

# JustGreen



## JustGreen project

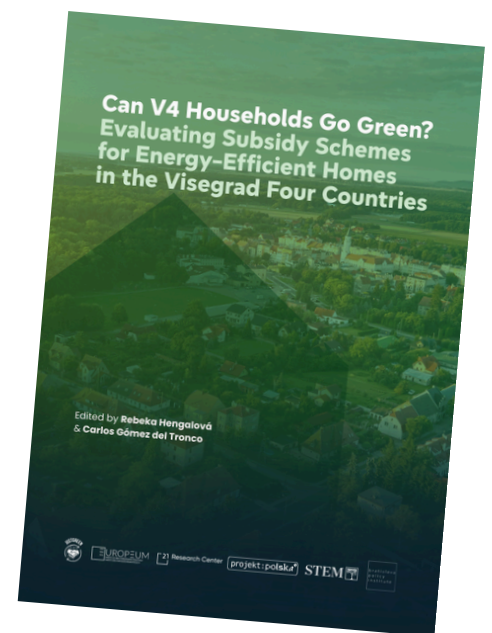
Over the past year, **JustGreen** focused on what the green transition really means for people in the Visegrad (V4) region. The project brought citizens into the conversation on housing, transport, and the labour market—three areas where climate policies most directly affect everyday life.

Throughout 2025, JustGreen combined public engagement with research to better understand the real obstacles households face when adapting to EU decarbonisation policies. Surveys, focus groups, and local discussions helped surface concerns around affordability, access, and fairness. These insights fed directly into local, national, and EU-level policy debates, ensuring citizens' voices were part of the conversation.

One of the year's key milestones was the **publication "National policy analyses evaluating subsidy schemes in V4."** This series of publicly available analyses examined national subsidy systems across the V4 countries and offered a clearer picture of how people perceive and experience the green transition.

### In this Annual Buletin:

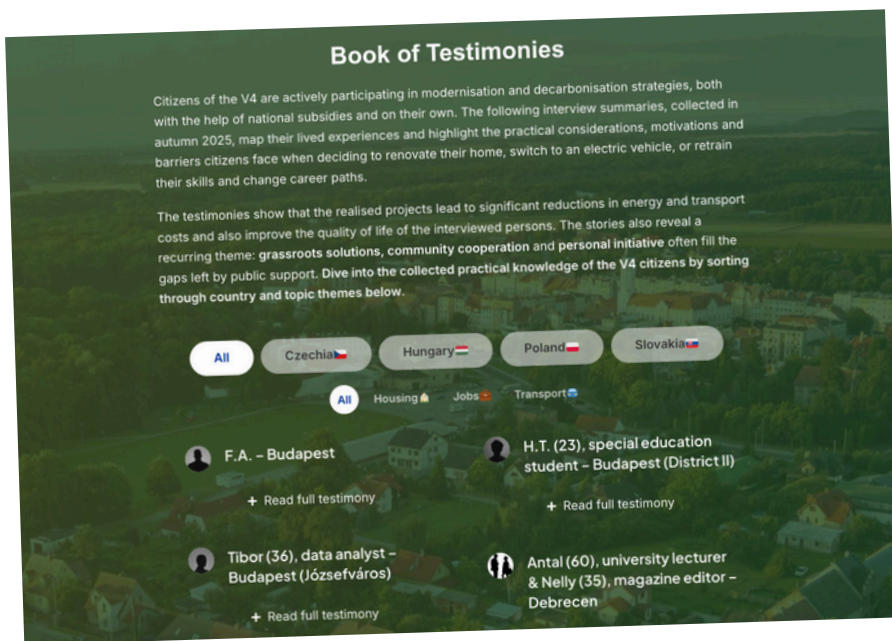
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The project consortium also produced **briefings on jobs and transport** in each country that have been widely distributed and discussed at the organized events.



Alongside the policy work, the **Book of Testimonies** added a human perspective to the data.

It collected first-hand stories from citizens across the region, capturing lived experiences of energy costs, housing challenges, and mobility constraints.

[Read here](#)



JustGreen's work was further amplified through **media** and **high-profile conferences**. At the **GLOBSEC Forum in Prague**, the project highlighted the importance of a just green transition for Europe's long-term competitiveness. At **BESTalks in Budapest**, it brought regional perspectives on energy and housing into a broader international debate. Interviews across multiple media outlets helped share the project's findings with wider audiences and reinforced JustGreen's role in promoting a fair and inclusive transition.



**Events** remained an important part of the project's approach in 2025.

Early in the year, JustGreen organised **six journalist discussions** across all V4 countries, presenting fresh insights from citizen consultations and focus groups.



**Additional roundtables** with stakeholders explored mobility, liveable cities, housing transitions, and the future of work.



**A series of national webinars** followed, first to share citizens' input and later to present policy analysis results, including one webinar comparing findings across the entire V4 region.



The project also delivered in total **10 Climate Assemblies** in different formats and cities across Czechia, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia, covering all three thematic areas and creating space for open, inclusive discussion.





## JUSTGREEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2025

Throughout the year, JustGreen continued to share **monthly highlights**, offering regular updates and fresh insights from ongoing citizen engagement and research. Each month added another piece to the picture of what a just and green transition looks like on the ground and how policy can better respond to people's real needs.

### JANUARY

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**8 out of 10** Hungarians think that the problem of climate change needs to be tackled now, and 7 out of 10 think that changing human behaviour is absolutely **necessary**.\*

\*according to our focus groups and/or citizens' consultations

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According to Slovak citizens\*, awareness of and opportunities for green housing solutions are somewhat **limited**. At the same time, people would like to live in a greener way, but often, they lack the **financial means** to do so.

\*according to our focus groups

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According to two-thirds of Czech citizens,\* a **change in human activity** is needed to address climate change, nature itself cannot solve the issue. Respondents\* believe they **can limit** the impact of their households on the environment but realize that **large corporations have a role** to play, too.

\*according to our citizens' consultations and focus groups

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Polish respondents\* express positive opinions about existing subsidy programs, such as "**Clean Air**" and "**My Electricity**", appreciating their usefulness and potential benefits. At the same time, the inadequacies of the system - **complicated application procedures**, lack of clear and stable **rules** for awarding funds, and time and **budget constraints** - were widely highlighted. Many respondents pointed to the need to simplify applications and increase the scope of support.

\*according to our focus groups

## MARCH

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The majority, **88%** of the Hungarian population agree that **climate change is a serious problem**, we should act immediately (81%) and change in human behaviour is definitely required to achieve that (71%). The proportion of those who are **strongly interested in the topic of climate change** is higher among people with **higher levels of education** and residents of Budapest.



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Most people\* express a **positive attitude toward ecology and recognize its importance**, but the actual implementation of eco-friendly solutions in their lives often lags behind.

\*according to our focus groups and/or citizens' consultations



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A majority of Czechs (41%) **commute to work or school by car**, while 22% rely on public transport, and a comparable share (18%) choose to walk.\* Our data suggest that roughly **two-thirds of the population rely on motorised transport**, often powered by fossil fuels. When having to choose an alternative mode of transport, our respondents choose public transport (24%) or walking (24%), suggesting that the share of individual motorised transport **could be further reduced**.

\*according to our focus groups



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According to GUS data, in 2023, **housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel costs** accounted for an average of **19.88%** of household outgoings, but for **disability pensioners and pensioners**, these numbers stood at **23.03%** and **24.58%**, respectively.

- Główny Urząd Statystyczny,  
"Budżety Gospodarstw Domowych w 2023 Roku"



## APRIL

A total of **66% of Czechs\*** claim to have already taken steps to **reduce waste**.

\*according to our citizens' consultations

People\* agree that Slovakia or Europe cannot combat the significantly larger impact of larger polluters, such as China, America, India, etc.

\*according to our focus groups and/or citizens' consultations

In terms of heating methods, the GUS analysis of household budgets from 2023 indicates that **central heating** is the most common heating system installed, covering **86.4%** of all dwellings. However, a notable share of respondents still have **stoves** as part of their heating equipment (**13.4%**).

- Główny Urząd Statystyczny, "Budżety Gospodarstw Domowych w 2023 Roku"

## MAY

**58% of Czech citizens\*** think that we should start **solving the problems of climate change** within the next five years at the latest. 68% believe that there must be a change in human activity.

\*according to our citizens' consultations and focus groups

There is a general agreement\* in Slovakia, that the **state should play an active role in supporting ecological solutions**.

\*according to our focus groups and/or citizens' consultations

The transition toward sustainable development—especially in energy-intensive industries—faces significant **structural and social barriers** in Poland. One of the key problems is the **lack of a coherent, long-term government strategy for the future** of employment in industrial regions. There is no clear plan that would allow local governments and communities the time and tools to prepare for the changes.

\*according to our experts

JUNE

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The **financial benefits of energy efficiency** are not as directly felt by apartment residents as they are by house owners\*, although it's more complicated by bureaucracy.

\*according to our focus groups and/ or citizens' consultations

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Even if combustion engine cars and electric cars cost the same, **43% of Hungarians\* would choose a combustion engine car and 38% would choose an electric car.** This shows that there is not yet a high level of public confidence in electric cars in the Hungarian society.

\*according to our focus groups and/ or citizens' consultations

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Most of the public has not yet personally felt the impacts of climate change on the labor market, but **23%\* expect them to be negatively affected in the future.**

\*according to our citizens' consultations and focus groups

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**Why citizens are speaking up about transport policy changes:**

**The top concern?** Bike safety. Inconsistent or missing cycling infrastructure puts everyone at risk – especially kids. Many are also worried about how much space and investment is being given to cars, particularly near schools. It's time to rethink our streets.

\*according to citizens' consultations

## JULY

So far few people have felt the impact of climate change on the job market, although **around 23% expect negative impacts in the future\***. However, significantly more people believe that the process of addressing climate change shall threaten the job market.

\*according to our citizens' consultations

**Slovak citizens are asking** whether the state participates in the construction of power stations for charging electric cars\*

\*according to our citizens' consultations

The proportion of the total population who has personally **experienced the effects of climate change on the labour market is almost negligible, 15%**. Only 22% of respondents think that climate change will affect them negatively on the labour market in the future.

\*according to our citizens' consultations

## AUGUST

Most of the Czech public has not yet personally felt the impacts of climate change on the labor market, but 23% expect them to be negatively affected in the future.\*

\*according to our citizens' consultations

**27%** of Hungarians think that climate change will have a **negative impact** on the Hungarian labour market and the economy. Almost as many people, **26%**, think that it will have a **positive impact**. Those who are most confident about the positive outcomes of climate change are those who are standardly or very well financially secured\*

\*according to our citizens' consultations

## SEPTEMBER




JustGreen survey data revealed that considering renovations depends more on respondents' financial security than on housing condition\* This makes financially secure citizens more likely to apply for and be successful in obtaining subsidies.\*

\* JustGreen, Presentation of Quantitative Outcomes from Citizen Consultations Results for V4 Countries, (June 2025), 18-24,

## NOVEMBER





Taken together, the JustGreen V4 country studies reveal important gaps between the intended **inclusiveness** of renovation programs and their actual **accessibility**. Without targeted outreach, simplified application processes, and financing models adapted to lower-income households, the renovation wave risks **reinforcing rather than reducing socio-economic divides**, especially in energy poverty and dependency on fossil fuels. While some improvements have been made in recent years, the four countries must continue refining their efforts to ensure energy-efficient renovations in line with decarbonization targets are within reach.

## DECEMBER




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\* JustGreen, Presentation of Quantitative Outcomes from Citizen Consultations Results for V4 Countries, (June 2025), 18-24,

# WHAT IS JUSTGREEN PROJECT?

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JustGreen project aims to engage the V4 citizens in debates and other forms of public engagement around decarbonization in three areas that are intimately linked to their everyday lives: housing, transport, and the job market. The public engagement activities, along with the ancillary research, shall pinpoint specific obstacles citizens and communities encounter when implementing climate-friendly steps or adapting to the EU decarbonization policies.

JustGreen project comes at a time when the EU is facing numerous challenges – relating to war at its borders, changing geopolitical power balances, rule of law issues, and mounting inequality – putting both internal and external pressure on the EU. It reacts to the challenges posed by the EU green transition, which arguably represents the greatest test for the EU in its recent history and will likely cause far-reaching transformations in the economic and social life of the citizens in the Union.



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