

„Impact Career’s/有影响力的职业”- On the career path to sustainable development

2 days, 4 continents, 10+ countries, two languages and one question: How can we have a positive ecological impact on the economy and the world around us with our career?

Over 90 students and young professionals had applied for a program that would allow them to work and learn together across borders in the virtual space during two half-day workshops on July 9th and 11th. The most important items on the agenda: Discussing the role of companies in a sustainable economy and learning skills that would help participants to align their career paths with their passion for the environment.

With this interactive digital workshop format, we have once more proven that international conferences and live workshops are not necessarily needed to allow for international collaboration and capacity building.

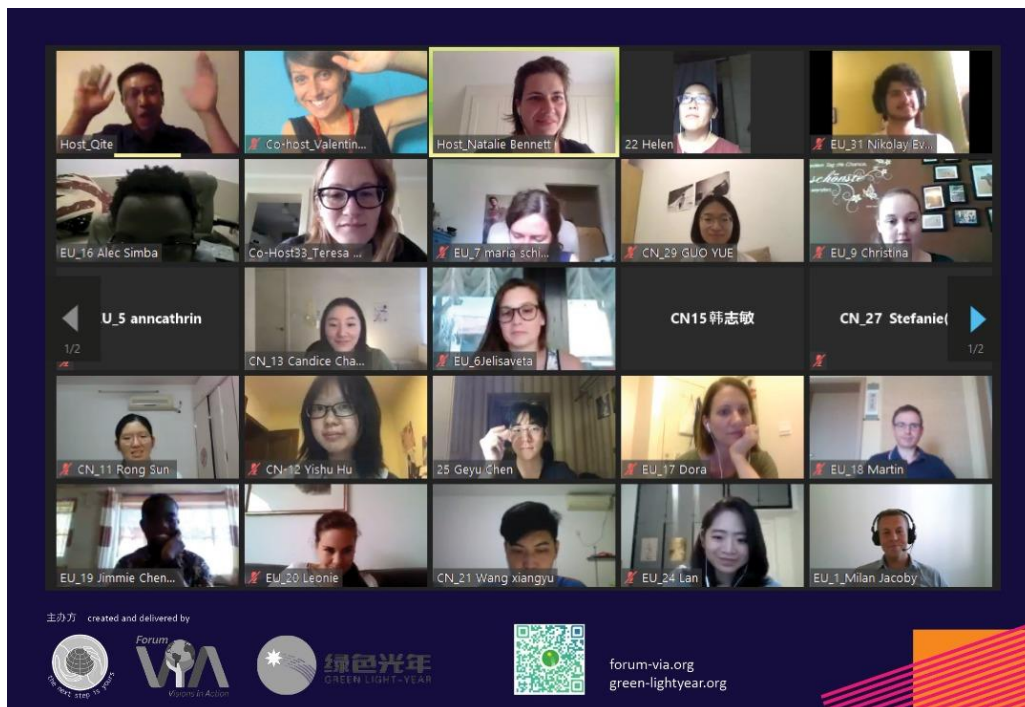


Image 1: Participants from four different continents get to know each other in the digital space

Four program points marked the milestones for the creative digital workshop

The first activity of the program was the documentary „[OurPlanet: Our Business](#)“ that participants watched in two language groups – An English and a Chinese one. Afterwards, the participants on each side had the chance to ask follow-up questions and discuss green career stories first hand with our sustainability experts on the two respective panels which each featured a representative of the [WWF](#), a sustainable start-up ([SmartAir](#) and [RePhil](#)) and a representative of an educational NGO ([Green Lightyear](#) and [Forum Via](#) (see image 2). On the European panel, the managing director of the Austrian publishing company [Lebensart Verlag](#) gave additional insights into why her work in the field of solution journalism provides important impulses for a more sustainable (economic) future.

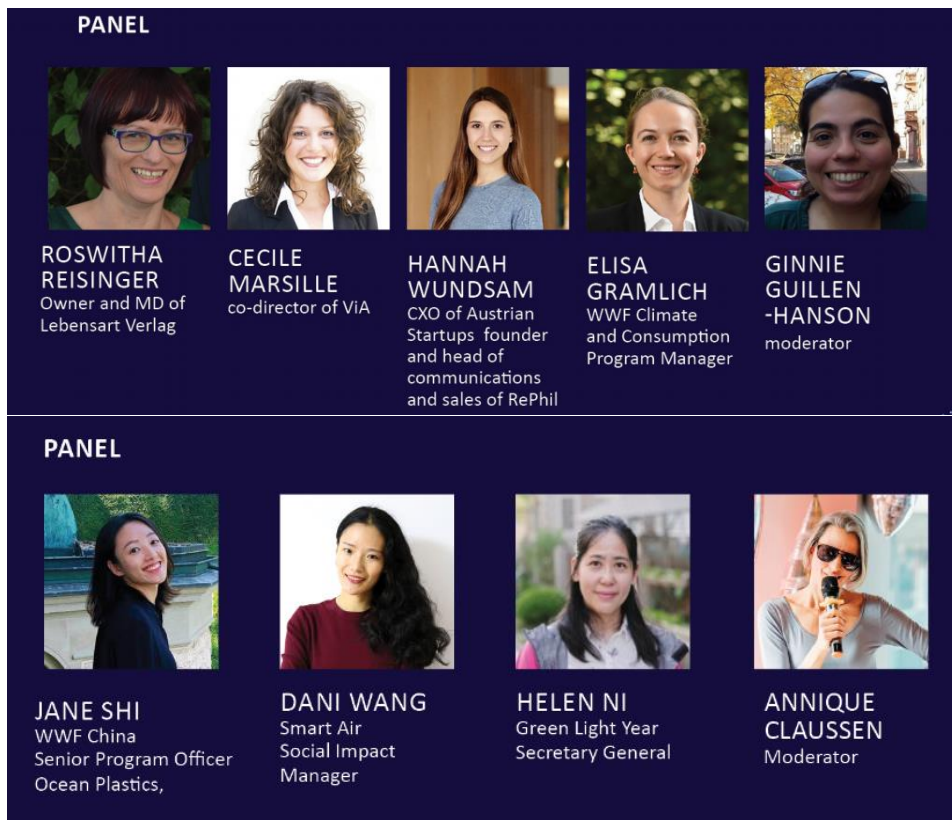


Image 2: The power women that inspired participants on the European panel (upper picture) and on the Chinese panel (bottom picture)

In the third program phase, all participants had the opportunity to come together in a virtual World Café and discuss topics ranging from “What did you have for lunch?” To “What does ecologically sustainable development mean to you” in small groups.

Design Thinking 4 Change: A sustainable lunch - what is your biggest hurdle?

After a one-day break, the participants came back for the last round of online collaboration. In an interactive design thinking workshop, our facilitators helped them develop their own creative solutions on the topic of "Redesigning your sustainable lunch experience" in moderated group-sprints. Everything was there: From apps for local and regional organic lunch delivery by bike to social innovations such as a mobile ecological cow-dung cooperative (because lunch starts in the field).

And the feedback from the participants was overwhelming:

"I've never felt so connected to other young people around the world who care about the environment as much as I do."

"It's hard to believe what our team has developed in such a short amount of time – I feel that very little is missing and we could really implement our solution!"

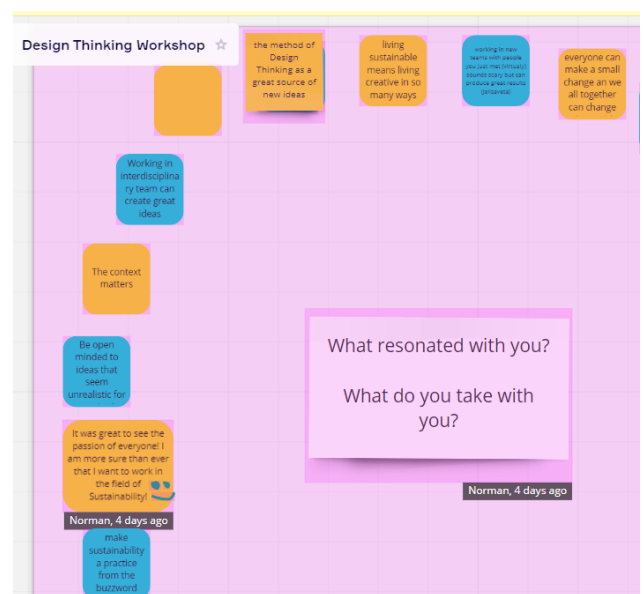


Image 3: The post-it feedback from participants after the 2-day workshop on the virtual whiteboard app Miro

Press Release



All participants were invited to continue networking within an Alumni-LinkedIn group as well as to use their newly acquired skills and contacts for their professional future. For some participants that have demonstrated outstanding team performance and motivation, “capacity building” for the “green professional world” will take them even one step further: They won a free multiplier training from Forum ViA that was co-funded by the Robert Bosch-Foundation.

The project was organized by Teresa Andessner - Lecturer in Beijing for the Robert Bosch Foundation's lecturing program and in cooperation with MitOst - together with Forum ViA and Green Lightyear 绿色光年. A new edition is planned due to the great demand from China and from Europe and beyond. If you want to support ViA, The NextStepsyours and Green Lightyear in order to enable the next edition of Impact Careers, empowering even more global eco-citizens for a professional future with a green impact, then feel free to contact Valentina Aversano-Dearborn from ViA valentina@forum-via.org or Teresa Andessner beijing@boschlektoren.de.

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