

ANNOUNCEMENT: European competition on Science and Civic Journalism for "SUSTAINABLE CITIES"

More than half the population in the world live in urban areas and big cities are increasingly vulnerable to environmental issues connected to climate change and face many social issues. **Promoting sustainable choices and management of resources has become of crucial importance to make human settlements resilient and safe.**





We believe that the younger generations all over the world can greatly contribute to making our cities and societies more sustainable and the European **ECOSTEAM** project is working with secondary schools so that we can increase our knowledge and awareness on ecological behaviours.

ECOSTEAM is now launching a European Competition for the best "Science and Civic Journalism" to help everybody to understand urban problems and to start working towards more sustainable cities.

Get inspired by the ECOSTEAM themes and projects carried out by our partner-schools at <https://ecosteam.net/>





<p>Sustainable water management</p> 	<p>Water in the city is strictly connected to water management and its phases of potabilization, distribution and wastewater purification are directly connected to the natural hydrological cycle. Water management is also connected to the territory, availability and economic and civic needs, which make the resource susceptible to scarcity or lower quality.</p>
<p>Sustainable Energy Management</p> 	<p>Energy is behind anything (e.g., gas cooker, power socket, petrol station, etc.) and very often we are not aware about where the energy in our own house and towns come from and its contribution to environmental pollution. Increasing the use of renewable energy sources and making individual production of energy would likely increase the quality of urban air while increasing citizens' credits towards distribution companies.</p>
<p>Sustainable Waste Management</p> 	<p>The management of the Integrated Waste Cycle is a crucial point for the well-being of society. Circular economy, reuse of resources and products are alternative solutions to the linear management in which landfill and incineration were the main final destinations of waste. We must all work towards Reduction, Reuse, Recycle and Recovery as promoted by the Waste Framework Directive (2008).</p>
<p>Sustainable Urban Mobility</p> 	<p>A sustainable city should offer many options for citizens to move around: on foot, by bicycle, scooter, car, bus, tram, metro etc. and new forms of urban mobility have been increasing for the last years such as the electric scooter, car sharing, car pooling, bike sharing. Moving from place to place should be done sustainably to reduce pollution, stress and costs while promoting personal health.</p>

Competition Details

Who can participate in the ECOSTEAM competition?

The competition is open to **teams/classes of secondary school students**. Each team/class will have a **teacher who will act as referent** for the group and will be in charge of registering the team and submitting the competition entry.

How to participate

Participation is free of charge.

The registration is **OPEN!** In order to participate, **complete the [Registration form](#) by November 30, 2024** with the contact details of the teacher/school referent.

The team will be requested to **submit the materials by January 31, 2025** (see Submission chapter).

To have more information, contact us at ecosteamerasmusproject@gmail.com

Materials for submission

The official language of the competition and the final event is **English** therefore the material must be submitted in **English**.

1. Get inspired by the **ECOSTEAM themes** and materials (Learning Units, past school projects) available on the website <https://ecosteam.net/>. Think about the idea/issue you would like to address connected with those themes in your own city. You may choose to focus on one of the themes or combine more than one of them
2. Investigate your selected issue with regard to your city. Remember, there are many investigation methods you can apply (internet research, literature review, interviews, surveys, fieldwork, etc.). Take a look at the ECOSTEAM Learning Units for inspiration per theme and topic.
3. Create **one page article in the form of civic journalism*** (maximum 2000 characters, including one picture, saved in PDF format).
4. Create **one Video-Slogan** on a theme of a project in (30 ± 5 seconds long, MP4, vertical format).

* Do you know what it means? Do you want to learn how to write a civic journalism article? Here some useful links:

"How to communicate environmental issues "Because the environment is not just emotion" [https://ecosteam.net/images/methodology-materials/toolkit/Presentations PDF/HOW TO COMMUNICATE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.pdf](https://ecosteam.net/images/methodology-materials/toolkit/Presentations%20PDF/HOW%20TO%20COMMUNICATE%20ENVIRONMENTAL%20ISSUES.pdf)

HOW TO WRITE A ENVIRONMENTALISM - CIVIC JOURNALISM ARTICLE

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/177p_DEzi3BX0_Qc_XZG5vYljg0zt72O4

Submission

The team will be requested **to submit the materials** using the [Submission form](#) by **January 31, 2025**. **The person in charge of the submission is the referent teacher.**

In case of problems with the submission or to have more information, contact us at ecosteamerasmusproject@gmail.com

Evaluation and Awards

The competition products will be evaluated by a jury of experts who will assess the competition entries using an objective method with criteria and scores.

The three finalist teams resulting from the evaluation will receive **as a prize a contribution to the travel of representatives (we reserve the right to decide the amount) to the ECOSTEAM Final Conference in Florence (Italy) on 12-14 March 2025**. In the event, a winner school will be from Florence, the school can use the grant for a tour to a facility or museum related to the ECOSTEAM themes.

The ranking of the winners will be officially announced at the ECOSTEAM Final Conference in Florence.

Important dates

- Registration deadline ([Registration form](#)): **November 30, 2024**
- Final submission of materials ([Submission form](#)): **January 31, 2025**
- Announcement of the finalist teams: **February 10, 2025**
- Final award in Florence (Italy): **March 12-14, 2025**

Criteria for judging the winners

A score is provided for each criteria used to assess any article and video-slogan.

Criteria and score are indicated in the following table.

Criterion	Point score
1 Originality (i.e., novelty)	0-10
2 Main message (i.e., sustainable behaviours, management)	0-10
3 Clarity (i.e., clear and easy to understand)	0-10
4 Communication style (i.e., civic journalism style or video's capacity to transmit the message)	0-10
5 Impact (i.e., community involvement, practical relevance)	0-20
Total	0-60

Disclaimers

At the time of the submission of the materials you will have to declare the following:

- *The works (article and video) produced are truly original.*
- *You have the signed consent of the persons portrayed in multimedia materials or of the adults exerting the parental responsibility for the young students.*
- *That the works will be freely available from the project website.*
- *Undertake to indemnify all ECOSTEAM project partners from any request for compensation, including by third parties, for any improper use of the materials.*
- *Any use of generative Artificial Intelligence and AI-supported technologies and for what it has been used (e.g. inspiration, research of content, text creation, image creation, revision of the language form).*

Contact

For any inquiry, please, contact: ecosteamerasmusproject@gmail.com