

## Sustainability education

Eduiren is the educational sector of Iren Group, dedicated to spreading the **culture of sustainability and innovation** 360° and for everyone: it proposes a narrative, workshop and inclusive approach to convey educational messages, in line with the Iren model of sustainable territorial growth.

For Iren, educating for sustainability means maintaining a continuous dialogue with different audiences, building networks and innovating methodologies and tools, in a path of research and experimentation.

In 2023, Eduiren launched **"Direction 2030 - Formative proposals for green transition"**, designed to support schools with interdisciplinary and engaging educational opportunities, through workshops and didactic paths differentiated by school order, **virtual and in-presence visits to Iren Group plants**, training courses for educators and teachers, and webinars dedicated to green transition, biodiversity and new citizenship practices. In addition, the national **"Planet Fan"** competition was proposed to schools, with the aim of transforming lower and upper secondary school students into science disseminators and green influencers, and a webinar on environmental communication was organised as a preliminary to the competition activities. The competition saw two winners: the Di Giona ISA 2 school in La Spezia-Portovenere, with the video **"It's just a bottle"** dedicated to the impact of plastic on ecosystems, and the Liceo Bertolucci of Parma for its communication campaign on Instagram with the motto **"It's time to be circular"** presented as a case history at Ecomondo.

**Eduiren: a narrative, workshop and inclusive approach to contribute to the sustainable territorial growth model**



The Eduiren website ([www.eduiren.it](http://www.eduiren.it)) contributes to completing the "Direction 2030" proposal, which intends to create a digital ecosystem and

accompany and enrich the educational project with in-depth materials, videos and virtual tours of the technological plants, quizzes and interactive games, news and curiosities.

In 2023, the relationship with **Giffoni Innovation Hub** continued, which produced a third short film dedicated to energy communities: **"The Tribe of Lights"**, presented at the Giffoni Film Festival and awarded at the Wood Film Fest 2 as a "short film that combines the topic of light and shadow between respect for nature and a return to sociality". The realisation of the script saw the creation of a "creative community" made up of young scriptwriters, Eduiren and Iren Smart Solution.

Collaboration with **Geopop** also continued, resulting in the production of a **video tour** of the Turin **waste-to-energy plant**, to discover the virtuous path of waste that cannot otherwise be sorted and its energy and heat recovery.

Other actions were undertaken to enhance and narrate the processes and **technological plants**, also supporting the communication of the new plants, places where to discover, learn and discuss, such as the **OFMSW biodigester** in Reggio Emilia, where meetings and guided tours for schools and citizens were organised, and the new **Circular Wood**, wood waste recycling plant, with a tour and a corner dedicated to educational initiatives. Plants that can also become places of culture, such as the Arbarello electrical transformation station, which, on the occasion of the **Sottodiciotto Film Festival** in Turin, hosted the screening of the short film "The Tribe of Lights", with a view to experimenting new tools for the dissemination of sustainable issues and strengthening the role of plants as places for sharing. **Spazio Goccia** in Luzzara (RE) confirmed its vocation as a cultural hub on the topic of water, proposing initiatives in a network with other territories, such as the **"Dialogues on water"** initiative and **"Water as a path in memory"** to narrate the link between water resources and the community of Castelnuovo Scrivia in the province of La Spezia.

The topic of water also interested other areas: in Vercelli, the girls and boys of the summer centres of Alice Castello and Tronzano visited the main plants in the area, while schools in Genoa and the Ligurian hinterland had the opportunity to visit the

Brugneto dam. Meetings were then organised with students and teachers to reflect on the importance of safeguarding water resources and the territory, as part of projects supported by the Genoa Local Committee. The PAD in Mancasale hosted the course for teachers of the Italian National Land Reclamation Association.

Awareness-raising efforts also took the form of initiatives designed to create value in **events and manifestations**, forming alliances in the local areas, and experimenting with different and innovative ways of talking about the environment and sustainability. At the **International Book Fair** in Turin, the comic strip **"We are nature too"** was presented, created with the collaboration of an illustrator and thanks to in-depth studies on the integrated waste cycle, a graphic path dedicated to observing and caring for our environment created by the Ilaria Alpi primary school in Turin.

In Genoa, for **Ocean Race**, Eduiren proposed an interactive itinerary on the integrated water cycle and the protection of the marine environment, a maxi-crossword puzzle on the topic of water designed for children, and two musical shows to raise awareness of environmental issues among children and families. Games and shows as tools for environmental education were also offered in Genoa on the occasion of the **Children's White Night** and, for the **European Parks Week**, to all primary and secondary schools in the Cinque Terre and Levanto. An **ecological theatre** project involved children from the Istituto comprensivo di Deiva Marina (SP) in writing and performing plays on the topic of the circular economy.

The presence of Iren plants in the **Bussento National Park** (SA) was the subject of a focus within Bloc Fest in Salerno, as an example of virtuous integration, and of a collaboration with the **Festival Libro Aperto in Baronissi** that saw a series of workshops on sustainability issues in collaboration with AGESCI. Eduiren emphasised in schools and in the streets the Group's commitment to the circular economy. With the **"Monster Exhibition"**, designed to make people understand the importance of sorting waste correctly, children were invited to imagine and draw "monsters" generated by incorrect waste management. The initiative was proposed in a number of schools in Emilia, Piedmont and Liguria and as part of events such as the **Festival of Sustainable Development** in Parma and **Internazionale Kids** in Reggio Emilia, with the workshop **"La compagnia dei peperattoli"**.

On the subject of virtuous waste management, in Turin, the commitment of Eduiren to the **Eco Barriera Differenziamo senza differenze (Let's differentiate without differences)** project continued, promoted in collaboration with AMIAT, the City of Turin and other

associations and organisations active in the area. Focus also activated on the issue of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collection in Turin. Together with Erion and Amiat, Eduiren took part in the **"Recycling WEEE is a good story"** campaign, involving 11 secondary schools in the city in an educational meeting and a project aimed at correct WEEE disposal involving over 900 students. Similar projects were developed in La Spezia, with the collaboration and involvement of about 7,000 secondary school students, and in Scandiano (RE) with the collaboration of CEAS Terre Reggiane. For the European Week for Waste Reduction, Eduiren proposed several initiatives in the Reggio Emilia area, in Parma and in the province of La Spezia. In collaboration with the Museo dell'Agricoltura e del Mondo Rurale in San Martino in Rio (RE), a thematic itinerary on **"Packaging of Yesterday and Today"** was created and an exhibition was set up with finds from the **Archeoplastica** project. A project was also launched, in collaboration with CEAS Terre Reggiane, Humana Onlus and Istituto Gobetti di Scandiano (RE), on fast fashion and reuse, which ended with a swap party run by the students. In Parma, **meetings were dedicated to the topic of waste**, with in-depth studies on specific product fractions, organised in collaboration with Giocampus Green, ARPAE and the Recycling Consortia, while to raise awareness of the problem of plastic pollution, **the plastic-eating fish Ciruzzo** was donated to the pupils of the Istituto Comprensivo di Riccò del Golfo, the best waste-free municipality in Liguria and in the top ten of the recycling municipalities compiled by Legambiente. In addition, the quiz **"How Eco-friendly are you?"** with questions on the circular economy was created and published online.

Eduiren also collaborated with the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia for the **Research Night** at the Technopole of Reggio Emilia and the **"Let's support each other" training course** for university teachers and students in education sciences. **International engagement** also continued, with a view to sustainability and social commitment, with active participation in the **European projects Multipliers and Maispemba**. As part of **Multipliers**, a project aimed at sharing best practices in environmental education and creating open scientific communities for effective actions to raise awareness among citizens, a "blind tasting" and water testing session was organised for canteen patrons at the Reggio Children's Foundation on the occasion of World Water Day and in collaboration with **Pause Atelier dei Sapori** of Reggio Emilia. In addition, peer-to-peer training projects were launched with girls and boys from the Blaise Pascal Secondary School and the Aosta Lower Secondary School in Reggio Emilia.

As part of the **Maispemba** project (» SEE PAGE 136), which aims to promote the integrated urban development of the city of Pemba in Mozambique, a discussion on good sustainability and active citizenship practices was organised, involving Pemba educators in a visit to the urban garden at the Ludovico Ariosto primary school in Reggio Emilia.



**Eduiren: 424 sustainability education projects reaching 73,800 people**

In 2023, a total of **424** sustainability education projects for citizens and schools were implemented, also in a network with other subjects in the different areas, about **73,800** people participated in meetings, lessons, visits and events, and more than **1,500,000** digital branded content contacts were recorded.

## Reducing impacts on communities and local areas

All of the Group’s activities are planned and carried out with an awareness of its responsibility towards the communities and local areas: producing wealth while protecting the environment and respecting the expectations of its stakeholders.

For this reason, Iren Group has developed performance monitoring tools such as environmental impact assessments, analytical controls, internal audits and legal compliance checks.

At plants external acoustic emissions are monitored to ensure the absence of any noise pollution to the local population. Even the products and services offered, before being placed on the market, are subjected to quality checks and controls, also to protect the health and safety of customers. In the event of faults, the Group has adopted specific procedures, which allow prompt and effective communication about service outages and disruption caused to residents within the times provided by legislation. For activities within the Electricity, Gas, Water and District heating sectors, the Group also complies with the guidelines specified by ARERA. In addition to managing compliance with legislation, the Group has developed regulations, internal requirements and procedures and adopted initiatives that mitigate impacts on the communities. The activities are carried out through efficient, reliable and secure processes and infrastructures, which is fundamental in the management of essential services for communities.

The main activities of the Group that impact the communities and local areas are described below.



**Production of electricity and heat:** In its Business Plan, Iren has made a strong commitment to the development of renewable sources and thermal and electrical storage to meet the challenge of decarbonization. The management of energy production activities is formalised by specific procedures and conducted in compliance with the law. Emissions are constantly monitored and controlled. Investments are being made constantly to optimise the energy efficiency of plants. Energy production plants are all equipped with control protocols, in compliance with environmental legislation and authorisation provisions. The combined production of electricity and heat makes it possible to develop the District heating service in a logic of circular use of resources and reduce environmental impacts.



**Waste collection and management:** the Group manages waste across all stages (collection, selection, transport, treatment and disposal) contributing to the recovery of materials and energy production, thus reducing the use of non-renewable resources. The circular economy is at the heart of the Group’s waste management strategy. It is committed to increasing the percentage of sorted waste collection with new technologies for the valorisation of non-recoverable waste, and increasing the recovery of materials and the production of fuels from biodegradable waste at its plants.



**Integrated water service:** the monitoring of leaks in the aqueduct networks is constant in order to reduce the waste of water resources. For this reason, the Group has defined specific objectives to reduce water withdrawals from the environment and dispersions in the network. Network