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TRAINING TOOLKIT MODULES (Best Practices)

2025





FAST FORWARD

This toolkit has been developed as part of the Fast Forward project, co-funded by the European Union and implemented by Build Green Group, Albanian Skills, The Balkan Forum, Brigaid Connect, BRAVO, and Eco Logic.

*Fast Forward: Engage, Connect, and Empower Youth for a Sustainable Green Future aligns with two key European Youth Goals: **Quality Learning** and **Sustainable Green Europe**. The project aims to equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to address environmental challenges, climate change, and sustainability issues.*



Designed to support trainers in delivering high-impact climate education, this toolkit provides essential resources to foster youth engagement and action across the Western Balkans.

It is the result of five youth exchanges conducted in five countries, including Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Spain. Through these exchanges, various training modules were tested, and the most effective ones were selected for inclusion in this toolkit:



CLIMATE SCIENCE, PROJECTIONS AND UNCERTAINTY



CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECT ON NATURAL SYSTEMS



KEY PRINCIPLES TO INTEGRATING ADAPTION



DESIGNING and MANAG- ING ADAPTION ACTION AND EXPLOITATION



Corresponding SDGs



SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

Implementing and managing adaptation strategies on mitigating climate impacts.



SDG 8 DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Encouraging sustainable finance and entrepreneurship to foster economic resilience.



SDG 17 PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Promoting organisational and team innovation through collaborative efforts.



What is Climate Change?

Climate change refers to significant changes over time in world weather and temperatures. Climate change is natural, but human actions like the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes have amplified it. This means more extreme weather, rising sea levels, and disruption of ecosystems.

It is necessary that youth learn about climate change because it will affect their future. If they know something about it, they can act, disseminate sustainability, and be involved in solutions that can guarantee the planet will be left for the next generations. Together, we can have a good world and combat the issues generated by climate change.

MODULE 1

Climate Science, Projections
and Uncertainty

BEST PRACTICES



Introduction to Climate Science

Climate vs. Weather: Climate is long-term atmospheric patterns; weather is short-term.

The Greenhouse Effect: Natural and enhanced effects leading to global warming.

Key Drivers: Greenhouse gases, ocean currents, solar radiation, and land use changes.

ACTIVITY

Kahoot Quizzes : True or false questions on climate basics seems to be a quicker method for the participants to get the information in more effective way.



Interactive Learning and Resources Best Practices

We know example of interactive learning and resources are:

Climate Kids NASA: <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/> which is an interactive learning platform for kids where are included a lot of videos and interactive games.

Climate Projections

Climate Models:

Computer simulations predicting future climate based on different scenarios.

Expected Changes:

Temperature rise, sea level rise, extreme weather intensification.

ACTIVITY

Map Exercise: Participants analyze a climate projection map and discuss potential local impacts.

**CLIMATE
PROJECTIONS**

Sources of Uncertainty:

Natural variability, model limitations, and human actions.

Probability-Based Predictions:

Understanding likelihood instead of exact forecasts.

Communicating Uncertainty:

Why uncertainty doesn't mean inaction.

ACTIVITY

Scenario Planning: Groups discuss how they would prepare for different future climate outcomes.

**UNCERTAINTY IN
CLIMATE SCIENCE**

MODULE 3

Climate Change
Effect on Natural and
Human Systems

BEST PRACTICES



Objective

Understand how climate change impacts ecosystems, biodiversity, human health, and economies.

KEY TOPICS

Ecosystem disruptions (forest loss, ocean acidification, desertification)

Human health risks (heat stress, disease spread, food security)

Economic consequences (agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure damage)

ACTIVITY

Case study analysis of climate change impacts in different regions.

Introduction to Climate Change Effects

Climate change impacts both natural ecosystems and human societies, altering environmental conditions and affecting livelihoods worldwide. Understanding these impacts is crucial for developing adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Droughts, floods, and soil degradation threaten agricultural production and access to clean water.

Rising temperatures contribute to heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases (e.g., malaria), and respiratory problems due to pollution.

Climate refugees are forced to relocate due to extreme weather, resource shortages, and rising sea levels.

Damage to infrastructure, loss of productivity, and increased costs for disaster recovery impact economies worldwide.

Vulnerable communities face greater challenges in adapting to climate change effects.

Activity

Climate Change and Daily Life – Participants role-play different community members (farmers, business owners, policymakers) to discuss the social and economic impacts of climate change.

EFFECTS ON HUMAN SYSTEMS

Rising temperatures and habitat destruction threaten species survival, leading to shifts in ecosystems.

Increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, and floods disrupt natural processes.

Disruptions in pollination, water cycles, and food chains impact natural balance.

Activity

Ecosystem Impact Mapping: Participants analyze case studies of climate-affected ecosystems and discuss mitigation strategies.

EFFECTS ON NATURAL SYSTEMS

Adaptive Capacity: How societies and ecosystems can adjust to minimize damage.

Resilient Infrastructure: Designing cities and communities to withstand climate-related challenges.

Sustainable Resource Management: Encouraging practices such as reforestation, regenerative agriculture, and water conservation.

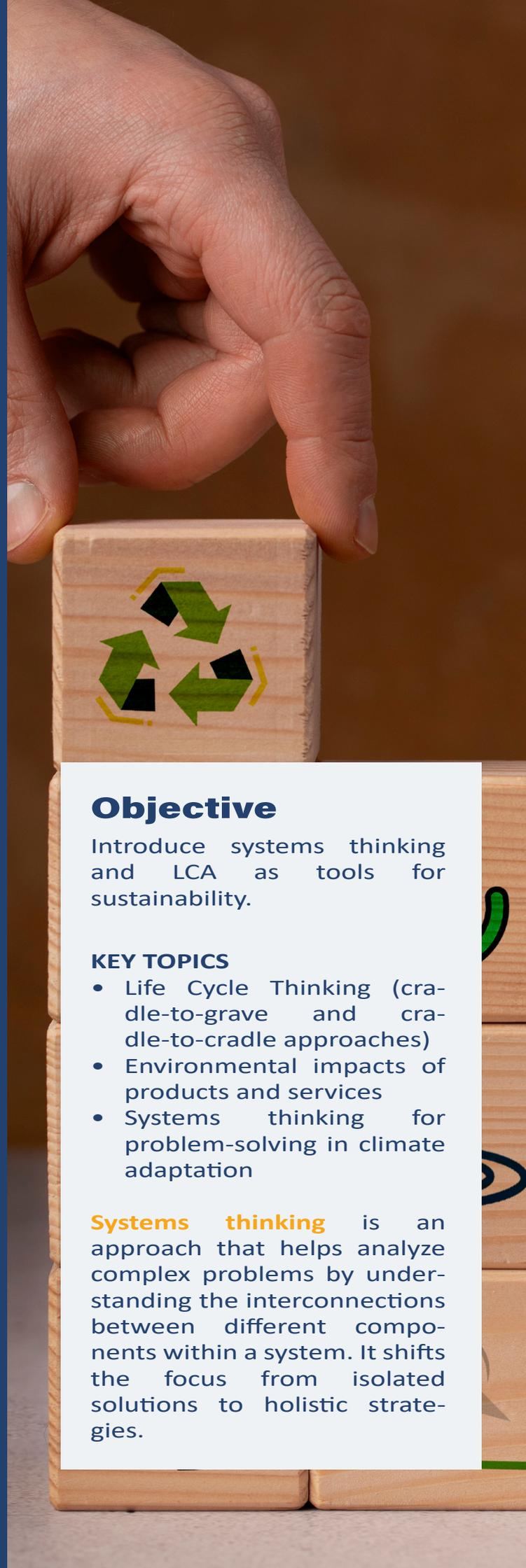
Community-Based Solutions: Engaging local populations in climate adaptation efforts.

UNCERTAINTY & ADAPTION STRATEGIES

MODULE 5

The Fundamentals of
Life Cycle Assessment
and Systems Thinking

BEST PRACTICES



Objective

Introduce systems thinking and LCA as tools for sustainability.

KEY TOPICS

- Life Cycle Thinking (cradle-to-grave and cradle-to-cradle approaches)
- Environmental impacts of products and services
- Systems thinking for problem-solving in climate adaptation

Systems thinking is an approach that helps analyze complex problems by understanding the interconnections between different components within a system. It shifts the focus from isolated solutions to holistic strategies.

Key Principles of Systems Thinking

Interconnectivity

All parts of a system influence each other.

Feedback Loops

Positive and negative feedback mechanisms shape system behavior.

Non-Linear Impact

Small changes can have large, unexpected effects.

Holistic Approach

Looking beyond individual components to understand the bigger picture.

Activity

Systems Mapping Exercise: Participants choose an everyday product (e.g., a plastic bottle) and map its entire system, from production to disposal, identifying key environmental impacts.

SYSTEM THINKING

LCA is a method used to evaluate the environmental footprint of a product or service across its entire lifecycle.

Key Stages of LCA:

Raw Material Extraction: Resource extraction and processing.

Manufacturing & Production: Energy and materials used in production.

Distribution & Transportation: Emissions and energy from logistics.

Activity

LCA Case Study: Participants analyze the life cycle of a common product and discuss ways to reduce environmental footprint.

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

Adaptive Capacity:

How societies and ecosystems can adjust to minimize damage.

Resilient Infrastructure:

Designing cities and communities to withstand climate-related challenges.

Sustainable Resource Management:

Encouraging practices such as reforestation, regenerative agriculture, and water conservation.

Community-Based Solutions:

Engaging local populations in climate adaptation efforts.

UNCERTAINTY & ADAPTION STRATEGIES

MODULE 8

Designing and
Managing Adaptation
Action and
Exploitation

BEST PRACTICES



Objective

Guide participants in developing climate adaptation projects.

KEY TOPICS

Project design and stakeholder engagement
Monitoring & evaluation for adaptation actions
Mainstreaming climate adaptation into policies and practices

Activity: Teams develop and present a climate adaptation project proposal

Climate adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts. Unlike mitigation, which focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation addresses current and future climate risks to minimize damage and enhance resilience.





Climate Adaption Action

Key Principles of Adaptation Action

Risk-Based Approach

Identifying and assessing vulnerabilities.

Flexibility & Innovation

Adapting to new climate realities dynamically.

Community Engagement

Involving local populations in decision-making.

Nature-Based Solutions

Leveraging ecosystems to build resilience.

Policy Integration

Aligning adaptation strategies with governance frameworks.

Activity Adaptation Brainstorming

Participants identify key climate risks in their region and brainstorm possible adaptation solutions.

PRINCIPLES OF ADAPTION ACTION



Designing Adaptation Projects

A well-structured adaptation project follows a logical framework that ensures effectiveness and sustainability.

Steps in Adaptation Project Design:

Problem Identification

Understanding climate risks and vulnerabilities.

Stakeholder Mapping

Identifying key actors (e.g., government, communities, NGOs).

Setting Objectives

Defining clear, measurable goals.

Selecting Adaptation Strategies

Choosing nature-based or technological solutions.

Implementation Planning

Establishing timelines, resources, and responsibilities.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Measuring project effectiveness and impact.

PRINCIPLES OF ADAPTION ACTION

Example Adaptation Strategies

Water Management: Rainwater harvesting, irrigation efficiency, flood barriers.

Agricultural Resilience: Drought-resistant crops, agroforestry, permaculture.

Urban Adaptation: Green roofs, heatwave action plans, sustainable infrastructure.

Activity

Project Design Challenge – Participants work in teams to draft a climate adaptation project proposal based on a real-world issue.

PRINCIPLES OF ADAPTION ACTION



Managing & Scaling Adaptation Efforts

Once an adaptation project is designed, effective management and scaling ensure long-term impact.

Best Practices for Managing Adaptation Action:

Local Ownership: Ensuring community-driven implementation.
Sustainable Financing: Exploring grants, green bonds, and public-private partnerships.
Knowledge Sharing: Documenting and replicating successful strategies.
Integration with Policy: Aligning projects with national and regional climate plans.

Activity: Stakeholder Role-Play – Participants simulate a funding negotiation for an adaptation project, assuming roles like policymakers, NGOs, and investors.

PRINCIPLES OF ADAPTION ACTION

Exploitation: Expanding Impact Beyond the Project

"Exploitation" refers to maximizing the outcomes of climate adaptation initiatives beyond their initial scope. This includes:

Upscaling Best Practices – Expanding projects to other communities.
Policy Influence – Using project results to advocate for stronger climate policies.
Partnerships & Networking – Collaborating with governments, businesses, and academia.
Education & Awareness – Training more youth and professionals in adaptation strategies.

Activity: Action Plan Development – Participants outline how they would expand and sustain an adaptation initiative beyond its initial project cycle.

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PRINCIPLES OF ADAPTION ACTION



Build Green Group is a non-profit organization based in Tirana, Albania, officially founded by a court decision on November 7, 2017.

Originating as an environmental movement in 2015, BGG is dedicated to fostering a sustainable future through comprehensive environmental advocacy and education through the implementation of short/medium/long-term sustainable development projects (from coordination, management, implementation, monitoring to evaluation and reporting) in collaboration with various entities including local, national, regional, EU and worldwide private/public bodies.

The mission of BGG is environmental sustainability and community empowerment, extending to: research & studies, education & awareness-raising, expert services & consultancy, public engagement and cooperation, capacity-building & training, innovation & support, and digitalization. Throughout its 9 years of operation, BGG has established collaboration and an extensive database of contacts with diverse target groups; starting from needs assessment to capacity building and tailored intervention. The organization's efforts in the field of the environment and sustainability, have been recognized by UNIDO with the Energy Globe 2020 award.

BGG has successfully implemented more than 40 projects funded by EU and other donors related to environmental sustainability, Circular Economy, green entrepreneurship, green digital skills, climate change adaptation strategies and mitigation, youth inclusion and empowerment, VET education promotion and internationalization and skills development through formal and non-formal learning methodology. BGG has also conducted and published over 30 influential studies, serving as valuable resources for stakeholders on sustainable development and informed policymaking.

Only during 2023 -2024, BGG has successfully organized hundreds of activities including 46 workshops/training, 30 events and campaigns, and series of webinars and online workshops fostering meaningful engagement and target group empowerment. Furthermore, BGG has also organized various public awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives, communities as well as collaborating with public and private institutions.



Albanian Skills is an innovative Skills from All Promotion and Development Platform. Organizing national and local activities that promote the education and professional training of young people and others, their exposure to the world of work and life and international standards to facilitate and mediate good employment for their well-being.

It is the promoter and organizer of the non-formal and informal learning as the most important part of LLL and skills for life through the organization of the training promoting digital literacy and green transition and ways to reorient their skills systems in line with the green deal ambitions, organization of the every year Editions of the Albanian National Skills Competitions (seven in row so far) focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability and decent life of the youth in Albania, organization of the Albanian Skills Week since 2018 in the framework of European Vocational Skills Week. In addition to that, Albanian Skills is facilitating and developing the career services for youngsters in most remote municipalities and initiating a national awareness platform through the organization of the "Career Days" in every municipality as a joint cooperation among the municipalities and private sector involvement.



Bosnian Representative Association for Valuable Opportunities (BRAVO) is a non-profit and non-governmental organization. BRAVO is a professional organization based and focused on knowledge, entrepreneurship, civil society development, non-formal education and innovative learning and development techniques for young people and adults. What makes our organization outstanding and ready to take responsibility are the key principles we nurture, celebrate and act upon: tolerance, democracy, diversity, voluntariness and openness.

By fostering partnerships between the private, public, and civil society sectors, BRAVO is in a strong position to influence and contribute to long-term local community development, particularly by enabling youth to gain the skills required in the twenty-first century, fostering more accessible, offering, and inclusive non-formal education, and making investments in innovations and entrepreneurship. The primary target group is young people aged 15 to 35, however as can be seen from the above - BRAVO focuses on all persons in need of assistance and support.



The Balkan Forum work since its establishment has been focusing on education, energy, tourism, labor market/human capital and environmental related issues (research, advocacy and setting-agenda through high-level conferences with prominent WB actors). Also, working with several municipalities and marginalized communities in Kosovo on employment and green economy including supporting youth-led cross-border initiatives on environment/Circular Economy through small-size grants and awareness raising through conferences, video and written blogs. We adopt a positive approach as the guiding principle for our activities; rather than re-emphasizing the problems that have divided the Balkan populations for many years now, we focus heavily on the positive elements that unite them, including celebrating the diversity and highlighting shared aspirations and values of our societies.

The Balkan Forum also leading in regional discussions on pressing issues such as freedom of the press and on how to tackle fake news, hate speech, disinformation, nationalism, and corruption. The effect of this work is that tens of civil society actors and media outlets are working collaboratively to share information and undertake joint work.



BRIGACID CONNECT, is the owner of Climate Innovation Windows (CIW) and developer of the community of innovators in terms of climate change in European level. This community is a way of stakeholder's engagements through an online platform like CIW. This platform has a wide range of actors like researcher and end-users of the climate changes solutions related with floods, extreme weathers, droughts and resilience NBS. Within this platform they activate one of the most interesting actors in this 4helix community of innovation the youth generation is the best interesting part as one of the most active cell for developing an incubator of ideas and terminology for climate change, innovations and market out reach. BRIGACID Connect helps innovators to take their resilient solutions to the communities.

They connect them with those in need of ideas to prevent the threats of our century. BRIGACID Connect follows a transdisciplinary approach to innovation management and market. For 4 years they have helped innovators and have empowered youth entrepreneurs to reach the market and achieve their goals.



ECO - LOGIC is an NGO that is dedicated to protection and conservation of the environment, promotion of modern ecological practices, as well as monitoring and promoting the principle of sustainable development in education settings (both formal and non-formal).

It encourages and supports positive changes in society in the forms of: promotion of the ecology as science and promotion of the cleaner production concept in education settings; protection and conservation of nature and the environment, as well as distribution of environmental knowledge and upgrade of ecological education; promotion of the principle for sustainable development and development of VET programmes in the field; creating new “green” jobs based on the concept of sustainable development; organization of specific tailored made training programmes related to sustainable development, sustainability advising, SD in social entrepreneurship, educational SDG camps for youth, and project activities for both high school staff and students); development and testing of innovative methodologies for teaching and learning on the topics of sustainable development, European values, sustainability advising, environmental awareness, and social business development; development and introduction of educational board games on various topics in formal and non-formal settings (training courses, classrooms, etc.); development and testing of tools for initiation of discussion among young people and adults (social topics) ECO - LOGIC has a strong background and experience in youth related work, emphasizing non formal education activities on various topics even on vulnerable groups in society.



THANK YOU

Your dedication and engagement with these critical topics is greatly appreciated. By thoroughly exploring and applying the insights from these modules, you are actively contributing to building a more resilient and sustainable future. Let us continue this journey together, fostering meaningful progress for our communities and the planet.

GET IN TOUCH

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