



Ready for What Comes Next

2025

Impact Report

Knowledge. Capacity. Action.



Social
Innovation
Solutions



Knowledge.
Capacity.
Action.

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The future needs organisations ready to act

In 2025, organisations across Central and Eastern Europe faced a practical question: how can they respond to economic, environmental, and technological change while remaining competitive?

For many companies, understanding sustainability was no longer enough. They needed tools to measure their impact, prepare transition plans, identify investment needs and make better decisions.

Research organisations faced a related challenge: connecting scientific results with business, markets, and society.

Social Innovation Solutions developed programs that respond to different stages of these challenges.



The Sustainability Academy and Start in ESG expanded access to practical knowledge. Transformator helped organisations develop strategies for resilience and sustainable growth. ESG Lab supported companies in measuring their carbon footprint and preparing transition plans. Future LAB worked with research organisations on technology transfer and commercialisation.

ESG Journey brought sustainability conversations closer to regional business communities. The Climate Change Summit connected companies, policymakers, researchers, financial institutions, and civil society around climate action and applied solutions.

These programs did not aim to produce the same type of result. Some built awareness. Others developed skills, strategies, organisational tools or investment plans.

Together, they supported a common direction: helping organisations move from understanding change to preparing for it and, where possible, beginning implementation.

A year of practical progress

Results are reported by program and by type of engagement.



27,000+

reported Sustainability Academy platform users across five countries

250+

participants in Sustainability Academy learning groups

85+

participants in Transformator learning groups

155

participants in Start in ESG events

25

companies enrolled in ESG Lab, 18 completing core deliverables

25

research organisations completing Future LAB

Business & Science



540

companies reported as engaged through
ESG Journey

3,000

Climate Change Summit in-person
participants

1,003,000

Climate Change Summit online views

30

Climate Change Summit events across six
countries

107

Climate Change Summit speakers

€15,000

awarded to three climate solutions

Conversation Programs



A year of practical progress

Understanding our numbers

Platform users, online views, event participants, companies and research organisations represent different forms of engagement.

They are reported separately and are not combined into a single beneficiary figure. This allows each result to be understood at the level supported by the available evidence.

We create a critical mass of leaders, organizations and initiatives capable of responding to global challenges through sustainable transformation, science-tech driven innovation, and collaborative action.



Turning knowledge into **business** capacity

Sustainability Academy · Transformator · Start in ESG



Sustainability Academy practical education for SMEs

Sustainability education available across five countries

The Sustainability Academy made sustainability education available to SMEs in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia.

The platform reported more than 27,000 users and offered 22 locally developed courses. Nine learning groups brought together more than 250 participants, supported by local experts and partners.

The program combined digital courses, webinars, peer learning, grants and support for international certification.



Sustainability Academy in numbers

27,000+ users

reported on the learning platform

22 courses

locally developed

9 learning groups

across five countries

250+ participants

in facilitated cohorts

From learning to funded change

Eight businesses received grants for practical changes, while three Romanian SMEs entered a B Corp certification process. A total of EUR 34,000 was invested in grants and certification support.

Reported business changes included:

- renewable-energy installations
- energy-efficiency improvements
- electric-vehicle charging infrastructure
- refill and return systems
- lower-waste packaging
- operational digitalisation

€34,000
in grants and certification
support



Transformator resilient organisational models

Building the capacity to adapt

Transformator helped SMEs and NGOs develop more resilient and sustainable organisational models.

The program combined sustainability, foresight, financial planning, leadership, communication and digitalisation. More than 85 participants joined learning groups across five countries.

Participant cases documented the development of sustainability strategies, improved financial and operational planning, clearer business models and greater capacity to respond to changing market conditions.



Transformator in numbers

85+ participants

in facilitated learning groups

5 countries

covered by the program

6 capability areas

sustainability, foresight, finance,
leadership, communication,
digitalisation

Start în ESG an accessible entry point

First contact with ESG, in three cities

Start în ESG created an accessible entry point for companies beginning to engage with ESG.

Three events brought together 155 participants.

30

Bucharest

50

Oradea

75

Iași

Feedback collected from 43 respondents provided insight into the ESG questions and challenges perceived by participants.



When ambition **becomes** a plan

ESG Lab · measuring impact and preparing the transition



ESG Lab from commitment to transition plan

Company-specific data instead of general intentions

ESG Lab was designed for companies ready to move from general sustainability commitments to practical transition planning.

Twenty-five companies participated in a combination of online learning, bootcamps, practical tools and individual feedback.

The program covered carbon accounting, decarbonisation, supply-chain analysis and sustainable finance. Participants worked with experts to understand their current footprint, identify priorities and translate them into company-specific plans.

The program also helped companies structure initiatives related to renewable energy, resource efficiency, fleet transition, production technology and lower-emission operations.



135,000 tonnes CO₂e

measured and analysed by participating companies

Eighteen companies completed the program's core deliverables: a Carbon Footprint Report, a Decarbonisation Roadmap and a Supply Chain Mapping.

These instruments gave participating companies a clearer understanding of their emissions, operational priorities and potential investment needs.

The strongest result of ESG Lab is the transition from general ESG intentions to company-specific data and actionable plans. The next measure of progress will be how many of these plans secure financing and move into implementation.

ESG Lab deliverables and feedback

3 documents every participant leaves with

01 Carbon Footprint Report

02 Decarbonisation Roadmap

03 Supply Chain Mapping

18 companies completed all 3

92% of participants rated it the highest score

94 Net Promoter Score

Helping research move **beyond** the lab

Future LAB · connecting science, business and society



Testing whether research can reach the market

Future LAB was implemented between October 2025 and September 2026. The full program cycle is included in this report because its activities and results form a single intervention.

The program worked with 25 Romanian research organisations to strengthen their technology-transfer and commercialisation capabilities.

All 25 organisations completed the program and participated in both the initial and final assessments.

Participants worked with 75 patents and research results across eight research domains. Twenty-five selected results were presented to Advisory Boards for expert and industry feedback.



Future LAB in numbers

25 **organisations**

completed the full program

75 **patents**

and research results analysed

45 **experts**

trainers and industry
professionals

30 **Advisory Board sessions**

with expert and industry feedback

Future LAB the learning journey

What the program delivered

- two in-person bootcamps
- six online training sessions
- 30 Advisory Board sessions
- three practical tools per organisation for analysing transfer capacity and planning a route to market



Following the program, 20 of the 25 organisations said they intended to apply the tools to other patents and research projects.

Future LAB recorded an NPS of 95.5, with no detractors among respondents.

The program created a structured space in which researchers could test the relevance of their work, receive external feedback and understand possible pathways towards commercialisation.

Building the conversations **that enable** change

ESG Journey · Climate Change Summit



ESG Journey sustainability closer to regional business

Seven cities, one practical conversation

ESG Journey brought practical sustainability conversations to seven Romanian cities.

The program reported engagement from 540 companies with annual turnover above EUR 2 million. 67% of participants held C-level roles.

Sessions focused on ESG requirements, business strategy, emissions measurement, sustainable finance and implementation challenges.

540 companies engaged

98% found the information useful

99% would recommend the program to other entrepreneurs

83.1 Net Promoter Score



ESG Journey what still stands in the way

Companies continue to face practical barriers

implementation costs

limited internal budgets

regulatory uncertainty

emissions measurement

resistance to organisational change

Participant feedback points to the same conclusion as the rest of the year: awareness is no longer the constraint.

Climate Change Summit fourth edition

Six days connecting business, policy, science and finance

The fourth Climate Change Summit brought together 3,000 in-person participants over six days.

The Summit connected business, public policy, science, finance and civil society around climate action and economic transition.

Among survey respondents, 91% said they felt inspired to take more sustainable action and 92% intended to return for the following edition.



1,300

participants on the Main Day

1,700

participants across CCS Week

1,003,000

online views

30

events across six countries

107

speakers

120

partners

Climate Change Summit



What the Summit produced beyond the stage

01

**The launch of the State of the Climate
Romania 2025 report**

02

**A sustainable supplier-financing
partnership between BRD and Auchan
Romania**

03

**A Decarbonisation Masterclass involving
more than 100 companies**

€15,000

**awarded to three winning solutions, selected from nine
finalists of the Climate Change Summit Awards**

What progress **looks like** from here

4 conclusions from the 2025 results

What progress looks like from here conclusions

01

Awareness is the beginning, not the destination

Companies are increasingly familiar with sustainability and ESG concepts. Their main difficulties now concern measurement, implementation, financing and organisational capacity.

They need fewer general explanations and more practical support adapted to their operations and markets.

02

Practical tools turn learning into progress

Programs that combine education with applied tools, individual feedback and a required final deliverable produce clearer outcomes than one-off interventions.

Carbon footprint reports, decarbonisation roadmaps, sustainability strategies and technology-transfer tools show how knowledge can become organisational capacity.

What progress looks like from here conclusions

03

Regional programs depend on local relevance

The Sustainability Academy and Transformator demonstrated the value of local-language content, local experts and formats adapted to each market.

Regional expansion works when a shared methodology is combined with an understanding of local business realities.

04

The next step is implementation

The 2025 evidence is strongest in reach, participation, completed tools and organisational plans.

Evidence remains limited regarding emissions reduced, financing secured, revenue generated, research commercialised or changes sustained over time. These are the outcomes SIS must follow next.

Building the next stage

SIS will continue connecting sustainability, technology, science, finance and organisational transformation.

The next stage is to strengthen the path from strategy to implementation: helping organisations use the plans they developed, connect with relevant expertise and finance, and measure the results of the changes they introduce.

The objective is to help more organisations make informed decisions and turn those decisions into measurable progress.





Stronger organisations.
Measurable change.