

# EU-CONEXUS Contest Brochure

D17

Work Package 15 – University to School Programme

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Dissemination level: Public

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## Executive summary/abstract:

The main objectives of WP15 entitled University to School Programme are to raise awareness about SmUCS topics and Careers, develop EU-CONEXUS community/ecosystem, develop SmUCS skills for students, their civic engagement and responsible citizenship, promote open science and open education during the programme, using challenge-based approaches to work across disciplines.

The EU-CONEXUS school contest is one of the best channels to reach those objectives, starting its first edition in the academic year 2020/2021.

In 2023, it gathered more than 700 pupils from all over Europe working together on Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability topics. A total of 185 Team for the two age categories (12-14 and 14-16) registered, namely - 12-14 age category – total of 380 pupils and for 14-16 age category – total of 360 pupils.

## Description:

For the 4th edition of the contest (2024), the school contest has been updated with the following changes:

- **Age categories:** for the first three editions we had 12-14 and 14-16 age categories and now we have 12-15 and 15-18 age categories;
- **The stages of the contest:** for the first three editions 12-14 age categories had to transform their school into a Sustainable Green Building while the 14-16 age categories had to transform an existing area of their city into a smart and sustainable one; for the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, for the 12-15 age categories, the stages of the contest are – registration, sustainability quiz, manufacturing challenge, video challenge, presentation design, national phase; for the 15-18 age categories, the stages are – registration, research, business model Canva, recycling challenge, presentation design, national phase;
- **The specific criteria for the evaluation of the teams:** for the first three editions, points given were – 0,25, 0,5, 1 and 2, while now the points will be given in accordance with the 4<sup>th</sup> edition's stages of the contest, from – 0, 0,5 1, 2, 4, 6, 8,10, 15, 20, 30;
- **The overall topic:** remains around coastal sustainability, but in comparison with previous editions, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition introduces the 9R framework (set of principles that make the transition from linear to circular economy); this extends the

objective of the contest to – raising awareness about sustainability, circular economy, green and technologically intelligent environments and smart cities;

- **Awards and national prizes:** all winners (one per category) will be awarded with 200 euros for each member, including the teacher.

This new brochure (D17) includes the overview, goals, projects specifications, expected impact of the School Contest.



# International EU-CONEXUS School Contest

4th edition

**THINK SMART, CREATE GREEN**



**EU CONEXUS**

European University for Smart  
Urban Coastal Sustainability



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## What is the contest about?

Since ancient times, coastal areas have been popular sites for human settlements due to their abundant natural resources, transportation access, and communication with other communities. In fact, according to the United Nations, nearly 40% of the world's population lives within 100 km of a coastline. However, the increasing urbanization and industrialization of these areas have led to significant environmental challenges.

Coastal sustainability is an essential aspect of responsible living, and it can be achieved by implementing the 9R framework (Refuse, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, Recycle, Recover).

The 9R framework emphasizes reducing waste and adopting a circular economy, which is crucial for coastal ecosystems' health and longevity. By practicing the 9R framework, we can reduce the amount of plastic waste and other pollutants that end up in the ocean, thereby protecting marine life and maintaining the delicate balance of the coastal ecosystem. Ultimately, coastal sustainability and responsible living go hand in hand, and it's our collective responsibility to protect our oceans and ensure their long-term viability.

## Why participate?

become active learn contest  
strong bonds boost language skills  
environmental sustainability  
engage social change experience  
develop raise awareness  
responsibility entrepreneurship  
critical & creative thinking  
team building skills



### FOR PUPILS

Desired pupil impact: increase awareness of sustainability, develop English, trigger cultural interest, foster empowerment, critical/creative thinking, teamwork, social change, entrepreneurship, and responsibility.



### FOR TEACHERS

Teachers' desired impact: Increase sustainability awareness, develop English, bond with students, explore teaching methods, enhance project management skills, and access Erasmus+ for professional development and international collaboration.

## How to participate?

### ► Category 1: pupils aged 12-15

### ► Category 2: pupils aged 15-18

#### OBJECTIVE

To raise awareness about sustainability, circular economy, green and technologically intelligent environments, and smart cities.

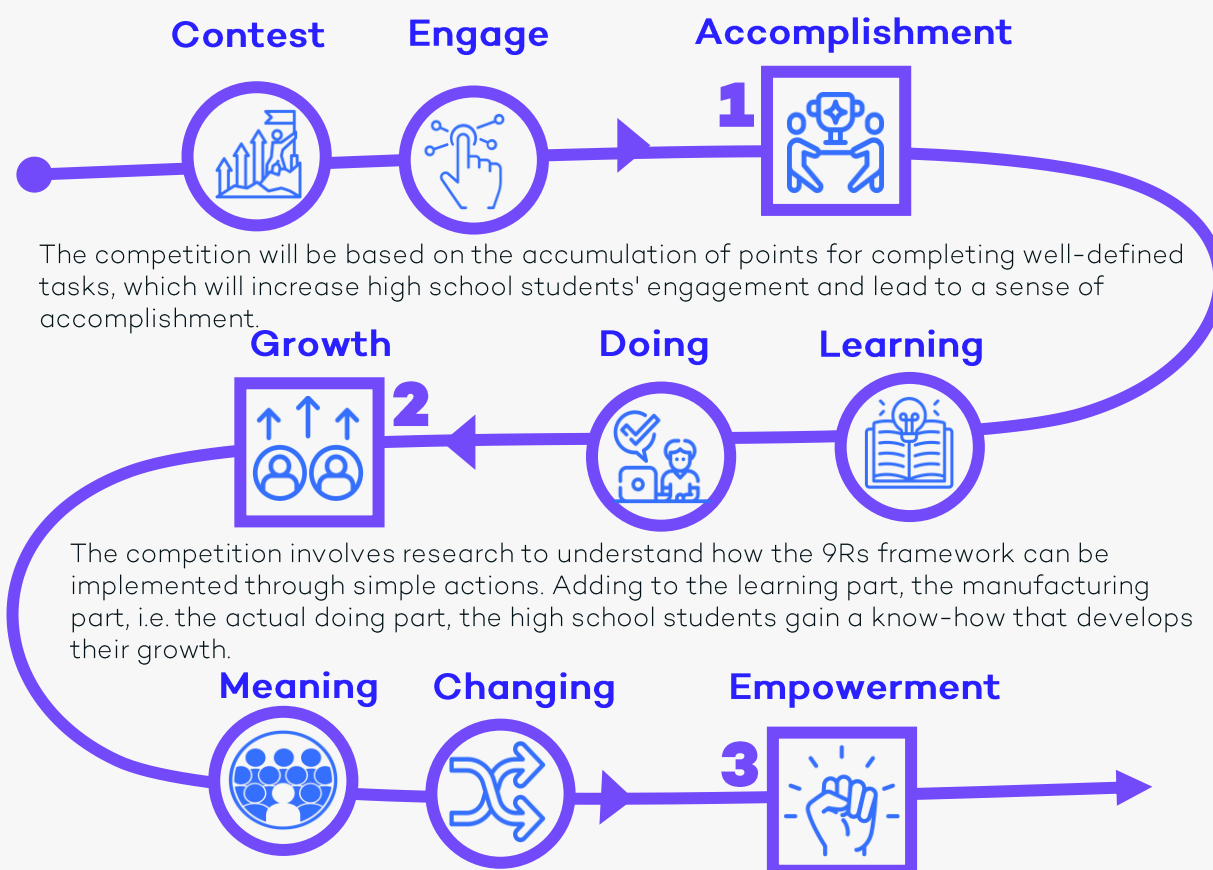
The competition aims to encourage pupils to think critically and creatively about sustainable development, circular economy, and smart city technologies.

#### CONTEST STAGES

Stage 1: Registration  
Stage 2: Sustainability Quiz  
Stage 3: Manufacturing Challenge  
Stage 4: Video Challenge  
Stage 5: Presentation design

Stage 1: Registration  
Stage 2: Research  
Stage 3: Business Model Canva  
Stage 4: Recycling Challenge  
Stage 5: Presentation design

## Contest gamification



Finally, by involving the materials produced in the contest in society, high school students can see that they can change things through the power of example and the significance of the resulting actions, thus developing a sense of empowerment.

## The contest phases

### 1. PRE-SELECTION

The national jury will select up to five (5) best works per category (based on general and quality criteria).

### 2. NATIONAL WINNER SELECTION

The pre-selected teams will present their projects to the national jury, 10 minutes presentation. One winner team per age group will be nominated to next phase.

### 3. FINAL SELECTION

The national winners will present virtually their projects to the international jury. There will be a podium of 3 places for the best international projects.

## What will you win?

### ALL PARTICIPANTS

Winner or not, you will have the opportunity to live this fascinating experience and gain knowledge about the sustainable development of your region.

### NATIONAL WINNERS

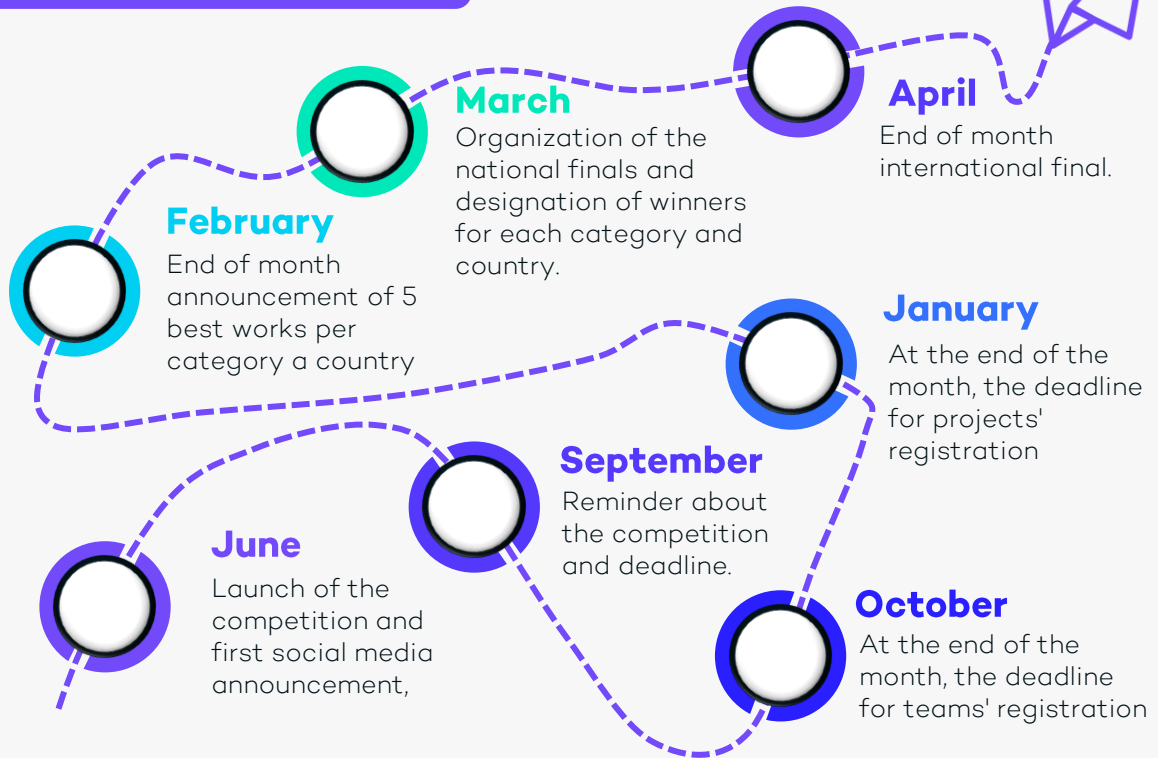
EU-CONEXUS corporate goodies and certificates will be given to all the national participants. All winners (one per category) will be awarded with 200-euro prizes for each team member, including the teacher

### INTERNATIONAL WINNERS

The team who achieves the podium places in the international competition, leading teacher included, will receive a prize with an estimated total value of:

**2 750 euro** **1 1000 euro** **3 500 euro**

# Contest Calendar



Take your chance for change:  
step in today for a sustainable tomorrow



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