

Supporting
the
transition



to
a
sustainable
economy
and
society



RE4GREEN'S PROGRESS AND ACTIVITIES

Milestones achieved

- Key aspects of the DNSH principle
- Initial training pilots complete

New Deliverable

[Social Lab Implementation Report 2: Strategies for Responding to Environment and Climate Ethical Issues in the Context of R&I and for the Green Transition](#)

Internal Feminist Training (WEFC)

WEFC presented their trainings so far at the SAB meeting this month, where they received valuable input from SAB members. This is being used to help WEFC plan ahead with their next capacity strengthening training next year — on gender and STEM.

Stakeholder Advisory Board

The sixth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) was held on 2 December and brought together twelve participants for an engaging and productive exchange. **The meeting also marked the welcome of a new SAB member, Magali Weissgerber.** Anke Stock and Rose Heffernan from WECF – Women Engaged for a Common Future delivered a comprehensive presentation on their ongoing work related to capacity building in gender expertise within the RE4GREEN project. They outlined the gender expertise training activities implemented since the project's outset and presented key outputs developed to date, including Deliverables [D6.4](#) and [D6.5](#). The session also provided an opportunity to collectively reflect on potential themes and areas of focus for the remaining training activities, ensuring their continued relevance and impact. The meeting continued with a presentation by Jan Mehlich from the University of Bonn, who introduced the RE4GREEN environmental and climate ethics risk assessment tool. Currently under development, the tool is designed to support a broad range of stakeholders in identifying and addressing potential environmental and climate ethics risks in research projects. SAB members actively contributed to the discussion, offering valuable comments and constructive feedback during the Q&A session and plenary exchange. Overall, the meeting facilitated meaningful dialogue and expert input, contributing to the further refinement of key RE4GREEN activities and tools.

To get to know the SAB members (who have consented to be featured on the website), [click here](#).



RE4GREEN's participation in events

1. RE4GREEN was presented at the International Sociology Forum, held in Morocco (August 2025)

The **Japanese Social Lab team of RE4GREEN** presented its research at the **International Sociology Forum**. Representing the project, **Haruka Ueda (University of Tokyo)** delivered the presentation "*Lessons from Fukushima: Food and Environmental Ethics, Arts and Philosophy*". The presentation drew on findings from a **2024 field study in Iitate Village, Fukushima**, exploring post-disaster revitalisation and emerging approaches to environmental ethics. The research highlighted a shift from science- and economy-driven recovery towards perspectives grounded in **philosophy and the arts**, illustrating how new forms of collaboration and public engagement are reshaping understandings of nature and sustainability in the region.



2. RE4GREEN hosted a round table at Young SMLMS in Bonn (25/8/2025)

RE4GREEN hosted a roundtable discussion at the Young SMLMS symposium in Bonn. During the 90-minute session dedicated to GreenLab strategies, Jan Mehlich and Fabian Fischbach discussed with early career researchers the levels at which responsibility for sustainable research manifests, and explored the kinds of questions that must be asked to ensure research procedures and outputs lead to results that align with the ideals of a just and ecological society. It was a valuable opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with young researchers. Thanks to Paula Schrage and Maren Eilers for organising the event!



3. RE4GREEN was presented at the Netherlands Research Integrity Network (NRIN) (4/9/2025)

Dr Lucy Sabin [delivered a presentation](#) titled "Ecological Awareness in Research Design and Practice" on ecologically informed research design and practice. The talk examined how research activities are situated within broader ecological, social and political contexts, emphasising the importance of relational ethical approaches and accountability towards both human and non-human actors. Drawing on work developed within the RE4GREEN project, the session highlighted recent outputs supporting environmentally responsible research, including a developing competence framework and an evolving open-access digital resource collection. The discussion also considered how research ethics and epistemic justice can play a transformative role in shaping more sustainable research environments.



4. RE4GREEN joined the EGU Jour Fixe(24/9/25):

The RE4GREEN project was represented at the EGU Jour Fixe by colleagues Jan Mehlich and Mathieu Rochambeau. Jan Mehlich presented the RE4GREEN project in a presentation titled "*The RE4GREEN project: Addressing environmental- and climate-ethical issues in research and innovation practice.*" Furthermore, the meeting served as a stepping stone toward future collaboration between EGU and RE4GREEN.



5. RE4GREEN at the ENRIO Congress in Ljubljana (22-24/9/25)

RE4GREEN contributed to the [ENRIO Congress 2025](#), engaging with research integrity professionals to advance dialogue on the intersection of environmental challenges, research ethics and integrity. As part of the satellite event "How do European funded projects promote research integrity policy and practice in the European Research Area...", RE4GREEN co-organised the panel "Embedding sustainability principles in research to support the green transition" together with **LUKE** and the **Lyte** project. The project also contributed to discussions on research system resilience and presented its second policy brief, "Safeguarding Trust: Ensuring Research Integrity in Climate Change Research and Innovation". In addition, key findings from three major RE4GREEN reports were shared during a poster session, fostering exchange with the wider research integrity community.



6. RE4GREEN Contributing to the IRECS Final Conference on Sustainable Research Collaboration (12/12/2025)

Dominic Lenzi represented RE4GREEN as an invited speaker at the **IRECS** Final Conference, held in Brussels, Belgium, from 11–12 December 2025. He contributed to the panel "The Sustainable Use of Cluster Networks: IRECS as a Cluster of the Clusters", which took place on Friday, 12 December 2025. The discussion addressed opportunities and challenges in cross-project collaboration within and beyond Europe, highlighting RE4GREEN's work on sustainability and research ethics, including its micromodule training resources and contributions to research integrity frameworks.





Analyse, identify, assess

As part of its commitment to reinforcing the ethical underpinnings of research and innovation, RE4GREEN has achieved a significant milestone with **the publication of its first peer-reviewed** article in *Science and Engineering Ethics*. The [paper](#), titled *Convergences and Gaps between Environmental Ethics, Climate Ethics, and Research Ethics: A Scoping Review* (Bourban, M., Lenzi, D., Sørensen, M. *et al.*, 2026, *Science and Engineering Ethics*, 32, 11), lays the conceptual groundwork for the project's subsequent phases and represents a key step in its scholarly contribution.

Based on a systematic literature review carried out under WPI, the study investigates how environmental ethics, climate ethics, and research ethics are defined in contemporary scholarship and explores the ways in which these fields overlap. One of its principal conclusions is that environmental and climate considerations remain insufficiently embedded within prevailing research ethics frameworks. The findings underscore the importance of enriching these frameworks through the incorporation of perspectives drawn from environmental ethics and theories of climate justice.

The review further identifies marked asymmetries in the existing body of literature. In particular, it notes a predominant emphasis on climate change—especially discussions surrounding the ethics and governance of geoengineering—while other environmental challenges receive comparatively limited attention. The authors therefore warn against generalising governance models developed for geoengineering to research oversight more broadly and advocate instead for a wider and more balanced ethical approach.

Through its systematic mapping of alignments and disconnects among these three domains, the article formulates a forward-looking research agenda designed to promote stronger integration between research ethics and environmental and climate ethics, ultimately contributing to more responsible research and innovation practices.

You can access the article through the RE4GREEN website [here](#), as well as the related deliverables by [clicking here](#).

Engage, learn from, and co-create through social labs

The second Social Lab report is now available. This **second Social Lab report** (May–December 2025), authored by colleagues Alexandra Csábi and Michael Bernstein and entitled [*Social Lab Implementation Report 2: Strategies for Responding to Environment and Climate Ethical Issues in the Context of R&I and for the Green Transition*](#), presents key insights from participatory workshops and international Social Labs conducted across Europe, Japan, and South Africa.

The Social Labs bring together stakeholders from across sectors to explore how climate and environmental ethics — alongside research integrity — can be meaningfully embedded within EU research and innovation (R&I) systems.

Among the central findings are the following:

- Environmental and climate ethics cannot be addressed solely at the level of individual projects.
- The EU's "Do No Significant Harm" principle represents an important policy tool, yet remains challenging to operationalise in practice.
- Stronger institutional responsibility and clearer accountability mechanisms are required.
- Cross-sector collaboration and inclusive governance are essential to achieving a just Green Transition.

Overall, the report emphasises the need for systemic alignment across governance frameworks, funding structures, and institutional priorities, ensuring that sustainability is firmly embedded as a core value within the research and innovation landscape.



Selected Highlights from the Social Labs

1. RE4GREEN Social Lab on Digital, Industry, and Space Technologies – Vienna (15–16 October 2025)

Held in Vienna, this RE4GREEN Social Lab convened experts and stakeholders for an intensive 1.5-day, face-to-face workshop dedicated to joint reflection and collaborative design. Organised by the Austrian Institute of Technology and hosted at Filmquartier Vienna, the event focused on the practical implications of the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle and on shaping visions for sustainable research and innovation systems looking towards 2050 and beyond. Through structured dialogue and co-creative exchange, participants examined how sustainability considerations can be effectively integrated into rapidly evolving fields such as digital, industrial, and space technologies, fostering long-term, responsible technological development.



2. Co-creating Knowledge for Sustainability: Highlights from the RE4GREEN Social Lab Workshop in Bonn (16-17/10/2025)

The University of Bonn hosted a [one-and-a-half-day Social Lab workshop](#) within the Horizon Europe-funded RE4GREEN project. As part of the project's Social Lab methodology, the event provided a structured space for interdisciplinary dialogue and collaborative reflection. The workshop addressed key priorities of Horizon Europe Cluster 6, with a focus on urban farming, precision agriculture, vertical farming, and the bioeconomy.



Through facilitated discussions, participants explored environmental risk assessment and the practical application of the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle. Fourteen participants from across Europe and beyond contributed diverse expertise. The workshop fostered an open and constructive atmosphere, enabling collective foresight and the development of forward-looking insights that will inform RE4GREEN's future strategic direction.

Selected **Highlights** from the **Social Labs**

3. Progress from the Fourth RE4GREEN Social Lab Organised by ECSA in Berlin (14/11/25)

As part of the RE4GREEN initiative, [the EU Social Lab on climate and mobility](#) held its fourth face-to-face workshop at Berlin's Museum für Naturkunde. Hosted by ECSA within the framework of the project's Social Lab methodology, the event took place in a venue emblematic of the interconnections between nature, environment, and human activity.



Drawing on conclusions from previous sessions, the workshop moved towards practical application, concentrating on the Do No Significant Harm principle and a reflective assessment of the project's micromodules. The programme fostered critical evaluation, collaborative development, and strategic foresight, inviting participants to explore concrete ways of advancing the green transition within research and innovation projects.

Produce and/or adapt guidelines and develop policy recommendations

Work Package 3 (WP3) has developed a comprehensive set of operational guidance materials under Deliverable D3.2, scheduled for submission at the end of February 2026. These materials focus on systematically integrating environmental and climate considerations into key components of the research ecosystem, including research integrity, research ethics, ethics review procedures, and citizen science.

Designed as practical and context-sensitive tools, the guidance moves beyond high-level ethical principles and translates them into actionable recommendations. It aims to support a broad range of stakeholders — including researchers, members of Research Ethics Committees, research managers, and citizen scientists — in embedding sustainability and climate responsibility more effectively within research and innovation practices. In addition, Policy Brief 2 will be presented at the [World Conference on Research Integrity \(WCRI\) 2026](#). The brief addresses the theme “*Ensuring Research Integrity in Climate Change-Related Research and Innovation*”, highlighting the specific integrity challenges that arise in this rapidly evolving and societally critical field, and proposing targeted measures to strengthen responsible conduct in climate-related research.

Develop and implement training programmes



As part of the activities carried out under WP4, the podcast *Earth to Research* was introduced in September 2025. The initiative has been acknowledged by the Open Science Community Amsterdam for its role in stimulating critical reflection on research practices in light of the ecological crisis. Presented by Dr Lucy Sabin and supported by Vrije Universiteit Open Science, the podcast offers an open forum for researchers, teachers, and students to reflect on how academic work can better respond to the demands of environmental justice and long-term sustainability. Through conversations that bridge disciplines and combine ethical reflection with practical insight, the series invites listeners to rethink the direction and responsibilities of research in an era of profound environmental change.

You can access *Earth to Research* on [Spotify](#), [Podbean](#) as well as via the [RE4GREEN website](#).

Spotlight on the **Training Materials**

Within WP4, a series of micromodules accompanied by tailored training materials is being developed to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including researchers, research ethics and integrity professionals, academic institutions, scientists, and students. The initiative seeks to enhance awareness and promote environmentally responsible and ethically robust field research practices that reduce potential impacts on ecosystems, wildlife, and local communities. The full collection of micromodules is accessible through the [Embassy of Good Science platform](#), ensuring open and user-friendly access to these resources.

A Flagship Example from the Micromodule Series

A [standout example of this work](#) can be explored on the Embassy of Good Science platform. Created by the University of Korea, the micromodule *"Reimagining Sustainable Field Research: Doing Science Without Doing Harm"* shines a spotlight on the vital contribution of field research to our understanding of ecosystem dynamics and natural processes. At the same time, it openly confronts the environmental and ethical challenges that can emerge when research is carried out without sufficient care — from habitat disruption and wildlife stress to long-term biodiversity decline. Its central message is clear and compelling: how we conduct research matters just as much as what we discover.

The module moves beyond theory, offering hands-on guidance to help minimise these risks in practice. Participants engage with concrete strategies for conducting fieldwork that is safe, inclusive, and ethically grounded, while also reflecting on key considerations in wildlife research. Through real-world examples and case-based learning, learners gain practical tools to ensure their research aligns with principles of environmental sustainability and high ethical integrity.



Further micromodules are already available on the Embassy of Good Science platform, with more to come. Updates on the full training programme and upcoming Train-the-Trainer sessions are shared via the project mailing list — an excellent opportunity to stay connected and be part of this growing learning community. Registration to join the training contact list can be completed [here](#)

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