



2023 Annual Report

IRIS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





Table of Contents

01	<i>Message from our Leaders</i>	p 03
02	<i>Who we are - Mission & Vission</i>	p 04
03	<i>Priority SDGs</i>	p 05
04	<i>Achievements</i>	p 06
05	<i>Our Programmes</i>	p 08
06	<i>EU funded Projects</i>	p 22
07	<i>Social Media Channels</i>	p 40
08	<i>Next Steps</i>	p 41

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

IRIS is dedicated to the environmental protection and environmental improvements which will strengthen sustainable future and lead towards social and economic improvements of the social communities at national, regional and European level. In order to achieve this, we strongly believe in the power of **youths**.

Environmental sustainability has gained significant importance over time. It inculcates the scarcity of resources and minimizing environmental damages. It pertains to the choices which will affect all living beings, natural resources, and climate. However, there are numerous factors which directly or indirectly affect the environmental sustainability of countries, including governance, income inequality, property rights, social inclusiveness, and women empowerment. For this reason we should never forget the interconnection of **social, economic and environmental sustainability**.

Naturally, we are committed to work with a range of stakeholders to foster cooperation and joint work for the purpose of achieving sustainable goals and strong transmission of the **Swedish good practices**.



”
Young people are the wheel of change and education the 'fuel' for turning the wheel towards the right direction. For this reason, we aim at educational programs which can provide youths with useful tools in order to make a step forward to sustainability.

WHO WE ARE

IRIS is a Swedish NGO and a UN SDSN Youth Member, founded by a group of people with a common goal; to build greener, healthier, and more sustainable communities. IRIS conducts research projects and provide non-formal and intercultural learning experiences in order to enhance sustainable development and encourage young people to become active and transformational agents of their communities.

MISSION & VISION

Our mission: Through education, advocacy, and action, we aim to cultivate a generation of leaders who are passionate about fostering sustainability, promoting responsible stewardship, and championing a prosperous future for all.

Our vision: To support initiatives that boost the process of environmental transition at an international level, through social inclusion, actions on sustainability, and youth empowerment.



PRIORITY SDGS

There are 17 SDGs and 169 targets in total. Our organization supports actively four goals via its projects and action.



01 — Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Via our programme **Stop EcoAnxiety**, we contribute to the reduction of mortality from non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health via non-medical assistance.



02 — Goal 5: Gender equality

Via our programme **Women4Climate**, we work to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life, as well as to enhance the use of technology to promote the empowerment of women.



03 — Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Via our project **CSR Consulting**, we encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle, as well as ensure that youths have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.



04 — Goal 13: Climate action

Via our project **Act Responsible**, we aim to improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

The biggest achievement of IRIS so far is its acceptance in the **Membership Program of United Nations SDSN Youth**, the world's largest youth-focused network working on the SDGs.



SDSN Youth is a program of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - an initiative launched by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in 2012 to mobilize global expertise around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



This membership is focused on capacity building and collaboration to accelerate IRIS's organization's mission to educate and empower young people towards a more sustainable future.

ACHIEVEMENTS



45

youths educated



7

different
nationalities



16

educative
programs



10

new partners



7

new volunteers



3

new projects



12

sustainability reports



20

eco-anxiety reports



3

We the Women interviews

OUR PROGRAMMES

SDGS PUBLICATIONS



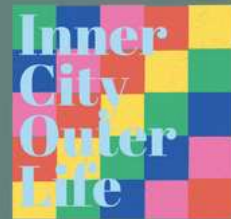
ACT RESPONSIBLE



STOP ECOANXIETY



INNER CITY OUTER LIFE



WOMEN4CLIMATE



CSR CONSULTING



TECH4US





Our **Contributing Writers Team** consists of youths, graduate, post graduate and PHD students and scientists from around the world who are interested in writing scientific articles on environmental and social sustainability.

All articles are reviewed and proofread by our volunteer Advocacy Managers and upon a continuous interexchange of feedback and comments between the writer and the Advocacy Manager, the article gets published on our website blog and social media channels.

As yet, IRIS has made publications in the following categories:

- Policy & Economics
- Pollution
- Climate Change
- Oceans, Biodiversity
- Energy and Solutions
- Women Entrepreneurship
- Health, and Safety
- Artificial Intelligence





SDGS PUBLICATIONS

The articles that has been published during 2023 are the following:

- Are Women Entrepreneurs Empowered?
- The Forgotten Continent: A Critical Analysis of COVID-19 Vaccine Strategies in Africa
- An Overview of the Factors and Implications for Sustainable Access to Safe Water
- Building Resilience: Cities in the Storm of Climate Change
- Reasons to limit meat intake
- Planet Earth: How Perceptions Impact Sustainability Efforts
- Influence of Cartoons on Childhood
- Should I choose Organic or Not?
- Household Work and Importance of Housewives
- Science, technology and innovation for the SDGs: An Overview
- The Healing Embrace: Exploring the Interconnection between Well-Being and Nature
- The use of technology to support the rights of refugees: An overview



STOP
ECO-ANXIETY

ECO ANXIETY REPORT SERIES

The main idea of the *first national report series* is to establish an international overview of eco-anxiety rates in 20 countries utilizing the HEAS scale and associate these rates with aspects such as geographical location (urban, rural), education as well as the type of experiencing climate crisis (indirectly via the media or public discourse).

More precisely, the main objectives of this project are to:

- create an international overview of eco-anxiety rates in 20 countries
- contribute to the growing body of knowledge around to what extent the climate crisis affects mental health identifying possible differentiation on eco-anxiety determinants
- raise awareness of the impact of the climate crisis on mental health



STOP
ECO-ANXIETY

ECO ANXIETY REPORTS SERIES



SWEDEN



ITALY



SPAIN



FRANCE



GREECE

IRIS has conducted research for the eco anxiety reports series on 20 countries across the globe and released the research outputs on November 2023.



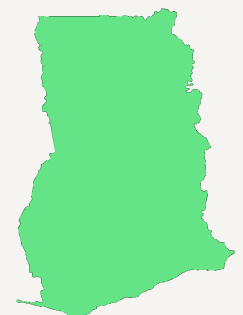
CANADA



AUSTRALIA



INDIA



GHANA



STOP
ECO-ANXIETY

ECO ANXIETY REPORTS SERIES



POLAND



GERMANY



BELGIUM



ROMANIA



THE UK

The research results have been published on IRIS Sustainable Development Website.



THE NETHERLANDS



TURKEY



PORTUGAL



GEORGIA



STOP
ECO-ANXIETY

YOUTH LABS

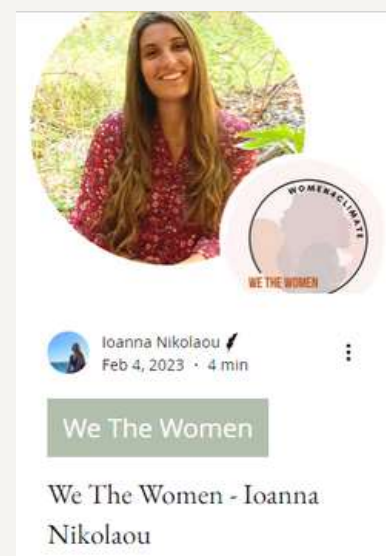
Youth Labs is an initiative that serves as a platform where youths can freely express their concerns about environmental issues. Beyond just providing a space for expression, Youth Labs goes a step further by offering practical tips and strategies to help young people alleviate eco-anxiety. By combining a supportive community with actionable solutions, the initiative aims to foster a generation of environmentally conscious and resilient individuals ready to make a positive impact on the planet.

IRIS Sustainable Development has organised and conducted two (2) Youth labs on May and June 2023. Twelve (12) young people have participated and expressed their feelings and thoughts about climate crisis

women 4 climate

WE THE WOMEN

We The Women is a key project under the programme Women4Climate powered by IRIS Sustainable Development. Specifically, *We The Women* is an interview series project, holding inspiring discussions with actional leaders and pioneers in the field of social and green entrepreneurship and action. Women with different backgrounds, experiences, and achievements, share their insights, know-how, opinions, and advice with the public, inspiring more people -especially young entrepreneurs and women- toward a more sustainable future.



women 4 climate

WE THE WOMEN

In 2023, we have conducted three (3) interviews with social advocates and entrepreneurs:

- The first interview was dedicated to Ioanna Nikolaou, a Nutritionist and Dietician, MSc in Human Movement Sciences, that promotes healthy and sustainable diets.
- The second interview was held with Alice Regis, a Human Rights Activist in order to motivate, guide and inspire other women to follow a similar path of action.
- The third interview was held with Edwina Owoo, founder of "Voices on the Mount," a youth movement with a mission to amplify the voices of young people and engage them in discussions about global issues.

CSR CONSULTING

In 2022, IRIS initiated an ambitious new programme, **CSR & Sustainability Consulting** that ensures that a company's CSR strategy enhances brand recognition, increases sales or customer loyalty, and leads to improved business sustainability.

WHAT CSR IS

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is when a company operates in an ethical and sustainable way and deals with its environmental and social impacts. This means a careful consideration of human rights, the community, environment, and society in which it operates.



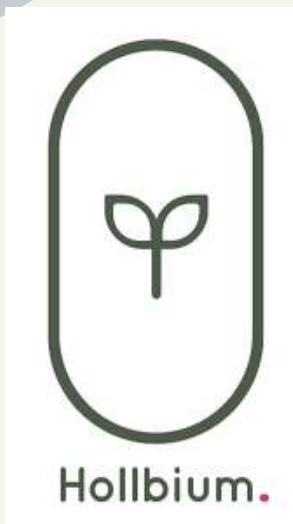
Statistics show, consumers are increasingly aware of the importance of social responsibility, and actively seek products and services from businesses that operate ethically.



Via this programme, we contributed towards the enhancement of community participation through community outreach, partnerships with community members, and the development of community-led initiatives. Through effective community participation, we ensure a company becomes entrenched in the community narrative, a critical factor in establishing local market dominance.

ENDORSEMENT PROJECT

Within the second year of the programme, IRIS has endorsed several organizations.



Hollbium's sustainable and innovative indoor farming solution transforms any indoor space into a thriving garden, bringing the benefits of fresh, locally-grown produce anywhere. Hollbium's micro-farms are environmentally responsible, promote circular economy principles and use resources efficiently with minimal waste.

SENIP is a company that provides renewable energy solutions for houses, businesses and energy parks. SENIP experienced team analyse customers' needs and propose the best possible solution.



ENDORSEMENT PROJECT



Drugwatch.com has comprehensive guides to help educate those in the farming and gardening industries about this toxic chemical. It covers things like what it's used for, symptoms, and side effects.

The Lanier Law Firm is changing the approach to legal client care. Founded in 1990 by Mark Lanier, The Lanier Law Firm is committed to addressing client concerns with effective and often untraditional solutions.



3D Panel is a technical & commercial company that produces reinforced masonry panel, which is an innovative product of high standards certification (ISO certified)



TECH4US

TECH4US

In 2023, IRIS initiated an ambitious new programme, Tech4Us in order to raise awareness on how technology assists climate mitigation and address the ethical considerations of technological advancements. This will be achieved through research activities on related topics.

The research activities of the Tech4Us project has been initiated with the report the title Science, technology and innovation for the SDGs: An Overview. This report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between STI, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the SDGs. By delving into each of the 17 SDGs individually and exploring how STI, particularly AI, can be harnessed to advance

them, IRIS shed light on the critical synergy between technological innovation and sustainable development.



TECH4US PUBLICATIONS



The second publication has been released and is dedicated to the following topic: “The use of technology to support the rights of refugees: An overview”.

- The next publication has already been scheduled and will be the following:
- Agrivoltaics: Is there something new on the horizon?

- Racial bias in AI: unpacking the consequences in criminal justice systems
- AI and Access to Education: Bridging the Digital Divide
- How accurate are the climate change predictions? Representative Concentration pathways and Shared Socioeconomic Pathways overview

EU PROJECTS

KEY ACTION 2



ESG

DIAGNOSTIC



AI4AGRI

KEY ACTION 2



Co-funded by
the European Union

COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS

The primary goal of Cooperation Partnerships is to allow organizations to increase the quality and relevance of their activities, to develop and reinforce their networks of partners, to increase their capacity to operate jointly at the transnational level, boosting the internationalization of their activities and through exchanging or developing new practices and methods as well as sharing and confronting ideas.

They aim to support the development, transfer, and/or implementation of innovative practices as well as the implementation of joint initiatives promoting cooperation, peer learning, and exchanges of experience at the European level. The project results are reusable, transferable, up-scalable and have a strong transdisciplinary dimension.



Co-funded by
the European Union



COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS IN YOUTH SLOW FOOD MOVEMENT (THE WAY WE IT DOES MATTER)

IRIS is currently partner on the project ***Slow Food Movement (The way we it does matter)***.

The project includes the following partner organizations:

- Stichting Used Amsterdam Social Enterprise Agency (Netherlands)
- Innovative Green Steps Association (Turkey)
- Associazione Culturale Usamborgia (Italy)
- Centro Formativo Provinciale G. Zanardelli (Italy)
- Ozel Adalya Anadolu Lisesi (Turkey)
- COFAC COOPERATIVA DE FORMACAO E ANIMACAO CULTURAL CRL (Portugal)

The coordinator of the project is:

- Intermezzo Ungdomsorganisas jon (Norway)



Co-funded by
the European Union



OBJECTIVES

The 3 main **objectives** of the project are to raise awareness of the negative effects of our eating and drinking habits on human health, the environment we live in, and our existing cultural heritage and to produce solutions to prevent these negativities. The project will focus on three main sections:

- ❖ Health
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Cultural Heritage

The intellectual outputs of the project:

- ❖ The Book of Traditional and Forgotten Dishes;
- ❖ Application of healthy and slow nutrition menus;
- ❖ Photo Book (On the Environmental Effects of Fast Consuming Culture)



Co-funded by
the European Union



In terms of **health**:

- identify the damages of the Fast Food culture to human health and the environment and search for ways to minimize these damages, create awareness in this field;
- clarify the effect of genetically modified foods on human health and the redefinition of alternative nutrition ways in this regard;
- explore the role of nutrition on human health, examine diseases that occur as a result of unhealthy nutrition, and search for methods of protection from these diseases;
- provide the importance of probiotic nutrition and introduce foods that strengthen our immune system, and solutions will be put forward for the Slow Food movement's nutritional habits that threaten human health.



Co-funded by
the European Union



In terms of ***nature*** and ***climate change***:

- raise awareness about the environmental hazards of excessive meat consumption and the effects of climate change;
- examine the environmental damage of wild fishing and find solutions to prevent new environmental problems that will come with the degradation of the aquatic ecosystem;
- investigate the environmental damage of domestic wastes created by fast consumption culture and seek solutions for the safest disposal of these wastes;
- also, with the Slow Food movement, we are going to search for the benefits of on-site production, organic agriculture, and balanced nutrition to our planet.



Co-funded by
the European Union



In terms of ***culture***:

- explore the changing effects of our eating habits on family and society;
- search agricultural migration and the changing cultural structures of immigrants as a result and find solutions to prevent this cultural erosion;
- investigate how the Slow Food movement unites our food and cultural values, present solutions for the preservation of our cultural food heritage, and create a food book that has sunk into oblivion where students can present examples from their cultural cuisine.



Co-funded by
the European Union



INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS

The intellectual outputs of the project:

- ❖ The Book of Traditional and Forgotten Dishes;
- ❖ Application of healthy and slow nutrition menus;
- ❖ Photo Book (On the Environmental Effects of Fast Consuming Culture).

The project includes three transnational meetings in:

- ❖ Norway;
- ❖ Turkey;
- ❖ Portugal.

IRIS has led the development of the Digital Photobook that is available on our website along with the other deliverables of the project. During 2024, the Final Conference in Portugal will be conducted.



Co-funded by
the European Union



SMALL-SCALE PARTNERSHIPS IN ADULT EDUCATION

SAFEST - SLOW FASHION FOR THE FASHION INDUSTRY

We have been a *Leading Organization* for the project **SAFEST - Slow Fashion for the Fashion Industry.**

The *partners* of this project are:

- Asociación para el desarrollo socioemocional de la persona, la sociedad y para la cooperación internacional Uno (Spain)
- Base Ngo Aps (Italy)

The project aims at promoting the fight against climate change by raising awareness among consumers on the importance of the choices made in terms of fashion. By changing the demand, we can change the market and its procedures moving the fashion industry towards a more sustainable way of production.



Co-funded by
the European Union



OBJECTIVES

We have been a **Leading Organization** for the project **SAFEST -Slow Fashion for the Fashion Industry.**

The **partners** of this project are:

- Asociación para el desarrollo socioemocional de la persona, la sociedad y para la cooperación internacional Uno (Spain)
- Base Ngo Aps (Italy)

The project aims at promoting the fight against climate change by raising awareness among consumers on the importance of the choices made in terms of fashion. By changing the demand, we can change the market and its procedures moving the fashion industry towards a more sustainable way of production.



Co-funded by
the European Union



RESULTS

The expected **results** of the project are:

- raised awareness of the importance of the fashion industry in fighting **climate change**;
- improved knowledge of the key characteristics of how the **fashion industry** and our fashion choices can affect the environment;
- improved **capacity** and **expertise** in evaluating our environmental footprint based on what and how we consume;
- a comprehensive **ToolKit** with all the material produced available in English and all the languages of the partnership.



Co-funded by
the European Union



SAFEST TOOLKIT

Partners has performed research in each country to better highlight and understand the current state-of-the-art of world of fashion, with a specific focus on the impact of fast fashion in their society and environment. Specifically, the development of the toolkit included:

- desk research on the state-of-the-art of fashion industry and consumers trends in the countries of the partnership;
- a transnational report on the topic comparing the situation of the countries in the partnership to the rest of the Eurozone;
- a workshop aiming to raise awareness of the effect that our fashion choices have on the environment;
- a comprehensive ToolKit with all the material produced available in English, Swedish, Italian, and Spanish.



Co-funded by
the European Union



The toolkit will allow partners to create a set of knowledge and methodologies that would help reach the project objective of creating better and more considerate consumers, reaching this way the goal of fighting climate change and helping the EU to reach its sustainable goals by provoking a shift in the way the fashion industry act, with a special relation to the way this affects the environment.



Co-funded by
the European Union



ESG
DIAGNOSTIC

SMALL SCALE PARTNERSHIPS IN VET

ESG DIAGNOSTIC

We have been a Leading Organization for the project **ESG Diagnostic - Developing Digital Training tools to establish Environmental and Social Governance in Organizations**

The partners of this project are:

- Strategic Omnia Research and Technology Development Ltd (Cyprus)
- Dataphoria PC (Greece)

The ESG Diagnostic project aims to help the organizations to measure and evaluate their ESG performance by using appropriate digital tools. The project will enhance the knowledge of adults and professionals to recognize the key sustainability metrics for their organization and train them to use digital tools to measure, track and improve them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



ESG
DIAGNOSTIC

OBJECTIVES

- ESG Diagnostic will enhance the knowledge of adults and professionals for the concept of ESG. ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance.
- ESG Diagnostic will help the organizations to measure and evaluate their ESG performance by using appropriate digital tools.
- ESG Diagnostic will train the adults and professionals to recognize and track the key sustainability KPIs in order to deliver a representative ESG performance for their organization.
- The provided knowledge and tools to adults and professionals will add value to their portfolio while at the same time it will directly impact their organization's transition towards sustainability.



Co-funded by
the European Union



AI4AGRI

COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP IN VET

AI4AGRI-DEVELOPING GREEN AND DIGITAL SKILLS TOWARDS AI USE IN AGRICULTURE

IRIS has been a partner for the project **AI4AGRI-Developing green and digital skills towards AI use in agriculture.**

The project includes the following partner organizations:

- Omnia, Cyprus
- YET, Greece
- ThinkOnception, Greece
- IRIS Sustainable Development, Sweden

The coordinator of the project is:

- The Polish Farm Advisory and Training Center, Poland



Co-funded by
the European Union



AI4AGRI

OBJECTIVES

- Provide in-depth understanding and encourage reflection on the connection between AI and agriculture through the engagement of both sectors experts in order
- Increase knowledge and skills on agricultural technologies and AI to assist agricultural workers and/or potential agricultural entrepreneurs
- Aspire to build a nexus between "green" and "digital" in practice by developing agricultural technology alliances and policy briefs towards the promotion of Agriculture 4.0 and AI applications.
- Encourage the agricultural industry attractiveness with a focus on existing or potential agricultural workers and entrepreneurs to combat the problem of aging workforce.



Co-funded by
the European Union



AI4AGRI

RESULTS

- Improve understanding of the interconnection between AI and Agriculture and respective skills needs
- Upskilling of the existing and potential agriculture workers and entrepreneurs on the AI use in agriculture
- Enhancement of policy making towards the promotion of Agriculture 4.0 and AI applications
- Raise awareness in regards to the digitalisation of climate mitigation

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

We use our social media to raise awareness about vital issues regarding environmental and social sustainability, engage youths with our opportunities, promote our action and dissemination activities, as well as network and collaborate with partners and stakeholders across Europe and the globe. Our followers in numbers per social media channel:



874



3048



1285

We also use our social media channels as a tool for online campaigns on crucial topics, such as *mental health and climate change, women empowerment, SDGs, biodiversity, and others.*

Naturally, our network gets informed over our action via our monthly newsletters, sent via email.

NEXT STEPS

We are expecting that 2024 will be a creative year, full of new research projects and actions that will bring society a step closer to a more sustainable future.

Our team has carefully planned the key objectives and deliverables for 2023, concluding with the following research projects and activities:

01

Educational creative sessions for children in sustainability and soft skills

02

Q&A Sessions on sustainability related topics

03

Green Politics Interviews

04

Tech4Us Research Activities and Awareness Events



2023 Annual Report

IRIS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Address: Kungsbro Strand 29, 112 26, Stockholm, Sweden

Email: info@irissd.org

Telephone number: +46 764556836

Registration number: 802533-9881