

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:	D6.1
Event name:	Report from webinars
Type:	Webinars
In situ/online:	online
Location:	-
Date(s):	05.02.2025, 13.02.2025, 26.02.2025, 05.03.2025, 25.03.2025, 26.03.2025, 27.03.2025. 28.03.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://justgreeneu.eu/events/
Participants	
Female:	136
Male:	163
Non-binary:	1
From country 1 [Czechia]:	77
From country 2 [Slovakia]:	69
From country 3 [Hungary]:	58
From country 4 [Poland]:	70
From country 5 [Belgium]:	2
From country 6 [Germany]:	10
From country 7 [Sweden]:	1
From country 8 [France]:	8
From country 9 [Netherlands]:	4

From country 10 [Greece]	1		
Total number of participants:	300	From total number of countries:	10
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Between February and March 2025, a series of online webinars was organized by the consortium partners from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland. The webinars aimed to present the outcomes of the citizens' consultations and focus groups conducted in late 2024, related to work packages WP1–WP5, to the general public.</p> <p>All webinars were conducted online, and in some cases featured guest speakers with expertise in the specific topics discussed. Some participants joined from abroad, speaking the native languages of the consortium countries despite being located elsewhere. This resulted in a diverse list of participating countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Czechia:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "New windows? Yes, with subsidies! How to support energy-saving renovations and how New Green can help with savings"; 2. "Renovation without fun: How to get support to improve your home?"; 3. "How do Czechs really travel? Overview of trends in transportation and electromobility". <p>EUROPEUM organized a series of altogether three webinars aimed to present the data from citizens consultations and focus groups to the general public, covering different topics. Each webinar was led by Rebeka Hengalová as the lead researcher on this project, accompanied with guests speakers with expertise in the topic discussed. Webinars attracted altogether 81 participants.</p> <p>First webinar took place on 05.02.2025, titled "New windows? Yes, with subsidies! How to support energy-saving renovations and how New Green can help with savings". It was presented together with the main analyst from STEM partner, Martin Philipp. It presented the data on what Czechs think and do in the area of energy-efficient renovation of their homes, and reduction of energy consumption in the households. The webinar also presented the data of what people find a main obstacle, and how they could support their efforts with state subsidy programs, such as the New Green Savings.</p> <p>Another webinar from the series of webinars for public took place on 26.02.2025, titled "Renovation without fun: How to get support to improve your home?". This webinar hosted a guest speaker Petra Holub, Senior Director of the Climate Protection Section at the Ministry of the Environment of Czechia. The webinar The webinar focused on presenting data obtained, and covering most frequently asked questions during consultations (WP1, WP5) regarding practical tips for households who would like to renovate their homes to a higher energy standard.</p> <p>The last webinar from the series was held on 05.03.2025 named "How do Czechs really travel? Overview of trends in transportation and electromobility". The webinar focused on presenting data obtained from consultations on what truly matters when choosing how to get around, specifying how Czechs prefer to travel, and what they see as major reasons for not switching to electric cars. This webinar attracted the most participants in the series, accompanied by two more guest speakers, Filip</p>			

Křenek, an expert in topic at EUROPEUM, and Luděk Niedermayer, member of the EP. Discussion started with presentation of obtained data, and took place in a form of a talk-show with participants expressing interest in data and ideas to what the data implies.

- Slovakia:

1. *“Regional resilience to climate change in Slovakia”*;
2. *“JustGreen the perceptions and ideas”*.

On 27.03.2025, the BPI held a **webinar** on regional resilience to climate change in Slovakia, led by Michal Vašečka from BPI with a guest speaker: Boris Škoda, an expert on climate education and regional resilience.

The webinar opened an engaging public dialogue on the regional dimension of climate change adaptation in Slovakia. Speakers explored recent findings from the JustGreen research, with a focus on vulnerable populations, communication strategies, and the role of policy. Participants expressed strong interest in region-specific climate policies, particularly in how local governments can be supported to act more efficiently in vulnerable regions. Attention was given to the importance of inclusive communication, especially when addressing economically disadvantaged groups who are often most affected yet least involved in decision-making.

The discussion highlighted how many Slovaks acknowledge climate change as a serious issue, yet economic concerns continue to overshadow environmental ones in perceived urgency. The speakers emphasized that while Slovaks are aware of the European Green Deal, many remain divided on whether it represents a threat or an opportunity.

On 28.03.2025, another **webinar** took place online focusing on presenting the most interesting findings from citizens consultations and focus groups conducted in Slovakia within this project led by Ingrid Boráárosová. Financial barriers were among the most discussed concerns. Many participants could relate to the finding that people are willing to live more sustainably, but lack the financial means, especially in terms of renovating their homes or adopting green technologies.

The limited awareness of green housing subsidies and a general lack of trust in the accessibility of public support mechanisms were highlighted as significant obstacles. Participants showed strong interest in the gap between ecological attitudes and actual behaviors. Many were intrigued by the idea that while most Slovaks sort waste and express pro-environmental values, behaviors like reducing meat consumption or choosing green transport are still rare. There was also discussion around the perceived limits of Slovak impact on global climate issues, with participants echoing the sentiment from the research that larger polluters like China or the US should take greater responsibility.

Both webinars attracted in total 69 participants.

- Hungary:

1. *“Energy Awareness and Housing Conditions in the Visegrád Countries”*.

On 13.02.2025, the 21RC hosted a **webinar** to present the findings of its latest study on climate awareness and housing conditions in the Visegrád Four (V4) countries. The event featured a discussion on the key challenges of the green transition in

Central Europe, exploring economic, social, and policy-related factors shaping the process. The webinar was attended by 82 participants.

The invited speakers were Anikó Pálffy, professional director of the Hungarian Energy Efficiency Institute (MEHI), and Zoltán Pogátsa, economist and sociologist, associate professor at the University of Sopron. The discussion was moderated by Kata Kiss, qualitative researcher at the 21 Research Center, who guided the conversation with questions directly linked to the findings of the research.

A central theme of the discussion was the perception of climate change and the willingness of V4 citizens to make personal sacrifices for sustainability. The speakers explored why the green transition in the region appears slower than in many other EU countries, highlighting both economic and social barriers. One of the key findings of the study revealed that while Hungarians rank climate change as a major concern, awareness of the EU Green Deal remains low, with only 23% of respondents familiar with it. This raised questions about the effectiveness of policy communication and public engagement strategies.

Housing and energy efficiency also played a major role in the conversation. The research indicated that in Hungary, home renovations and energy efficiency improvements are more closely tied to financial status than to actual need, making these upgrades inaccessible for many lower-income households. The speakers reflected on the limitations of the current support systems and discussed potential solutions, including the role of state subsidies and external funding opportunities. The topic of transportation preferences also surfaced, as survey data showed that even when cost and category are equal, internal combustion engine vehicles are still preferred over electric alternatives in the region. This raised the question of whether lack of education and awareness could be contributing to the slow adoption of greener technologies.

The webinar concluded with a Q&A session, where participants had the chance to engage with the speakers. A particularly relevant topic was the accessibility of grant-writing agencies in Hungary, which Pálffy Anikó mentioned as a crucial tool for securing funding for energy-efficient renovations. Many attendees were unaware that such agencies even existed, underlining the need for better dissemination of information regarding available funding and support mechanisms.

The event successfully bridged the gap between research and policy discussions, offering participants a deeper understanding of the barriers to the green transition in the V4 region while also shedding light on potential policy solutions.

- Poland:

1. *“JustGreen Dialogues: Sustainability and Competitiveness Under Poland’s EU Presidency”* ;
2. *“JustGreen Dialogues: Sustainability and Competitiveness Under Poland’s EU Presidency”*.

In the context of Poland's presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) in the first half of 2025, PP organized two webinars aimed at disseminating its findings from the JustGreen project on decarbonization in housing, transport, and the job market. The two webinars under the dialogues umbrella targeted a) young citizens across Poland and b) policy experts, respectively, aligning with the presidency's

priorities in climate and environmental policy, reaching the number of 70 participants altogether.

The first **webinar** for young citizens, on **25.03.2025** engaged young Polish citizens in discussions about the challenges and opportunities associated with decarbonization in their daily lives. Participants explored practical strategies for adopting climate-friendly practices in housing, transportation, and employment. The session emphasized the importance of youth involvement in shaping sustainable policies and encouraged active participation in local and national initiatives. This approach resonates with the Polish Presidency's focus on climate security and adaptation to climate change, highlighting the role of informed and proactive citizens in achieving environmental goals.

The webinar saw a high level of engagement, with numerous questions raised by participants, including challenging ones about the EU and its green agenda. Some attendees voiced critical opinions about the EU's priorities, arguing that there is excessive emphasis on climate issues at the expense of security concerns. Others expressed concerns about the burden placed on citizens and businesses by EU regulations, suggesting that such obligations make the EU less competitive on the global stage.

Other **webinar** on **26.03.2025**, convened policy experts to discuss the systemic obstacles and policy solutions related to implementing EU decarbonization policies within the Visegrád Group (V4) countries. The discourse centered on integrating JustGreen's research findings into actionable policies that address energy security, competitiveness, and support for Ukraine—key priorities outlined by the Ministry of Climate and Environment during the Polish Presidency. Experts deliberated on enhancing policy frameworks to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy, ensuring alignment with EU objectives while considering regional specificities.

During the discussion, many participants voiced critical comments regarding how authorities communicate sustainability initiatives and policy programs. There was widespread agreement that better transparency and clearer messaging are needed to improve public understanding and engagement. Furthermore, attendees expressed hopes that the Polish Presidency's current focus on deregulation should also extend to topics covered by the JustGreen project, ensuring that sustainability policies are both effective and practical for implementation.

Both webinars underscored this project's commitment to fostering public engagement and informing policy development in the pursuit of a sustainable and just transition to a decarbonized society.