



Tallinn Declaration on Social Transformation, Climate Change, and Environmental Protection

We, the network of CSOs known as "Green Habito," convened in Tallinn, Estonia from May 25th to 28th, 2023, under the theme "Civil Society Ideas for sustainable green future of Europe" to discuss a range of critical issues concerning Europe and neighboring regions, including social transformations arising from environmental change, the circular economy and innovation, sustainable lifestyles, and the role of civil society organizations in driving the green transition and sustainable development.

During this conference we focused on the four following themes:

- Social transformation, climate change and environmental protection
- The collaborative role of civil society, government and business networks to enhance circular and innovation based economy
- Researching current consumption patterns and integrating a sustainable lifestyle
- The contribution of civil society organizations on raising awareness about the green transition and sustainable development.

Recognizing the urgent need to address multiple crises resulting from environmental change, such as natural resource reduction, food and water shortages, energy scarcity, biodiversity loss, accelerating urbanization, population growth, climate change, and natural disasters, we underscore the importance of social transformation. These challenges require concerted efforts from all sectors to mitigate their impact and ensure a sustainable future for all.

We emphasize that the circular economy and innovation offer promising pathways towards sustainability. To achieve circular economy goals, engagement from civil society, government, and business sectors is paramount. The circular economy promotes activities that preserve value in the form of energy, labor, and materials. It entails designing for durability, re-use, remanufacturing, and recycling to keep products, components, and materials circulating in the economy. Embracing innovation within the circular economy is essential to extending the lifespan of raw materials, reducing the need for additional resources in the future.

Understanding the profound influence of consumption patterns on sustainability, we emphasize the importance of researching and analyzing current consumption habits. By integrating sustainable practices into our lifestyles and raising our awareness about the environmental impact of living patterns, we will contribute to a more environmentally friendly and socially conscious society. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, including resource inefficiency, significantly contribute to environmental and social challenges. Therefore, understanding and addressing these patterns are crucial for achieving sustainable development.



We further acknowledge the indispensable role of civil society organizations in advocating for the green transition and sustainable development. Sustainable consumption encompasses more than the process of purchasing, consuming, and disposing of products.

It encompasses broader activities and values, including interactions, education, and material consumption. Sustainable lifestyles involve patterns of action and consumption that meet basic needs, enhance quality of life, minimize resource use, waste generation, and pollution emissions throughout the lifecycle, and safeguard the needs of future generations. They should be rooted in the cultural, natural, economic, and social heritage of each society, taking in consideration the specific characteristics of each city, village, country or region.

Creating sustainable lifestyles necessitates a fundamental rethinking of our daily lives, including our consumption habits, social interactions, and identity-building processes. It requires transformative changes within our societies and a harmonious relationship with our natural environment. As responsible citizens, our choices regarding energy use, transportation, food, waste management, communication, and solidarity contribute to building sustainable lifestyles both at home and at work.

In this crucial endeavor, the cooperation of three actors is a prerequisite to success:

- Governments and the European Institutions must play a central role in establishing proper frameworks and regulations to enable citizens and businesses to adopt sustainable practices.
- Civil society organizations, on their part, have an essential role to drive change within communities and foster sustainable solutions, through sharing of information, enhancing education, and promoting the full participation of citizens.
- The Business community should also contribute actively to ensure this transformation through a stronger commitment to their social responsibility and a more deliberate engagement towards innovative solutions for sustainable lifestyles.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to social transformation, climate change mitigation, environmental protection, human rights, citizen responsibility and sustainable development. We will continue collaborating, advocating, and utilizing resources to enhance capacity building and achieve these goals by working together across sectors and borders, and promoting sustainable practices, securing a resilient and sustainable Europe for future generations.

For more information visit: <https://conference.sscw.ee/>

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