

SYSTEMIC KNOWLEDGE FOR A SUSTAINABLE ACTION

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious global community agenda to address global challenges that encourages a paradigm shift by balancing the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. Unfortunately, the reports of professional organizations for the world as well as for Europe and individual countries state that we are generally not on track to achieve the set environmental goals by 2030, in some places we are even deviating from the goals (GEO6, UNEP, 2020), and prospects for the future are even more worrying. Current consumption and production patterns are not sustainable, contributing to severe environmental pressures. Young people are well aware of these facts.

In its latest environmental report for Europe (SOER 2020), the European Environment Agency draws attention to the complexity of the challenges and recommends an integrated, systemic approach that also takes into account interdependence with economic and social processes. Therefore, the placement of basic social systems that meet our needs - energy, mobility, food, housing - within the boundaries of ecosystems. Sustainable transitions include transitions to a low-carbon, circular, bio- and blue economy, supported by the European Green Agreement. They require integrated systemic innovations (both technological and social) as well as a paradigm shift in knowledge and management development.

SOER 2020 brings a synthesis of knowledge for a sustainable future, along with many examples of practical action that will undoubtedly attract young people, as well as incentives for creative, innovative tackling of challenges. Achieving sustainable transitions will require new and diverse knowledge based on a larger number of disciplines, and different skills will be needed. The process of building more conceptual and operational knowledge involves an additional emphasis on understanding systems that are key factors in burdening the environment, the paths to sustainability, promising initiatives, and barriers to change.

Coexistence and co-creation in the community, revived cultural heritage as a source of wisdom and inspiration for development, exchanges with other cultures are often overlooked factors of sustainable development that will also inspire young people to work for the future of the planet. In the last decade, we have developed, together with BC Naklo and within the initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia, an approach to building sustainable communities, which integrally includes these potentials, in addition to systemic knowledge, green innovations, and sustainable good practices (<http://integralna-zelena-slovenija.si/>).