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Seeking Eco Giants - Policy on Climate Change, Latvia



Co-funded by
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Introduction



The SEEKING ECO GIANTS project, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, aims to engage young people in decision-making processes regarding climate change. The project uses free discussion sessions and formal education methodologies to guide participants in reflecting on the causes and impact of climate change and identifying measures that can be taken on personal and community levels. The project empowers young people to become active agents in addressing climate change and fostering sustainable practices in their communities.



Local Analysis: Latvia

- Latvia, a picturesque country nestled in Northern Europe, faces the challenges of water scarcity, floods, and the risk of more frequent droughts in the future.
- These challenges are exacerbated by factors such as changing rainfall patterns, population growth, and urbanization.
- Despite possessing a well-developed water infrastructure network, Latvia remains susceptible to water scarcity.
- The combined impact of the aforementioned factors is straining the country's water resources, and this trend is expected to intensify in the years to come.



Key Factors Contributing to Water Scarcity in Latvia

- **Changing Rainfall Patterns:** Rainfall occurrences and intensities are experiencing alterations in Latvia, characterized by extended periods of dry spells followed by torrential downpours. This variability can lead to both water shortages and floods, depending on the specific location and timing of these events.
- **Population Growth:** While Latvia's population has been on a gradual decline in recent years, it is still projected to increase slightly in the coming years. This incremental demand for water will further burden the country's resources.
- **Urbanization:** Latvia is undergoing a process of urbanization, with a growing population gravitating towards cities and towns. This urbanization puts pressure on urban water supplies and increases the risk of wastewater contamination.
- **Inefficient Water Management:** In certain regions of Latvia, water management practices may not be as optimized as they could be. This can lead to leaks, spills, and other water losses that could otherwise be utilized.
- **Overexploitation of Groundwater:** Groundwater serves as a crucial water source for Latvia, yet its extraction is exceeding sustainable limits in some areas. This overexploitation depletes aquifers, which can have detrimental consequences for ecosystems and human activities.
- **Water Pollution:** Water contamination from agricultural runoff, industrial wastewater, and other sources constitutes another concern in Latvia. This pollution hinders the utilization of water for drinking, irrigation, and other purposes.



Take Action Personally!

- Individuals can play a pivotal role in mitigating water scarcity in Latvia. Here are some practical tips for reducing your water consumption:
- Address Leaks Promptly: Leaky faucets and pipes can squander a significant amount of water; rectify these leaks as soon as possible.
- Minimize Water Usage: Turn off the tap when not actively using water, including while brushing teeth, washing dishes, and shaving.
- Shorten Shower Duration: Aim for showers that last no longer than five minutes.



Do it Together! Measures on Community Level

- Communities can collectively address water scarcity through collaborative initiatives:



- **Install Water-Efficient Fixtures in Public Buildings:** This includes schools, libraries, and community centers.



- Implement Water-Saving Ordinances: These ordinances can mandate water conservation measures for businesses and residents.



- Examine Rainwater Harvesting Possibilities: This cost-effective method can collect rainwater for



Together, we can create a ripple effect of positive change and inspire a generation of young Eco Giants to shape a more sustainable future for all.



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