

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM ZS EUROPEUM
PIC number:	949668122
Project name and acronym:	Green but Just? Engaging V4 citizens and communities to achieve a socially just green transition – JustGreen

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	D24.1
Event name:	Report from workshops with V4 civil society
Type:	Workshops, roundtables, and interviews
In situ/online:	In person
Location:	Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland
Date(s):	23.10.2024, 24.10.2024, 30.10.2024, 06.11.2025, 11.12.2024, 08.01.2025, 10.01.2025, 17.01.2025, 28.01.2025, 30.05.2025.
Website(s) (if any):	https://justgreeneu.eu/past-events/
Participants	
Female:	35
Male:	37
Non-binary:	1
From country 1 [Czech Republic]:	10 (5 female, 5 male)
From country 2 [Slovakia]:	29 (13 female, 16 male)
From country 3 [Hungary]:	16 (9 female, 7 male)
From country 4 [Poland]:	18 (8 female, 9 male, 1 non-binary)
Total number of participants:	73
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

EUROPEUM

EUROPEUM organized a workshop “**Citizens at the Heart of the Heating Transition Overcoming Barriers in the Decarbonisation of Housing**” on October 23, 2025 focusing on the funding for heating in Czechia that still favors combustion-based systems, despite decarbonization goals. Municipalities lack control over infrastructure, while big energy firms dominate subsidies. It was clear to the event attendees that the public engagement is minimal, and national plans remain vague. Local projects exist but face structural and political barriers.

This discussion implied that the low awareness is a key issue. Residents and housing associations often don't know their options, and developers rarely prioritize sustainable systems. Data gaps on building conditions hinder progress. Education efforts help but are limited. Cost-saving, not ecology, was identified as the best way to motivate change.

Event findings imply that the systemic support is needed. Tenants risk displacement, and green upgrades often benefit wealthier groups. Experts called for stronger regulation, better data, and a shift toward heating as a service. Examples from Denmark and the Netherlands show that long-term planning and citizen involvement work. Czechia must follow with a clear national strategy.

Also, the institute has organized another workshop “**Modern Transport Modes in Rural Czechia**” on December 11, 2024.

The event focused on the rural areas in Czechia facing specific barriers to transport decarbonization. Unlike cities, they lack reliable public transit, forcing reliance on private cars. As the costs rise, the risks deepening transport poverty, especially for those who can't afford EVs or alternatives.

Key questions of this discussion included which modes work outside cities, how to avoid inequality, and how the Social Climate Fund can help. Discussed options include on-demand buses, municipal car/bike sharing, shared rides to work or school, and cheaper public transport. Focus is on low-cost, flexible, local solutions.

Participants also reviewed early Institute2050's survey data done in Czechia, discussed funding sufficiency, and clarified who implements what. The attendees agreed that there should be a goal to balance sustainability with access, so that rural areas aren't left behind.

EUROPEUM's researchers have also conducted two separate **interviews** with two different researchers, representatives of the Czech Technical University.

One **interview** took place on November 6, 2024, focusing on the current state of decarbonisation in the Czech Republic, where the interviewee explained the New Green Savings programme in Czechia. Its main strength is the continuousness and stability of the programme. However, even though the awareness of the programme is high, there is a poor knowledge of **housing renovation**



EUROPEUM workshop, October 23, 2024

in general. Also, people do not have enough information on the decarbonisation of housing. Moreover, our researchers found out that the introduction of loans, such as a soft loan programme in Czechia “Repair your Grandma’s house”, has a very good potential to renovate the households.

Another **interview** took place on January 17, 2025, where EUROPEUM’s team discussed the questions of **job creation** from battery production and automation’s impact: emphasizing that automation often replaces low-skilled jobs, however it still demands more skilled labor. The interviewee has stressed that there is need for faster, flexible reskilling systems, supported by both the state and private sector. He encouraged government officials to look at the countries like Finland or Denmark for effective models.

BPI

Bratislava Policy Institute hosted a discussion and workshop titled “**Path to Sustainability: Green Transport Transformation**” at Batekáraň, Trnava’s sustainability hub and reuse center, on October 30, 2024. Moderated by Michal Vašečka, the event focused on the challenges and opportunities in advancing green transportation within Slovak cities, highlighting Trnava as a pioneering example. The main speakers, Michal Ďurta and Peter Rozsár, both experts in sustainable urban mobility, emphasized Trnava’s commitment to improving public spaces and sustainable infrastructure, including measures to increase cycling, reduce car dependency, and enhance road safety.

The event was joined by many experts from the field of transport and sustainable development either representing universities, green NGOs or different municipalities. An interactive workshop allowed attendees to anonymously share views on sustainable transportation, highlighting the need for inclusive urban planning and community engagement to foster public buy-in and adaptability in green policy transitions. The workshop and discussion emphasized Trnava’s success in fostering sustainable urban mobility through affordable bike-sharing, community-centered planning, and compact city development. Key takeaways included the effectiveness of small-scale, cost-efficient “soft” measures, the importance of public engagement for community buy-in, and a focus on inclusive transport infrastructure that benefits all residents.

In addition, on January 28, 2025, BPI in cooperation with Batekáraň hosted separate discussions titled “**Path to Sustainability: Green Transformation of Jobs and Housing**” at Trnava’s community reuse center. The event, moderated by Michal Vašečka, brought together three interesting speakers: Miroslava Hlinčíková (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Zuzana Kierulfová (ArTUR, Createrra), and Simona Hlaváčová (Batekáraň), who addressed the complex intersections of climate justice, housing policy, and the future of green employment.

The discussions emphasized the urgency of addressing sustainability from a social justice perspective, especially for vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by climate change. Experts highlighted the inadequacy of current housing policies, particularly in relation to homelessness and access to affordable, energy-efficient homes.

On the topic of green jobs, the speakers discussed opportunities emerging from the circular economy, reuse centers, and natural building practices. Despite increasing demand, education and training in these sectors remain insufficiently integrated into the formal system. The conversation highlighted the need for systemic changes - such as regulatory reforms for natural building materials and more predictable grant schemes - to enable a genuine transition.

The interactive segment revealed frustration with legislative inertia and administrative unpredictability, particularly regarding housing subsidies and green building certifications. Participants stressed the importance of integrating sustainability into education and public policy, citing international models from France and Finland as potential inspiration.



BPI workshop, October 30, 2025

Key takeaways included the need to prioritize the right to housing over meritocratic conditions, promote climate literacy through formal education, and support bottom-up initiatives through stable funding and inclusive policymaking. The event demonstrated that while grassroots innovations in Slovakia exist, broader structural support is essential for scaling green solutions in both jobs and housing.

PP

Projekt Polska has organized a closed discussion **“What to do to make transport more sustainable? The voice of citizens”** on October 30, 2024 in Warsaw. In the conversation about the motivations for engaging citizens in grassroots activities related to setting expectations based on changes in transport policy, the most common concerns were related to the safety of bicycle transport with poorly designed, inconsistent or non-existent bicycle infrastructure. The issues of children's safety and concern about the increasing investments in individual transport and its dominance in public space, especially around school buildings, were also raised.

NGOs can support sustainable transport efforts but face barriers due to limited experience working with local governments. Residents without administrative knowledge struggle even more, especially with complex procedures and lack of awareness about strategic documents and policies.



PP workshop, October 30, 2024

Successful actions include traffic reorganization near schools, particularly in Warsaw, and NGO involvement in infrastructure design that considers diverse mobility needs. However, promoting sustainable transport often meets resistance from car-dependent citizens who see it as a restriction on personal freedom.

While public transport policies are generally well-written and consulted on, their implementation often falls short. Cooperation platforms exist, but their outcomes are frequently ignored by political leaders, as seen in Warsaw's Ochota district. Despite this, sustainable transport reforms tend to benefit disadvantaged groups most. Overall, cooperation quality is inconsistent—excellent in some areas, but problematic in others.

PP also organized an event **“How to strengthen energy communities - case of Czerwonak municipality, Poland”**, on January 8, 2025. In Poland, the Czerwonak Energy

Cooperative trades electricity from members' photovoltaic installations, which is then used to power facilities such as the air monitoring station, the water supply station, etc. This was discussed in this event, where participants in the discussion emphasize that there is still a lack of knowledge about energy cooperatives among individual consumers, entrepreneurs, and municipalities.

Event attendees indicated that there is a need for a forum for exchanging knowledge and experience and even the establishment of an inter-ministerial team on energy communities with the participation of cooperatives, experts, local governments, and NGO.

In addition, PP researchers organized an **interview** on the topic of the Poland's path toward sustainable development in industrial regions being slowed by structural gaps and a lack of national vision. The interview shows that the absence of a clear **employment transition** strategy leaves many local governments unprepared, with some municipalities—like those in Upper Silesia—proactively using EU funds and NGO partnerships, while others remain passive, lacking the capacity to act independently.

Public resistance, particularly from mining communities, adds another layer of complexity, as fear of job loss and political sensitivity stifle open debate and action. Despite these challenges, momentum is growing among private companies adopting ESG standards—though impact varies based on internal expertise.

This interview highlighted the urgent need for a national just transition roadmap, targeted support for local administrations, and public campaigns that reframe the green transition as an opportunity. Managing this shift responsibly means investing in people, enabling dialogue, and aligning sustainability with economic security.

21RC

On October 24, 2024, 21 Research Center organized an event consisting of the three **participatory workshops** were held at Central European University in Budapest, focusing on the challenges and opportunities of Hungary's green transition, particularly in housing, jobs, and transport. The series was titled: **“Green Transition in Everyday Life – Opportunities and Obstacles in Hungary”**. Organized



21RC workshop, October 24, 2024

by the 21 Research Center, this event brought together experts and members of civil society organizations to discuss practical solutions and regional challenges. The discussions began with a 40-minute panel featuring Bence Álmos Kiss (Alliance of Climate-Friendly Municipalities), Gábor László Porhajás (Hungarian Urban Planning Association - Young Urbanists Section), and Dr. Dorottya Teveli-Horváth (Ökoszolgálat Foundation), moderated by Kata Kiss from the 21 Research Center.

Key topics further included **urbanization**, **sustainable housing**, and **eco-friendly transport**, exploring barriers and opportunities in these areas. Following the panels, the audience engaged in a dynamic conversation. Questions arose about accessing information on green transition funding, the implications of growing metropolitan areas, and examples of successful international practices. The events provided valuable insights and fostered

collaboration among attendees. A recording was made and will be released as a podcast to ensure the discussion reaches a wider audience.

In addition, as a **follow-up** to the discussions held on October 24, an additional **workshop** was organized to ensure broader input from representatives of Hungarian civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in environmental issues. The event took place on January 10, 2025, at the office of the 21 Research Center. Participants were invited through direct personal outreach, specifically targeting representatives, interns, and members of Hungarian CSOs working on environmental topics.

Researchers from the 21 Research Center shared findings on policy, public consultation, and focus groups. Participants found the policy analysis especially relevant but noted challenges in reaching beyond already-engaged audiences, as most outreach tools attract those already interested in sustainability.

Attitude surveys were seen as vital, helping CSOs understand public perceptions and tailor campaigns more effectively. This allows for better targeting and stronger community-level engagement. The workshop bridged research and practice, providing valuable insights to refine future public engagement strategies in Hungary's green transition.