

RISE UP climate education project partners hold kick-off meeting in Germany



The partners of the Erasmus+ [**RISE UP - Resilience, Innovation, and University Student Empowerment through reflective Climate Education and Action \(2024-2027\)**](#) project on climate education will hold the kick-off meeting of the project on June 10 in Münster (Germany).

The project, led by the *Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities* ([ACEUU](#)) of Germany, also involves the following European institutions: European University of the Atlantic ([UNEATLANTICO](#)), [SYNTHESIS Center for Research and Education](#) of Cyprus, [People of 2050](#) of Denmark, *The Vision Works* of Germany and the [Uniwersytet Komisji Edukacji Narodowej W Krakowie](#) of Poland. The Iberoamerican University Foundation ([FUNIBER](#)) will collaborate as an associated partner.

Young adults are increasingly exposed to complex information about climate change, leading to a range of challenging emotions, such as fear, anger, helplessness, or guilt, collectively known as "climate anxiety" or "climate distress." While climate stress affects people of all ages, studies indicate a greater impact on young adults. Mental health professionals warn that university educators lack the preparation needed to emotionally guide students through the complexities of the climate crisis. In addition, climate education in Europe focuses predominantly on knowledge acquisition, neglecting the crucial aspect of mental health.

A notable gap lies in transformative approaches that integrate internal and external transformations while building resilience to the effects of climate change. There is an urgent

need for educators to improve their skills to enhance, transform, and deepen climate education in university settings. This requires complementing traditional technical skills with interpersonal skills, such as emotional intelligence, and fostering environmental competencies to empower students as effective agents of change.

The RISE UP project seeks to support Higher Education professionals in developing these transformative skills by providing practical tools and resources directly applicable to teaching. In this way, educators at all levels will gain the capacity to address the twin challenges of transformative climate action and climate anxiety. The project will adapt the *GreenComp* framework (European Commission, 2022) for young adult university education into an "Educational Framework for Transformative Climate Resilience (GreenComp) and a toolkit for educators" through a transdisciplinary approach that incorporates design thinking methods, eco psychology, traditional ecological knowledge and psychological strategies.



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