

## Fostering younger EU generations' citizenship competences on Climate Change - EU-funded project CHOICE begins!

*Italian-led CHOICE project aims at providing methodological tools to schoolteachers and educators to raise awareness about climate change and current environmental challenges in young European citizens (primary and secondary school students). CHOICE, funded by the Erasmus+ programme, brings together 8 partners from 5 countries to develop educational activities focusing on adopting more sustainable lifestyles to tackle the climate crisis from a grassroots level.*

Although 96% of young Europeans agree that climate change is a “serious problem”, only 64% of those aged 15 to 25 in the EU have taken steps to fight it in the past six months. Furthermore, the current energetic crisis is pushing the EU to reconsider energy consumption and sourcing, also in consideration of the pledge to reach carbon neutrality in many sectors by 2050.

As climate change and its impact intensifies over time, it is the children and young people of today who will face the worst effects. The future of our planet is in young people's hands - and many are taking action. For this reason, Europe is committed to **enhance younger Europeans' citizenship competence in environmental sustainability** from the earliest years of children's life.

### About CHOICE

Funded by the [Erasmus+ Programme](#) and led by the Italian SME [Deep Blue](#), eight partners from five European countries started **CHOICE**, a 24 month-long project that aims to support the **creation of new awareness, competences and skills** to actively and knowingly **engage students in climate change mitigation** actions through the design of a **Set of Citizenship Education Activities**, which will be implemented in partner primary and secondary schools throughout Europe.

By building on students' scientific skills and fostering awareness on climate change, **CHOICE points at developing sustainable behaviours and lifestyles** in various target groups, from teachers and students to their families and local communities. During CHOICE's two years of work, partners will build together the Set of Citizenship Education Activities on Climate Change, the main product of CHOICE, and demonstrate its methods through a series of pilots in school partners. The final goal is

to **design the set of activities as a ready-for-use package that can be implemented by schools all over Europe**. Engaging citizens in the EU's [Green Transition](#) from a grassroots level is an important step for Europe's quest to sustainability, an issue that the EU tackles in almost all of its strategic sectors, including Education.

### **How to make the right CHOICES**

Tapping from previous and ongoing EU initiatives on environment and sustainability, partners' expertise and related projects brought forth by partner schools in the past, CHOICE points at building environmental awareness in **younger generations** by teaching them to **analyse the world** around them **through the lenses of science**. This will **foster an objective and analytical way of interpreting information** that will **help students' reasoning and critical thinking skills**, which in turn will guide them navigate the complexities of contemporary world and society.

Through the development of the Set of Citizenship Education Activities, CHOICE project will not only address students' competence building, but also **supply teachers and educators with new teaching methodologies** and **provide them with the necessary tools to engage pupils** to be more aware and conscious of their everyday impact on the environment. This will also help students understand the **importance of science** and its methods, as well as exposing them to **STEM education** and getting them acquainted with an **objective and scientific way of analysing the world** around them. Partner schools' teachers and educators believe that a more interactive and engaging teaching methodologies can benefit students' overall education, in addition to improving skills that would be difficult to address otherwise.

Moreover, the project also wants to **engage families and communities through the students' involvement** in CHOICE; the Citizenship Education Activities foreseen by the project will use a combination of passive engagement (i.e., students will raise their families' awareness on everyday activity's environmental impact) and active participation in multiplier events, which will be organised by each partner school.

### **CHOICE Consortium**

The CHOICE Consortium is composed of 8 partners from 5 different EU countries. The project coordinator is Deep Blue, an Italian SME leader in EU-funded projects with expertise in Human Factors, and together with CTI (a Greek research centre) and Consorzio Ro.Ma (an Italian Vocational Education and Training centre), they will collaborate with 5 primary and secondary schools in Italy,

Greece, Poland, Romania and Turkey to design the Set of Educational Activities on Climate Change. The partner schools are Istituto Magistrale Statale Giordano Bruno (a secondary school in Rome), Gymnasium Dimotiko Larissa (a Greek secondary school), TEK Ortaokulu (a Turkish secondary school in Ankara), Scoala Gimnaziala Metropolitana ARC (a Romanian primary and secondary school), and Szkoła Podstawowa im. Powstańców Wielkopolskich w Jankowie Przygodzkim (a Polish primary school).

#### **The Project Coordinator: Deep Blue**

Deep Blue is an R&D company operating on a European scale, focused on the role of the human in Safety Critical and high-tech systems. Deep Blue has expertise in Human Factors specialists, designing systems and procedures for improved performance. The company has many past and ongoing EU-funded research initiatives in the areas of Safety, Security and Human Performance, particularly in the aviation sector, but also in environmental sustainability, healthcare, and transportation.

Deep Blue was also a Consortium partner of EcoLife+ project, an initiative aimed to transfer the knowledge and experience gained in professional communication on risk perception and prevention to communication on climate change.

#### **Extra Information**

For more information about the CHOICE project, please get in touch with the project coordinator through [michela.cohen@dblue.it](mailto:michela.cohen@dblue.it), or by calling +393343752368. Don't forget to visit the CHOICE website at [www.projectchoice.eu](http://www.projectchoice.eu) and to follow our Social Media profiles on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!