

#3

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n e w s l e t t e r



Editorial

Dear friends,

The STEP project has entered the second half of its second year and the pilots have been launched!

STEP Platform is open to youngsters and there are currently dialogues in progress organized by 6 agencies from 4 Countries:

- Italy
- Spain
- Greece
- Turkey

In this issue:

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- Introducing STEP at the ENVI Committee
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- Interesting News & Projects

One Regional Authority, four Municipalities, and one Association of Municipalities implement STEP pilots and a number of significant environmental issues have already been uploaded at the STEP platform.

Spread the word, stay tuned & enjoy reading!

The STEP team



Horizon 2020
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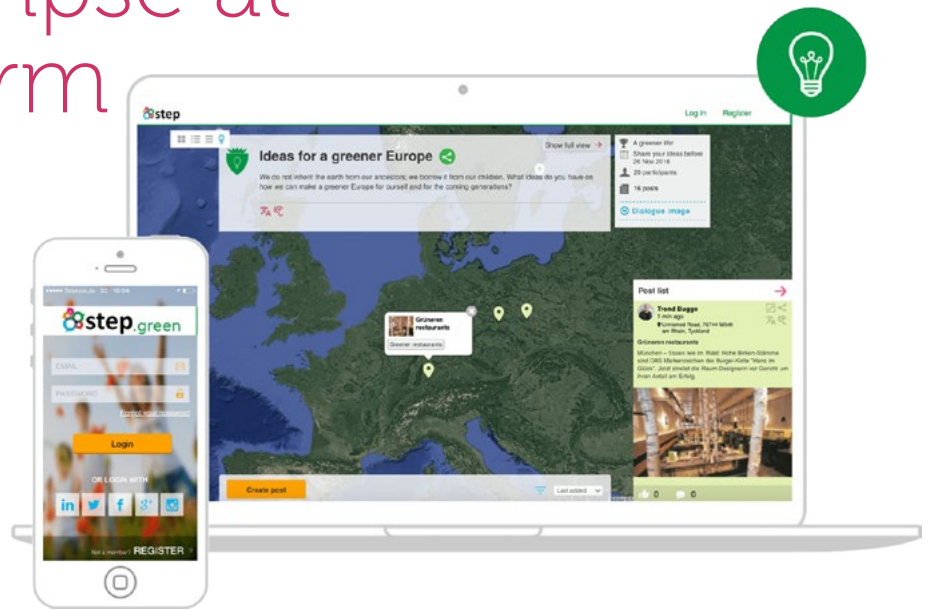
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A quick glimpse at STEP Platform

Young people are tomorrow's decision makers. They are also the ones most affected by environmental decisions. **STEP** is an e-Participation platform that gives youngsters the opportunity to have a say in decisions concerning the environment. The STEP platform brings together several ideas and technologies with the goal to engage Young European Citizens and Public Authorities in decision making about environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, laws, and projects.

STEP Platform uses social media and web mining technologies that enable young people to view personalized and enriched information relevant to the topic of their interest. Information is filtered through multiple social media and web sources, such as Facebook, twitter, and so on, and presented in a single unified environment. This tool eliminates the need to



search for content on multiple platforms, or navigate through the overflow of information available. STEP has the following main components:

- e-Participation
- Social media/web mining and visualization
- Machine translation and Text-to-Speech

STEP is available on the web at step.green, on [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.step.green) and on [App Store](https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/step-green/id1441111111).

Introducing the STEP pilots

The first dialogues have already been uploaded by the pilots onto the STEP platform! At Crete, they talk about the protection of the road in Kourtaloti gorge from rock falling, while Mollet del Valles calls young people to share their ideas for the improvement of the city's public spaces! Young citizens living at the pilot areas are invited to visit the platform, get informed on local environmental issues and share their opinions. Active citizen participation is the key to tackling many challenges.

Post your ideas!

Make suggestions!

Comment on issues of your interest!

Vote to indicate your preferences!

Help STEP shape its platform to respond to your interests and meet your needs!

Those in [Crete](#), [Valdemoro](#), [Mollet del Valles](#), [Hatay](#), and [Locride](#) area can visit step.green, select their location of interest and join STEP dialogues!

Young European citizens are invited to visit the Platform and create their own timeline for the environment.

Your participation counts! Visit step.green and register now!

Do you want more information about STEP pilots? Find out more [here](#)

Introducing STEP at the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament!

In order to fully exploit the STEP solution, the consortium decided to use it at Pan-European level and address all European young citizens. In this framework the STEP team arranged for a meeting with the Chairwoman of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee of the European Parliament (ENVI Committee), Mrs Adina-loana VĂLEAN. The meeting was held on 21st of March at the offices of the ENVI Committee. During the meeting the STEP team presented the project and the platform. It was also stressed that the STEP platform could be used by the ENVI Committee as a unique tool that will not only raise youth's awareness on the environmental issues that the Committee is in charge of, but will



also foster young people's empowerment and active participation in democratic life.

The two parts will be in contact in order to investigate possible ways of collaboration. Stay tuned at step4youth.eu.

The STEP blog



[STEP's blog](#) is ready and has already gone public! On the STEP blog you can find news, articles and inspiring interviews.

Check out what youth officers and Board Members of youth organizations say about e-participation, the environmental issues that interest them the most and how they get involved in the life of their community.

1st STEP Webinar: Let's talk about e-participation!



The first STEP webinar took place on Monday, 14 of March 2017. Three European projects on digital participation, STEP, EMPATIA and EUth e-met and presented the work they have accomplished so far and their plans for the future.

STEP: The interactive platform enabling youth Societal and Political e-Participation in decision-making procedures concerning environmental issues.

EMPATIA: The first hands-on digital platform for creating and managing a coherent participatory system that integrates multiple channels of engagement in a single solution.

EUth: The European project that has developed OPIN solution: an all-in-one digital and mobile participation toolbox, which can be embedded in the web presence of youth organisations or public administrations.

The 1st STEP webinar will soon be available at step4youth.eu.

Interesting news

#EUnarrative

The #EUnarrative is an EU project that focuses on four thematic areas, namely:

- Becoming united in diversity
- Employment and education
- Freedom of movement
- The changing climate

This is an opportunity for the young to say what they want from Europe, what changes they would like to see and what their vision for the future of the EU is. The #EUnarrative gives young people the chance to participate in writing their own history for Europe. Ideas and proposals collected about Europe will be communicated to decision makers and policy shapers.

Find out more at: <http://www.nnfe.eu/>

The SciChallenge project

SciChallenge addresses the increasing demand for professionals in the fields of natural Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The project therefore aims at making education and careers in the STEM-fields more attractive for young people. Using innovative digital techniques and social media, SciChallenge will launch a pan-European competition for getting young girls and boys between of 10 to 20 years excited about the STEM-topics.

The SciChallenge project will develop novel concepts to inspire young people to work with science, scientific methods and insights. It is using a contest-based approach to encourage self-produced digital education materials by young people for young people.

The project is driven by inspiring topic sheets, guides and toolkits that are created in this project and distributed to partner schools, teachers and other youth-oriented institutions as well as through various social media channels.

Find out more at <https://www.scichallenge.eu/>

Celebrate with ERASMUS+ its 30th Anniversary and win a travel voucher!

The Erasmus+ programme addresses many key concerns of young people in Europe and beyond. To commemorate its 30th Anniversary the ERASMUS+ programme invites past participants to remember and share their stories. All they have to do is submit a photo or video with 100 word story relating the + of their Erasmus+ by 15th April. Be creative!

Find out more at: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/anniversary_en

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STAY TUNED TO STEP



: step4youth.eu



: step.green



: STEP H2020 Project



: @STEP_H2020

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