes needed for education for environmental sustainability via co-innovation labs ('experimentariums') around raising awareness, developing green skills/competences, bridging education/science, training teachers, and changing behaviours. It empowers young people and adults to promote tangible initiatives bridging the fragmentation between countries, education sectors, domains and people.

With this, it seeks to shift the goal of action on significant problems from solution to scalable interventions in an ongoing process of practice iteration. Everybody is free to join the coalition on individual basis and contribute in many ways, also in EU-27 local languages in peer country groups at the core of the community.

With a view to 2023 as launching the Education for Climate's operational phase, 2022 saw the Coalition move from its 2021 inception, co-design and platform launch phase into its support, build-up and co-working on participatory challenge phase. This included three main axes of action:

- **wider promotion and outreach**
- **community engagement and concrete challenge support**
- **platform and community adaptations**

(1) At a glance: Selected milestones 2022 across annual quarters

- Q1: 1st participatory community challenges, 1st advisory group, country group meetings
- Q2: 1st Education for Climate Policy and Practice Forum, platform upgrade
- Q3: 1st call for innovative green education projects, platform re-design, EU Regions Week
- Q4: 2nd flagship Education for Climate Days, COP27, Education Summit

The following report outlines the collaborative strategies and actions taken in 2022 to understand, (re)design, and envision sustainability education actions.

1.1 Methodology

What?

On 16 December 2020, DG JRC and DG EAC signed an Administrative Agreement with the purpose of setting up, managing, and monitoring a community of practice called “Education for Climate Coalition” via the support of DG JRC for DG EAC [cf. JRC n° 35917 NFP (DG EAC N °EAC-2020-0880) and EAC (Ares(2020)7647659)].

DGs EAC and JRC cooperate to facilitate the implementation of the Coalition via a dedicated partnership.

— DG EAC is in charge with the overall steering, governance and policy communication related to the Coalition.

— The Joint Research Centre, via its scientific domain and community management expertise, runs the executive facilitation entailing the design, implementation, and community management of the Coalition.

The Coalition aspires to respond to the conditionality of climate change as a wicked problem by being a boundary-spanning system innovation endeavour (Catana et al. 2021, OECD 2022).

As a community of practice, it aims at sustainably empowering these climate education “groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly” (Lave and Wenger 1991, 1996) to understand, (re)design, and envision sustainability education actions together (OECD 2021, 2022).

The Education for Climate Coalition thus stimulates cross-organisation/member collaboration and knowledge sharing via bringing groups with different knowledge perspectives together and strengthens their capacity to work and learn creatively together.

How?

This exercise was vastly based on the JRC-developed methodology on communities of practice (Catana et al. 2021). During 2021, the Coalition’s substantial co-design year, four milestones contributed to laying the ground for its 2022 uptake (Szkola et al. 2022):

map, explore, identify – socio-institutional network analysis

1. initialisation, community mapping and ecosystem analysis – supported by 576 survey contributions and a sample of more than 80 existing initiatives in the field

convene, discuss, align – pan-European focus groups

2. prototype workshops and first major community gathering on 22 June 2021 bringing together more than 800 community fellows – ranging from students, over teacher from different education levels to education stakeholders

participatory design of community deliverables

3. community co-design workshops gathering input from more than 250 additional participants from all Member States for initial collaborative platform rollout
4. first Education for Climate Day on 25 November 2021 and community platform launch seeing 1200 joining.

This report is both taking stock and feeding back to the community for accountability on what the Coalition has achieved together in 2022.

(2) At a glance: 2022 Coalition work packages with adapted deliverables and dedicated milestones across annual quarters

— **External communication, outreach and events**

- Implementation of adapted communication strategy, tools, visual/media production (Q1, cont'd.)
- Continued stakeholder mapping and outreach (Q1, cont'd.)
- Education for Climate Policy and Practice Forum (Q2)
- 2nd flagship Education for Climate Day(s) (Q4)
- Engagement in European Year of Youth (Q2, cont'd)

— **Community Management**

- Continued community coordination, support and engagement for co-creation of any community output/ event (Q1-4)
- Community-sourcing and supporting participatory challenges (Q1-4)
- Country Groups Establishment/ Support (Q1-4)
- Establishment/support of community groups and processes (Q1-4)
- Platform knowledge and functionalities management (Q1-4)

— **Sustaining the collaborative online platform**

- Continued bug fixes and user experience improvements (Q1-4)
- Platform upgrades (Q2-4)
- Knowledge base enlargement, adaptation for user support and experience
- Regular, direct (future) community member support to support activities

— **Overall coordination and internal communication**

- EU-internal hub positioning, coordination and streamlining (Q1-4)
- Raising awareness and leveraging collaboration opportunities (Q1-4)

2 2022 in numbers and context

The community grew significantly in 2022 with a stable core community driving community engagement. With 2399 unique community actions (topics, events, posts or comments created), the qualitative input of the community was inspiring in many climate education domains. The following provides an overview of 2022 in community numbers and in community experience context.

Figure 2: 2022 Community growth trends

source: webanalytics and platform



(3) At a glance: Key community trends 2022

- Unique website visits went up from 15400 to 26800 (+74%)
- Returning visitors increased from 4500 to 6500 (+44%)
- Community member registrations went up from 195 at the day of the platform launch one year ago to >6000 at the writing of this report (+3000%).
- There are now >6000 community recipients in contrast to >900 last year (+667%)
- In the running month of November 2022, 800 logged in and 340 community members contributed (topic, post, event creation/comment/enrolment (6%, target 1-3%))
- The community worked together in 12 participatory challenges. 500 participants convened in 12 innovation labs (10%, target 5%)
- 9 country groups are open, 8 under facilitation take-up, 10 looking for community co-coordinators
- The community convened in 101 events (Secretariat-facilitated: 51/ Community-led: 50) with an immense overall participation, highlighting the relevance of the community's endeavour.
- The flagship Education for Climate Days 2022 saw vivid interest and participation: 620 community members registered, 800 streamed the event and/or participated in the sessions, 200 unique twitter accounts tweeted or retweeted #EducationForClimate with a potential reach of 3.5 Mio.
- The new Education for Climate Policy and Practice Forum had 120 participants
- The Coalition's session at the EU's Regions Week had 160 registered community members
- The Coalition's session at the COP27 had 115 registrations
- The Coalition's session at the JRC Science Summit convened 32 experts on green/education

Beyond the community growth numbers, there are **community success and innovation stories** – making the community the vibrant and meaningful community it is.

In each of the following four work packages, the report highlights what has been undertaken to which community end and reception.

2.1 External communication, outreach and events

(4) At a glance: External communication, outreach and events work package deliverables and milestones across annual quarters

- Implementation of adapted communication and coordination strategy, tools, and visual/media production (Q1, cont'd.)
- Continued stakeholder mapping and outreach (Q1, cont'd.)
- Engagement in European Year of Youth (Q2, cont'd)
- Education for Climate Policy and Practice Forum (Q2)
- 2nd flagship Education for Climate Day(s) (Q4)

2.1.1 Communication and coordination

The establishment and execution of a communication plan was based on overarching reflections for which KPIs needed to be re-defined, e.g. focusing on community dynamics (big triangle) and focusing on enabling conditions (small triangle). The inherent value propositions are to:

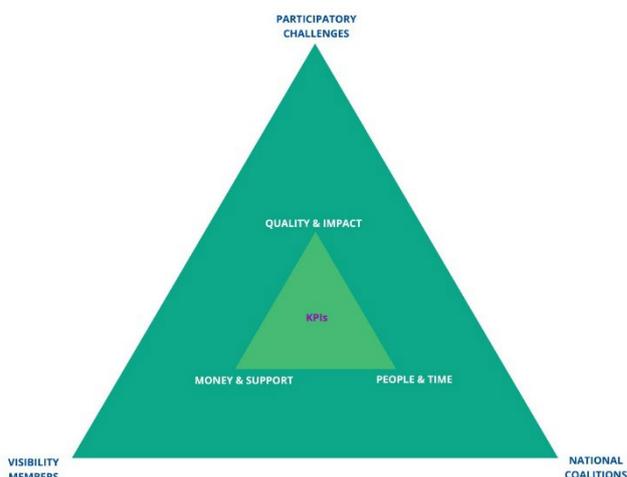
- **co-create** a thriving community, focusing on qualitative challenges and stories illustrating meaningful actions on the ground - making a real difference due to their participatory approach and innovation quality
- **facilitate** knowledge (and expertise) community management to co-create quality content on the platform - making the platform not a static showcase and empty commitment, but an authentic engagement based on community reception.

In practice:

- **Stakeholder outreach** combined internal and external efforts in concentric circles from the EU-internal EU Green Education Agora (see challenge section) to, external engagement with European partners and global efforts that will be next year's focus. This was based on a thorough persona and outreach strategy analysis (see illustration underneath). Engagement is centralised on the collaborative community platform that also offers a monthly community bulletin to all registered users as well as targeted notifications (cf. [Education for Climate Community Bulletin](#) on the platform).

Figure 3: Communication plan strategy

source: authors



- **The European Year of Youth** underlined the Coalition’s commitment to always have young people on board any community engagement – from event panels over challenge tasks to country group facilitation. Moreover, the Coalition stipulates ‘engaged practice pairs’ for any intervention, e.g. any presentation to be undertaken by at least two categories of stakeholders involved in a project. In addition, there will be a dedicated co-innovation lab on youth and climate upcoming.
- **Visual (media)** production was done in-team for all elements mentioned throughout the whole community year, particularly for the community platform, events and co-innovation labs, social media and community explanation materials (flyer, videos, shorts), including visual identity and branding, video channel curation, various presentations and articles, and community member requests.

Figure 4: Communication plan implementation

source: authors



2.1.2 Community Events in 2022

In 2022, the Education for Climate Community hosted 101 events. 50 of those were community-led and 51 of those were facilitated by the Secretariat. Whereas the community-led events span the whole range of sustainability education actions possibly to be advertised on the platform, the Secretariat's events fell into the following categories:

Community onboarding

- **Q&A – ask us anything about the community:** monthly running Q&A series grouping all community dynamics that make up the Coalition's education for environmental sustainability social community fabric: platform functionalities, participatory challenges, the Advisory Group and your role, Education for Climate Companions, Education for Climate Peer Reviewers
- **Q&A – Country Group Coordinators:** monthly running Q&A series grouping all questions for aspiring country group coordinators of one of the EU-27 Country Groups to get the hands-on knowledge they need to become a coordinator and to open and manage your group together with your fellows, e.g., how to become the point of reference for their country group and how to co-lead and co-coordinate sessions among community members of their country.

Community feedback

- **Companion meetings:** The Companions' Quarterly is an interactive online event where community members (companions) can share their experiences and practices around education for environmental sustainability, give feedback around the collaborative platform and exchange ideas around the Education for Climate Coalition.
- **Advisory Group meetings:** brings together the members of the Advisory Group with the Education for Climate Secretariat to build on a common agenda and to co-work on the community's direction during the 6 months of each group's mandate.
- **Country Group Coordinator meetings:** brings together the official country group coordinators to gather around their country engagement ambitions and coordinate work based on an exchange of good practices.

Community co-creation

- **Challenge co-creation lab meetings:** workshops, conversations, hybrid meetings around the purpose of a specific running challenge to co-create tangible artefacts relating to the challenge quest by, with, and for the community members.
- **Main community gatherings:** overarching community convenings spanning all challenges and community themes with specific purpose highlights in order to inspire and mobilize the community for concrete actions for sustainability education.

(5) At a glance: Community events in 2022

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Number of events: 101 – 50 led by community/51 led by Secretariat— Total enrolments: around 2200— Coverage: mainly EU-27, plus community guests from around the world, including Turkey, Switzerland, the EU's Eastern Partnership countries, EU enlargement candidate and potential candidate countries, countries from the Union for the Mediterranean, Commonwealth countries |
|---|

2.1.2.1 In the spotlight: main community gatherings in 2022

As a selection of all community events in 2022, the following main community gatherings represent highlights of year, spanning across Coalition themes with broad reach and visibility for concrete actions.

May 2022 | The flagship Education for Climate Policy and Practice Forum

The Education for Climate Coalition is the place where the education community at large can engage in co-creation processes. The participatory challenges developed in this frame through co-innovation labs involve

teachers, students and education stakeholders aiming at promoting education for environmental sustainability through tangible learning outcomes.

Together, we aspire to increase the impact of these challenges and make a real change for education and training. And for this, policy and practice go hand in hand.

- On the one hand, community members have repeatedly expressed their desire to meet policy experts to better understand the policy background, its ins and outs and opportunities in order to better design concrete green education projects and make them count.
- Policy experts, on the other hand, need better insight into implementation and experimentation processes within the education community.

This forum is the occasion to organise such an exchange- and action-driven meeting between policy and practice.

- a high-level panel discussed how to concretely equip learners with the necessary skills for the green transition with Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education at UNESCO, and two community members
- concrete co-design dialogues were facilitated between community members and policy experts around community challenges at different stages of their development (sustainability skills, knowledge, attitudes in action; transforming places of learning; learning actions for sustainable tree planting; making saving water a lifelong habit)

[\[on the platform\]](#)

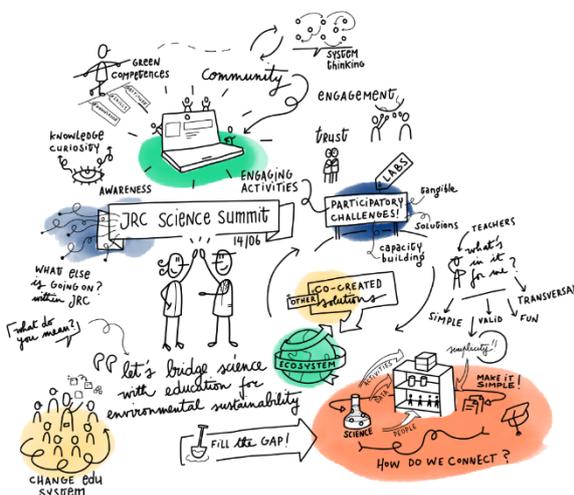
(6) At a glance: The Coalition's flagship Education for Climate Policy and Practice Forum

- **Primary Education for Climate Innovation Area:** develop green skills and competences
- **Impact:**
- 120 participants and 20 policy/practice dialogue partners coming from a variety of expertise backgrounds to bridge community ambitions from science, policy, learning and teaching experience perspectives on participatory green education
- Concrete challenge follow-ups with tangible outcomes launched, including DG ENV's 3 Billion Trees.

June 2022 | JRC Science Summit 2022: Let's bridge science with education for environmental sustainability!

Figure 5: Visual harvest of Coalition's JRC Science Summit session

source: authors



With this session, the Coalition took the opportunity to bring the Joint Research Centre's own in-house expertise closer to the Education for Climate Coalition since research has argued that collective action facilitated by international organisations, like the EU, is more likely to mainstream environmental policy and increase their action contribution when connecting and brokering knowledge, practice and expertise between the engaged community (of practice) and internal competences.

Everybody was invited to join the internal session who was working/ interested in environmental sustainability and/or education perspectives to: (1) appreciate and take stock of the vast in-house competence around sustainability/ education, (2) connect and benefit from these science, knowledge and expertise landscapes within the community ecosystem, (3) act together to co-shape and co-validate participatory Education for Climate challenges. [\[on the platform\]](#)

(7) At a glance: The Coalition at the JRC ScienceSummit

- **Primary Education for Climate Innovation Area:** bridge education with science
- **Impact:**
- Convened 32 experts on green/education
- Key element for EU Green Education Agora and community peer review mechanism

October 2022 | EU Regions Week: The Education for Climate Coalition in your Region

At this session, anybody interested in co-creating solutions for climate education could find out how to do this and ask us anything about the Coalition. It was an open invitation to all interested to join the Coalition to find out how anybody can make the changes needed for a climate-neutral society a reality through #EducationForClimate co-innovation labs!

The session centrally featured community members and their stories to learn about specific activities and actions in their neighbourhood and further regions of participants that the participants could shape together via the Coalition.

[\[on the platform\]](#)

(8) At a glance: The Coalition at the EURegionsWeek

- **Primary Education for Climate Innovation Area:** raise awareness
- **Impact:**
- 160 registrations across fields
- Highlighted community member's work and provided inspiration for concrete local actions
- Follow-up in country groups and enlarged community networking

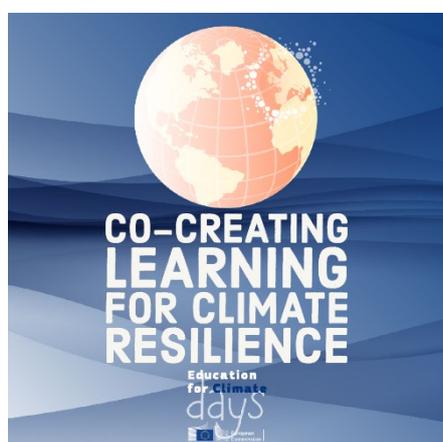
November 2022 | The flagship Education for Climate Days 2022

The Education for Climate Days 2022 happened from the 7th to 9th of November this year.

Under the theme of "co-creating learning for climate resilience", each day focused on one key Education for Climate issue:

Figure 6: Education for Climate Days 2022 theme

source: authors



Day 1: Why do we need to act urgently? > Climate change challenges

Day 2: What should we do to address climate change challenges? > Green education solutions

Day 3: How to implement green education solutions? > Innovative implementation actions.

The programme included 6 interactive session around the theme of "co-creating learning for climate resilience", from high-level panel over expert talks to community country group sessions

[\[on the platform\]](#)

(9) At a glance: The Coalition's flagship Education for Climate Days 2022

- **Primary Education for Climate Innovation Area:** all covered (raise awareness, train teachers, develop green skills and competences, bridge education with science, change behaviours)
- **Impact:**
- 620 community members registered across all learning levels, fields, and actor categories
- 800 streamed the event and/or participated in the sessions
- 200 unique twitter accounts tweeted or retweeted #EducationForClimate with a potential reach of 3.5 Mio
- The related [call for innovative green education projects](#) received 37 high-quality submissions across learning levels and approaches with the 3 selected projects now being scaled up/multiplied in the community.
- The 8 participatory country group sessions were received highly positively by the community with an stronger, yet more flexible, focus on them in 2023.
- Participatory follow-up actions are being planned currently, including a Youth Climate Lab

November 2022 | COP27: Communities co-creating learning for climate resilience: Education for Climate and the Climate Pact

The session was co-hosted by the European Climate Pact and the Education for Climate community - two European participatory initiatives joining forces to co-create tangible education solutions for the green transition.

The interactive session aimed at peer-learning and capacity-building for real change via the community, inviting new members to join and engage. The winners of the Education for Climate Coalition's call for innovative green education projects showcased their 3 inspiring education actions.

[\[on the platform\]](#)

(10) At a glance: The Coalition at the COP27

- **Primary Education for Climate Innovation Area:** change behaviours
- **Impact:**
- 115 registrations
- global outreach
- Highlighting good community practices and strengthening link and accessibility to two main communities on EU level

December 2022 | Fifth European Education Summit: The Coalition featuring in two panels

The 5th European Education Summit puts youth and education centre stage, giving our bright young minds the opportunity to contribute to shaping the future direction of education and training in Europe.

Young people are the future of Europe and will play a central role in the twin green and digital transitions of our societies. To do so, it is essential that European education and training systems can adapt to allow all young people to develop the skills and competencies they need to thrive and innovate.

The Coalition was present in two high-level sessions via its community members:

- Building the European Education Area: From vision to reality
- Education for Climate: Making a Change towards Environmental Sustainability

[\[on the platform\]](#)

(11) At a glance: The Coalition at the Fifth European Education Summit

- **Primary Education for Climate Innovation Area:** raise awareness
- **Impact:**
- Positioning the Coalition as climate education hub at field European-wide flagship gathering combining European Education Area and Green Deal goals
- Leveraging country coordinators work to raise visibility for and mobilization of country groups

2.2 Community Management

(12) At a glance: Community management work package deliverables and milestones across annual quarters

- Continued community coordination, support and engagement for co-creation of any community output/ event (Q1-4)
- Community-sourcing and supporting participatory challenges (Q1-4)
- Country Groups Establishment/ Support (Q1-4)
- Establishment/ support of community groups and processes (Q1-4)
- Platform knowledge and functionalities management (Q1-4)

Community management runs through all work packages and is the common thread to all community dynamics to connect the dots, co-design, leverage, and adapt constantly the community.

2.2.1 Participatory challenges

Participatory community challenges are the Coalition's means to support knowledge sharing and concrete experimentation of and commitment to new ideas and initiatives around climate education.

- They are the co-innovation labs to ideate and co-create activities and materials to let education shape, respond and adapt to the green transition related to the innovation areas and policy priorities of the Coalition.
- Challenges can be proposed by the Commission or members themselves (teachers, educators, pupils, students, trainers, parents, stakeholders across all education levels), who want to present and discuss their ideas, looking for like-minded peers to work on concrete projects or to upscale existing ones.
- Each challenge process is tailored in terms of concrete co-innovation intention and outcomes, facilitation and convening methods, target audiences, length. They always include a combination of asynchronous exchange on the community platform and synchronous (online) workshops to bridge community interaction needs/schedules.
- In general, the Coalition aspires to offer a varied balance of challenges, with at least one running at any time, to include as many in the community as possible, e.g., short design sprints / longer co-innovation processes, specific education level projects/ bridging ideation initiatives, etc.
- All challenge deliverables will be published in the community's resource library and the community will promote them in order to have community members pledging to use them.

Figure 7: The Coalition's value and engagement proposition

source: authors



The following table outlines all community challenges of 2022 and the upcoming 2023 ones as qualitative work endeavours.

It summarises the information by whom these challenges are co-facilitated, on which Coalition innovation area they focus with which ambition and what the aspired outcome is. In so doing, the table highlights the variety of perspectives and goals as well as the richness of multiple experiences in the community.

Table 1: Overview: Participatory Challenges in 2022 and upcoming challenges in 2023, *source: authors*

Challenge	Co-facilitation	Innovation Area Focus	Ambition	Outcome
<u>THE SKY IN ME: a climate action</u>	DG JRC	raising awareness about air pollution with children as part of the Resonances II exhibition FAIR/FEAR	This challenge was an artistic action inviting children (and all others) around Europe to join in a collective experience to create together, but from their respective location, a giant portrait of the Sky of Europe during 2 action days. The photographed skies are printed from the particulate matter collected from the air at the same time through adapted mask filters by participants and the 27 first-received contributions will be exhibited at the European Commission, Brussels.	Received more than 60 qualitative contributions across the EU, exceeding expectations. Now preparation of exhibition to be run in 2023 and additional art and science challenges to be planned based on community reception.
<u>How to make saving water a lifelong habit?</u>	Community members – primary and secondary school and university teachers from Poland, Ireland, Croatia and Greece	concrete activities and materials in and around schools to make saving water a lifelong habit	This challenge collects, ideates, tests, co-validates, and multiplies concrete school activity materials for making saving water a lifelong habit to offer concrete support for anybody who would like to run one.	Highlighted and engaged 12 concrete community-sourced activities, spanning education levels and subjects. More than 90 participants engaged in qualitative co-creation efforts, with >170 inputs received. Now 3 follow-up working groups setup to concretise locally and with experts in order to upscale efforts.
<u>Transforming places of learning</u>	New European Bauhaus	transformation of physical places of education and knowledge, ways of learning	This challenge makes waves for beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive spaces that shape our future ways of learning and thinking,	More than 60 applicants already shared their contribution, leading up to concrete co-innovation

		and the relationship with the local community	<p>inviting and connecting a tangible place with innovative pedagogical methods and the local community in the fields of education, training, youth, and knowledge.</p> <p>The challenge will feed into the NEBs 2023 prize dynamics, also focusing on innovative sustainability solutions.</p>	labs for cross-inspiration, matched with the participants of the Coalition's call for innovative green education projects.
<u>How to run a hackathon in preschool?</u>	community members – hosted by the European Schools in Brussels, and a pre-school teacher	implementation of new inclusive methods of learning and finding solutions	This challenge invites teachers and students to follow and come up with their own version of a hackathon process across preschools to make children aware of sustainability issues. It inspires new teaching methods to playfully address critical environmental issues that can be tackled via this method in/across various subjects.	More than 40 community participants have provided feedback that has shaped a multipliable hands-on pedagogical resource for trainers and educators: a co-designed template how to run (sustainability) hackathons in preschools.
<u>Let's plant 3 billion trees!</u>	DG ENV	to mobilize education activities around DG ENV's 3 Billion Trees pledge	This challenge hosts co-innovation labs for students, teachers and stakeholders across all education levels, aspiring to making the many planting and natural regeneration activities already taking place in Europe visible and connected to share experiences and good practices to brainstorm, co-create and foster synergies for what learning environments need for planting trees: concrete activities around greening spaces/ planting trees; learning materials taking up the issue to adapt and multiply, connecting (investment) resources making tree planting possible locally.	<p>Currently, these labs convene more than 40 participants having shared 15 concrete good practices and approaches for greening school environments.</p> <p>With a view to the autumn/ spring planting season, this challenge will be in focus early-2023, also in context of COP15 mobilizations.</p>
<u>Be a scientist! Mapping climate change at seas</u>	DG MARE	ocean literacy, human and environmental geography	This challenge invites the community to playfully learn about global	This lab convenes more than 40 participants and is currently

<u>and waterways</u>		skills, playful topic exploration and digital citizen science (data collection, processing and analysis abilities) around the European Atlas of the Seas	water/sustainability issues by exploring the maps provided the European Atlas of the Seas. It focuses on co-creating a new map around a community-defined sustainability issue (water surface temperatures) for which the data will be measured and collected in a community effort.	receiving inputs across the EU (and from beyond) to its digital mapping exercise for its open-source climate change map with schools being showcased as data providers. Schools are then able to upscale, play with and re-use these data maps for learning purposes.
<u>Collecting Climate Education Resources</u>	Community	knowledge and practice innovation and curation for climate education resources (sourced) for and by the community	This challenge brings together the wealth of the community's collective knowledge and experience and will build an overview of climate education resources (sourced) for and by the community. From curricula over materials to activities, from digital engagement resources over physical guidelines to (a)synchronous tasks, community members will be able to contribute to this constantly open challenge expected to highlight a significant amount of useful resources.	This recently established lab has already received more than 40 community inputs, comprising several resources and qualitative feedbacks. This challenge feeds into further efforts to not duplicate experiences, but to group and leverage practices and experiences, together with EU learning platforms and testing panels making EU content easy to reach and fun to teach.
<u>Developing a cross-disciplinary sustainability course for secondary school</u>	European Schools	empowers learners to tackle the environmental crisis by developing an optional cross-disciplinary course intended for the 2 last years of secondary school	The challenge has two aims: (1) collecting suggestions and ideas to enrich the existing proposal presented by the European Schools, (2) finding the most suitable title for the programme according to its enriched content. Participants are part of the co-creation process of this course programme and have	Currently, content feedback is gathered on learning/ teaching approach inputs on the 4 parts of the new syllabus (contribution of science, sustainable development, anthropocene, social sciences and humanities) More than 30 lab participants

			<p>the rare opportunity to provide feedback on the future programme.</p>	<p>have already provided 45 valuable comments. The course parts are under creative commons for re-use.</p> <p>In the next phase, community members will be finding together the most suitable title for the programme according to its enriched content.</p>
<p>EU Green Education Agora</p>	<p>Cross-EU institutions and bodies</p>	<p>Intra-/inter-institutional cooperation</p>	<p>This EU-internal challenge aims at mapping, connecting, and finding synergies among EU initiatives around learning for sustainability.</p> <p>As Education for Climate Community facilitates this endeavor of what we see as crucial part of the community.</p> <p>This challenges enables EU colleagues to share and connect around their initiatives, communicate their information and find the others', and co-create all gatherings and find synergies.</p>	<p>Currently already more than 70 participants ranging across various services and DGs with key stakeholders involved.</p>
<p>Upcoming in 2023</p>				
<p>Youth Climate Lab</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>brings together young people from 16 to 25 years old, coming from diverse educational backgrounds and nationalities in an experiment designed to create a peer-learning experience in an innovative and engaging</p>	<p>The goal of this challenge is to bring multiple perspectives together to discuss a given climate-related issue, cooperate to deliver a solution, and learn and interact with interested stakeholders.</p> <p>This feeds into the GreenComp framework as</p>	<p>Each lab session will analyse a case study and deliver a solution to a problem that an identified business is facing.</p> <p>After this first discussion phase, an information meeting with the</p>

		format with the aim to develop critical and system thinking competences.	it will not only bridge cognitive dissonances and divides, but foster exploratory thinking skills applied to real case studies.	interested stakeholders will take place to give the opportunity to the participants to present their practical solution to the identified business, and to connect businesspeople with students, recent graduates, and young professionals in view of their future careers.
<u>Sustainability competences in action</u>	DGs EAC and JRC	Sharing and taking stock of already existing learning activities, materials and resources making sustainability knowledge, skills and attitudes implementable and assessable.	This challenge will invite the community to present their approaches and suggest and work on concrete GreenComp implementation opportunities.	This challenge links to broader efforts on a GreenComp community of practice embedded within the Education for Climate Coalition in 2023.
<u>Participatory Challenge Incubator</u>	Community	open innovation and co-creation to co-design tangible climate education outputs to change behaviours	This challenge facilitates the proposal of new challenges in a playful manner to highlight the participatory character of all qualitative co-design efforts.	<p>If community members want to propose a community challenge, they can create ideas – if they are really up for an already proposed challenge, they can vote these ideas up.</p> <p>This co-innovation lab intends to leverage and surface community ideas and intentions for future challenge working areas.</p>

2.2.2 Country groups

EU-27 Country Groups are there for community members to connect and network in their local language and find country peers to make a difference locally.

Country Groups can only work if there's a dedicated group of Country Coordinators who take care of their space together with the Secretariat. This moderation team must:

- be from/ be currently hosted in/ have close, relevant and continuous ties with/ a country background of with the EU-27 country concerned
- have the ability to engage proficiently through the relevant language(s)
- be committed to co-facilitate country-peer-exchanges in this local community group based on the Education for Climate Etiquette

Figure 8: Country Groups present with own sessions at Education for Climate Days 2022

source: authors



Finding, coordinating and empowering coordinators for those country groups is a time-intensive but strongly community empowering effort. Currently, 2/3 of all EU-27 country groups have been engaged in this journey qualitatively and initial sponsorship identification steps have been taken for the remaining.

Table 2: Education for Climate country groups status

source: authors

Open (9)	Under facilitation take-up (8)	waiting for initiative (10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Austria — Belgium — Bulgaria — Cyprus — France — Germany — Greece — Italy — Romania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Croatia — Finland — Hungary — Ireland — Netherlands — Poland — Portugal — Spain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Czechia — Denmark — Estonia — Latvia — Lithuania — Luxembourg — Malta — Slovakia — Slovenia — Sweden

2.2.3 Community groups and processes

There are manifold ways in which community members can make it up to the community. In 2022, the Coalition empowered

- [The Education for Climate Community Advisory Group](#)
- [The Education for Climate Challenge Facilitators](#)
- [The Education for Climate Peer Reviewers](#)
- [The Education for Climate Country Coordinators](#)
- [The Education for Climate Companions](#)

These mechanisms are inherently linked to community gatherings (see section before) and community recognition (see section afterwards).

2.2.3.1 Community highlight: call for innovative green education projects

Figure 9: The Coalition's Call for innovative green education projects

source: authors



(13) About: call for innovative green education projects

- The Coalition launched an open call for innovative green education actions from the 28th of July to the 25th of September.
- The Coalition received 37 high-quality submissions across learning levels and approaches!
- The Coalition's aim was: (1) to learn from the community what their green education actions are to highlight the state of art in European initiatives in a community showcase; (2) to illustrate education innovation in the field and engage with the green learning actions to inspire and get inspired; (3) build-up a participatory green learning examples collection on the community platform.
- The Coalition's communicated submission evaluation criteria were: (1) main project base in any EU Member State, (2) complete project description and concrete actions having happened within last 5 years; (3) participatory project design and management; (4) covers at least 1/5 Education for Climate innovation areas; (5) addresses at least 1/12 GreenComp competences; (6) includes one of the innovative learning and teaching methods listed in the Council recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development; (7) tangible project evidence/content; (8) community reception.
- From all the replies received (both EU survey and platform blog), 3 community examples were selected with notification about the selection outcome at the beginning of October.

The selected projects joined the Coalition live on the online stage on the 9th of November 2022 at 17:00 CET in English and participate actively in a COP27 online session together with Climate Pact Ambassadors.

(14) Methodology: call for innovative green education projects

- Screening of projects according to communicated and pre-set criteria (see underneath), each asked for in EU Survey specifically. Exclusion from next step if not met (true: outside EU / platform blog missing/ not submitted in English at all).
- First round evaluation: individual top-5 rankings of remaining projects according to defined criteria, including up to 5 runners-up.
- Second round evaluation: combining same-in-different top-5 rankings to converge to 15 projects at max.
- Final weighting: 10 points each for AMBITION, MULTIDISCIPLINARITY, PARTICIPATORY APPROACH, TANGIBILITY, e.g., project scoring out of 40, and 12 points each for COMMUNITY (impact beyond classroom).
- Final ranking and selection according to highest aggregated points received out of 52.

(15) Outcome: call for innovative green education projects

- It was really difficult to find the little differences in the so many inspiring projects the Coalition received, letting shine through all the community's driving ambitions for participatory climate education.
- Out of the 37 high-quality submissions we received, the selected projects, coming from a variety of countries and learning backgrounds, have shown the community how **creative, participatory, multidisciplinary and playful** concrete learning actions for the green transition can be.
- They illustrate the spirit of the community – tangible yet demanding ambitions to make the dreams of a better future together a reality, beyond the classroom.

(16) The selected projects: call for innovative green education projects



"Germinar um banco de sementes"
[Sprouting a seed bank]
Winner 1
Inspiring green education actions call

Aims to create a seed bank from the school space involving the local community. The goal is to educate for active citizenship, construct a more aware society of its natural heritage and use dematerialization mechanisms (collaborative economy and sustainable consumption) which contribute to conserving the existing genetic heritage. The project is structured in several activities, expanding from schools - students, teachers and employees - to educators and the local community, or at a national level by free seed sharing.

- **Education level:** primary education, secondary general education, lifelong learning

- **Involved:** students, teachers, school board/ headmaster, parents, school neighbourhood

GLUP-GLUP

Winner 2

Inspiring green education actions call



There is much evidence of the existence of a current climate change, among whose consequences is the rise in sea level. This increase will result in the disappearance of beaches, marshes and wetlands, coastal flooding, shoreline erosion, brackish water intrusion and significant economic damage. Our hypothesis is based on the fact that getting information to the population instead of them having to look for it and using something as widely used as a mobile phone, means that the message is transmitted to more people to create more effective environmental awareness. This project aims to raise awareness among the population through the creation of the GLUP-GLUP mobile application, which generates a notification when the person is in an area that will be flooded by the sea in the year 2100. When you click on this notification, the app takes you to a web page designed to provide more information about climate change.

- **Education level:** post-secondary vocational education

- **Involved:** students, teachers, neighbourhoods



EkoEksperymentarium, play and be part of the change.

Winner 3

Inspiring green education actions call

EkoEksperymentarium is a wide programme of climate education dedicated to children up to 11 years old. It started in 2020 successfully reaching schools and preschools in Poland. The programme is based on 5 online gamified lessons (27 games) about sustainable habits such as saving water, energy and resources; carbon and water footprint or waste segregation. The platform is accessible for free, without logging-in and teachers are provided with lesson scenarios, worksheets and printables to help them organize the lesson. We also support teachers by publishing newsletter, blogging leading a FB group as well as offering diplomas and incentives. Constant communication campaigns are run for the project together with evaluation and innovation systems. EkoEksperymentarium reaches 750.000 unique users each year that is hundreds of thousands of children learning. EkoEksperymentarium is also an off-line project: an experiment-and-learn exhibition presented this year in 3 cities in Poland.

- **Education level:** early childhood education and care, primary education

- **Involved:** students, teachers, parents, ministry, stakeholders, scientists, industry experts, media

2.3 Sustaining the collaborative online platform

(17) At a glance: collaborative online platform work package deliverables and milestones across annual quarters

Continued bug fixes and user experience improvements (Q1-4)

- Platform upgrades (Q2-4)
- Knowledge base enlargement, adaptation for user support and experience
- Regular, direct (future) community member support to support activities

Sustaining the social collaborative online platform was split into two work streams: (1) IT developments and (2) user experience improvements.

Regular monthly meetings with the backend IT counterparts ensured a constant gardening of IT infrastructures and processes, comprising: the Coalition's semi-static webpage, the community platform (both production and acceptance), and GDPR regulation monitoring and adaptations. This was combined with support offered to the community via various Q&As, see previous section.

Figure 10: The Coalition's online platform (desktop & mobile)

source: authors

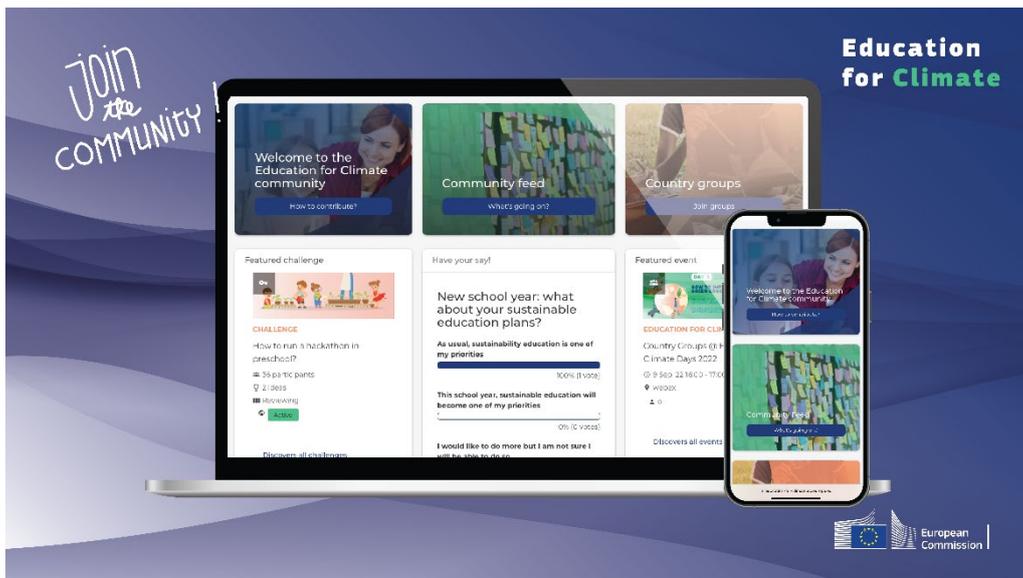


Table 3: Social collaborative online platform work streams

source: authors

Technical actions	User experience actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 5 platform upgrades for security and performance issues — >40 bug fixes on all criticality levels — 1 SLA as critical site for Education For Climate Days 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 1 complete platform re-design (navigation, page layout, knowledge management logic) — Several taxonomy adaptations, additional dashboard designs and group set-ups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 7 rollouts of new features (content collaboration, polls, member follow, courses/certificates/badges, post scheduling, GDPR confirmation, user permission management) — 1 roadmap for further improvements 	

2.4 Overall coordination and internal communication

(18) At a glance: overall coordination and internal communication work package deliverables and milestones across annual quarters

- EU-internal hub positioning, coordination and streamlining (Q1-4)
- raising awareness and leveraging collaboration opportunities (Q1-4)

Overall coordination and internal communication efforts were realised in concentric circles.

- **EU-internal coordination and collaboration efforts in the broadest sense**, including coordination between DGs EAC/JRC, cross-DG, and intra-institutional. This has been conceived as an own participatory challenge of the Coalition, now brought together in the EU Green Education Agora (see challenge section). This EU-internal challenge aims at mapping, connecting, and finding synergies among EU initiatives around learning for sustainability. It enables EU colleagues to share and connect around their initiatives, communicate their information and find the others', and co-create all gatherings and find synergies. Currently already more than 70 participants ranging across various services and DGs with key stakeholders are involved. This includes the Climate Pact and the New European Bauhaus, for example, as well as in-house experts and domain knowledge DGs.
- **EU-external networking, consisting of inter-institutional and community-building efforts**, including the European Schools, EP, the CoR, the EESC, UNESCO, UNEP, OECD, WB, EarthDay, FFF, FAO, the European Institute of Technology/EIT Climate-KIC, Convent of Mayors, the European University Association, the Lifelong learning platform, ATEE, EFEE, ETUCE, EUN, the European Youth Forum, CESAER, FEE, EAIE, EI, EURASHE, ESU, Epa, OBESSU and EUproVET.

Engagement with European partners and global efforts to position the Coalition as European climate education hub will be next year's focus with engagement centralised on the collaborative community platform.

Figure 11: The Coalition's welcome entry

source: authors



3 Outlook

With a view to 2023 as launching the Education for Climate's operational phase, 2022 has seen the community move from its 2021 co-design phase to its build-up year to prepare the grounds for sustained participatory actions with, for and by the community.

Together, let's make 2023 the grounds for a robust community with sustainable participatory dynamics at the heart of European climate education action, embedded within the global engagement sphere.

Thus, **in 2023 the focus will be on consolidating the operational phase of the Coalition**, through community management and coordination activities and capacity-building for the future community. *This includes:*

- **Coordinating community management aspects**, including support for country groups, participatory challenge co-facilitation and knowledge/practice transfers towards and capacity-building for a sustainable future-community
- **Sustaining the collaborative platform**, including feature and practice improvement
- **Overall coordination, outreach and events**, including the support for political positionings of the Coalition vis-à-vis internal and external stakeholders and their engagement as well as the provision of the Coalition's Secretariat to facilitate community events

We continue to aspire to widen promotion and outreach, facilitate community engagement and concrete challenge support with local implementation whilst strongly encouraging and supporting community-led initiatives – all while improving the community platform enabling those co-innovations centrally.

(19) At a glance: Selected Coalition highlights for 2023

- **Policy & Practice Forum** in Q2 as flagship event of the European Year of Skills, offering exchange- and action-driving community meeting spaces between education policy and practice stakeholders to delve into concrete co-design dialogues around climate education challenges. Special focus on green skills, knowledge and attitudes
- **Education for Climate Day 2023** in Q4 as main co-designed community gathering
- **Country groups** support and action uptake
- **Challenge incubator** to crowdsource community proposal of new challenges in a playful manner to highlight the participatory character of all qualitative co-design efforts
- Dedicated **co-innovation lab on Youth and Climate**
- A **GreenComp community of practice**, embedded within Education for Climate, with the aim of supporting the adoption of GreenComp by schools, exchanging information on good practices and fostering peer-learning
- **Climate Talks**, an engaging new community format for peer-learning and good practice exchange.

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List of abbreviations and definitions

ATEE	Association of Teacher Education in Europe
CESAER	Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research
CoR	Committee of Regions
DG	Directorate-General
EAIE	European Association for International Education
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EFEE	European Federation of Education Employers
EI	Education International
ETUCE	European Trade Union Committee for Education
EP	European Parliament
EPA	European Parents' Association
ESU	European Student's Union
ETUCE	European Trade Union Committee for Education
EU	European Union
EUA	European University Association
EUN	European SchoolNet
EUproVET	European Providers of Vocational Education and Training
EURASHE	European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEE	Foundation for Environmental Education
FFF	Fridays For Future
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
OBESSU	Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OS	OpenSocial
SLA	Service Level Agreement
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WB	World Bank
YERUN	Young European Research Universities Network

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