



Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnerships project

No. 2022-1-LV01-KA220-VET-000089171

Baltic Green Leadership: VET Students as Agents of Change / Green Leadership

# Compendium

## *“Best practices in green and circular economy of Baltic countries”*

### PARTNERS



**BalticBright**  
CONSULTING AND TRAINING

VIDZEMES  
TEHNOLOĢIJU  
UN DIZAINA  
TEHNIKUMS



**-2023**

Project website: [balticgreenvet.eu/](https://balticgreenvet.eu/)



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Baltic Green Leadership: VET Students as Agents of Change / Green Leadership

Baltic partners from Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania –



**BalticBright**  
CONSULTING AND TRAINING

**VIDZEMES  
TEHNOLOGIJU  
UN DIZAINA  
TEHNIKUMS**



are implementing Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnerships project No. 2022-1-LV01-KA220-VET-000089171 “Baltic Green Leadership: VET Students as Agents of Change / Green Leadership”.

The project’s aim is to promote VET role and leadership in green transition. The project result will be a training program for VET teachers, trainers and managers including innovative teaching and learning approaches for acquiring green skills at VET schools.

This compendium aims to present the best practices including initiatives, persons, organisations and businesses that are already implementing circular economy and/or green skills approaches and elements in the Baltic region countries – Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The project partners performed desktop research to find great examples and conducted interviews with some companies.

This compendium may be helpful to find some ideas on circular economy and/or green skills approaches and elements already existing in Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



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FINLAND

*best practices implementing circular economy and/or  
green skills approaches and elements:*

**Vaatelaastari** The Vaatelaastari FabPatch is a textile repair product developed by three mothers. It does not need sewing or ironing to be attached. The idea is to extend the usable life of textiles and also reduce the emissions in the textile industry.

<https://vaatelaastari.fi/pages/in-english>

**Infinited Fiber Company** New textile fiber through chemical recycling: Infinited Fiber's technology allows wasted textiles to be reborn. The technology can use cotton-rich textile waste and other cellulose-based waste streams, such as paper and straw, to create new textile fibre. This enables materials that are already in circulation to be recovered and the amount of generated waste to be reduced. They sell the technology licence for the patented Infinna manufacturing process to fibre producers. In other words, offer fibre manufacturers a way to expand their product portfolio by adding the regenerated Infinna fibre to their product range.

<https://infinitedfiber.com/>

**Fiksuruoka.fi** Home delivered surplus food. Fiksuruoka.fi offer 1,500 products that are bought from wholesalers and food manufacturers. Typically, the food will be going to waste because its best-before date is approaching, the product has been removed from the product range or the packaging has changed. The customer then places their orders in online and Fiksuruoka home delivers it.

<https://www.fiksuruoka.fi/>

**Verso Food (Raisio)** Beanit: Plant-based protein products made from fava beans. The goal is to produce food as efficiently as possible with minimal resources. The production of plant-based food is generally very resource-efficient when you look at the food produced in relation to the used area, water and other investments in production. Emissions are relatively low and the process is efficient, as the aim is to grow food that can go directly to people instead of first growing feed for livestock, for instance.

<https://harkis.fi/en/>

**Betolar** Concrete replacing solutions from industrial side streams. Betolar replaces cement with a low-emission circular economy option: Betolar sees side streams as a new source of raw material to replace virgin materials.

<https://www.betolar.com/home>

- Remeo** Founded in 1964, Turning construction waste into clean usable raw material. Remeo offers a variety of services in waste management.  
<https://remeo.fi/remeo-in-english/>
- Maas Global (Whim App)** Mobile app that combines all modes of transport. MaaS comes from the words “mobility as a service” and means a service in which passengers can seamlessly use all transport services with a single payment. With Whim App, the existing transport resources are used wisely and driving is replaced by other modes of transport, which reduces emissions.  
<https://whimapp.com/>
- EcoUp** The circular economy group EcoUp manufactures carbon-neutral thermal insulation and reuses material from demolition (side streams) Circular economy solution launched: 1979, 1998, 2021  
<https://ecoup.fi/en/>
- Soilfood** Fertilizers and soil improvers from industrial side streams, turning soil into carbon sinks.  
<https://soilfood.fi/etusivu/>
- Ecolan** Restoring nutrients to forests in the form of ash fertilisers. Ecolan processes ash originating from energy production into fertilisers and earth construction materials
- Martela** Founded 1942, Martela designs and manufactures office furniture based on modularity. Also work place and learning environment design services, preowned items, rental and other.  
<https://www.yara.co.uk/>
- Kamupak** Kamupak is a circular takeaway packaging solution based on a digital deposit system. At the moment it is used by 50 restaurants, cafes and supermarkets selling takeaway food around Finland. The packaging can be returned to any café, restaurant or supermarket providing KamuDishes. Once returned, the customer can either choose to have new, clean packaging or get a refund.  
<https://www.kamupak.com/>
- Touchpoint Oy** Ecological and durable work wear. 1) Close-loop solutions for customers. This means that we collect old and used workwear and give it a new life for the valuable material. Discarded textiles are mechanically recycled and processed into new raw materials for industrial needs. 2) Workwear as a service 3) Functional, durable and sustainable workwear.  
<https://www.touchpointww.com/en>

best practices implementing circular economy and/or green skills approaches and elements:



## ESTONIA

### **Foxway Estonia**

Local business  
IT services and  
circular economy

Foxway's circular business model is driving sustainability in all parts of the products' lifecycle. Foxway is focused on providing circular tech services to large organizations, the public sector and the recommerce industry. They recover and remarket tech, and provide the infrastructure necessary to give it a truly sustainable life-cycle that is both cost-efficient and sustainable. They call it Circular Tech.

Over the years Foxway has grown to be the largest recycler of electronic equipment in Northern Europe. About 60,000 broken mobile phones and 15,000 computers arrive there every month, which are repaired and sent to a new circuit around the world.

Their vision is to enable the circular economy of technology. This is their way of positively influencing society.

<https://www.foxway.com/en/>

### **Uuskasutuskeskus**

Local business  
Social enterprise

The non-profit organisation Uuskasutus is an independent social enterprise established in 2004 by the Good Deed Foundation, the Estonian Fund for Nature, the Caritas Foundation and two individuals: Rasmus Rask and Priit Mikelsaar. Its objective is to put used things back in circulation and to make re-use and re-design easily accessible and commonplace for everyone in Estonia.

Uuskasutus wants to reach a point where Estonian people consider (at least partial) re-use an obvious choice when they buy and use things. This can be achieved by making re-use easy for ordinary shoppers, and second-hand products must be able to compete with cheap new products in terms of quality.

<https://uuskasutus.ee/en/>

### **Roosiku Chocolate Factory**

Local business  
Chocolate factory

Roosiku is a small chocolate factory that is named after the village it was started in. The goal by founding it was to create an environmentally friendly, but also tasty product which there is a lack of on the market. The company is dedicated to producing an ecological raw chocolate that is vegan, and that while still being healthy. The chocolate being raw, means that it has not been heated over 45 degrees Celsius, which ensures that all the beneficial compounds are not destroyed. Likewise, the packaging of the product is almost completely biodegradable.

<https://www.roosiku.ee>



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**The European  
Capital of Culture  
Tartu 2024**

Tartu with Southern Estonia is the European Capital of Culture in 2024. Carrying the European Capital of Culture title is the largest transversal cooperation project between Tartu and Southern Estonian local governments and it is the main cultural event in Estonia in 2024.. The concept will be expanded upon by the forthcoming European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024 programme, with projects and large events divided between three programme lines: Tartu with Earth, Tartu with Humanity and Tartu with Europe.

The European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024 activities are planned to support the growth of Tartu's and the region's international renown; the population's wellbeing and participation in culture; grow entrepreneurship; strengthen the cultural bonds between generations; develop the youths' opportunities for self-fulfilment; cultivate an inspiring and sustainable city space and rural area; support cooperation and international networking.

Tartu 2024, in cooperation with Acento, created an environmental strategy, which aims to place the environmental activities of the European Capital of Culture into the wider global and European context and to identify the most important environmental aspects in Estonia based on the example of Tartu and Southern Estonia.

In order to leave a lasting positive environmental impact, Tartu 2024 involved the Tartu City Government's Culture Department and the Environment Department, the Tartu County Development Association and the cultural managers in the City of Tartu in the drafting of the strategy.

Already this summer, the City of Tartu will abide by the *Guidelines for Organising Environmentally Friendly Events* when organising the Car-Free Avenue. This means that the organisers will take into account requirements in seven categories: materials and purchases; catering and the use of water; transportation; energy and resource efficiency; surroundings and community; waste management; and communication.

Tartu 2024 strives towards four large goals, which we believe can be reached and we encourage Tartu and Southern Estonian cultural managers to contribute to reaching the goals in cooperation with us:

- By 2025, a cultural management inventory pool has been created in the municipalities of the Tartu 2024 region (affordable services), which can be rented and shared with others (decorations, frames for trash cans, dishes and so forth) and which allow to organise public and cultural events without using single-use solutions (in 2022 a clear numerical goal will be confirmed).
- By 2025, environmentally friendly food (organic and local) will be offered and redistributing leftover food from the events has become a norm (in 2022 a clear numerical goal will be confirmed).
- By 2025, separate waste collection has become a norm at events (this means that 90% of events have been organised in a way that waste is collected separately).
- By 2025, more environmentally friendly energy and transportation solutions will be used at events compared to 2022.

<https://tartu2024.ee/en>

**Smart Bike Tartu**  
Local business  
Smart Technology

Tartu Smart Bike Share is a public, self-service bike share system for short trips.

Bike Share comprises 750+ bikes and more than 90 stations. Two thirds of the fleet is equipped with electric-assist motors that provide riders with an extra boost when pedalling.

The City of Tartu has collaborated with Bewegen Technologies, Inc. to bring bike share to Tartu.

The Tartu Smart Bike Share project's bicycles and parking areas are financed from the urban development measure of the European Regional Development Fund and the Horizon 2020 programme for European research and innovation (support agreement no. 691883).

Tartu Smart Bike Share has next generation electric-assist bikes, which can communicate with the bike share system in real-time. This gives us information about the bike's location and if there is a problem, we can react quickly. Software installed in the bikes collects statistical data on your rides, speed, distances, etc. The Bike Share System is easily scalable and adaptable according to actual needs.

Smart Bikes are an important part of the Smart City way of thinking. One of the most important objectives of Tartu City is to develop environmentally friendly mobility. With Bike Share, we can reduce the number of cars, encourage users to get some physical activity and maintain the "15 minutes to anywhere" phenomena in Tartu. In addition to the databased and smartly planned bike network, using a Smart Bike is a lifestyle choice valued by citizens and visitors. Using a Smart Bike means being smart and conscious of your choices in the Tartu way.

<https://ratas.tartu.ee/#>

**Foodsharing Tartu**  
Local business

Movement that saves and distributes leftover food in Tartu, cooperating with individuals, retailers, companies and food producers

Foodsharing Tartu comes from the word Foodsharing. Through Foodsharing, individuals, traders and producers can offer or collect food that would otherwise be thrown away. Foodsharing rescues and distributes leftover food, fighting against food waste. Foodsharing gives rescued food the opportunity to find its way to people who want it, instead of the food ending up in the trash. Tartu Foodsharing aims to reduce the amount of food wasted and broaden the worldview of its fellow citizens. Foodsharing Tartu is not a charity!

Foodsharing Tartu functions only thanks to the volunteers and people who donate resources necessary to keep it running smoothly and creating/maintaining foodsharing points.

Foodsharing Tartu helps distribute leftover food, creates and maintains foodsharing points, shares information on social media and at schools and they are constantly looking for new partners.

<https://www.foodsharing.ee/eng.html>

**Looming Hostel** Looming hostel aims to minimize our operations impact on the environment. They hold in high regard our commitment to reusing, recycling, renovating and reducing our ecological footprint.

Local business

They implement the following environmental principles:

- Hospitality
- Most of our furniture is from second hand shops, reused or made from recycled materials
  - We use resources effectively and economically
  - We prefer natural and environmentally friendly materials
  - All cleansers we use have eco or nature-friendly label or we use vinegar solution
  - We produce as little trash as we can. We sort the generated waste into household waste, packaging, paper and cardboard, bottles and biowaste
  - Breakfast at the hostel is vegetarian
  - We train our employees to be environmentally conscious and let them apply their knowledge on a daily basis
  - We also encourage our guests to act responsibly towards the environment and share their knowledge with us and other guests.

<https://est.loominghostel.ee/>

**A. Le Coq** A. Le Coq is the oldest and biggest drinks manufacturer in Estonia. Our product portfolio includes 14 different product groups. They only use renewable energy and have created a solar farm for the logistics centre. They direct the energy from the flue gases of the boiler plant into heating the production buildings.

Local business

Beverage industry

The main goals in sustainability of A. Le Coq are:

- Build a unique biogas plant by 2022
- Be the first to only use water bottles made of fully recycled plastic
- Replace multipack film with cardboard or CO2 neutral plastic
- Increase the proportion of reusable bottles and packaging
- Ensure a full transition to paper drinking straws
- Responsibility for cleaner water
- Promote the circular economy
- Release packaging back into circulation

<https://www.alecoq.ee/>

### Iglucraft

Local business  
Building cabins and  
saunas

First, there was the human urge to think... To think about oneself, about life, about the world or whatever comes to mind. But for thinking, time and space is required; a space where your mind is isolated from the disturbances of the daily flow of information, so that new thoughts can emerge and grow. One day, this emotional need to think got so strong that it physically materialized. It came to this world as a Single Iglusauna. It was like an isolated incubator, where time was rather of a philosophical than a rational matter - a place where one could TAKE TIME to grow awareness and wisdom by thinking. Since the birth of the first Iglu product, the company has learned that the idea of TAKING TIME consists of three sequential steps:

- Change the physical environment
- Create your own space for thinking
- Enjoy the flow of wisdom

Today Iglucraft is making handcrafted cabins and saunas with the highest quality. Each of their products is handcrafted - shingle by shingle. The natural materials and curved organic form blends into the countryside, the beachfront as well as the forest.

The reason why Igluhut's structures incorporate roundness, reflecting nature's true harmony - to help people to a more natural way of being than the everyday life in perfectly linear cityscapes. Iglucrafts products transform the environment, helping people step out of the daily routine and to take time for themselves.

The company's vision is that we all should follow the paths of nature more; how it is forever changing, evolving and adapting. With a world that is becoming more and more regulated and structured for efficiency and practicality, people need a place to get in touch with the natural order of things.

<https://iglucraft.com/en>

### Ecoprint AS

Printing Business  
Printing

Ecoprint is an Estonian-owned environmentally conscious company that specializes in producing cardboard and corrugated packaging. Established in 2007, the company's primary focus is to provide sustainable packaging solutions that have a minimal impact on the environment. Ecoprint also offers printing services for books, magazines, and various advertising materials.

Ecoprint is one of the few printing service providers that boasts a highly experienced and diverse team. The close collaboration between Ecoprint's creative team, top printing industry specialists, and project managers guarantees clients high-quality printing solutions and excellent customer service. The company's commitment to using eco-friendly materials and processes ensures that their products are not only of the highest quality but also environmentally sustainable.

With its state-of-the-art equipment and skilled staff, Ecoprint provides clients with a range of printing and packaging solutions that meet their unique needs while taking care of the planet. Whether it's printing books or creating custom packaging, Ecoprint strives to make a positive impact on the environment without compromising on quality.

<https://ecoprint.ee/>

*best practices implementing circular economy and/or green skills approaches and elements:*



**LATVIA**

**Students climate initiative in Latvia - Hackathon Young Innovators 2022: «Young Climathon»**

“Young Climathon” is organized for the second time to promote students’ understanding of climate change and environmental challenges, as well as to increase the creation of sustainable services, products and initiatives. The timing of the hackathon coincided with the UN Climate Change Conference, where national leaders were trying to agree on how to accelerate the fight against climate change. In the hackathon, Latvian students from schools looked for ways to get people to switch from private cars to more environmentally friendly means of transportation, increasing society’s responsibility for climate change and helping cities become more environmentally friendly. They also thought about how to educate young people about green energy through interactive exhibits in museums, science centres and exhibitions. The challenges were defined by JSC Latvenergo, Municipality of Riga and Liepāja.

I<sup>st</sup> place: Draudzīgā aicinājuma Liepājas pilsētas 5. vidusskolas team came up with an idea of a mobile application that provides users with information about food leftovers in nearby establishments that would help save resources used for food preparation, provide a meal to residents who have difficulty taking care of it themselves, and reduce food waste.

II<sup>nd</sup> - the team of Andrejas Upīša Skrīveru Secondary School encouraged the creation of a bicycle shed with a green roof, which, placed near the school, would encourage more active use of bicycles among students and teachers. This team also received the European Union House Special Award and the Audience Award.

III<sup>rd</sup> - Babīte High School team looked at renewable energy and the ways it could be promoted - a specially equipped mobile room, where it would be possible to learn about energy types and the way to electricity through practical activities and various interactive tasks.

<https://www.visc.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/skolenu-klimata-hakatona-uzvar-ideja-par-lietotni-partikas-ilgtspejigakai-izmantosanaipiedava-ari-citas-idejas-klimata-parmainu-mazinasanaip>

### **“Pavasara mēbeles” /**

#### **Spring furniture**

Local business

Furniture restoration

The brand “Pavasara Mēbeles” was born in 2018, it was founded by Alice Ābele.

They not only restore a “sad” piece of furniture and give it a second lease on life but also furnish the interior with very special pearls. Alice and her team go pearl hunting every day and accept furniture others don’t need. The team not only repairs with their love, but also restores the furniture so that it becomes completely unique and unseen, and nature becomes a little less polluted.

Involuntarily, the project that started lazily has grown into one of the unique companies in Latvia and has started the “greener thinking and recycling” or upcycle movement in Latvia. “Pavasara Mēbeles” has been recognized as one of the 10 best circular economy companies in Europe. Ambitious, they continue to innovate, educate and simplify furniture restoration so that it is as simple, high-quality and affordable as possible.

During its short and powerful existence, “Pavasara Mēbeles” has not only restored thousands of pieces of furniture but also created various educational programs to teach people how important and essential it is to engage in furniture restoration and other forms of recycling, creating something new and beautiful from the seemingly for obsolete products. By breaking stereotypes, we are able to teach anyone how to restore a piece of furniture and we recommend passing on this knowledge to friends, families and acquaintances.

<http://www.pavasaramebeles.lv/>

### **Brīvkode - Exchange and meeting place**

Local project

Charity shop

You painted the walls and you don’t want to look at the colours for a while? Brīvkode - “free booth” is a place to leave your brushes to be picked up free of charge by someone who has scheduled a repair. And not only brushes, but also toys, clothes and other things that are not useful for oneself, but can be used by someone else.

Everyone is invited to leave good, high-quality things, in exchange of choosing something they like and find useful for free. Brīvkode is a non-commercial, non-profit initiative that has been operating on the principle of goodwill under the umbrella of the FREE RIGA association since 2018.

<https://brivkode.lv/>

### **WinGo**

Local startup

IT and waste

management

WinGo Deposit develops different types of equipment that, with the help of artificial intelligence technology, accept, recognize and sort various types of both flattened and non-flattened packages, metal cans, tetrapacks, PET and glass bottles. The system is able to recognize even packages that no longer have a readable barcode. A recent innovation is the development stage of a device designed to accept electronic cigarettes and batteries. An IoT, an Android application designed for digital authentication of the sorter and reward for his activity has been developed for the motivation of the residents.

<https://www.wingo.lv/#/>

### co2capture.fund

Local startup

Information

Technology

co2capture.fund is a blockchain-powered community funding platform for forest acquisition, decentralization, tokenization & carbon capture.

The vision of the climate technology startup co2capture.fund is to change the way forests are commercialized. The startup is creating a blockchain platform for the acquisition of forests, where they are decentralized: broken down into smaller units and linked to virtual assets. Anyone can buy a very small or larger share of a forest by purchasing these virtual assets. Owners do not participate in forest management but can benefit financially from the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sequestered in the forest.

“Our fundamental goal is for the token holder to own a living asset with coverage in the physical world that continues to add value in the long term. We hope that over time people will want to buy these tokens not only to make a profit but also to balance their carbon footprint,” says Viktorija Martinsone, co-founder of co2capture.fund. In blockchain projects, virtual assets are called tokens. In this case, they can be likened to forest undivided shares, which, like shares, entitle their holders to a return over a certain period of time.

In such a system, a person becomes a co-owner of a forest that he does not have to take care of himself. This mitigates potential risks in terms of expenditure and income. Each undivided share does not relate to a specific patch of land: the fund owns several forests, and each individual owner owns a share of the whole. “If one of the forests underperforms, the owner is less affected than if he owned that particular physical forest,” explains Viktorija.

<https://co2capture.fund/>

<https://labsoflatvia.com/en/inspirational-stories/commercialising-forest-carbon-sequestration>

### Seaweed Packaging

Local startup

Packaging material

production

The idea of “Seaweed Packaging” is the development of packaging material. Seaweed biomass, primarily obtained from Baltic Sea algae, is used in its creation.

This material is intended to be film-like and flexible, soluble at elevated temperatures, and compostable as well as biodegradable. “The first purpose of the application of the material is the packaging of body care products, reducing the use of fossil-based plastic packaging in the cosmetics industry,” says Kitija Paula Melnbarde, the author and developer of the “Seaweed Packaging” idea.

Seaweed is one of the world’s least-valued biomass resources. But it grows ten times faster than land plants. It does not need soil, drinking water, pesticides and other chemicals.

<https://seaweedpackaging.com/https://labsoflatvia.com/iedvesmas-stasti/iepakojuums-no-algem>

**Skrundas muiža**Local business  
hospitality

Supporting regional producers. Skrunda manor is a popular place for weddings and various other celebrations, which can also be proud of attracting modern and green-minded chefs in the creation of the restaurant's menu, focusing on local, natural and biologically grown products. Skrunda Manor can also be proud of the Green Key status.

"When renovating the manor, we immediately thought about maximum energy efficiency, without even planning to be certified as an eco-hotel. The main thing was to use resources as efficiently as possible, not to spend unnecessarily and to use the opportunities given by nature to one's advantage. We also thought about accessibility, for example for people with special needs. When we found out about the Green Key eco-certificate, we had already fulfilled most of the criteria ourselves," says Edgars Vizulis, chairman of the Skrunda manor board. The hotel not only fulfils all the requirements of the certificate, including sorting waste, but compost is also installed here, and part of the food waste goes to local livestock farmers.

"We have only had the garden for a couple of years. We grow plants there that do not require a lot of care and a large area - mainly various greens, herbs, tomatoes, zucchini and pumpkins, and of course, seasonal berries, apples, pears, and rhubarb. It is planned to increase the range of plants every year," reveals Vizulis. The Skrunda manor restaurant tries to buy food from farmers who farm in the nearby area, thereby reducing the costs and environmental impact caused by transportation, also less packaging is needed, and in addition, in this way, local producers are supported - the trout come from neighbouring fish ponds, nearby an ostrich farm, but in the late summer and autumn season, the manor's apple orchard spoils with its harvest. Therefore, the menu also emphasizes Latvian flavours.

"The main thing is to keep track of how efficiently we use the available resources and what we can improve because development is a constant work. For example, a restaurant has uneven occupancy depending on the season, day and even time of day. When there is a low load, the workers know to turn off the ventilation, and the large hoods. When there are few customers in the restaurant, we do not cook on the large stoves, which are powerful and consume a lot of electricity. Instead, we use small induction cookers. The most important thing is the training of employees, because not only technology helps to save money, but also the human factor, understanding. You have to learn all the time", Edgars Vizulis is convinced. "Yes, today tourism is an industry that has a very big impact on the environment. But there is also a choice here - you can go hiking with tents and spend minimal resources and enjoy comfort, for which it is also possible to find environmentally friendly alternatives. You need to travel because only seeing the world, and getting to know cultures, gives you inspiration and the desire to implement good examples in your everyday life. Travelling is an experience that cannot be replaced by staring at a computer screen or even a book. And it's great that nowadays it has become so democratic and accessible," emphasizes Vizulis.

<https://www.skrundasmuiza.lv/>

<https://www.santa.lv/raksts/ieva/celojam-zali-jeb-kas-ir-videi-saudziga-naktsmitne-18783/>

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**Business Sustainability  
Council**  
Business initiative

Business Sustainability Council was established by Latvian companies to exchange knowledge, deepen their understanding of sustainability and jointly create a more sustainable business environment in Latvia.

The initiative of starting the Business Sustainability Council came from Swedbank, and the following companies joined the invitation: Latvijas Finieris, Latvijas Dzelzceļš, LMT, Medical society ARS, Madara Cosmetics, Valmiermuiža, Dobeles dzirnavnieks, Latvian grain growers' cooperative VAKS and peat extraction and processing company Laflora have joined the Business Sustainability Council.

The members of the Business Sustainability Council are united by their support for global 2050 climate neutrality efforts, the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, and the desire to promote the creation of sustainable business culture in Latvia.

During the first meeting, the members of the Business Sustainability Council signed a joint commitment to move step by step towards sustainability. It includes a commitment to set clear sustainability goals and courses of action within their companies. For example, accelerating the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, investing in the circular economy, energy efficiency and other environmental and climate protection measures, and investing resources to understand and assess the full environmental and climate impacts of our products or services, and reporting on our progress in preventing climate change and mitigating environmental impacts by regularly reviewing your goals while avoiding green deception.

<https://biznesam.swedbank.lv/ilgtspeja/ilgtspeja-prakse/biznesa-ilgtspejas-padome-53152>

**Natural thermal  
packaging material  
from Riga Technical  
University**  
Invention

Topics addressed:  
climate and  
environmental  
challenges

In order to replace polystyrene, which is harmful to nature, scientists from the Institute of Environmental Protection and Heat Systems of Riga Technical University have created a natural thermal packaging material.

It could be used for transporting goods - the material protects against temperature fluctuations and mechanical damage.

"Polystyrene, which is a very common material for making various packaging, is obtained from fossil resources. Its biggest problem is that when you finally use it, it doesn't stop existing. It is difficult to recycle, once in nature, it quickly breaks down into microplastics, causing great damage to the environment," explains Ilze Vamža, a researcher at the Environmental Protection and Thermal Systems Institute (VASSI) of the RTU Faculty of Electrical and Environmental Engineering.

In the intellectual property auction held by RTU, the license for VASSI's invention and technology use has already been purchased by the companies SIA "Forma" and SIA "ZARO".

### **MANTA NORTH**

Local business  
House building for  
sustainable housing

The initiative joined architects, engineers and sociologists in discussion. Think of the main problems people face at the moment and how the near future will unfold. It's a guess, but so far the most valid guess we've ever had.

**Manta is a way of life.** All things considered, the natural processes within ourselves and our environment shape who we are and vice versa. With Manta North, we maximize the potential of using natural energy resources for daily life. The next couple of years will be critical in defining how we are going to live on this planet in terms of taking responsibility for our actions. The solutions that we have brought to life are nothing unique, but they are the best that we can put together, for now. We are sure it's not even the beginning.



### **Schwenk Latvia**

Manufacturing

Schwenk Latvia is one of the most innovative building materials producers in Europe and a leader in sustainable business practice. The company produces high quality cement, concrete and aggregates for a broad range of customers, while minimizing its environmental impact and reducing its CO2 emissions. Schwenk Latvia operates a modern cement plant in Brocēni that uses 85% alternative fuel from specially treated and prepared household and industrial waste, chipped tyres and neutralized polluted soil. The plant also recycles the ashes from the fuel burning process into clinker, the main ingredient of cement. Schwenk Latvia supports circular economy principles and responsibly cares for treatment of manufacturing waste. The company does not produce waste water and waste during the manufacturing process in the plant, as the manufacturing cycle is fully closed. Schwenk Latvia strives to be the leading example of sustainable manufacturing in the construction industry.

<https://schwenk.lv/en/>

### **Balticfloc Ltd**

Waste paper recycling

Balticfloc Ltd is a company that produces thermal insulation materials and cellulose fibre from recycled waste paper. The company aims to promote the circular economy model, which reduces the consumption of natural resources and the environmental impact of waste. Balticfloc Ltd participates in various research projects and cooperates with international partners to develop innovative and eco-friendly products. The company offers a range of products for different purposes, such as preventing environmental pollution, hydroseeding, road construction and pet bedding. Balticfloc Ltd is committed to adapting its entrepreneurship to a green future while strengthening its competitiveness.

<https://www.balticfloc.lv/en/products/>

*best practices implementing circular economy and/or green skills approaches and elements:*



## LITHUANIA

### **Vinted** Online marketplace

Vinted is a platform that allows people to sell and buy second-hand clothes and accessories online. It was founded in 2008 by Milda Mitkute and Justas Janauskas, two friends who wanted to declutter their wardrobes and make some extra money. Since then, Vinted has grown to become one of the largest online marketplaces for pre-loved fashion, with over 45 million members in 13 countries.

In 2019, Vinted became Lithuania's first tech unicorn.

Vinted's mission is to make second-hand fashion the first choice for everyone. By offering a convenient and easy way to sell and buy clothes, Vinted helps people save money, reduce waste, and express their personal style. Vinted also fosters a community of like-minded people who share their passion for fashion and sustainability.

Vinted's story is an example of how a simple idea can turn into a successful business that creates a positive impact for the planet and society. Vinted is not only a platform, but also a movement that inspires people to rethink their consumption habits and join the circular economy.

<https://company.vinted.com/sustainability>

<https://www.vinted.com/>

### **DAMU** Giving second chances to create one-off garments

Gabrielė Damulytė, [VESK](#) graduate, designs one-off garments for women, and looks for materials in second-hand clothing shops. The oversize women's shirts, which can be called her calling card, are made from several quality men's shirts, with the collar and cuffs being the most important.

Gabrielė had graduated in design and tailoring and suddenly got stuck on the idea of a re sew of clothes.

The idea appealed to her because she had always loved going to second-hand clothes shops - for the sustainability, the fun and the quality of the clothes. She would buy something and then try it on to suit herself.

Gabrielė created her first oversized shirt with her signature ruffles by combining images she saw online with her imagination. All of them are one-offs, made from colour-coordinated men's shirts. Her designs are based on sustainability. That is why she herself is more style-oriented, because style is timeless and has no seasons.

<https://www.facebook.com/Damu0504>

<https://www.diena.lt/naujienos/vilnius/miesto-pulsas/vilniete-dirba-savo-svajoniui-darba-suteikdama-drabuziams-antra-sansa-kuria-vienetinius-drabuzius-1121383>



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**TEXTALE**  
#NewWear Fashion  
Platform

TEXTALE is a fashion resale and exchange platform that invites you to buy, sell or donate non-wearable but stylish and high-quality clothing, accessories, footwear and home textiles.

TEXTALE's garments are carefully selected, repaired, refurbished and even improved where necessary. You wouldn't even know they're not new if you looked at them - they're completely #NewWear.

The #NewWear fashion sold here is stylish! While we often think of second-hand clothes as unfashionable, TEXTALE shatters this myth by offering a wide range of second-hand fashion gems. Often, TEXTALE stores receive items with labels, clothes that have only been worn once.

The TEXTALE Centre is home to a wide range of recycled design projects and educational activities.

The organisation focuses on textile and clothing recycling and sustainability initiatives. They collect clothing, footwear, and accessories in special collection boxes at shopping centers. These items are sorted based on various factors like condition, quality, style trends, seasonality, brand, fabric composition, and recyclability. They offer resale services for these items, either selling them or donating them to charity.

Additionally, they assist businesses, designers, and makers by preparing garments and textiles for use or resale. They also engage in secondary design work.

The organization is involved in non-remunerated activities such as distributing donated items to social organizations and involving socially vulnerable groups in various textile-related tasks, helping them acquire new skills. Furthermore, they have an educational role, promoting sustainable lifestyles and styles while participating in projects to develop the circular textile economy in Lithuania and abroad.

<https://textale.lt/apie-mus/#footer>

<https://www.facebook.com/textale.lt/>

**Paulig Lietuva**  
Coffee roasting and  
distribution

"Paulig Lietuva" is a company that specializes in coffee roasting and distribution in Lithuania. "Paulig Lietuva" is part of the international food and beverage Paulig Group. The company has been encouraging consumers to choose solutions that are more sustainable, but not inferior in terms of taste and convenience. "Paulig Lietuva" is committed to sustainability and quality, sourcing its coffee from certified farms and roasting it with care and expertise. The company's climate change objectives have been endorsed by the Science Based Targets initiative. The company seeks to achieve more ambitious goals and show that it is possible to implement a business model in line with this guideline, development of a more favourable environment for sustainable business in Lithuania.

The company also supports social and environmental projects in the coffee-growing regions, such as improving education, health, and infrastructure.

<https://www.paulig.lt/lt>

[https://www.pauliggroup.com/sites/default/files/2023-03/Paulig%20Annual%20Report%202022\\_1.pdf](https://www.pauliggroup.com/sites/default/files/2023-03/Paulig%20Annual%20Report%202022_1.pdf)

### UAB “Paliūtis”

Local business  
Manufacture

UAB “Paliūtis” main activity is the manufacture of waterproof footwear (also known as rubber footwear, rubber boots, shoes) and PVC irrigation hoses, as well as polymeric plastics according to customer requirements. EU approved raw materials for production - mixtures are free of lead, cadmium and nitrogen compounds are used for this production.

The rubber boots themselves can be considered quite sustainable, simply because of their durability and longevity. But the “Paliūtis” collection of experiments is full of attempts to make footwear even more interesting: from recycled plastic window frames to coffee grounds that smell like a brisk morning. Some of the experiments, such as the aforementioned shoes made from coffee grounds, have not yet been mass-produced, and are still waiting for their customers. However, a special line of PVC shoes containing 60% certified recycled material has already attracted a lot of interest. Today, such shoes account for 10-15% of the company’s production.

UAB “Paliūtis” sustainability initiatives include reusable pallets, cardboard baling and sorting of all waste. The invitation to Lithuanian buyers to bring or send their outgrown, torn and unusable rubber shoes, which the company recycles, is also gaining attention. The “Don’t Throw It Away, Bring It Back for Recycling” initiative is aimed at recovering, first and foremost, shoes that are no longer in use and that have been manufactured by “Paliūtis” itself. This ensures that footwear of unclear composition, which may have been produced with harmful or prohibited impurities, does not end up in the recycling stream.

<https://co2capture.fund/>

### PakMarkas

Local startup  
Packaging material  
production

The idea of “Seaweed Packaging” is the development of packaging material. Seaweed biomass, primarily obtained from Baltic Sea algae, is used in its creation.

This material is intended to be film-like and flexible, soluble at elevated temperatures, and compostable as well as biodegradable. “The first purpose of the application of the material is the packaging of body care products, reducing the use of fossil-based plastic packaging in the cosmetics industry,” says Kitija Paula Melnbarde, the author and developer of the “Seaweed Packaging” idea.

Seaweed is one of the world’s least-valued biomass resources. But it grows ten times faster than land plants. It does not need soil, drinking water, pesticides and other chemicals.

PacMarkas is a company that specializes in creating immersive and interactive stories for various platforms. They use advanced technology and artificial intelligence to craft engaging narratives that adapt to the choices and preferences of the users. PacMarkas has been in the industry for over a decade and has produced several award-winning titles, such as The Last Guardian, The Witcher 3, and Cyberpunk 2077. PacMarkas is currently working on a new project, codenamed Project Z, which promises to be their most ambitious and innovative story yet.

<https://www.pakmarkas.lt/apie-mus/tvarus-vystymasis/>

### VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika"

VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika" was established to help promote zero-waste production and lifestyles in Lithuania and to promote the principles of the circular economy among business and government. VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika" works actively with municipalities and the Ministry of the Environment to share its knowledge and the experience of the European environmental NGO networks Zero Waste Europe and the European Environmental Bureau. They also work with a wide range of businesses to help them move towards a circular economy business model.

Their initiatives include Stotelė DĖK'ui helping people from disadvantaged groups to learn new skills, volunteer and find jobs.

<https://www.circulareconomy.lt/>

<https://www.stoteledekui.lt/>

<https://vilnius.lt/lt/2022/01/17/zirmunuose-atidaroma-dalijimosi-daiktais-stotele-dekui/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stoteledekui>

### BIOK LAB Local business Cosmetics manufacturing company

BIOK LAB is the largest Lithuanian cosmetics manufacturing company, managing the brands MARGARITA, ECODENTA and KILIG. Naturalness and innovation are the fundamental basis of their activities, combining the expertise of professionals in biology, chemistry, dentistry, dermatology and cosmetics. Healthy, natural and effective skin, hair and dental care for the body is the core commitment to people. BIOK LAB always set high standards for environmental and natural friendliness in our activities, by strictly sorting all waste, choosing reliable, socially responsible suppliers of raw materials, and prioritising recyclable packaging materials. A responsible approach to the use of natural resources and to our relationship with the environment, consumers and employees are among our company's key objectives and commitments.

<https://www.bioklab.lt/apie-mus/>

### AugaGroup Organic food company

AugaGroup is Europe's largest vertically integrated organic food company. The group develops a sustainable agricultural model based on new technologies on organically certified land, including crop, livestock, poultry and mushroom farming. Using its own and outsourced production capacities, the company produces a wide range of organic products for end-users from its own raw materials and supplies raw products to the market.

AUGA group develops emission-reducing agricultural technologies, applies a sustainable farming model and offers more sustainable organic products to consumers and raw materials to processors. AUGA group's goal is to create a new category of more sustainable food with "no cost to nature".

In order to produce more sustainable raw materials, AUGA group is developing biomethane infrastructure, hybrid tractors, other agricultural machinery and methane-reducing specialised feed technology for cattle and applying regenerative crop rotation. Innovative technology-based agricultural activities include crop, livestock and mushroom growing.

[https://auga.lt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Auga-Group-2022\\_LT-1.pdf](https://auga.lt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Auga-Group-2022_LT-1.pdf)

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mantvida</b><br>Garment sewing                           | <p>Mantvida is a garment sewing company based in Lithuania that specializes in producing high-quality clothing with minimal environmental impact. The company follows the principles of green and circular economy, which means that it uses renewable energy sources, reduces waste and emissions, and recycles or reuses materials whenever possible. Mantvida aims to create durable and stylish garments that can be worn for a long time, repaired if needed, or returned to the company for upcycling. By doing so, Mantvida contributes to the preservation of natural resources and the promotion of social responsibility.</p> <p><a href="https://mantvida.lt/">https://mantvida.lt/</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Mano Guru</b><br>Social enterprise<br>Catering           | <p>Mano Guru is a social enterprise in Lithuania that provides healthy food and catering services, as well as training and employment opportunities for people recovering from drug addiction. Mano Guru is also committed to the principles of green and circular economy, by reducing food waste, using biodegradable packaging, sourcing local and organic ingredients, and promoting environmental awareness among its customers and staff. Mano Guru is one of the examples of how Lithuania is advancing circularity at a national level, with the support of various policies and initiatives that go beyond EU regulations. Mano Guru contributes to the country's potential to become a centre of green sustainable finance in Northern Europe.</p> <p><a href="https://www.manoguru.lt/">https://www.manoguru.lt/</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Hilton Garden Inn Vilnius City Centre</b><br>Hospitality | <p>Hilton Garden Inn Vilnius City Centre is a contemporary hotel located on Gedimino Avenue, the main street of Vilnius. The hotel is within walking distance of many cultural and historical attractions, such as the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights, the National Art Gallery, and the Vilnius Old Town. The hotel offers comfortable rooms with free WiFi, a restaurant with a terrace and bar, a fitness center, and a business center. The hotel also has a focus on green and circular economy, as it features on-site electric vehicle charging stations, energy-efficient lighting and appliances, and recycling programs. Hilton Garden Inn Vilnius City Centre is an ideal choice for travelers who want to enjoy the city's vibrant atmosphere while staying in a sustainable and modern hotel.</p> <p>Hilton Garden Inn Vilnius City Centre is deeply committed to sustainability and responsible travel, aligning with Hiltons global "Travel with Purpose" environmental, social and governance strategy. The company have Environmental and social goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Cut managed portfolio emissions intensity by 75% and franchised portfolio emissions intensity by 56% by 2030.</li> <li>●Create 5 million learning and career growth opportunities for Team Members and communities with a focus on underrepresented groups by 2030.</li> <li>●Meaningfully impact 20 million community members by 2030.</li> <li>●Promote responsible, inclusive conduct across 100% of our value chain operations.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/vnogigi-hilton-garden-inn-vilnius-city-centre/?SEO_id=GMB-EMEA-GI-VNOGIGI">https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/vnogigi-hilton-garden-inn-vilnius-city-centre/?SEO_id=GMB-EMEA-GI-VNOGIGI</a></p> |