



ECOPRISE

Future-oriented social entrepreneurship through Ecovillage Design



Description of the Project

Ecoprise is the new EU-funded project which aims to promote a new entrepreneurial model and skillset for a new professional figure, the Ecoprise Designer, able to contribute to local regenerative development, promoting a harmonious coexistence between human life and nature within enterprises.

To achieve this, the project will create a multi-sectoral alliance bringing together higher education institutions, VET providers, enterprises, and non-profit associations. Together, they will develop a multi-disciplinary course on Ecopreneurship, - future-oriented social entrepreneurship through ecovillage design- inspired by the four dimensions of sustainability. The course will be recognized through micro-credentials and a European certification.

Exploring the potential of Ecovillage Design for a New Entrepreneurial Model

A few months ago, Ecoprise partners from Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania, Portugal and Serbia conducted 106 interviews and 16 focus groups to gather insights from ecovillages, social enterprises, and sustainability educators to provide a deeper understanding of their practices and challenges in the field of sustainability and environmental, social, cultural and economic regeneration.

In addition to the interviews and focus groups, workshops were held during the **Ecoprise International Camp** arranged in August 2024 in Sweden at the 2024 European Ecovillage Gathering.

To fully immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the European Ecovillage Gathering, browse the [online album](#) or watch the [official video](#).

The workshops aimed to fill information gaps for this SWOT analysis and gather insights from participating ecovillages with long-standing practices. The insights from these workshops were also integrated into the SWOT analysis, enhancing the overall understanding of best practices from experienced community members.

Ecoprise SWOT Analysis "Social Enterprises vs. Ecovillage Experiences"



To access the full report and insights from the SWOT analysis and Ecoprise Model, follow the link <https://ecoprise.eu/results/>.

The Ecoprise SWOT Analysis "Social Enterprises vs. Ecovillage Experiences" identifies valuable and transferable sustainability practices that the new professional figure of the Ecoprise designer can adopt, highlighting potential opportunities and risks associated with them. This new professional will support the upskilling of established or aspirant entrepreneurs into "ecopreneurs", as specialized entrepreneurs, able to apply more sustainable approaches to their professional practice, focusing especially on regenerative acts and approaches. The SWOT analysis is also the baseline for the development of the **Ecoprise prototype** and **skillset for Ecoprise designer** which will include a description of the Ecoprise entrepreneurial model and professional profile.

The Ecoprise prototype outlines the features of future-oriented, sustainable enterprises that integrate principles from ecovillage design, permaculture, and circular economy to create community value. The skillset for the Ecoprise designer encompasses green, entrepreneurial, digital, and resilience skills. This model will serve as a foundation for the upcoming Ecoprise Course and certification scheme, ensuring the recognition and transferability of these essential competencies.

What's next..

Based on the Ecoprise model, the Ecoprise project will develop an online Ecoprise course, inspired by Ecovillage Design Education. By integrating insights from social enterprises and ecovillages, the course will enhance sustainable entrepreneurship and build a global community of Ecoprise designers.

Impactful Participation in International Conferences

We are pleased to share that the Ecoprise project recently participated in two significant international conferences, making a notable impact in the field of sustainable education:

- 1. Re-imagining Education Conference 4.0:** Iscte and CESIE ETS contributed to a session titled, "Reimagining Transformative Education: Academia and Community-led Initiatives as Partners in Participatory Action Research." The goal was to show how Ecoprise represents innovative forms of collaboration between academia and civil society, resulting in innovative pedagogies and results.
- 2. Live With Earth DC4SD Conference:** Here Iscte and UAB Theoria presented the Ecoprise Designer model, the new entrepreneurial model and skillset for local regenerative development, during panel 2: Research & Science. This session highlighted innovative pathways for sustainable practices.

Our involvement in these conferences allowed us to connect with experts, exchange knowledge, and strengthen our commitment to promoting sustainable education within communities.

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