

Global Challenge Overview

This overview which was developed by the NICE project will provide you with guidance on the Global Challenge options that you are interested in studying and creating a business idea as part of the INCiTE Summer School. Below, you can see the Societal Challenge, the Sustainable Development Goals that relate to the Societal Challenge, some ideas as to how you could engage with this Global Challenge, some case studies to provide you with examples as to how others have done this work and some questions to get you thinking!

Societal Challenges: ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/societal-challenges

17 Sustainable Development Goals: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals

<p>Societal challenge</p>	<p>Societal challenge 5: Climate action, environment, and resources</p> <p>The goal of this societal challenge is to build more resource-efficient and climate-change resilient economies and societies. This includes lowering CO2 emissions on a global level; minimising the melting of glaciers and ice caps to prevent sea levels from rising; addressing knowledge gaps and improving the public’s understanding of key climate processes; optimising the use of resources by promoting a circular economy; encouraging more efficient use of water worldwide; and protecting and leveraging the value of natural and cultural assets.</p>
<p>UN Sustainable Development Goals that fit into the societal challenge</p>	<p>SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities</p> <p>SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production</p> <p>SDG 13 – Climate Action</p>

<p>Ideas</p>	<p>There are various ways of tackling this societal challenge, for example by promoting a circular economy and minimizing waste. Social enterprises dedicated to sorting waste and reusing resources, such as recycling electric devices instead of throwing them away, participate in changing consumer behaviour and reducing our harmful impact on the environment.</p> <p>Reducing food waste through encouraging more conscious food consumption and producing biofuels from food and cooking waste can also support the efficient use of natural resources by decreasing damage done to the environment.</p> <p>Businesses that make products more durable and easier to repair or upgrade participate in sustainable manufacture.</p> <p>In terms of climate action, initiatives aiming at reducing CO2 emissions, such as reducing waste, reusing resources, and promoting use of electric cars, all work towards building more resource-efficient and climate change-resilient societies. This can be scaled up further and strengthened by educating people on the causes and effects of climate change and how to mitigate them. Improving our general understanding of key climate processes can guide public opinion and consumer behaviour towards more sustainable practices.</p>
<p>Case studies</p>	<p>A number of projects address this global challenge on various levels: student projects, NGOs, academics, social enterprises and businesses.</p> <p>AIESEC volunteer project aiesec.org/opportunity/978887</p> <p>This student NGO recycles abandoned materials, improves infrastructure, and teaches children about environmental protection in China.</p> <p>Columbia's Earth Institute www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/1791</p> <p>This is an interdisciplinary research unit that investigates how to best address issues of global sustainability.</p> <p>Holland Circular Hotspot www.hollandcircularhotspotmagazine.com</p> <p>The website lists businesses and companies that either take part or specialise on the circular economy.</p>
<p>Questions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What social enterprise would you create to recycle materials/encourage people to recycle? 2. How could you reduce food waste in an innovative way? 3. How can you make societies more resilient to climate change?