

# 2024 Annual Report

### **IRIS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



# **Table of Contents**

01	<u>Message from our Leaders</u>	p 03
02	Who we are - Mission & Vission	p 04
03	<u>Priority SDGs</u>	p 05
04	<u>Achievements</u>	р 06
05	<u>Our Programmes</u>	p 08
06	EU funded Projects	p 23
07	<u>Social Media Channels</u>	p 49
08	<u>Next Steps</u>	р 50



# **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 factors directly numerous which or indirectly affect the environmental sustainability of countries, including governance, income inequality, property rights, social inclusiveness, and women empowerment. For this reason should we never forget the interconnection environmental of social, economic and 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

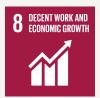
Via our programme **Women4Climate**, we work to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life, as well as to enhance the use of technology to promote the empowerment of women.



#### 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 8: Decent Work and

#### **Economic Growth**

Via our project **Tech4US**, we aim to equip young people with digital skills, fostering employability, entrepreneurship, and access to remote work opportunities in an increasingly digital economy.



STAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

**ONS NETWORK** 

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



www.irissd.org





7

#### new partners



#### new volunteers





#### new projects



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**OUR PROGRAMMES** 

# SDGS PUBLICATIONS



act responsible

# ACT RESPONSIBLE

**STOP ECOANXIETY** 

# **INNER CITY OUTER LIFE**

WOMEN4CLIMATE

**CSR CONSULTING** 

**TECH4US** 



**CSR** consulting

TECH4US





ECO-ANXIETY





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



Melting glaciers threaten to raise sea levels, and modify oceanic currents. Physical landscapes and cultural ones are at risk: glaciers...





# **SDGS PUBLICATIONS**

The articles that has been published during 2024 are the following:

- Climate disasters and their intergenerational inheritance: A path through trauma
- Relationship Between Trade and Poverty Globally
- Agenda 2030: From Dr Jekyll to Mr Hyde
- Methane Reduction Challenges: Balancing Sustainability and Farmers' Livelihoods
- EU Climate Law and Diplomacy: A strategic alliance for a sustainable future
- Is Renewable Energy Truly Sustainable? Examining Hidden Environmental Costs and Ethical Dilemmas
- The Healing Embrace: Exploring the Interconnection between Well-Being and Nature
- 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





### **SDGS PUBLICATIONS - GREEN POLITICS**

IRIS Sustainable Development has conducted insightful interviews as part of their commitment to promoting sustainability and green politics. Here are two notable examples:

1.<u>Greening Budapest: A Path to Sustainable Urban</u> <u>Ecosystems</u>

An interview with Kata Tüttő, Budapest's Deputy Mayor responsible for Climate and Development. The discussion centers on Budapest's initiatives to enhance urban sustainability, including the expansion of green spaces, and promotion of eco-friendly transportation.

#### 2. <u>Challenges and Strategies for Sustainable Urban Mobility</u> <u>in Prague</u>

This interview with Jaromir Beranek delves into Prague's vision for sustainable urban mobility. Beranek discusses the city's strategies to overcome challenges in implementing sustainable transportation solutions.

For more interviews and articles on green politics, you can visit IRIS Sustainable Development's <u>publications page</u>.





# 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

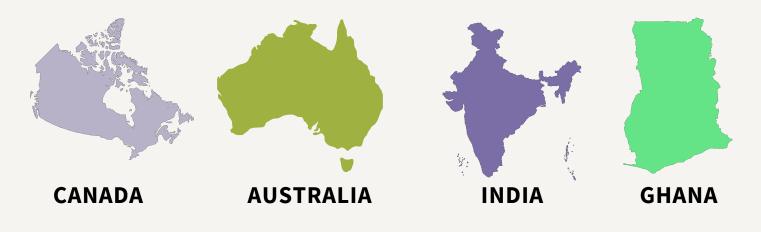




# **ECO ANXIETY REPORTS SERIES**



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



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# **ECO ANXIETY REPORTS SERIES**











POLAND

**GERMANY** 

**ROMANIA** 

THE UK

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

**BELGIUM** 



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# 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.

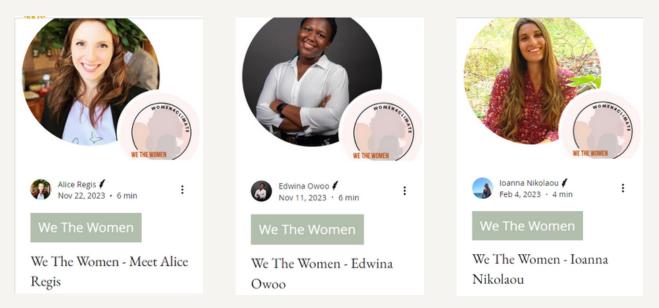
IRIS Sustainable Development has organised and conducted two (2) Youth labs on May and June 2023.Twelve (12) young people have participated and expressed their feelings and thoughts about climate crisis



# women dimate

# 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.







# 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 Nutricionist 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.



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





# **ENDORSMENT 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, locallygrown 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.



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# **ENDORSMENT 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 of the each 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**

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Fatima Aamira Dec 18, 2023 • 10 min

#### Tech4Us

The use of technology to support the rights of refugees: An overview Tech4Us program has released several publications focusing on technology's role in climate mitigation and ethical considerations:

1. The Impact of AI and Automation on the Right to Work: Challenges and Policy Solutions

2. AI & Freedom of Expression in the Contemporary Digital Landscape

3. The Use of Technology to Support the Rights of Refugees: An Overview

4. Agrivoltaics: Is There Something New on the Horizon?

For a comprehensive list of all 16 publications, please visit our <u>Tech4Us publications page</u>.



# EU-FUNDED PROJECTS KEY ACTION 1

### TRAINING COURSES AND YOUTH EXCHANGES

- Training Course Transformative Youth Leadership
- Youth Exchange Culture Flows in (E)U





# EU-FUNDED PROJECTS KEY ACTION 2

















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### **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.







### COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS IN YOUTH

### <u>SLOW FOOD MOVEMENT (THE WAY WE IT</u> DOES MATTER)

IRIS is currenlty 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)

25







### **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)



# 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.

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### 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.







### **OBJECTIVES**

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29





the European Union



### RESUTLS

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.





### 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.

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### **OBJECTIVES**

- ESG Diagostic willenhance the knowledge of adults and professionals for the concept of ESG. ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance.
- ESG Diagostic willhelp the organizations to measure and evaluate their ESG performance by using appropriate digital tools.
- ESG Diagostic 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 whileat the same time it will directly impact their organization's transition towards sustainability.







### COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP IN VET

### AI4ÁGRI-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





the European Union



### **OBJECTIVES**

- Provide in-depth understanding and encourage reflection on the connection between AI and agriculture though 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.





the European Union



### 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
- Enhancment of policy making towards the promotion of Agriculture 4.0 and AI applications
- Raise awareness in regards to the digitalisation of climate mitigation







#### COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP IN YOUTH

#### **GREENCHANGEMAKERS - CHMKS**

IRIS has been a partner for the project GreenChangemakers CHMKS

The project includes the following partner organizations:

- Ecoworld Rhodopes, Bulgaria
- BASE, Italy
- Open Impact, Italy
- IRIS Sustainable Development, Sweden

The coordinator of the project is:

• Association UNO, Spain







- Training Format Development: Creating a structured curriculum to equip youth workers with skills in environmental education and sustainability, ensuring effective engagement with young people.
- International Training of Youth Workers: Organizing a transnational training to enhance knowledge exchange and strengthen youth workers' capacity to promote green initiatives.
- Changemakers Handbook Co-Design: Developing a practical guide with tools and strategies to help youth workers and young people initiate sustainability projects and drive environmental action.
- Local Implementation Programs: Testing the Handbook through pilot programs, launching youthled campaigns, and establishing Green Changemakers HUBs as community spaces for collaboration and mentorship.







- 1 interactive, digital Training Format
- "Changemakers HUBs" platform, through which virtual HUBs will be established at the local level of partners & connected among each others and young people will be able to talk to their peers across Europe
- A Changemakers Handbook, containing a "Green Changemakers Social Campaign Kit", NFE activities on Green Education for young people and a short guide on how to be a Green Changemaker
- Interactive real-time impact dashboard and Policy Recommendations







#### COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP IN VET

# SFENTRE-RESKILLINGANDEMPOWERINGCULINARY ENTREPRENEURSTOWARDSSLOWFOODMOVEMENTALIGNED ENTERPRISES

IRIS has been a partner for the project SFENTRE.

The project includes the following partner organizations:

- FASE, Spain
- OMNIA, Cyprus
- YET, Greece
- CFP Zanardelli, Italy
- IRIS Sustainable Development, Sweden

The coordinator of the project is:

• COCIS TERUEL, Spain









- Guide Slow Food Entrepreneurship: Provide research-based guidance, best practices, and case studies to help entrepreneurs adopt sustainable business models aligned with slow food principles.
- Strengthen Skills & Digital Learning: Equip entrepreneurs with market-oriented, digital, and entrepreneurial skills through a flexible online learning platform tailored to their needs.
- Build Alliances & Scale Impact: Foster partnerships among entrepreneurs, stakeholders, and policymakers, creating networks for mentorship, policy engagement, and knowledge-sharing to accelerate slow food entrepreneurship.
- Promote Consumer & Market Shifts: Drive awareness and behavioral change through campaigns that promote sustainable consumption, ethical food choices, and slow food-aligned business models.









- Skills Assessment & Entrepreneur Guide: Identify key competencies and market needs for slow food entrepreneurs and develop a practical guide with strategies, best practices, and tools for sustainable food businesses.
- Pilot Training & Business Plan Workshops: Implement a training program to equip participants with essential entrepreneurial and sustainability skills, combined with workshops to refine business plans through expert feedback.
- Policy Recommendations & Dissemination: Develop policy proposals to support slow food entrepreneurship, while promoting project outcomes through events, networking, and digital outreach for wider impact.







#### COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP IN YOUTH TRANSFORMATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP -TYL

IRIS has been a partner for the project **TYL**.

The project includes the following partner organizations:

- Alternativi International, Bulgaria
- Eunoia, North Macedonia
- Sciara Progetti, Italy
- IRIS Sustainable Development, Sweden

The coordinator of the project is:

• Creant Europe, Spain







- The project addresses key challenges in the youth sector, promoting open and democratic leadership models essential for young people's personal and professional development. It aligns with the priorities of enhancing youth work quality, innovation, and recognition, as well as fostering inclusion and diversity.
- Its first objective is to strengthen the capacities of youth organizations by implementing inclusive and collaborative leadership practices, moving away from hierarchical models. This enhances youth work quality, fosters innovation, and creates a more participatory environment.
- The second objective is to increase recognition of youth work by demonstrating how inclusive leadership leads to more effective and transformative outcomes for individuals and society.







- Innovative Leadership Methodologies: The project will develop collaborative and inclusive leadership models, equipping youth organizations with practical tools to foster democratic participation.
- Best Practices & Knowledge Sharing: A compendium of successful leadership models and an online platform will facilitate collaboration, capacitybuilding, and knowledge exchange among youth workers.
- Greater Impact & Inclusion: The project will enhance youth work quality, participation, and inclusion, expanding the reach and influence of organizations through effective leadership strategies.







## COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP IN YOUTH

IRIS has been a partner for the project **GENAI**.

The project includes the following partner organizations:

- YET, Greece
- 100Mentors, Greece
- Helixconnect Balkans, Serbia
- IRIS Sustainable Development, Sweden

The coordinator of the project is:

• INSTYTUT CHEMII BIOORGANICZNE, Poland

45







- Digital Readiness and Resilience: Equip youth with Generative AI (GenAI) skills, ensuring they are active participants in the digital future. This will enhance digital resilience, preparing them to adapt to technological changes and effectively use AI tools.
- Youth Employability: Improve job prospects by providing advanced GenAI and digital skills in Greece, Sweden, Serbia, and Poland. This will help young people integrate into modern, technology-driven workplaces.
- Inclusion and Diversity: Ensure equal access to digital education, regardless of socio-economic background, promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities in the digital sector.
- Strengthening Digital Literacy: Address the digital skills gap by fostering a deep understanding of GenAI, digital ethics, safety, and responsibility.







- Enhanced GenZ digital literacy and proficiency in GenAI tools, particularly ChatGPT
- Improved inquiry and (certified) learning skills, optimizing interactions with GenAI
- The development of a shared prompt library facilitates collaborative learning and prompt optimization Participants will experience accelerated workflows, transferrable to their varied environments
- Established networks among participants will encourage ongoing collaboration and open prompt library through the project's platform



#### 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:



868

3006

1409

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 2025 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 2024, concluding with the following rresearch projects and activities:

Educational creative sessions for children in sustainability and soft skills

**Q&A Sessions on sustainability related topics** 

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Green STEAM: Science & Tech for a Sustainable Future



The Mystery Box: Problem-Solving Through Storytelling



### 2024 Annual Report

IRIS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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