

Investing in a nature-positive economy: Capacity Building and Sustainable Investment Forum in Notranjska region in Slovenia

A regional event, focusing on ESG reporting, circular economy best practices, and connecting local startups with impact investors in Notranjska region in Slovenia.

In line with the EU Green Week 2026 objective to demonstrate the business case for nature, this one-day event serves as a regional platform to accelerate the nature-positive transition of Notranjska region in Slovenia. The event is specifically designed to bridge the advisory gap by providing local entrepreneurs with the technical and financial literacy required to transform environmental innovation into bankable projects.

The program is structured into three integrated modules:

- **Module 1: Expert Advisory & ESG Frameworks**
This session provides essential capacity building on the EU Sustainable Finance ecosystem. Technical experts will guide participants through ESG reporting (CSRD/ESRS) and Double Materiality, outlining the rigorous transparency and data standards required by impact investors to de-risk green investments.
- **Module 2: EU Best-Practice Showcase**
To provide a clear benchmark for the local ecosystem, we will present successful circular economy models and nature-tech startups from other EU Member States. These case studies demonstrate how Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) can be translated into scalable, profitable, and resource-efficient business operations.
- **Module 3: Networking session**
Our event will conclude with a networking session designed to connect businesses with potential investors. Our goal is to facilitate direct engagement between local startups, circular businesses, and social enterprises and specialized green investors, fostering the regional partnerships necessary for a sustainable and resilient economy.

Target Groups:

- **Startups & SMEs:** Early-stage and established companies in the Notranjska region
- **Social Businesses & Circular Entrepreneurs:** Entities focusing on community impact, resource efficiency, and nature-positive business models
- **Impact & Green Investors:** Venture capital, angel investors, and financial intermediaries seeking investment opportunities
- **Regional Policy Makers & Development Agencies:** Local authorities from Notranjska interested in fostering a sustainable regional economy.
- **Technical Experts:** ESG consultants and advisors specializing in sustainable finance and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

Topics:

- **The Business Case for Nature:** Moving from environmental activism to profitable, nature-positive business models.
- **ESG Reporting & CSRD/ESRS:** Understanding the technical requirements for sustainability reporting and **Double Materiality**.
- **Sustainable Finance & Impact Investing:** What investors look for in a "bankable" green project.

- **Circular Economy Best Practices:** Lessons learned from successful EU-wide nature-tech and circular startups.
- **Closing the Advisory Gap:** Bridging the divide between local innovation and international investment standards.
- **Regional Matchmaking:** Building a local ecosystem for green capital in Notranjska.

Objectives:

- **Capacity building:** To provide regional startups and SMEs with the technical knowledge to navigate ESG reporting and EU Taxonomy requirements.
- **Knowledge transfer:** To showcase 3–5 high-impact EU best practices, providing a clear roadmap for local businesses to scale nature-based solutions.
- **Market Mobilization:** To facilitate a networking session between local startups and SMEs, and impact investors.
- **Ecosystem development:** To establish a regional network that connects social businesses with sustainable finance intermediaries.
- **Investment readiness:** To move regional nature-positive businesses from the "conceptual" stage toward becoming bankable investment opportunities.

Event will take place live in PIP Startup incubator in Postojna. It will be open to the public and free of charge, but will require applications. Part of the event will be available also online.

Date: **18. June 2026** (*might change, due to event space availability**), from 9:00 to 18:00.

Event organizer:

Planet to the 3rd Power, Institute for Interdisciplinary Sustainable Development (www.planet3pm.si)

Co-organizer: PIP Postojna Startup Incubator (<https://www.inkubator-perspektiva.si/>)