

Sailors for Sustainability Foundation



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Type of organisation: private entity, non-profit

Background

In 2016 sailors Floris and Ivar set up a foundation to promote sustainable practices in sailing and beyond. They were deeply concerned about climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, pollution, and social inequality. It had become increasingly clear to them that humanity was facing an existential ecological and social crisis that demanded a drastic change of course. To find out what that course could be, they quit their jobs and left Amsterdam to sail around the world on their renovated sailboat *Lucipara 2*. They made it their mission to find solutions that could accelerate the transition to an ecologically sustainable and socially just society.

Over the course of eight years, they sailed across oceans to wild Patagonia, mysterious Easter Island, remote atolls, and cold Greenland. They covered more than 56,000 nautical miles, braved storms and calms, and visited some 40 countries. Along the way, they got enchanted by wild nature, colorful underwater worlds, and heart-warming hospitality. Sadly, they were also shocked by pollution, poverty, dead coral, and melting glaciers. But they became hopeful from interviewing pioneers who showed them that a sustainable future is indeed possible. The people they portrayed generate and store renewable energy, grow food in harmony with nature, find contentment with less stuff, restore ecosystems, and work cooperatively. The sailors also met native inhabitants who protect their ecosystems and treat each other with respect.

Floris and Ivar documented these sustainable solutions to inspire readers of their blogs and viewers of their videos. They propose that a sustainable future is within reach and offer a concrete perspective for action to anyone who wishes to contribute to it. Since their return to Amsterdam in 2024, they have given numerous presentations and written a book about their circumnavigation and mission. They have also been involved in an Erasmus+ programme to advance sustainability, inclusion and diversity in sailing schools and associations. This successful experience has inspired them to continue with Erasmus+ 2026.



Erasmus+ Experience:

Project: "Sail4Sustainability" – Learning How to Sail for Sustainability: Equipping Young People With Life Skills
Project ID: 101134663
Period: November 2023 – October 2025

Description:

The Sail4Sustainability Project empowered young people to make sustainable choices and take action to protect the planet through sailing. By providing a safe and fun learning environment, a team of six partners equipped young people with the knowledge and skills to become responsible stewards of the environment. The project addressed priorities in the areas of sports, capacity building in youth, environment and climate change, inclusion and diversity, and fighting social and geographic barriers. The project benefited 200 young people directly between the age of 18 to 27 and sports coaches at least 40% of them being from under-representative groups, 54 young sports coaches with an indirect impact on 1500 young people and 400 young coaches in six countries.

Results included increased knowledge of environmental sustainability and respect for nature, improved life skills obtained through sailing practices, and increased social inclusion coupled with the creation of an expert network in the field of sustainable sailing. We developed new education methodologies that can be used by sports clubs, NGOs, and local municipalities that are interested in sustainable sports.

Our Role:

We did desk research, provided input for a survey, sent the survey to 300 sailing clubs and sailing schools. We created training materials including a Toolkit for Inclusion and Diversity, a Train the Trainer and Trainee Programme, drafted Guidelines and Best Practices (Sustainable Sailing Practices) and a guide for addressing social and geographic barriers. For the e-learning videos, we shot and edited footage about sustainable sailing practices. We organised a national workshop at a sailing school and organised an international workshop for participants from six countries. We helped disseminate the training materials and promote the programme by using our social media channels and our organisation's website. We published three very useful tools that can be used by many sailing schools and associations for a long time to come. They provide very concrete examples, tips and best practices that can lead to the sailing sport becoming more sustainable, inclusive, and diverse.

Our Core Competencies

- A unique story that combines sports, adventure and sustainability inspiration
- A replicable, ready-to-scale European model that bridges high-performance sport and environmental education
- Extensive knowledge about sustainability and leading frameworks (UN SDG's)
- Professional project approach and dedication to delivering tangible results
- Doing research and conducting surveys
- Sailing: increasing sports participation, instructing the sport, teaching coaches
- Implementation of sustainability and inclusion in sports and beyond
- Training of eco-ambassadors and future sustainability leaders
- Organizing engaging workshops both on land and at the water
- Developing and producing effective learning materials

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COLLABORATING IN ERASMUS+ 2026!
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