

**Best practices**

**Ecological-economic Perspectives of sustainability in the Vocational training**

EcoGreen aims to support teachers at vocational schools in implementing the topic of sustainable economic education. Our strategy strengthens the professional profile of teachers and supports their students in acquiring ecological skills.

Our consortium:



**Leibniz Universität Hannover**

**Universität Wien**

**SamiEDU**

**PKZ Voca Train**

**Zespół Szkół Leśnych Lesnych**

**Studienseminar Braunschweig LbS**

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**Transition Network and the REconomy Project: Paving the Way for Sustainable Local Economies**

The Transition Network is a global movement that seeks to inspire, encourage, connect, support, and train communities to create initiatives that rebuild resilience and reduce CO2 emissions. Established in 2006 by environmentalist Rob Hopkins, the network aims to address the intertwined challenges of peak oil, climate change, and economic instability by fostering local, self-sufficient, and sustainable communities. This movement has found strong support in Germany and the UK, where local initiatives have embraced the Transition ethos to drive meaningful change.

One of the cornerstone projects of the Transition Network is the REconomy Project. This initiative is dedicated to transforming local economies to become more resilient and sustainable, providing a practical pathway towards a post-carbon future. The REconomy Project recognizes that the conventional global economic system is unsustainable and offers an alternative model that prioritizes the well-being of communities and the environment.

## Key Aspects of the REconomy Project

### Local Enterprise Creation

At the heart of REconomy is the support for new local enterprises that are aligned with sustainability principles. These enterprises often focus on areas such as local food production, renewable energy, sustainable transport, and eco-friendly construction. By fostering such businesses, the project aims to create local jobs, retain wealth within the community, and reduce reliance on external resources.

### Community Engagement and Participation

REconomy emphasizes the importance of community involvement in economic development. It encourages community members to participate in decision-making processes, ensuring that the economic strategies adopted are reflective of the local needs and values. This participatory approach helps to build social cohesion and a sense of ownership among residents.

### Skill Development and Education

To support the transition to a more resilient economy, the REconomy Project offers training and educational resources. These programs equip individuals with the skills needed for new economic activities, such as sustainable farming, renewable energy installation, and green business management. By investing in human capital, the project enhances the community's capacity to innovate and adapt to changing conditions.

### Resilient Economic Infrastructure

The project promotes the development of infrastructure that supports sustainable economic activities. This includes local markets, cooperative enterprises, and community-owned assets. Such infrastructure enables the efficient circulation of resources within the community, fostering economic stability and reducing ecological footprints.

### Financial Innovation

REconomy also explores innovative financial models that can support sustainable local development. This includes community currencies, crowd-funding platforms, and ethical investment schemes. These financial tools help to redirect capital towards projects that benefit the community and the environment, rather than extracting wealth for distant shareholders.

### Success Stories

Numerous communities across the globe have successfully implemented REconomy principles. In Germany, cities like Bielefeld and Berlin have embraced the REconomy model. In these areas, local food co-ops, renewable energy cooperatives, and urban gardening projects have flourished, showcasing how community-driven efforts can lead to sustainable economic transformation. These initiatives have not only created jobs and improved local resilience but also fostered a strong sense of community identity and purpose.

The Transition Network and its REconomy Project represent a visionary approach to creating sustainable and resilient local economies. By focusing on local enterprise, community engagement, skill development, resilient infrastructure, and financial innovation, REconomy offers a comprehensive framework for communities to thrive in an uncertain future. As more communities, including those in Germany, adopt these principles, the global movement towards sustainability and resilience grows stronger, paving the way for a more equitable and environmentally sound world.

Sources:

https://transitionnetwork.org/

<http://reconomy.org/>

<https://transitiongroups.org/de/hub/germany/>

https://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/Transition\_Network