

● Project Number: 2023-1-EL02-KA151-YOU-000142315



PLANETWISE

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**Title: Empowering Future Leaders through
EU Youth Goals and Sustainable Careers**



Module 01



Co-funded by
the European Union



Introduction

This module aims to explore the intersection of youth empowerment, the EU Youth Goals, and sustainable career development. The focus is on how young people can be equipped with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities to become future leaders while contributing to the sustainability agenda. The module is designed for students or participants interested in youth policy, sustainable development, and career pathways that align with environmental, economic, and social sustainability.





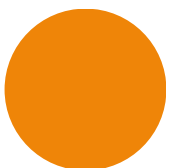
Objectives

1. Understand the EU Youth Goals:

- Explore the 11 EU Youth Goals, their purpose, and their role in shaping policies that address young people's needs across Europe.
- Analyze how these goals contribute to youth empowerment and active citizenship. Connect Youth

2. Goals with Sustainable Development:

- Understand how youth empowerment through the EU Youth Goals aligns with the broader United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas like education, decent work, and climate action.
- Explore the impact of sustainable careers on youth leadership in promoting economic, social, and environmental sustainability.





3. Develop Leadership Skills for Sustainable Careers:

- Equip students with leadership skills required for navigating careers that contribute to sustainability, such as critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and collaboration.
- Foster skills like entrepreneurship, innovation, and adaptability within the context of sustainability.

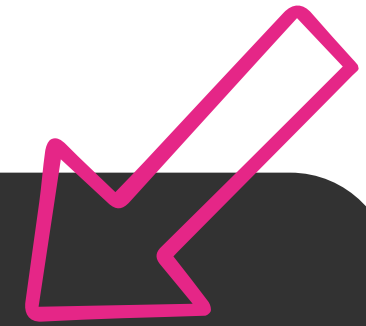
4. Promote Active Citizenship and Policy Engagement:

- Encourage active participation in policymaking at both local and European levels.
- Teach students how to advocate for sustainable practices within industries and institutions.
- Examine youth participation in European institutions, such as the European Parliament and European Youth Forum.

Key Themes

1. EU Youth Goals and Their Relevance:

- The EU Youth Goals were established as part of the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) and cover areas such as quality education, equal opportunities, mental health, and climate action.
- Students will analyze each goal's relevance to modern challenges faced by youth and the link between these goals and sustainable development.



2. Sustainable Career Pathways:

- Exploration of how sustainable careers (in fields like renewable energy, environmental policy, green technology, and social entrepreneurship) can be both economically viable and socially responsible.
- Case studies of companies and initiatives that prioritize sustainability and how they provide career opportunities for young people.

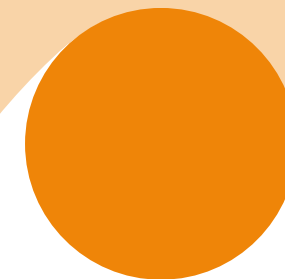
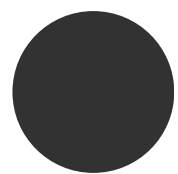
3. Leadership and Personal Development:

- Focus on building leadership competencies such as ethical leadership, decision-making in complex environments, and collaborative work across borders and disciplines.
- Students will engage in simulations and role-playing activities to practice leadership in sustainability-focused settings.



4. Youth Participation and Policy Advocacy:

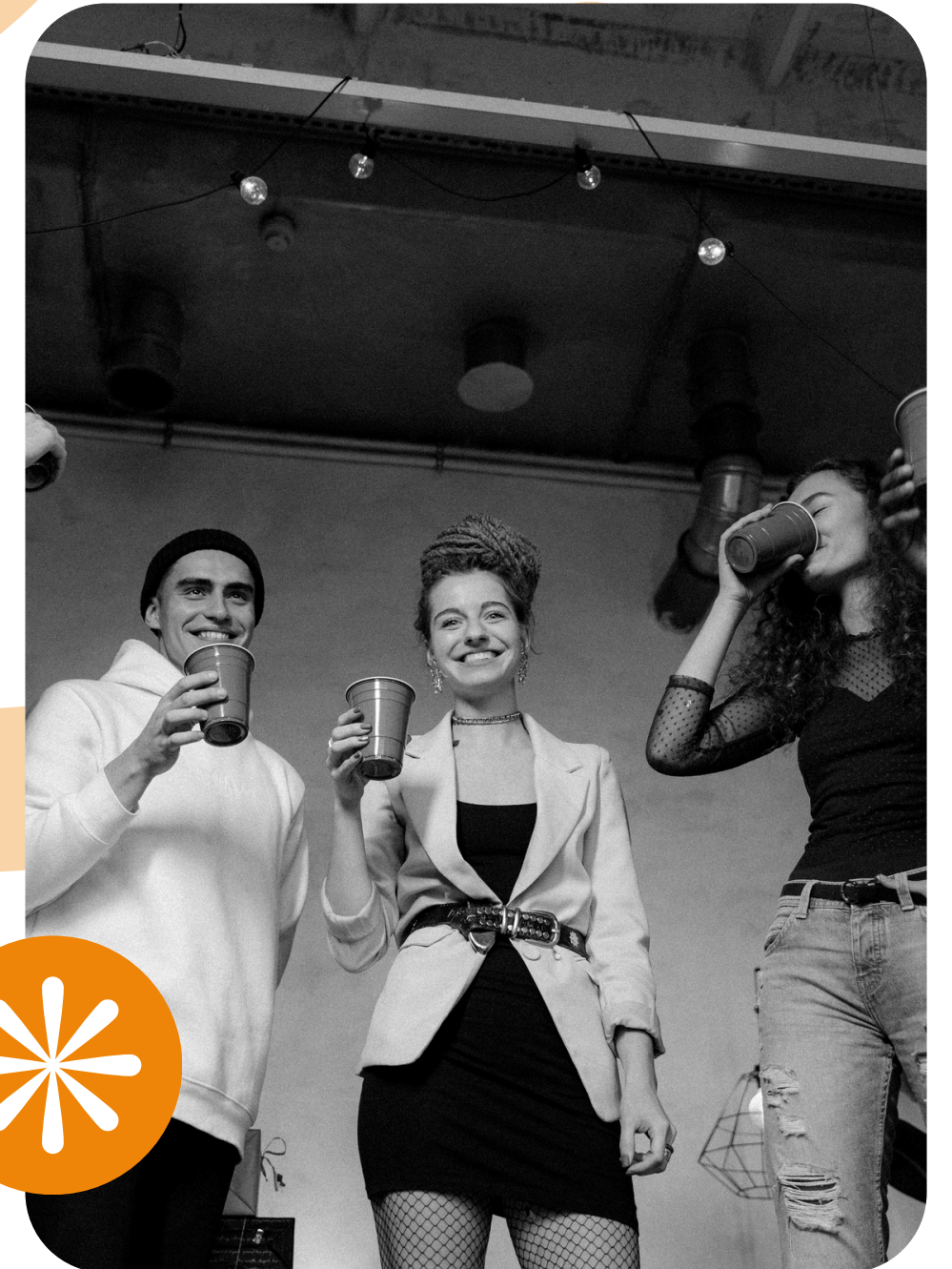
- Analyzing successful youth advocacy movements within Europe, including climate strikes, student activism, and grassroots political engagement.
- Discussion of how young leaders can influence policies and practices at the national and EU levels, shaping the future of work and sustainability.



Learning Outcomes:

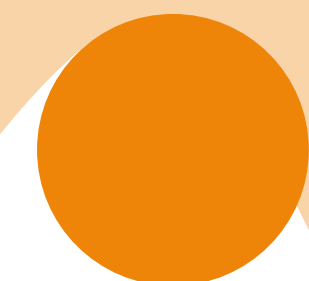
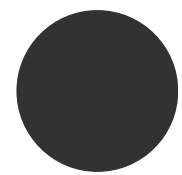
Critically assess the EU Youth Goals and their connection to sustainable development and youth leadership:

- This outcome encourages students to develop a deep understanding of the EU Youth Goals, which form the foundation of youth policy in Europe. It also challenges them to make connections between these goals and broader global priorities like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Critical thinking, analytical skills, policy analysis, understanding of youth leadership in the context of social change.



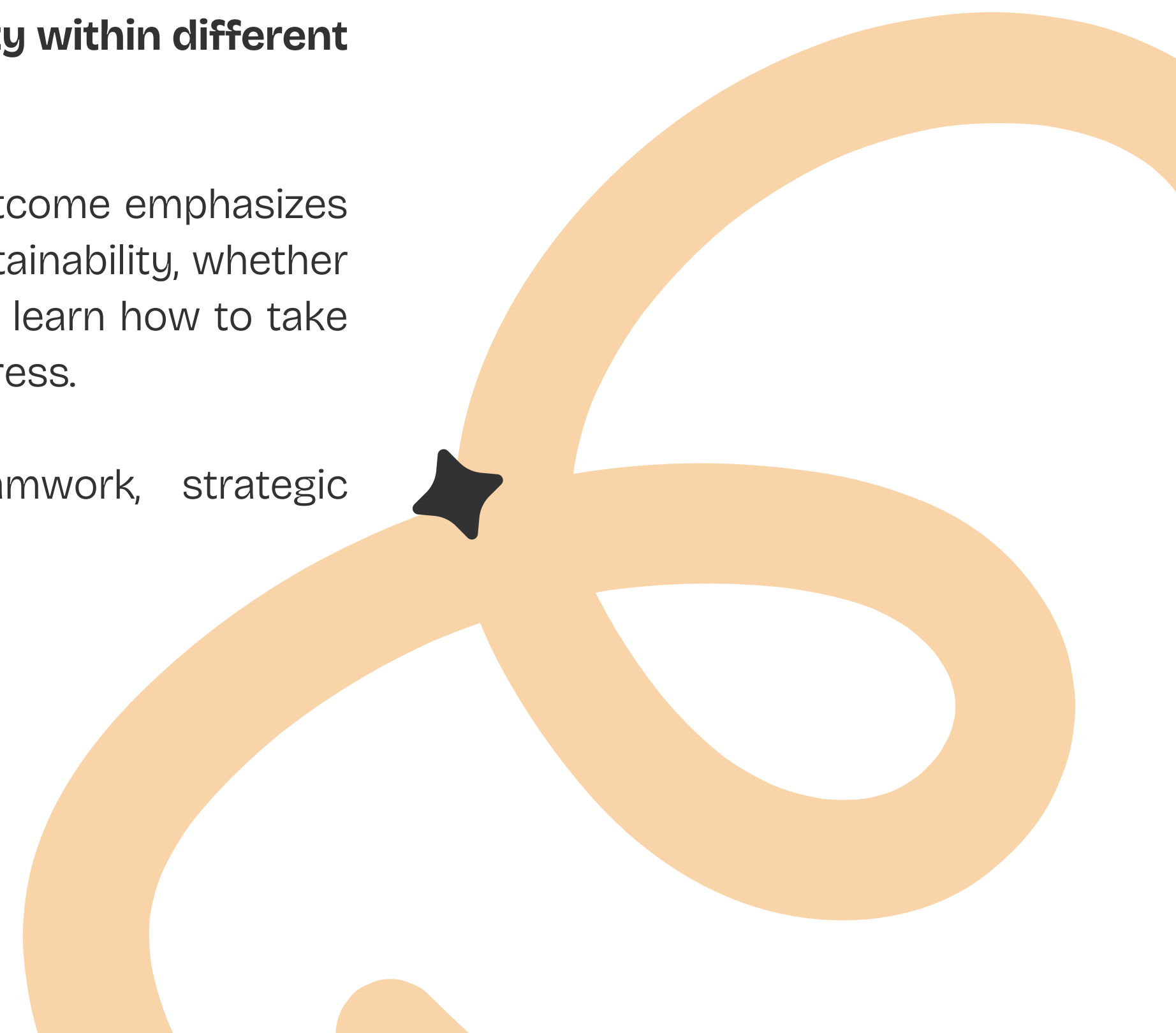
Identify sustainable career opportunities that align with global goals for economic, social, and environmental sustainability:

- This outcome focuses on helping students explore career paths that are not only economically viable but also contribute to sustainable development. It empowers them to identify jobs and industries that align with the goals of social equity, environmental stewardship, and economic growth.
- Research, industry analysis, career planning, understanding of green and sustainable business practices.



Demonstrate leadership skills for advancing sustainability within different professional contexts:

- Leadership is a core component of the module. This outcome emphasizes the practical application of leadership in promoting sustainability, whether in business, policy, or community settings. Students will learn how to take initiative and make decisions that drive sustainable progress.
- Leadership, decision-making, ethical reasoning, teamwork, strategic planning.





Advocate for youth participation in shaping policies that promote sustainable careers and a greener economy:

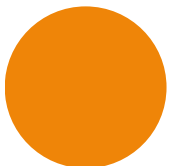
- Advocacy is essential for creating change. This outcome trains students to engage in policy discussions and take active roles in promoting youth interests in areas like climate action, green jobs, and education reform. They will learn how to influence policies at local, national, and EU levels.
- Advocacy, public speaking, negotiation, understanding of governance and policy processes, civic engagement.





Formulate strategies for career development that align with personal values and the need for sustainability in society:

- Personal and professional alignment with sustainability is key to long-term fulfillment and impact. This outcome helps students reflect on their personal values and goals, and integrate them with career strategies that contribute to a sustainable future.
- Self-reflection, career planning, personal development, alignment of values with professional aspirations, goal setting.





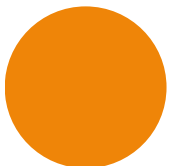
Assessment Structure:

Written Assignments/Essays:

- Critical analysis of a specific EU Youth Goal in relation to sustainability and career development (e.g., how Goal 7, "Quality Employment for All," can be linked to green jobs and sustainable career practices).

Case Study Presentation:

- Students will research and present on a company or initiative that has successfully integrated sustainability into its core business model, highlighting opportunities for youth.



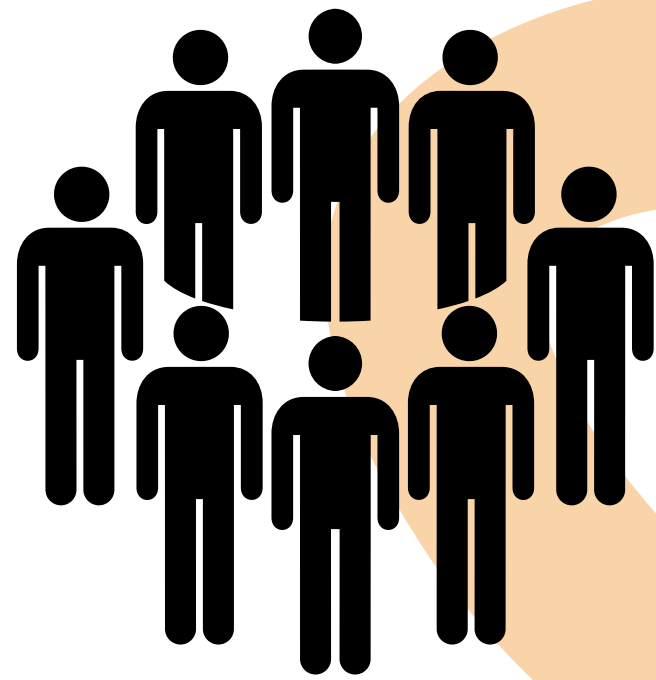


Group Project:

- Design a youth-led initiative or project that addresses one of the EU Youth Goals, with a focus on sustainable careers. This could be a policy proposal, a business plan, or a community project aimed at fostering sustainability and youth empowerment.

Leadership Simulation:

- Role-play scenarios where students take on leadership roles in advancing sustainability within an organization or advocating for policy change at a local or European level.



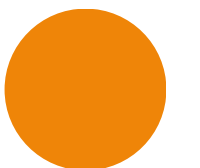
Activity: Sustainable Leadership Simulation

Objective:

The aim of this activity is to simulate real-world leadership scenarios where students must apply their knowledge of the EU Youth Goals and sustainable development to make decisions that benefit both youth empowerment and environmental sustainability. This immersive simulation will help students build leadership, decision-making, and teamwork skills while focusing on sustainability issues.

Duration:

2-3 hours (can be adjusted based on class time)





Activity Overview:

Students will be divided into teams and assume the role of a youth advisory council for a fictional country within the European Union. Each team will be tasked with designing a national strategy that aligns with one or more of the EU Youth Goals while addressing key sustainability challenges, such as climate change, green jobs, or social inequality.

The students must work together to:

- Analyze current problems related to youth and sustainability in their fictional country (e.g., youth unemployment, lack of education on climate change, gender inequality in green sectors).
- Develop a leadership strategy that proposes concrete actions (e.g., policies, programs, initiatives) to address these problems.
- Present and advocate for their strategy to the class, which will act as a "European Commission" that evaluates their proposal.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

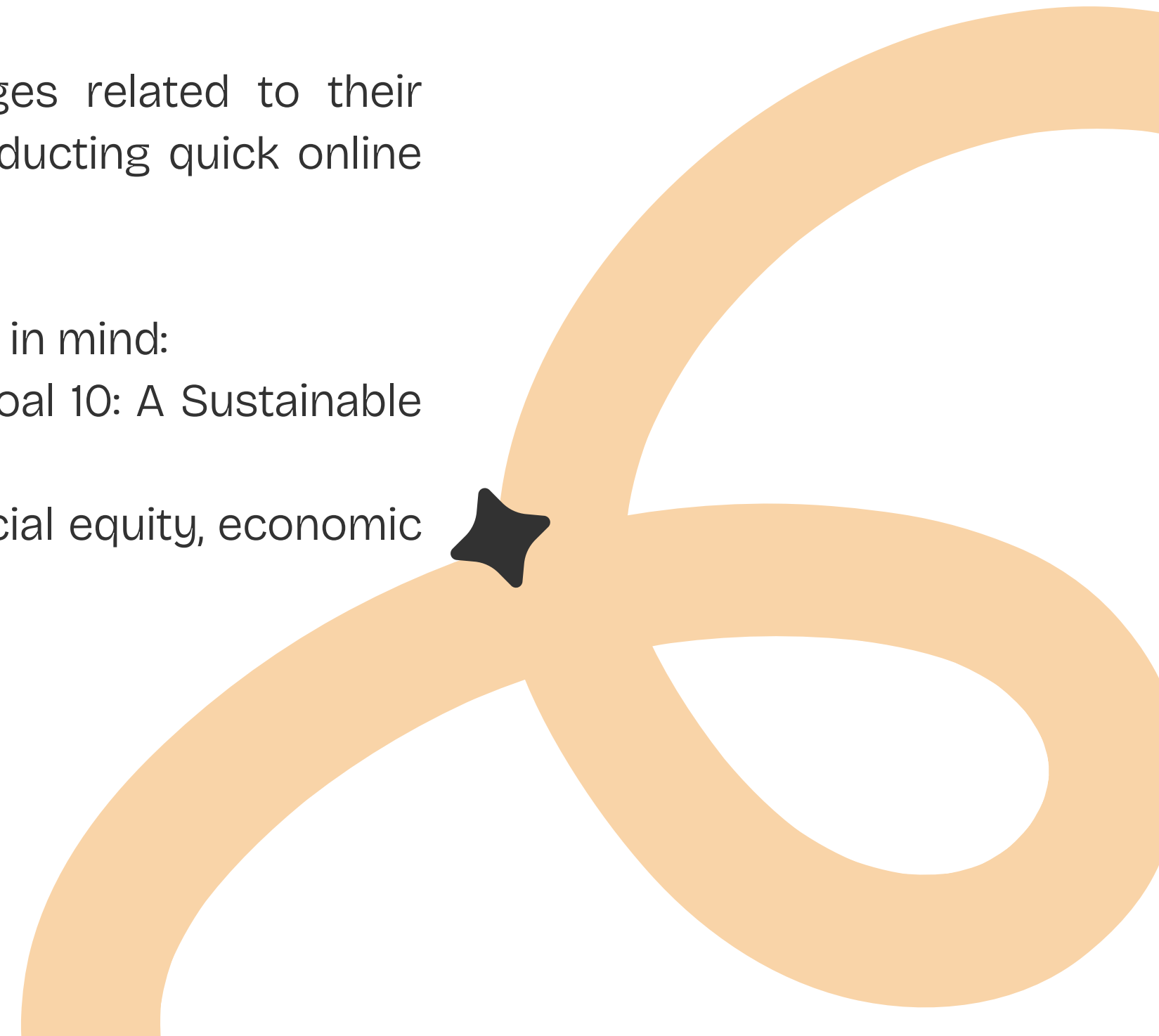


1. Introduction (15-20 minutes):

- The facilitator introduces the students to the task, explaining their role as a youth advisory council.
- The facilitator briefly reviews the EU Youth Goals and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on their importance for youth leadership and career development.
- Each team is assigned a fictional EU country (can be based on real countries) and a specific issue they need to solve, such as:
 - Green jobs for youth in renewable energy
 - Youth education and training for sustainable careers
 - Equal access to sustainable career opportunities for underrepresented groups
 - Developing youth engagement in climate policies.

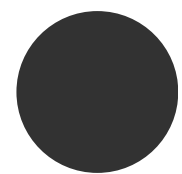
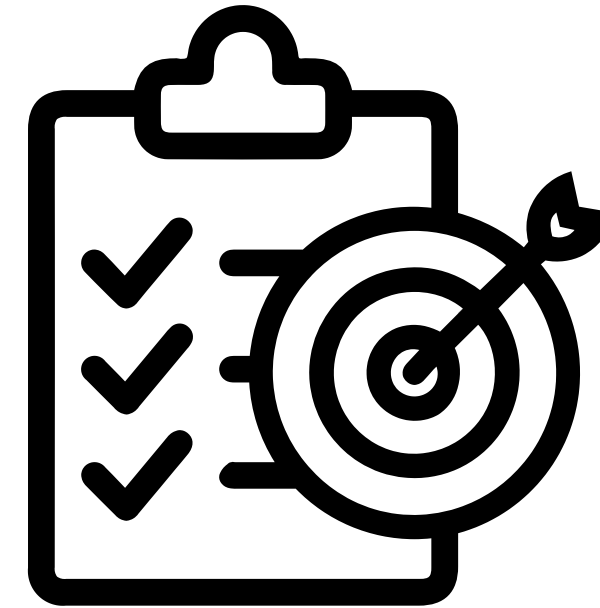
2. Research and Analysis (30-40 minutes):

- Each team researches and discusses the current challenges related to their assigned country and issue, using materials provided or conducting quick online research (if allowed).
- Teams brainstorm and begin to develop their strategy, keeping in mind:
 - EU Youth Goals (e.g., Goal 7: Quality Employment for All, Goal 10: A Sustainable Green Europe, etc.)
 - Sustainability principles (e.g., environmental protection, social equity, economic viability).



3. Strategy Development (45-60 minutes):

- Teams design a leadership strategy that includes:
 - Specific goals they want to achieve (e.g., reducing youth unemployment in green sectors by 20%).
 - Policies, programs, or initiatives that they will implement (e.g., green job training programs, youth entrepreneurship grants for sustainability).
 - How their plan contributes to both youth empowerment and sustainable development.
 - A clear timeline and resources required to implement the strategy.
 - Key stakeholders they will work with (government, NGOs, businesses, youth groups, etc.).





4. Presentation and Advocacy (30 minutes):

- Each team presents their strategy to the rest of the class, acting as the "European Commission."
- The presentation should include:
 - The problem identified and its connection to the EU Youth Goals and SDGs.
 - The proposed solution (strategy), its key components, and how it empowers youth while promoting sustainability.
 - Anticipated outcomes and long-term impacts.
- The "European Commission" (rest of the class) will ask questions and provide feedback on the feasibility and impact of the proposed strategy.

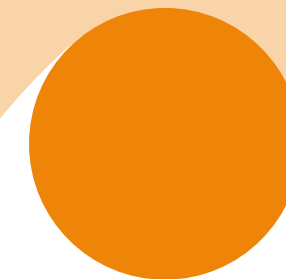
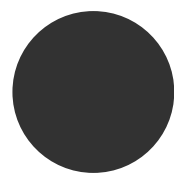
5. Debrief and Reflection (15-20 minutes):

- The facilitator leads a discussion on the activity, focusing on:
 - What students learned about leadership in sustainability.
 - How the EU Youth Goals and SDGs can be applied in real-world scenarios.
 - The importance of collaboration and policy advocacy in creating sustainable change.



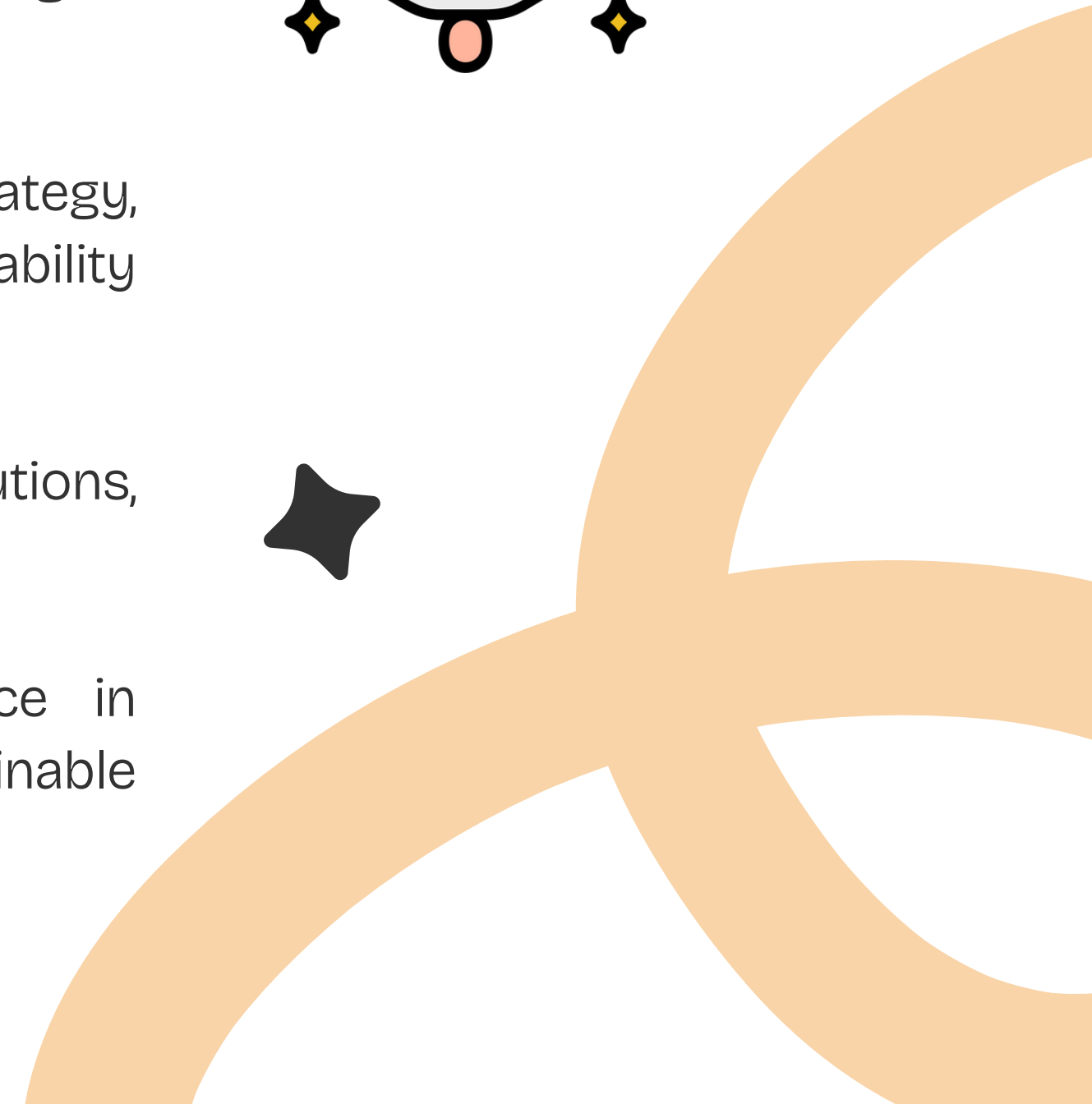
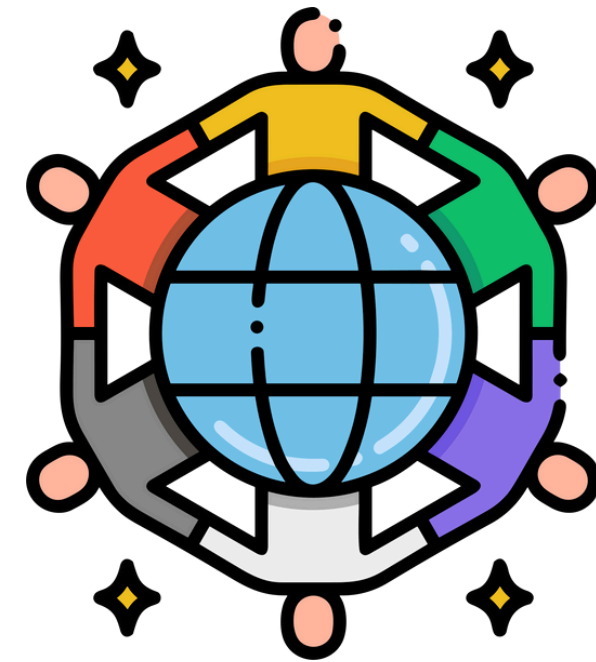
Materials Needed:

- Handouts with summaries of the EU Youth Goals and relevant SDGs.
- Descriptions of the fictional EU countries and their challenges.
- Access to research tools (either offline resources or internet access for brief research).
- Presentation tools (whiteboard, projector, or digital platforms for virtual presentations).



Learning Outcomes from the Activity:

- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Students will analyze complex problems related to youth and sustainability, applying their understanding of EU Youth Goals.
- **Leadership Development:** By designing and advocating for their strategy, students will practice leadership and decision-making in a sustainability context.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Students will work in teams to create solutions, enhancing their ability to collaborate across different perspectives.
- **Policy Advocacy Skills:** The activity provides practical experience in formulating and advocating for policy changes that support sustainable careers and youth empowerment.



Thank You

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