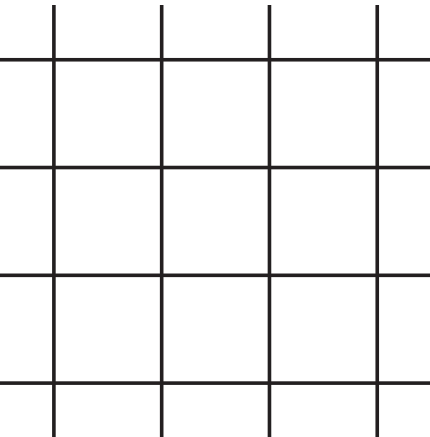
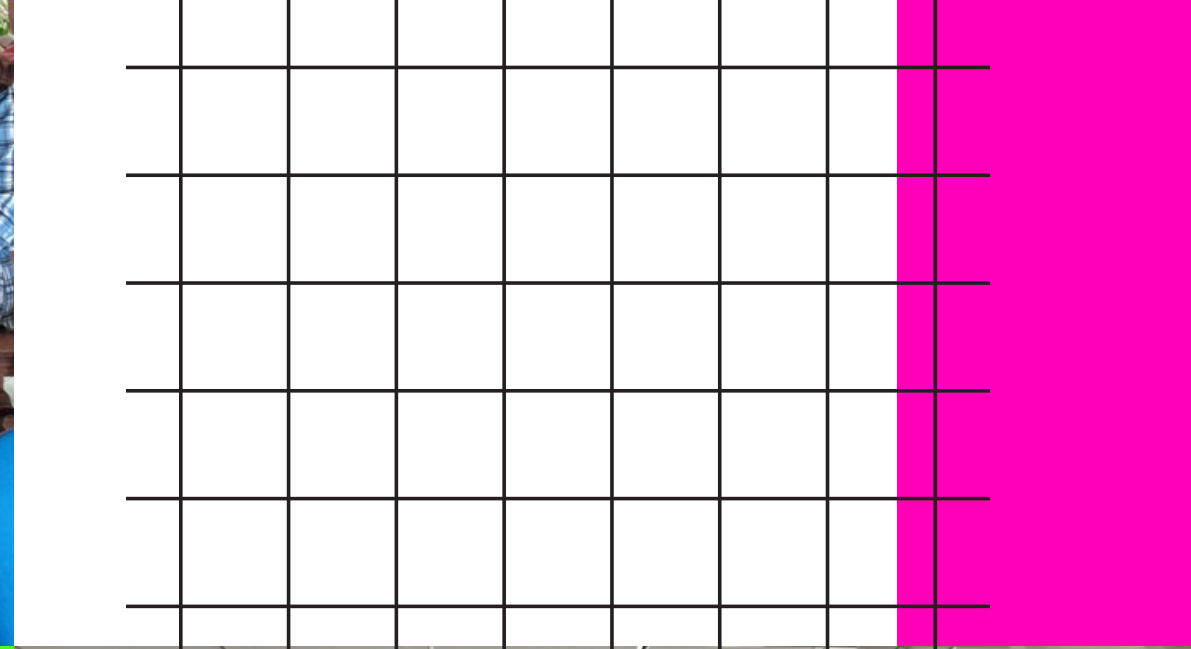


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# GET TO KNOW BALTIC SEA REGION CHANGE AGENTS



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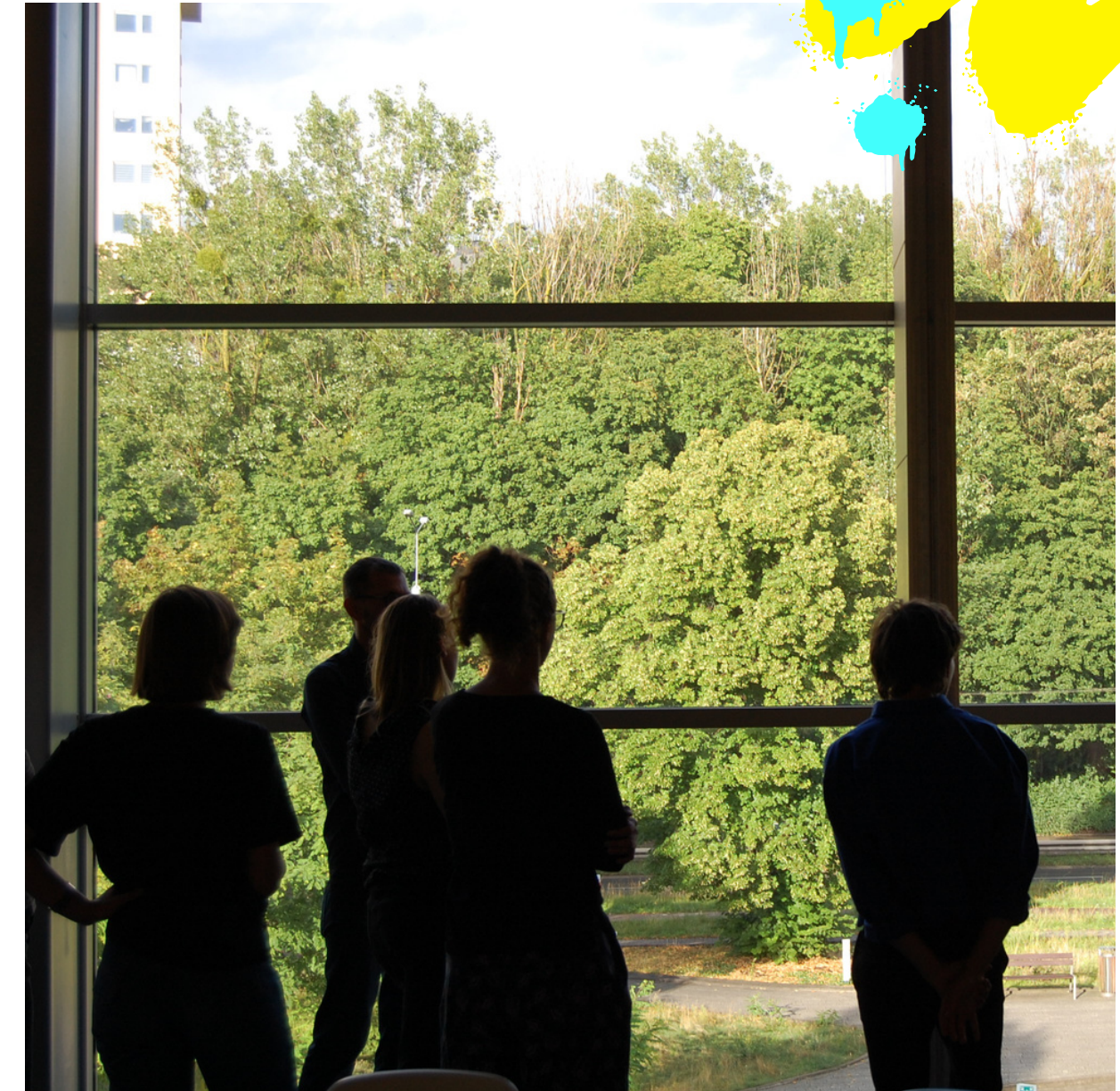


# WHO ARE CHANGE AGENTS?

We make transition! (2023-2025) is a transnational project financed by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. It involves 11 partners from 6 countries. The project key aim is to find new ways for interaction and cooperation between local authorities and various civil society actors working for sustainability in topics such as circular and sharing economy, sustainable food, biodiversity and social sustainability.

Project partners have selected and invited change agents from Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Germany and Norway. Their aim is to co-create a joint sustainability vision for the Baltic Sea region and recommendations related to strengthening the role of civil society actors and their cooperation with local authorities. Change agents are individuals representing organizations from different levels. They are committed to making a difference in their communities or organizations. They are the ones who challenge the status quo and strive to bring about positive change.

Change agents are not afraid to take risks and are willing to work to achieve their goals. Whether they are working on environmental sustainability, social justice, or economic development, change agents are making a difference in the world and inspiring others to follow their example.



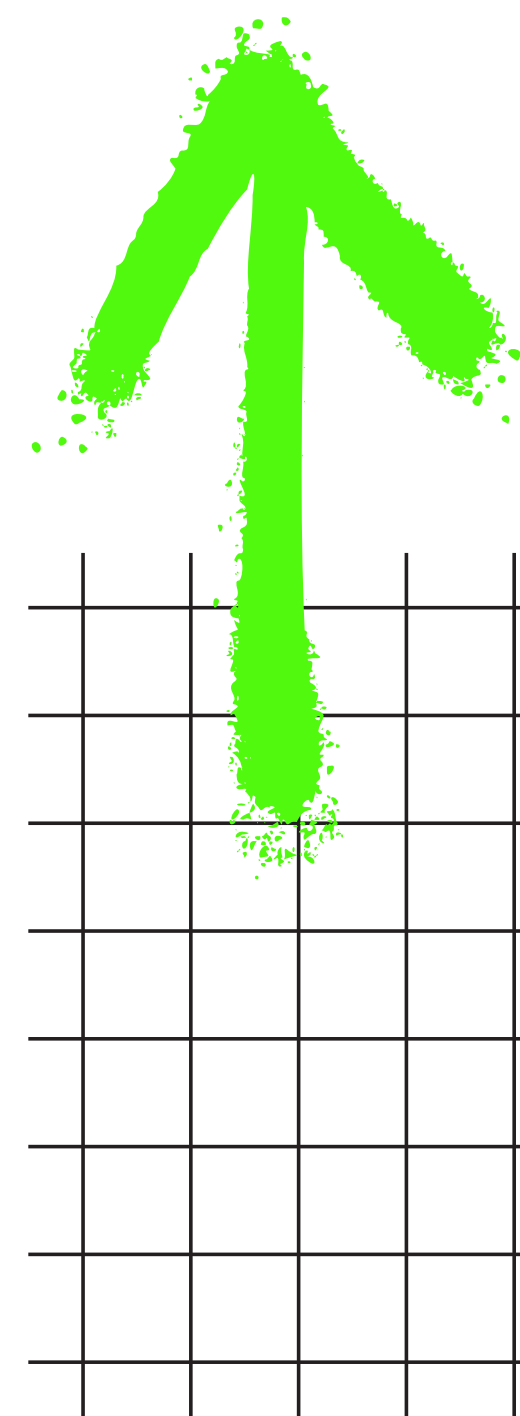


## Anda Briede, Latvia

I work in a LEADER local action group (LAG) in Cesis municipality, Vidzeme Planning Region, Latvia. I am responsible for the strategic planning, making the very complex tasks to develop a Community-led local development strategy. My main role is to keep the right direction in the development of the bio-region initiative in Cesis district.

## Jaanus Tamm, Estonia

I work as a project manager in Tartu City Government, Estonia. I have been involved in a number of forward-looking sustainable mobility initiatives in Tartu: gas buses and biomethane, city wide bike-sharing system, cargo bike rental, Car Freedom Boulevard. I have also worked with other sustainability topics such as recycling, waste management, green areas, hydrogen ...



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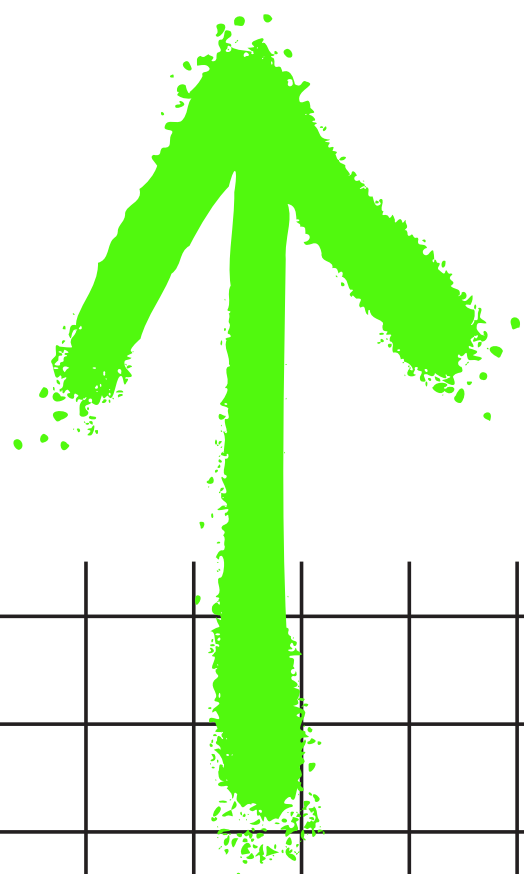


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## Marte Fordal Meland, Norway

I work in the Norwegian environmental and solidarity organisation "Future in our hands". We are a non-partisan, secular and member-based democratic organisation with more than 45 000 members. Our goal is a socially just world, within planetary boundaries. I lead regional and national projects that aim to increase circularity and sustainability, and combat overconsumption.



## Pyry Rechartt, Finland

I am managing director of Oranssi Apartments, Helsinki. At Oranssi we work to provide an open cultural center and affordable communal housing for the young. We renovate and administer old, mostly abandoned and protected buildings that we've given a new life. Do it yourself attitude and the communities using the spaces are at our focus.



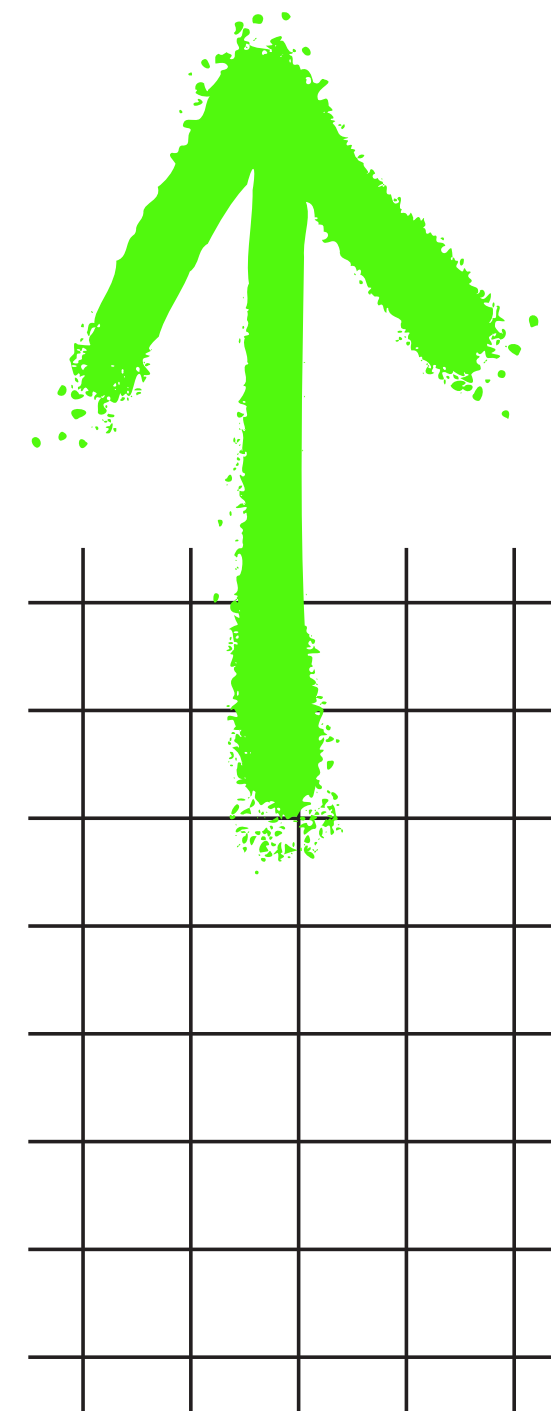


## Krista Willman, Finland

I am researcher and urban activist. I work as a university teacher and a PhD researcher at Tampere University, Finland. Beside my research, I'm an active member of community garden in Tampere. At our garden, we use recycled materials, share knowledge, work together and share the crop. Garden is open for anyone to join. Previous years I volunteered and acted as a chairperson in a food collective at the University.

## Muecella Demir, Germany

I lead the BioStadt Bremen project and coordinate the cross-departmental implementation of the Bremen Action Plan for Healthy Eating. The aim is to use organic, regional and fresh ingredients wherever possible. I also motivate consumers to eat a healthy and sustainable diet to strengthen sales of organic and regional products and offer local farmers sales prospects. I am a member of a solidarity farming business.



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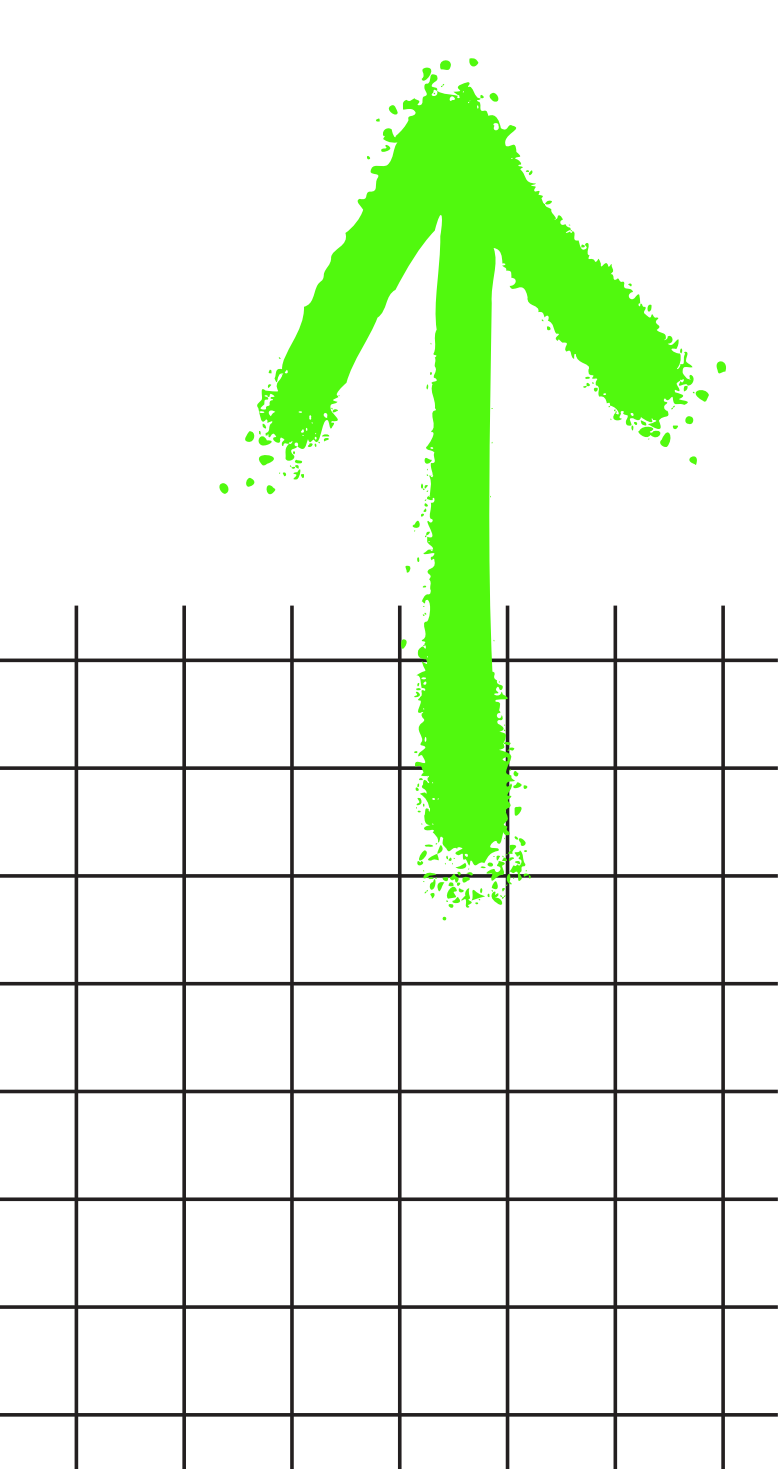


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## Vita Brakovska, Latvia

I represent NGO "Knowledge and Innovation Society". My daily work is related to facilitation of masterclasses on STEAM-preneurship. I study for a PhD and am fascinated by the application of systems thinking in solving sustainability issues. Currently I am supporting engineers in implementation of digital tool to promote Energy communities in Latvia.



## Päivi Sappinen, Finland

I work as a media and communications entrepreneur running my own business called Stoori Fabrik. Stories are my job – I write articles, social media posts, plays and books but also work as an event producer in my home town Uusikaupunki. I believe social media can play a big role in influencing sustainable lifestyles. I wish to be a part of making recycling easier and more accessible. I also dream of community gardening.

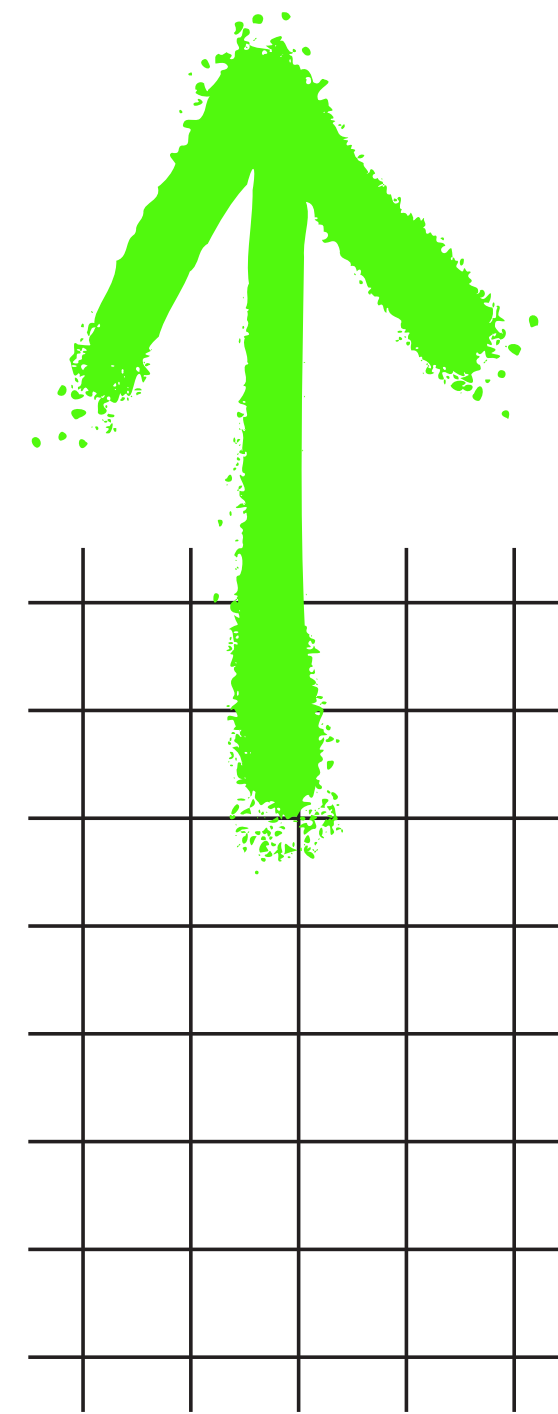


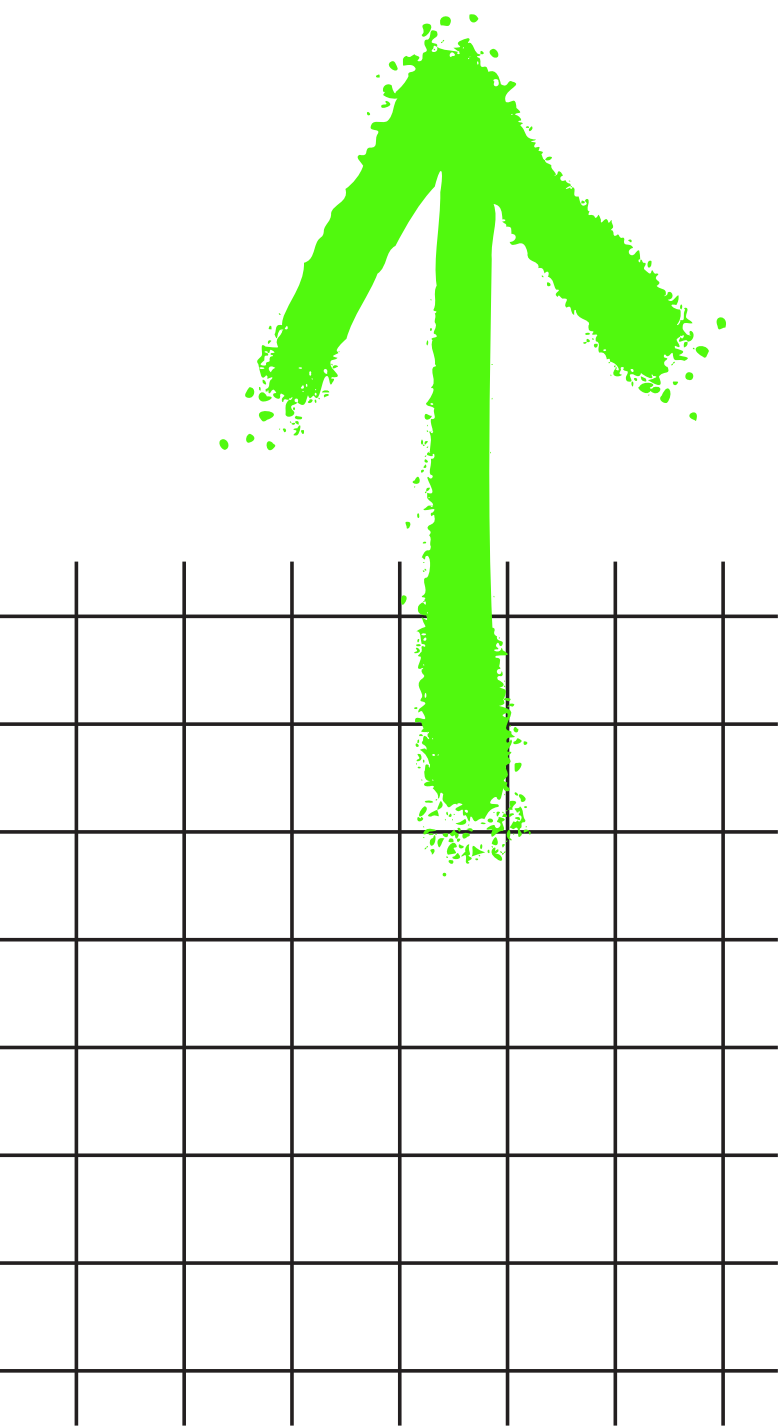
## Leona Silberstein, Finland

I work as an environmental expert in the city of Helsinki environmental services. My task is to promote circular economy-based thinking and activities in the city. I coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the city's action plan for the circular and sharing economy. In connection with this, I support the city's sectors and services, e.g. with the help of various networks, projects and trainings.

## Agnese Gaidelione, Latvia

I am creator and manager of packaging-free store ([www.ieber.lv](http://www.ieber.lv)). I'm also the creator of Little Steps Fairy, which has its own giant ZERO WASTE CITY coloring poster, perfect for e.g. birthdays, schools and offices. With this painting poster you can explore a world where we live more sustainably, from recycling to repairing to exchanging. Embark on a journey in zero waste city with the zero waste family.





## Lasma Ozola, Latvia

I work as a zero waste community manager developing e.g. repair center at Cesis Municipality, Latvia. I am also part of an NGO Greenfest that organises a festival of green lifestyle. This summer Greenfest developed Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a bioregion (organic district) in the Gauja National Park. MoU outlines the key principles in creating a new economy that is environmentally and climate friendly, resource-efficient, socially inclusive and prosperous.



## Martyna Błaszczyk, Poland

I work in Gdynia Design Days that is organised by Design Centre, part of Pomeranian Science and Technology Park. GDD is a festival about designing answers to challenges. I believe that design is a tool for change that allows us to create solutions that are good for people and the planet. I try to talk in a simple and motivating way. I believe that constant discussion and joint search for solutions can have a real impact on the world we live in.





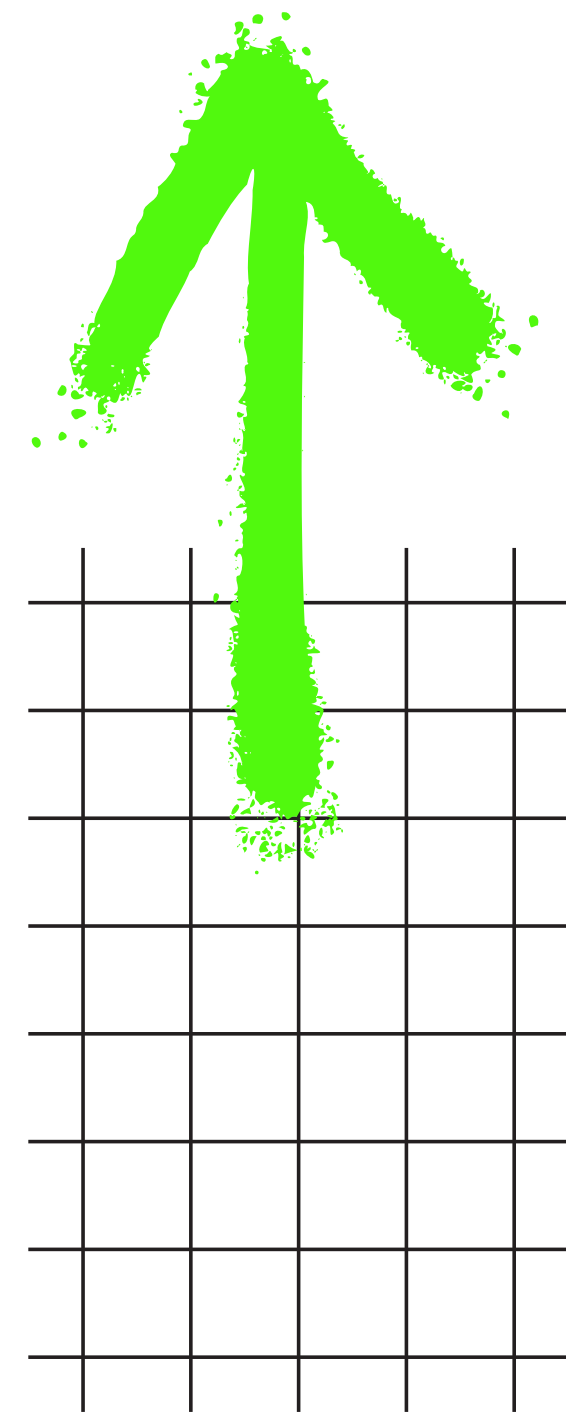


## Robert Ropel & Sebastian Kulis, Poland

We are biodiversity activists, gardening educators and landscapers from Gdynia, Poland. Sebastian is a writer, who published his fourth book "Garden for Four Seasons". We work for "Roslinne Porady" (plant tips), an educational platform that has built a community for plant enthusiasts. Today we're educating over 60 000 followers about regenerative gardening and how to fight climate change and biodiversity loss on your own.

## Laura Forsman, Finland

I run the Viikki Food Design Factory at the University of Helsinki. It is a springboard that brings together food and innovation experts and facilitates the creation of new sustainable solutions related to primary production, processing, distribution and consumption of food. Currently I coach early startup teams in business development and create + manage R&D&I projects for food system transformation.



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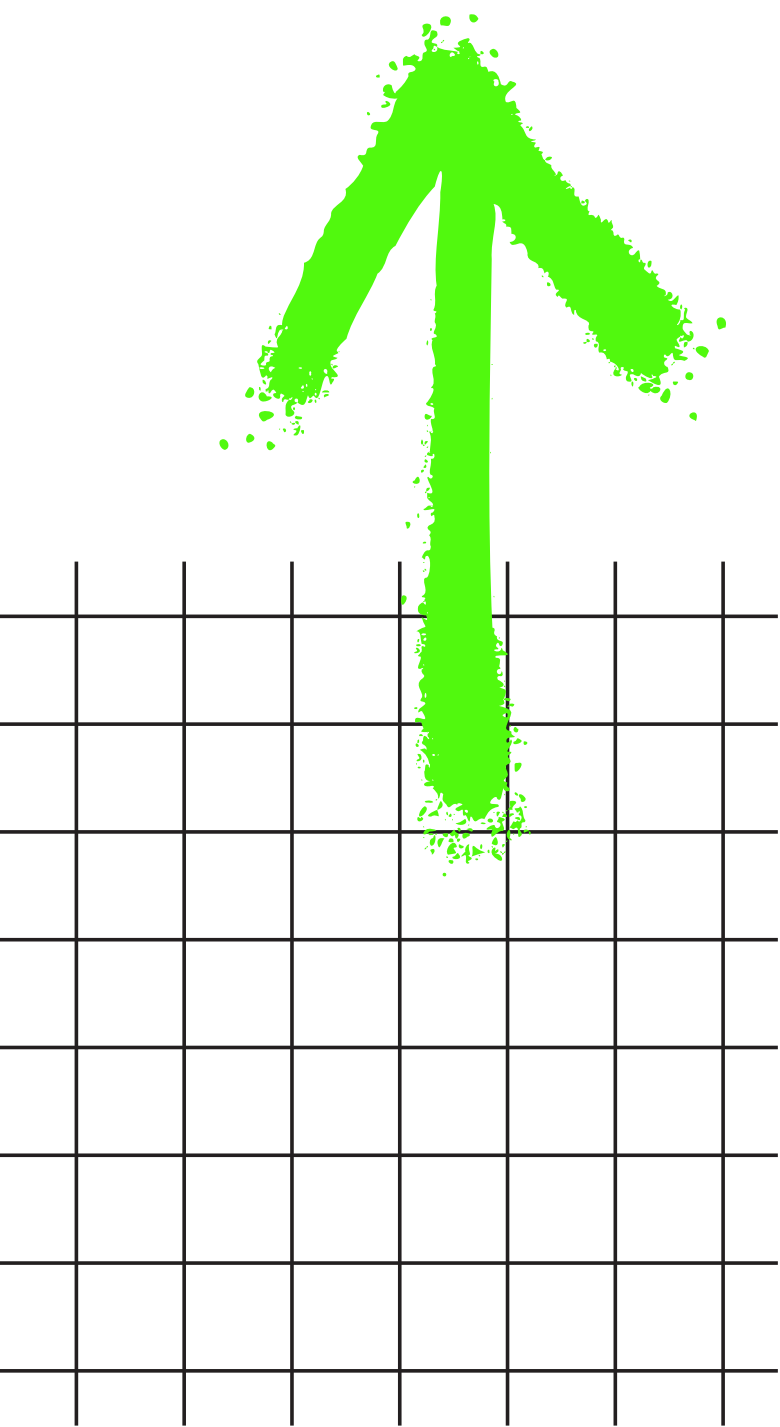


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## Johan Santalahti, Finland

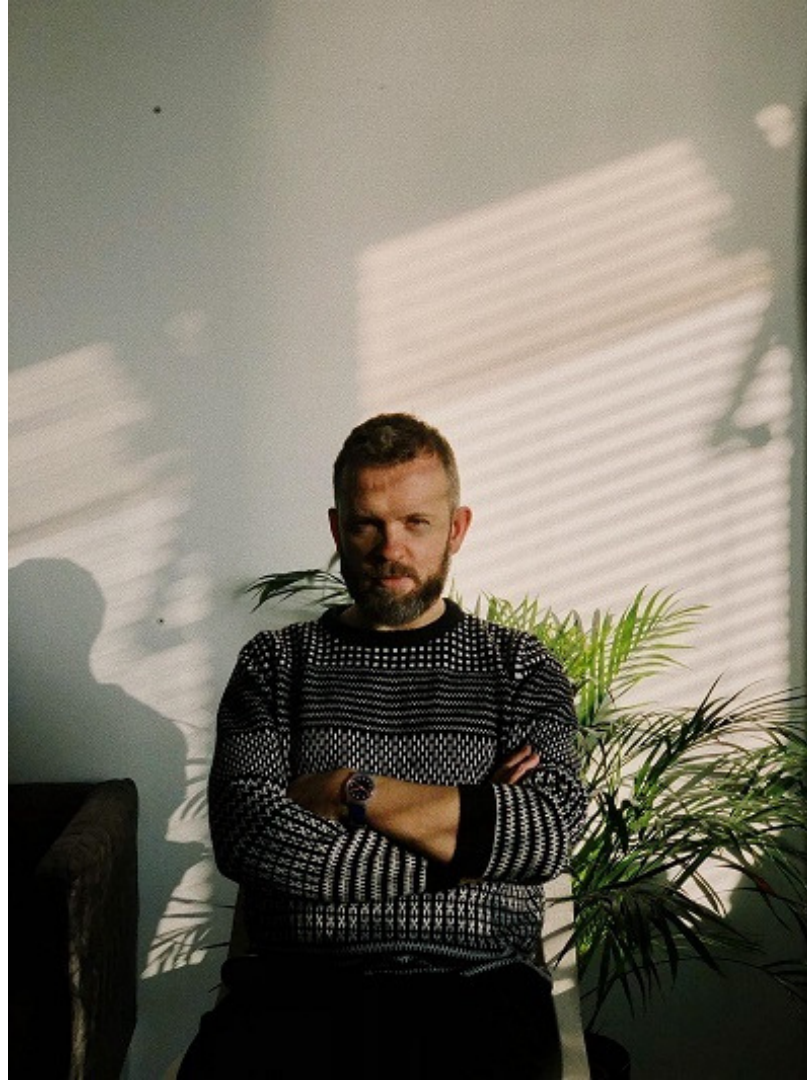
I am currently the vice-chairman of the youth council of Kemiönsaari municipality. I am active in enhancing sustainable living habits of the youth. I am a student in the local high school. I spent my whole life in the beautiful Finnish archipelago, and I have commuted a lot with ferries before moving to the mainland!



## Disa Kamula, Finland

I am one of the founders of Jälleenrakentajat (co-op) which is also Doughnut Economics Action Lab 'Organization in Action'. We are developing social innovations and facilitating change, for example, with our Doughnut Design for Business workshops. I am also an active citizen with the aim to save public parks and green areas in the city of Tampere. We managed to save a small park from construction and this was a huge inspiration for others as well.



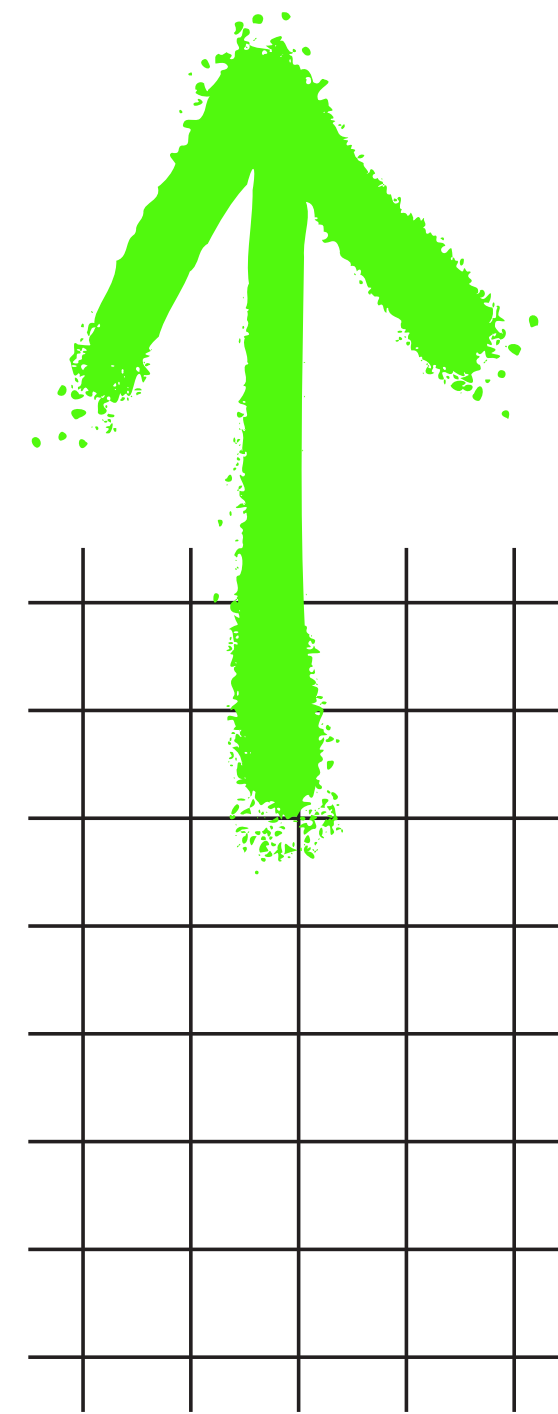


## Tomasz Kośmider, Poland

I work at Design Centre of Pomeranian Science and Technology Park in Gdynia, organizer of a nationally known festival Gdynia Design Days. We focus on sustainable design, circular economy, green solutions in design process. Personally I work with marketing and communication and my biggest challenge is how to promote events in sustainable way and how to decrease amount of waste while producing it.

## Jessika Nuske, Germany

I am a social scientist, working at the German-wide Research Institute Social Cohesion. I am currently finishing my Ph.D., which focuses on the relationship between science and society and the role of social sciences in addressing and working on so-called 'wicked problems'. Thus, I tackle the question of whether and how social sciences can contribute to transforming our society into a more sustainable one.



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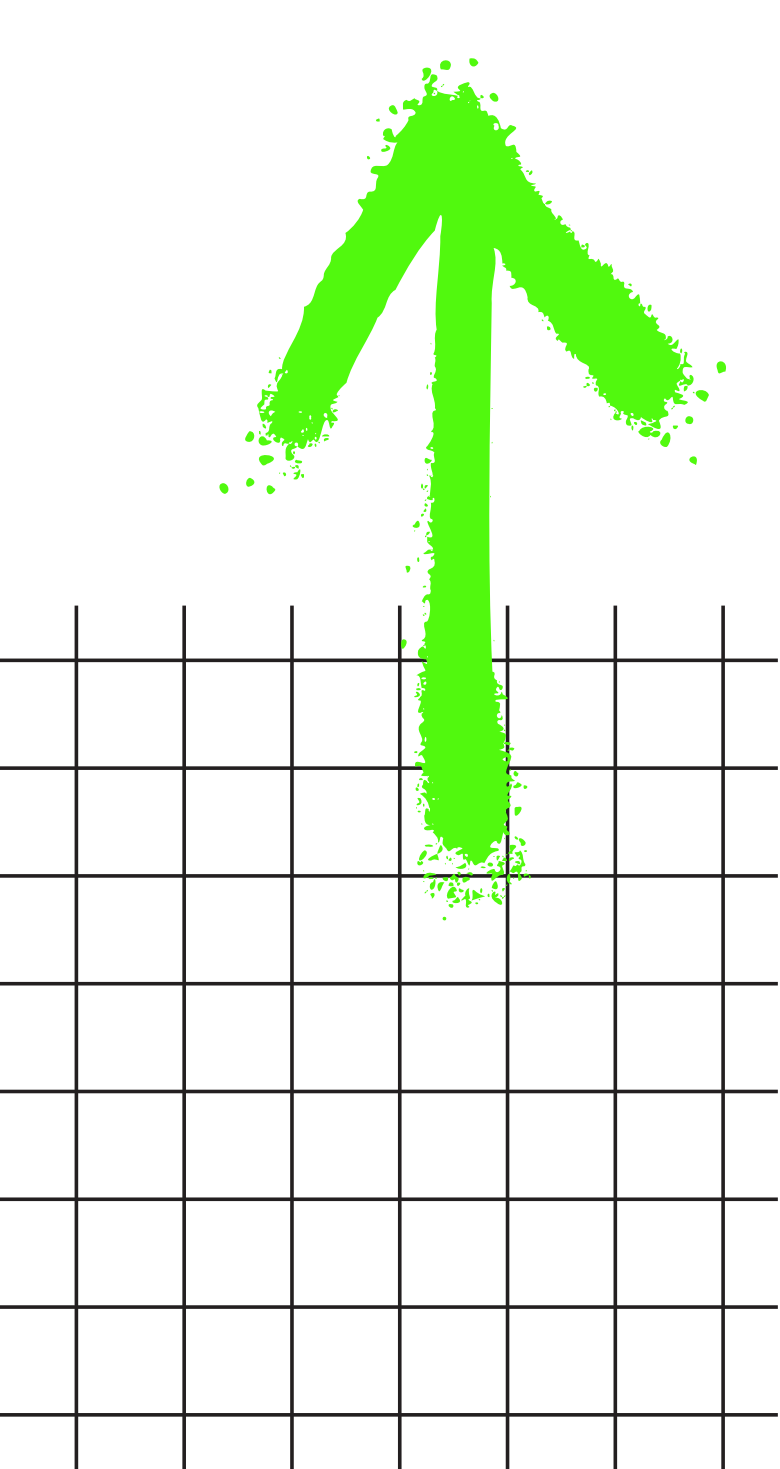


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## Jaana Eriksson, Finland

I work as a youth work coordinator in Kemiönsaari municipality, Finland. I organize various events, camps and excursions for children and young people. We promote sustainable living habits for children and youth so that they get a good start in life. The aim is to get them stay or later move back with their families to our beautiful, small seaside municipality.



## Patrycja Surowiec, Poland

I am the co-founder and CEO of ZEROBAN Social Cooperative, an organization that presents job opportunities to people with disabilities. In ZEROBAN, we focus on bringing forward the idea of sustainability through upcycling of banners and other commercial materials that would otherwise be discarded as trash. We also cooperate with local and national businesses to promote the idea of corporate social responsibility.

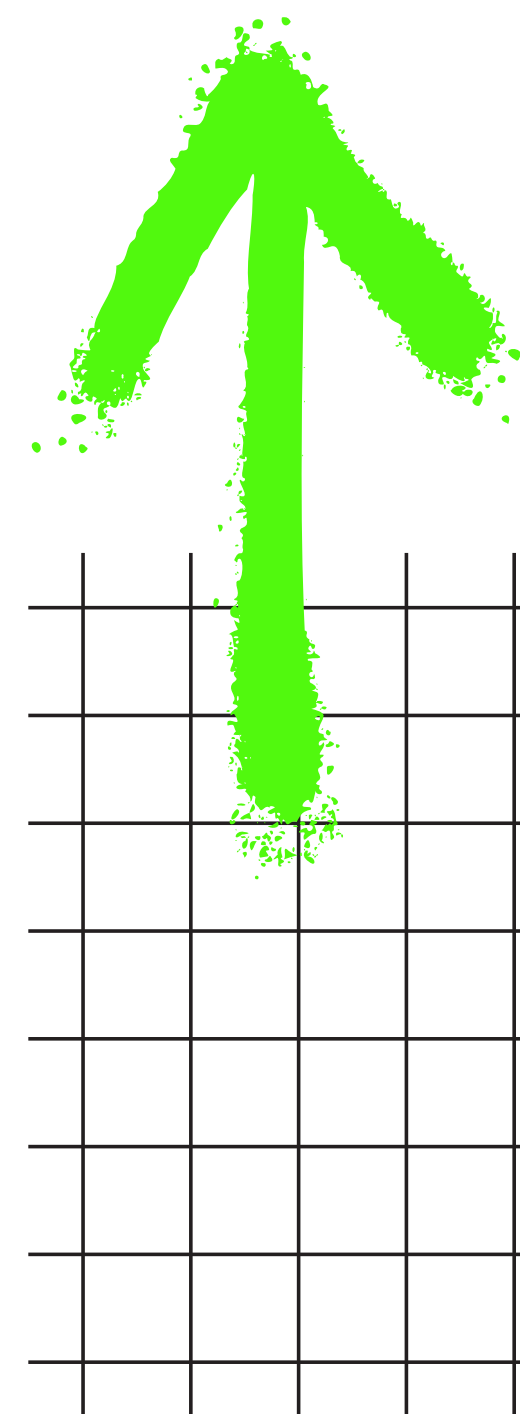


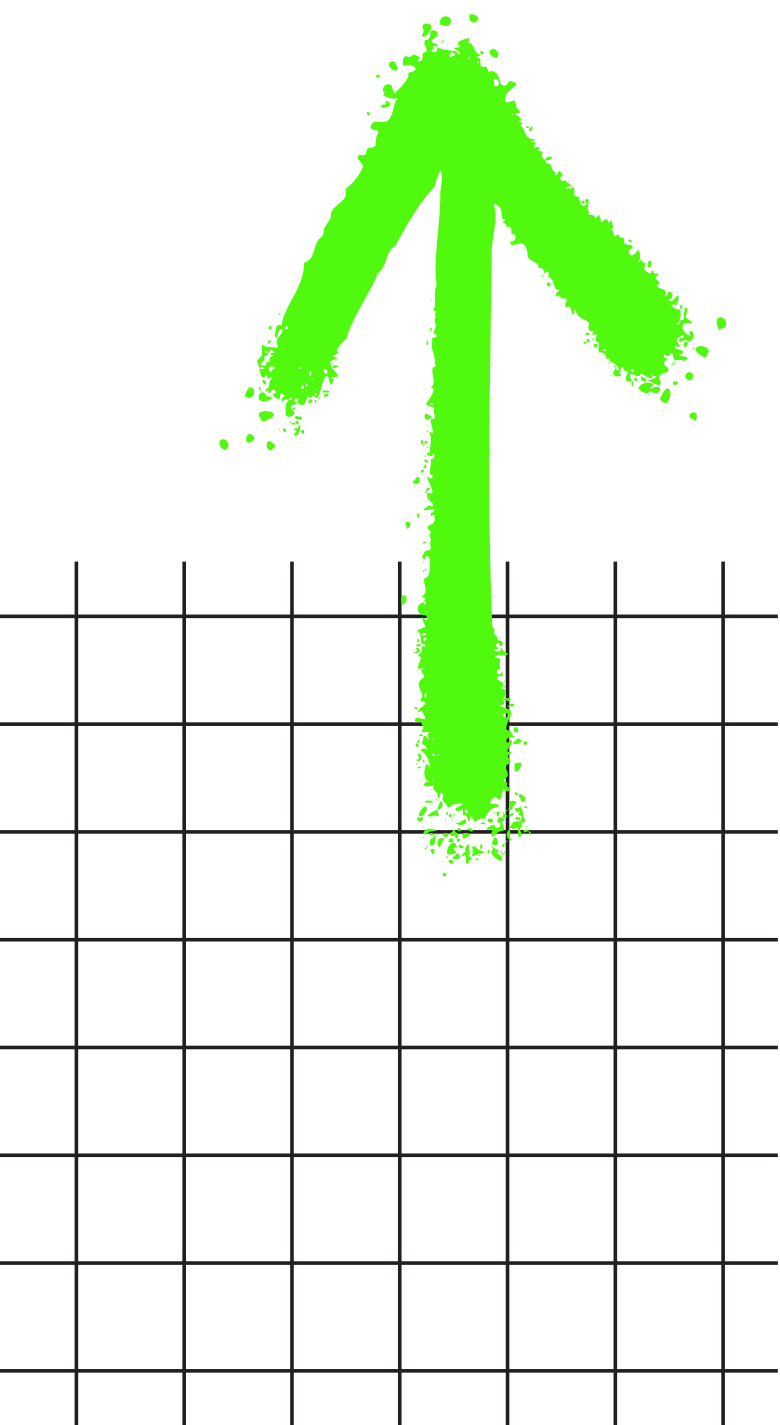
## Sven Tobreluts, Estonia

I am Executive Director of Association of Municipalities of Tartu County. We lead and coordinate the implementation of Tartu County Development Strategy and Tartu County Energy and Climate Plan (SECAP). We are also together with City of Tartu leading the Tartu County Circular Economy Roadmap process and also Tartu County Sustainable Mobility Plan (SUMP).

## Patrycja Léonard-Pawluk, Poland

I am founder of ZiemiaSfera - a zero waste concept store & cafe in Gdańsk, Poland. We also lead zero waste workshops to foster the transition to a more sustainable lifestyle. Our business enables people to live a zero waste lifestyle by reducing waste and adopting more sustainable practises in life. We sell everything to take care of yourself and your home. We believe that all starts with us, with the change of our thoughts, beliefs, attitudes and then actions.





## Harri Paloheimo, Finland

I'm the CoFounder of CoReorient Ltd. Our company creates and operates sharing and circular economy services for consumers, communities and organizations such as tools and service co-sharing, carpooling etc. We have been developing sharing and circular economy solutions for consumers for 15 years and operated them for 10 years.



## Tiina Leinonen, Finland

I work as Program Manager in City of Tampere development program Carbon Neutral Actions, where one of our focus areas is to enhance sustainable consumption and mobility in cooperation with citizens. We want to find ways to promote sustainable choices to citizens together with various city organisations (ie schools, libraries) and also co-create and find new ways to do actions together with civil society actors, especially in residential areas.

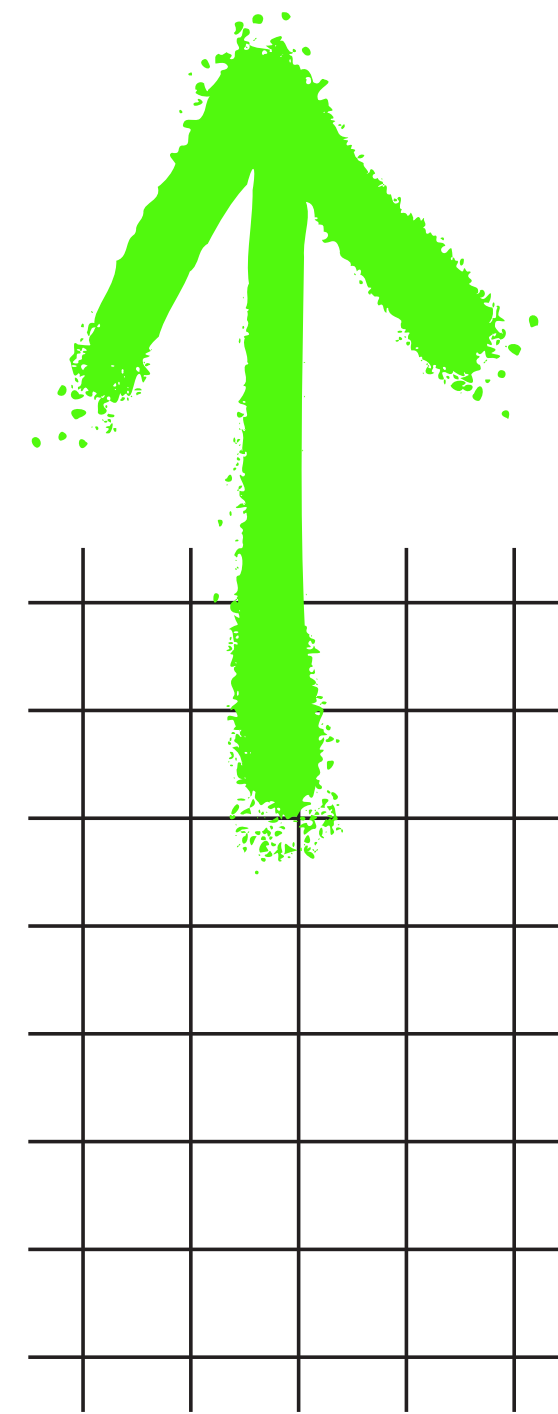


## Agata Lewandowska, Poland

I work at Climate Adaptation Unit of Gdynia City Hall. I'm devoted to projects that aim at decarbonisation, zero-waste, biodiversity and green education. We make transition! is a perfect project that enables sustainability discussion and solutions in the city reality. I'm engaged in climate issues also in my spare time - I cooperate with a local association and "Rodzice dla Klimatu. Parents for Future PL" foundation on green projects.

## Anna Evilä, Finland

I represent Jalotus Transition Movement Finland. I'm the founder and creative leader of Jalotus/Upcycling association. Jalotus is the official Transition Hub Finland of the global Transition Network and the National Contact Point of ECOLISE Europe. Our aim is to enable smooth and effective transition to sustainable lifestyle for at least 200 000 Finns before 2030. My work deals with all different kinds of sustainable habits and choices of everyday life.



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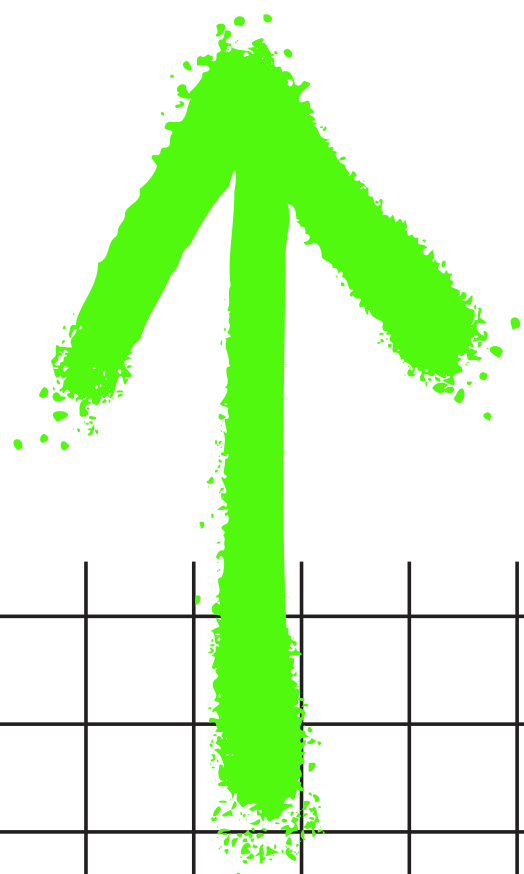


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## Heidi Jaakkola, Finland

I work for Leader Action Group (LAG) Ravakka in Uusikaupunki. My current work includes implementing the strategy of rural development in our area. My main work is to activate and advice project applicants, NGOs and entrepreneurs. I am also a partner in a cooperative of food producers. Eight years ago I founded a REKO Uusikaupunki group in Facebook, where food producers can sell their products directly to consumers.



LÄÄNE-HARJU VALD



## Kadri Kurm, Estonia

I am a strategy manager in Lääne-Harju municipality. It is a green municipality in Estonia nearby our capital Tallinn. I lead our development department and among others we have a number of sustainability projects in the process that are related to waste management, circular economy, climate etc.





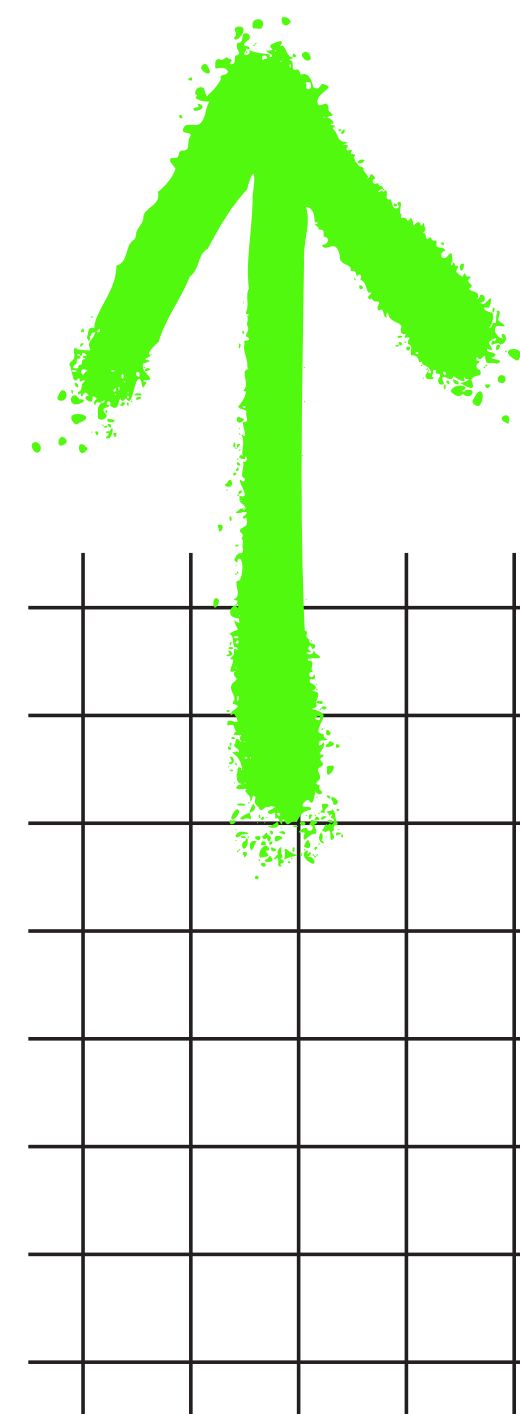


## Kairi Niinepuu-Mark, Estonia

I am the founder of Green Municipality NGO in Estonia. We raise the awareness of communities in various sustainable fields through seminars and practical workshops (biodiversity, waste management, renewable energy, circular economy etc.). Our main focus is on reducing food waste - we have installed food recycling cabinets (powered by renewable energy) across Estonia in cooperation with communities, municipalities and companies.

## Tauno Linkoranta, Finland

I am coordinator of local village activities. My work is to activate local village associations and support them in their projects and development ideas. Sustainable development is something that was historically built in rural communities. Old houses and their materials were reused, people grew their own food, travelling was mainly local and the level of consumption was lower than in the cities. I want to refresh that lifestyle or at least the way of thinking.



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