**Participation in local event**

**Interreg Europe**

**OD4GROWTH Project**

***August 20, 2024***

***Liepāja, Latvia***

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| **Author** | Liepāja Municipality |
| **Event / Meeting / Subject** | National Latvian Eco-School summer forum  Environmentally friendly municipality: Mobility, sustainability and the importance and application of open data |
| **Date, Location** | Date: 20/08/2024.  Location: Nature House, Horse Island, Liepāja |
| **Agenda** | 1. lecture 11:00 - 11:45  2. lecture 12:00 - 12:45  3. lecture 13:00 - 13:45  1. Electricity in our everyday life (Arno Iesalnieks, SIA "Elnetworks" electrical equipment construction manager)  2. AkvaLab Liepāja - an educational trip in the Liepāja lake (Sniedze Više, Environmental expert (ZIIC))  3. Acquaintance with the nature house exposition and virtual reality in Liepāja lake (Education specialist of the Science and Education Innovation Center Justīne Rusakova)  4. Interest education classes "Young botanist" (Santa Polīte, Science and Education Innovation Center)  5. Getting to know the large-format games "Sea Planners", "Sea Explorers" (Game developer, maritime expert Andris Andrušaitis)  **6. Environmentally friendly municipality: Mobility, reusable dishes and the importance and application of open data (Linda Alksne, IT service management process manager of Liepāja Central Administration)**  7. Liepāja - a climate-neutral and smart city in 2030 (Kārlis Beikhmanis, Project Manager of the Office of the Executive Director of the Central Administration of Liepāja (on issues of climate change and energy efficiency) |

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| **Links to further Information** | <https://ekoskolas.lv/>  <https://www.facebook.com/LiepajasIP/posts/1050959397034450> |
| **Summary of the meeting** | |
| On 20th August 2024, I represented the OD4GROWTH project at the National Latvian Eco-School Summer Forum held at Nature House on Horse Island, Liepāja. The forum brought together educators from various educational institutions across Latvia to discuss and promote environmental education and sustainability practices within schools. The Eco-School program, recognized as the largest educational initiative globally, is implemented in 73 countries, including Latvia, where it involves 195 institutions ranging from preschools to universities. This program is a collaboration partner of the UN Environment Program and plays a critical role in embedding environmental education into everyday school activities.  During the event, I conducted two sessions targeted at groups of teachers, focusing on the significance of open data in fostering innovation, transparency, and societal well-being. The presentation highlighted the core aspects of the OD4GROWTH project and how it aims to leverage open data for urban growth and sustainability. Key points covered included:  Introduction to Open Data: I explained the concept of open data, emphasizing its role in enhancing transparency in government operations, aiding businesses and researchers in developing new products, and fostering community engagement through informed decision-making.  Sources of Open Data: The presentation provided a guide on where educators and students can access open data, such as the Latvian Open Data Portal (data.gov.lv), the European Open Data Portal, and global resources like NASA Earth Data and the World Resources Institute.  Application in Education: I encouraged the integration of open data into educational activities, proposing it as a valuable resource for environmental studies, climate change research, and sustainable urban planning projects within schools.  OD4GROWTH Project Overview: The session included an outline of the OD4GROWTH project's objectives, which involve auditing municipal data in Liepāja, developing a data architecture, and publishing open datasets to support the city’s economic development.  The teachers showed great interest in the potential applications of open data in their curriculum, particularly in how it could enhance students' understanding of real-world environmental issues. The discussions that followed the presentation were productive, with many educators expressing a desire to incorporate open data into their teaching practices.  Our participation in the National Latvian Eco-School Summer Forum successfully raised awareness about the OD4GROWTH project and the broader significance of open data in environmental education. The event served as an excellent platform to engage with educators, promote the use of open data in schools, and further the objectives of the OD4GROWTH initiative. | |





