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NEWSLETTER

MAKE DELIVERY MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY



COURIERS GO GREEN



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DEAR READER,

well into the first year of Project implementation we welcome you to this newsletter. As you will be able to see, we had a very active start within **Couriers Go Green project**.

The project officially started on **1st of January 2023** and will end on **31st of December 2024**. The project is **led by University of Thessaly (UTH)** from Greece.

Couriers Go Green main goal is to develop an **Educational Package and a Certifiable Training Course** as well as a **Green Strategy step-by-step process model** to assist the major players in the **transportation sector to make a green shift in their operations contributing thus to environmental protection and fight against climate change**.

To this extent, in order for the project to cover the needs of certain groups such as **courier and transportation workers and drivers**, who might have different backgrounds and starting points. All project results will be tested against criteria like **comprehensibility, effectiveness, terms understanding, plain language**, to produce a tailor made and adapted VET program.

The main output of the project is a **Courier Go Green e-Learning Hub**, aiming to enable the target market to become greener in the areas of courier, postal, transport, mobility and other areas.



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A **Learning Platform** will be developed integrating the educational package with information, **tools and other resources in order to enhance learning**. Online learning platforms bring numerous advantages to both **professionals (learners) and companies**, revolutionizing the learning process.

The project kick-off meeting

The project kick-off meeting was held between **31 January – 1 February in Volos (Greece)**, where the members of the new consortium discussed the management and implementation of preparation' tasks. The project partnership consists of seven members from different European countries, such as **Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Romania and Hungary**.



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The top section of the page features a light green background with a network of circular icons connected by lines. The icons include a biofuel pump, a building, a car with a leaf, a recycling symbol, a globe, and a location pin. In the center, a green hexagonal logo contains a white box with a green plant growing out of it, with several green lines radiating from the box. Below this logo, the text "COURIERS GO GREEN" is written in a white box with a green border.

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Pooling of Knowledge-State Analysis Assessment

The first task of the **Couriers Go Green project**, i.e. the pooling of knowledge, was successfully completed in **March 2023**. The task comprised two parts. **In the first part**, an overview of the **EU policy framework** on last-mile deliveries and urban logistics was conducted and the state-of-the-art regarding the **methods and tools for the green transition** of urban courier, delivery and postal services was reviewed. The review covered the following dimensions:

- Carbon footprint calculation
- Life cycle management and assessment of operations
- Sustainable transport planning
- Sustainable logistics and supply chain management
- Green procurement
- Eco-friendly packaging
- Energy-efficient vehicles, buildings and equipment
- Automated and digital operations
- Employee engagement and education
- Collaboration/networking with private and public organisations
- Regularly monitoring and reporting progress
- Certification



The top section of the page features a light green background with a network of circular icons connected by lines. The icons include a fuel pump with a leaf, a building, a car with a leaf, a globe, a location pin, and a leaf. In the center, there is a large green graphic of a hand holding a box with a plant growing out of it. Below this graphic, the text "COURIERS GO GREEN" is written in a bold, dark green font.

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Based on these dimensions, a questionnaire survey was performed, followed by a series of in-depth interviews, with the participation of the project's **main target group** (courier, postal and delivery services and public authorities responsible for policy making and management) and **secondary target group** (consultants in transport & logistics and in climate and environmental strategy, research institutions and other relevant organizations). The objectives of the **survey and interviews** were to **assess the level of awareness and knowledge of stakeholders** about policies and methods/tools for the green transition of courier, delivery and postal services, to **map the implemented or planned green transition strategies**, training schemes for green skills to employees and relevant certification schemes and to **assess their significance** in the process of green transition.

According to the survey and interview results, main barriers for the transition are the lack of sufficient and well-communicated EU and national policies, on the one hand, and effective strategic planning and know-how from the part of service operators, on the other. For example, only **6 of the 43 respondents** have updated knowledge of the EU policy framework, while **29 of the respondents** are not fully aware of the corresponding national policy framework. **Other major obstacles are** the relatively small progress in the renewal of fleets with zero-carbon vehicles and the low adoption of automation and energy-efficient solutions for transport operations, buildings and equipment. A number of companies that participated in the survey and interviews are already implementing green transition strategies or initiatives, such as training schemes, but these efforts comprise isolated cases. On this basis, the next activities of the





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Couriers Go Green project will aim at the **development and testing** of a comprehensive strategic framework to support the green transition of courier, delivery and postal service companies at the level of management, as well as the formulation and pilot of training and certification schemes at the level of employees.

What's next

The next step is to develop the **Green Strategic Planning Framework**, which is the second deliverable of the **Couriers Go Green project**. The Green Strategic Planning Framework will help the target groups to plan all **planning activities needed to implement the green shift** in their operations. It will be followed by **testing and verification** through pilots. To test the effectiveness of the Green Strategic Planning Framework, the **Framework** will be applied ("desk-based") to **courier/postal/transportation-logistics companies**. Throughout the process, Couriers Go Green partners will support the pilot framework testers in its implementation, collect feedback from the results of the pilot study and prepare the pilot study report. Meanwhile, in parallel, a **toolbox** will be developed and validated, which will support the implementation of the green strategy.

Stay tuned...



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