the MEDITERRANEAN we DESIRE

a journey towards climate resilience



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The Mediterranean We Desire ©

Title: The Mediterranean we desire: a journey towards climate resilience ©

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Edition: Athens, September 2026
Published By: Dynamic Vision P.C.

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Co-funded by the European Union

Swiss participants in this project are funded by

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

Alex

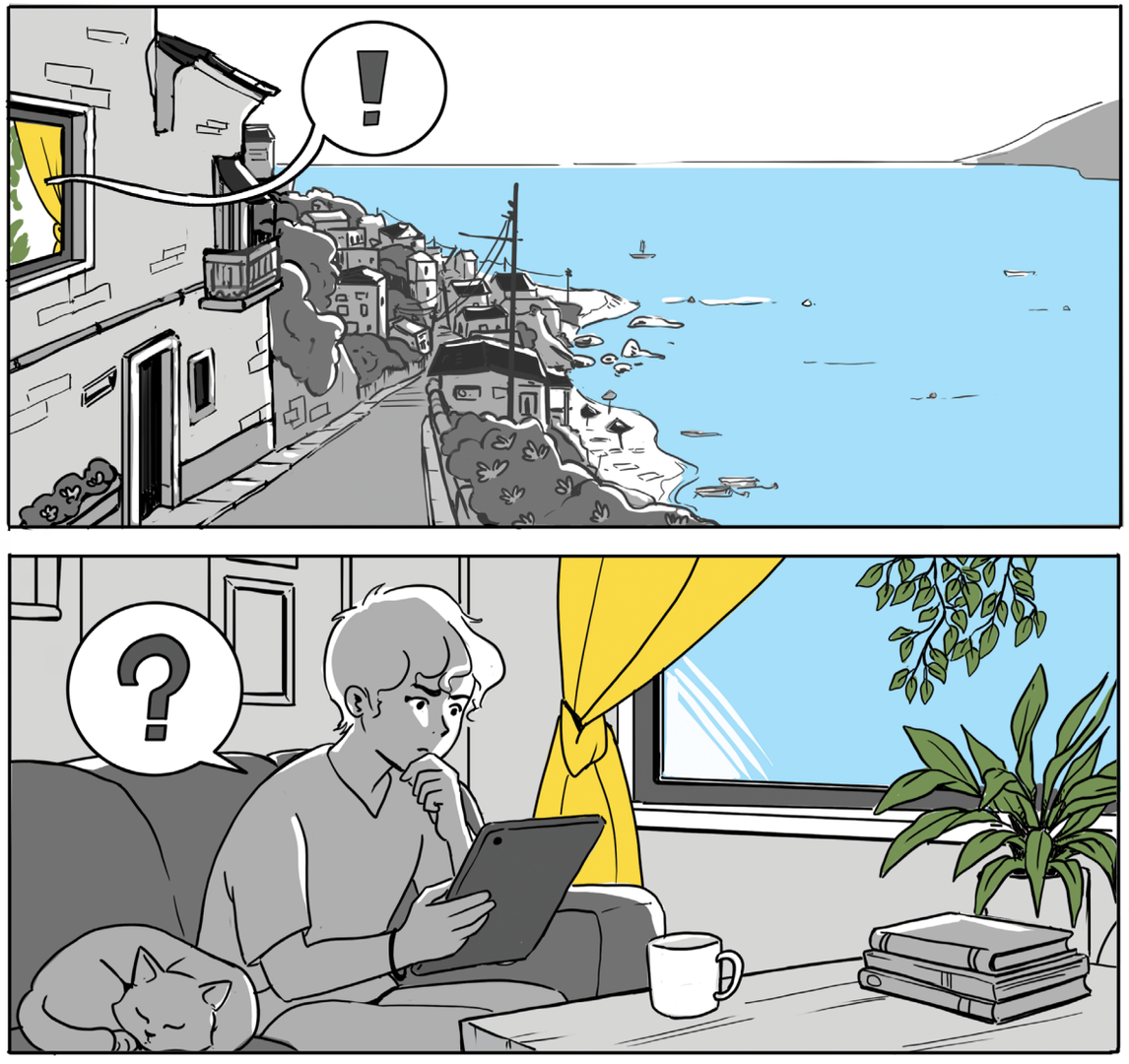


Our beautiful home, the Mediterranean basin, is changing in many ways. Summers are hotter than they used to be, soil is thirsty, and our forests are threatened by flames, putting pressure on its people, landscapes and ecosystems.

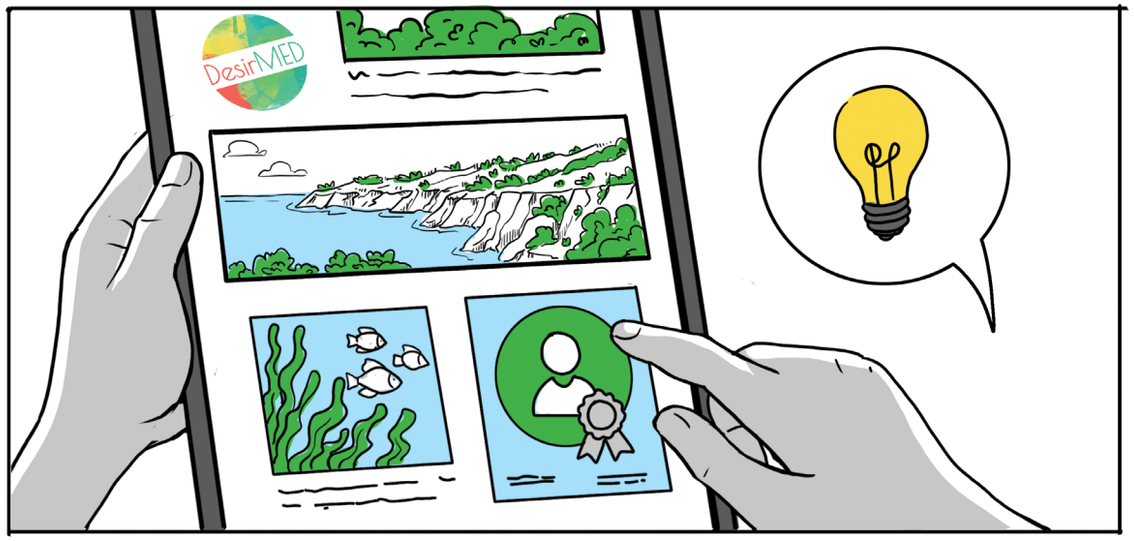
We, Mediterranean people, need a transformative adaptation in how we live, designing a future rooted in innovation, respect for nature and growth.

What if the solutions are already growing, flowing and living all around us?

Alex, a young scientist, is about to find out. With a backpack, a curious mind and a journey stretching across the Mediterranean, Alex will discover how people and nature can work together to face a changing climate.



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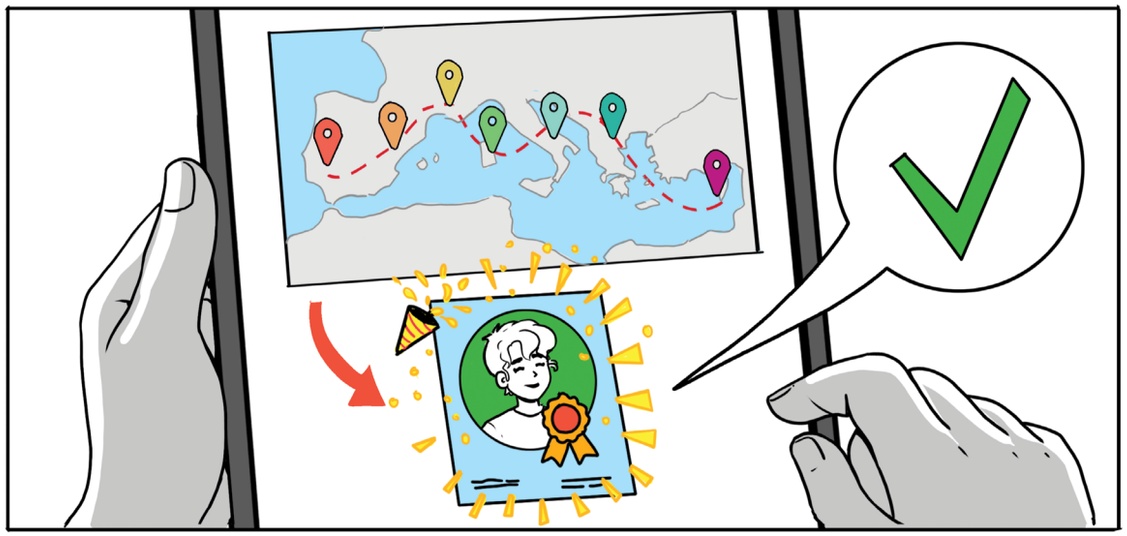





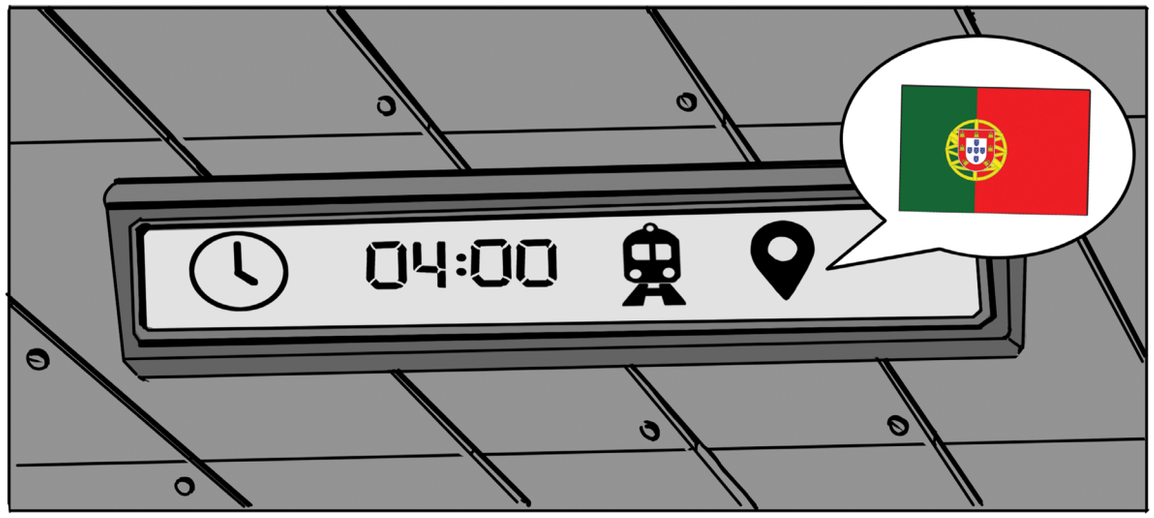
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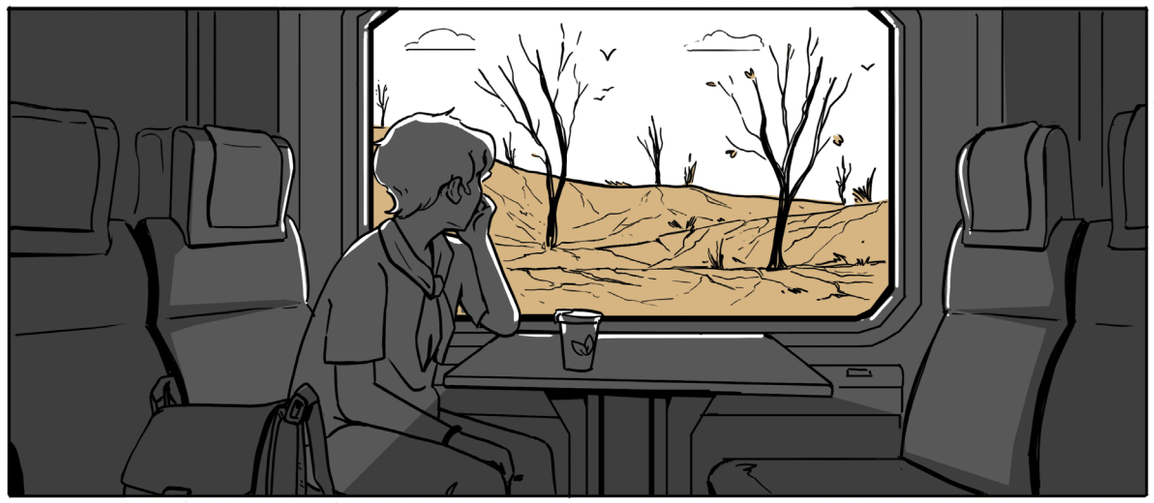







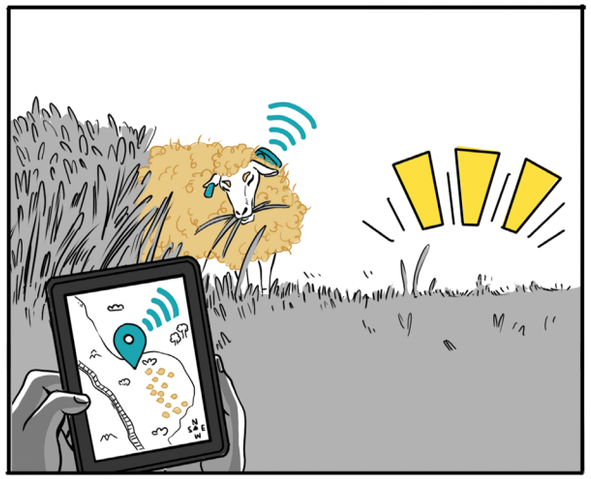

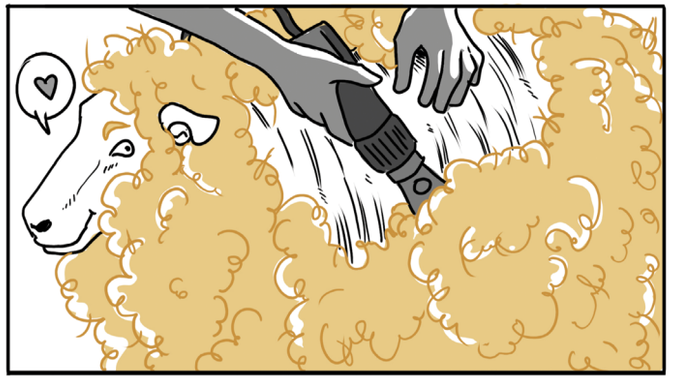

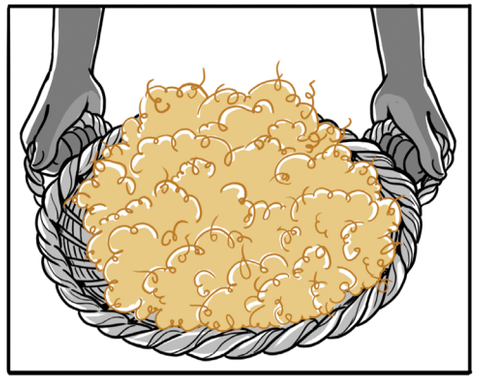

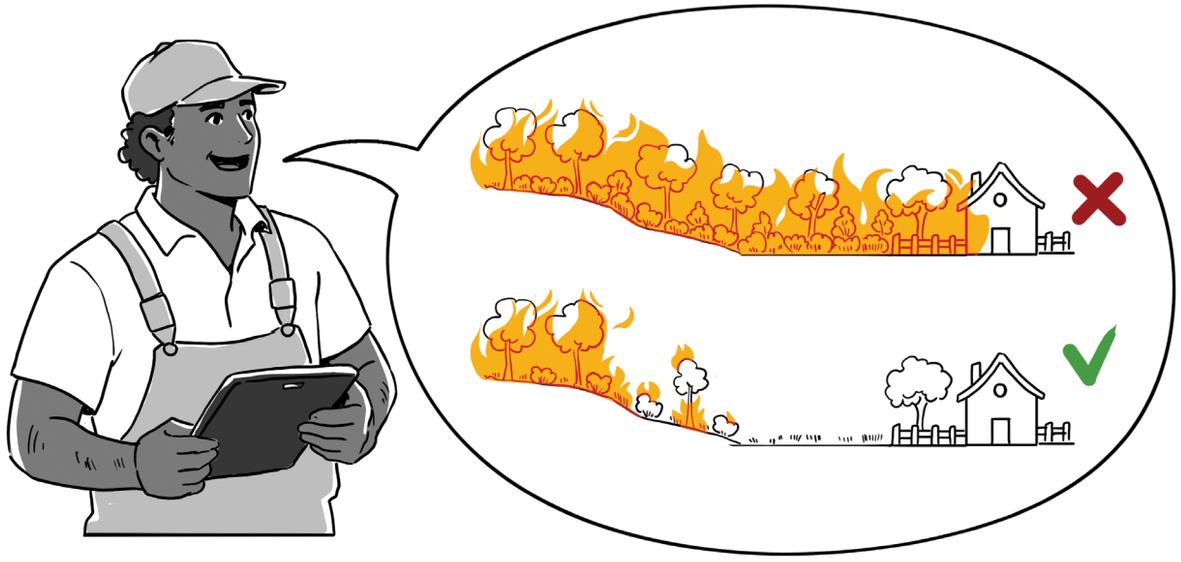



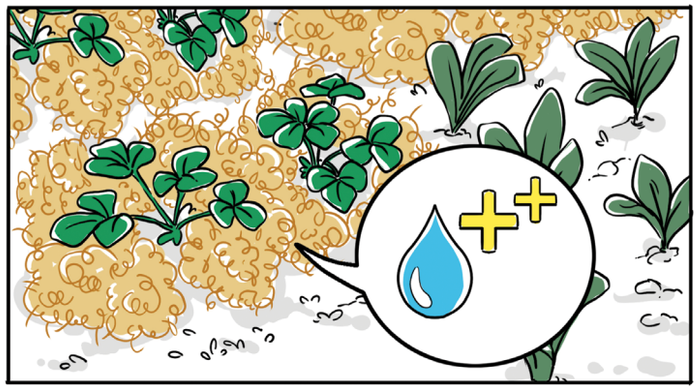

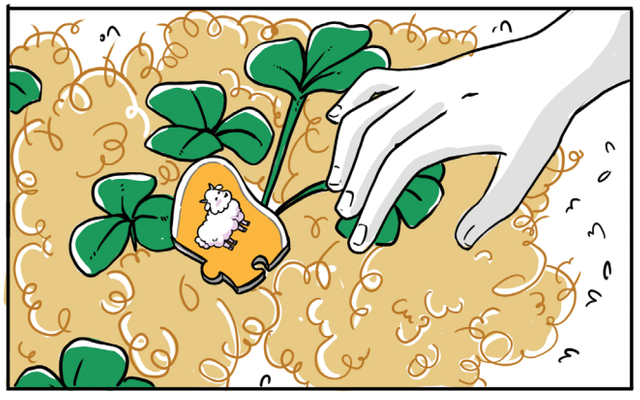

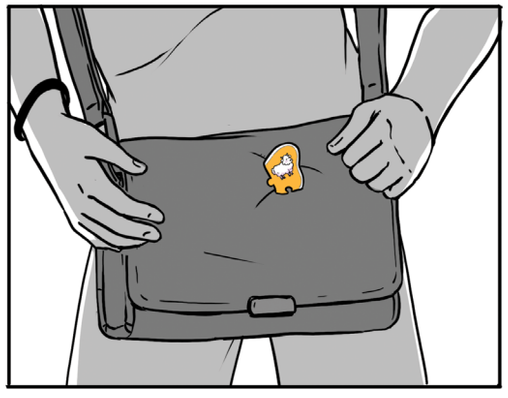



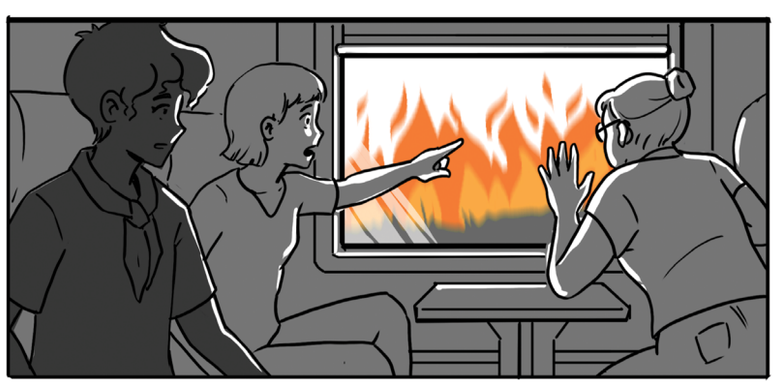











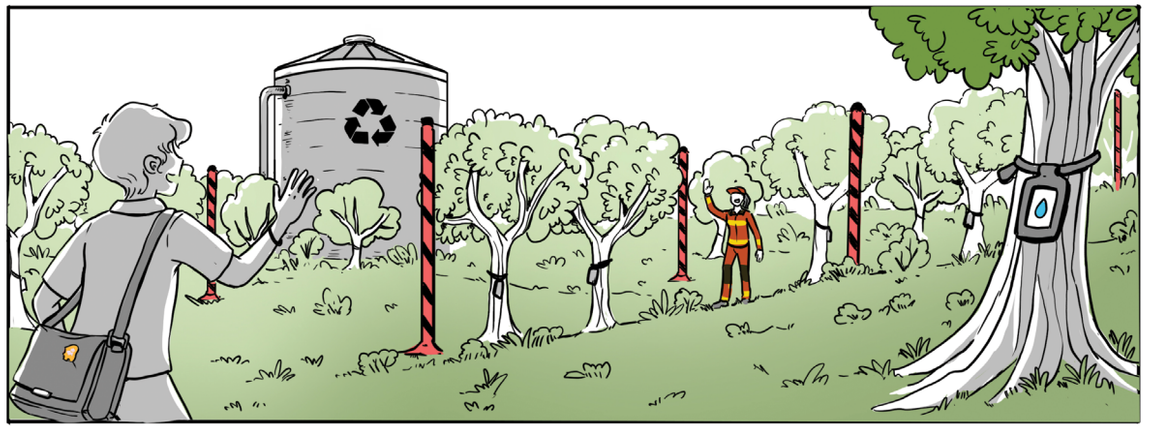



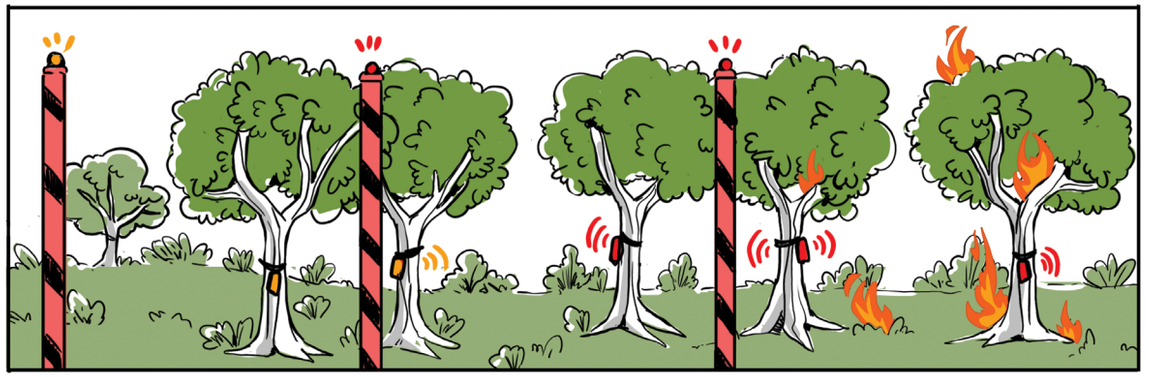

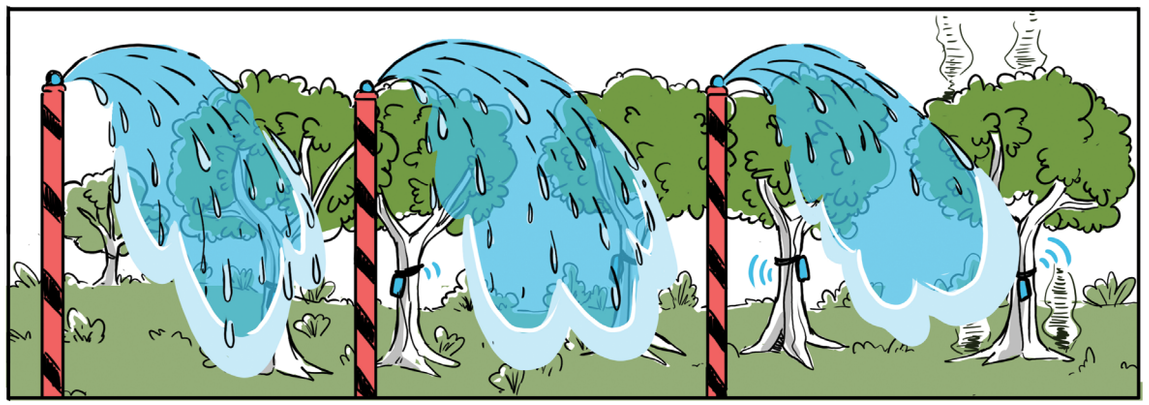

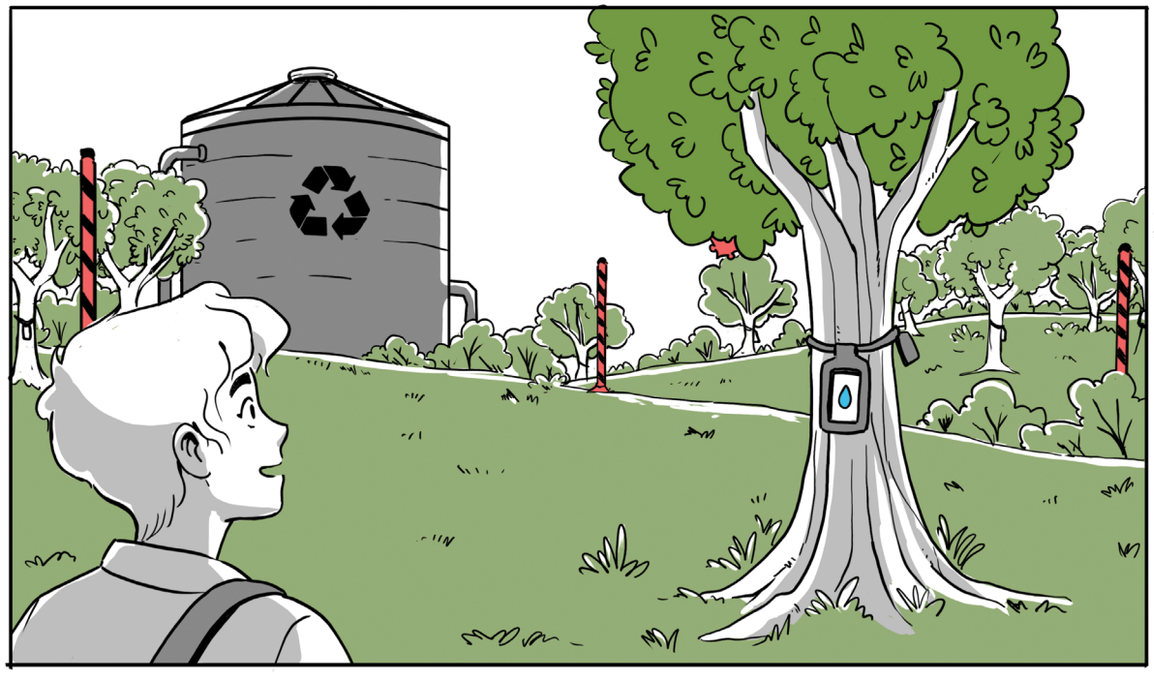

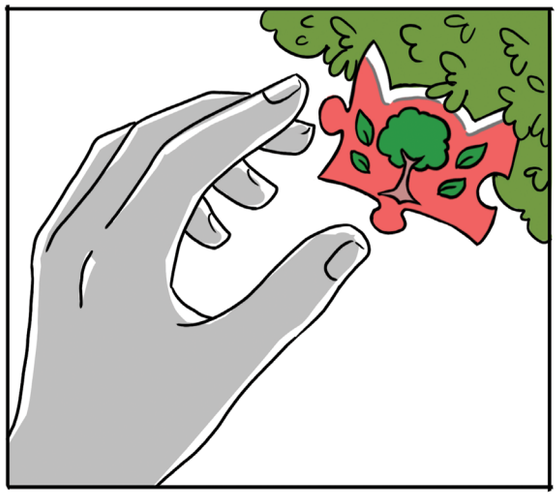

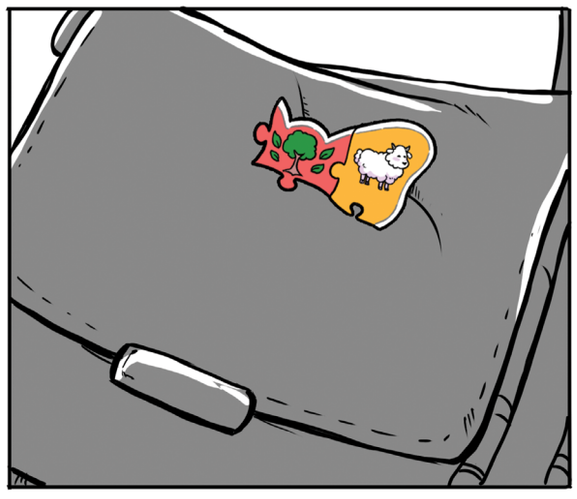





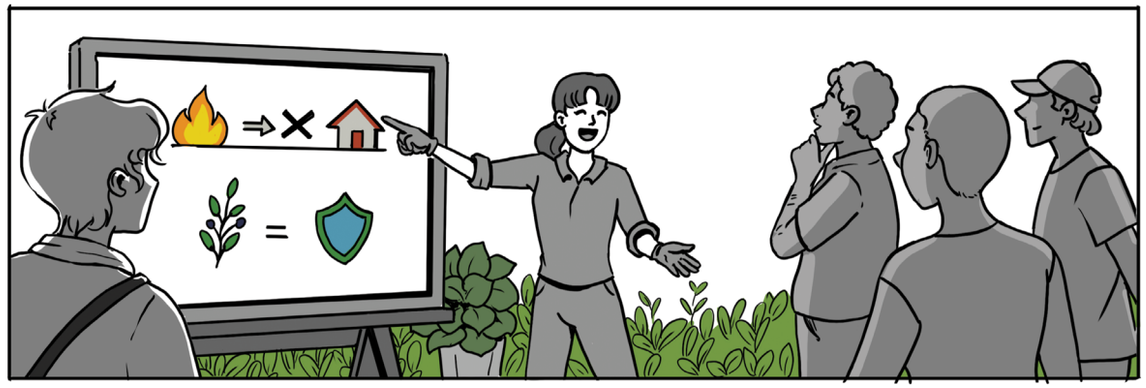

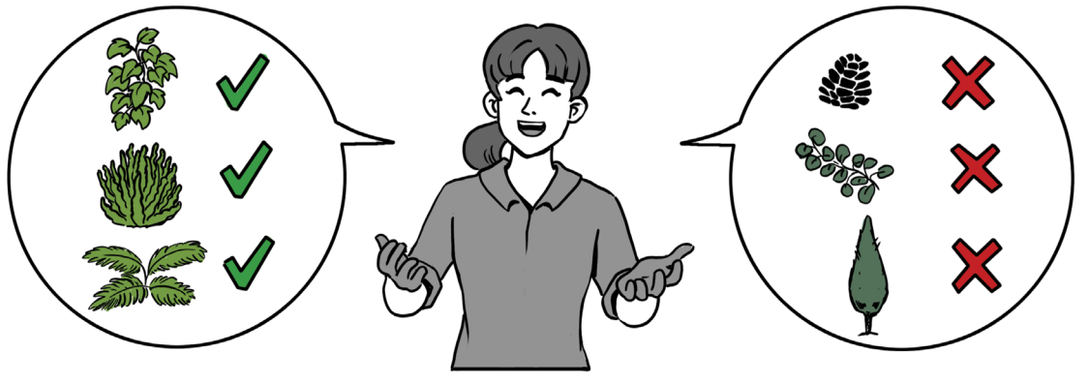



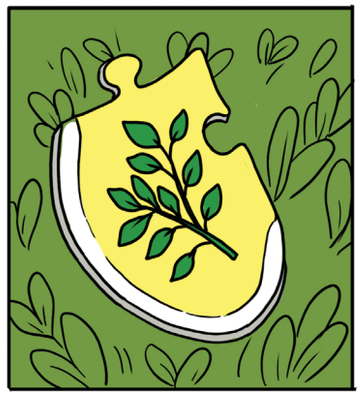

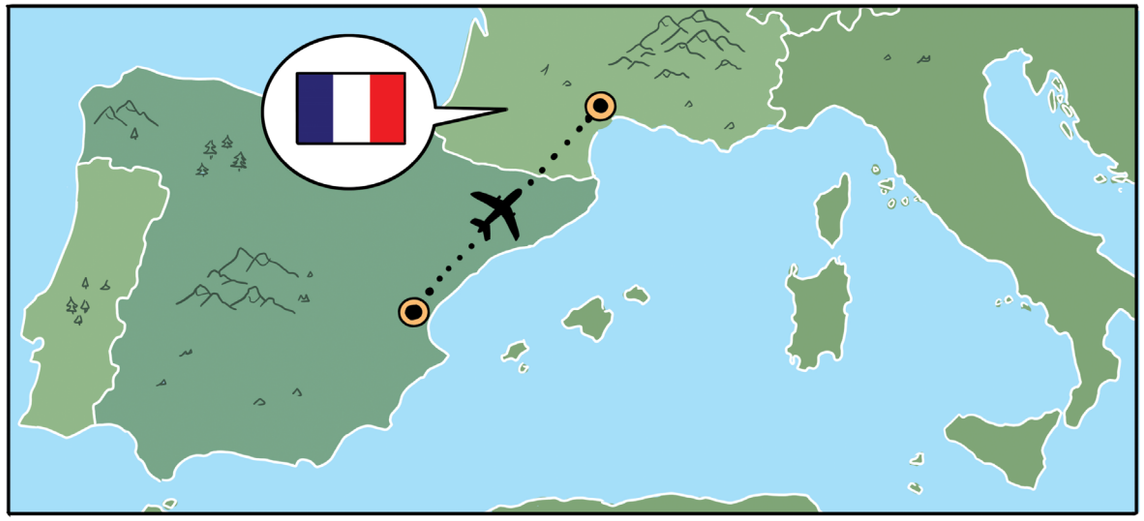


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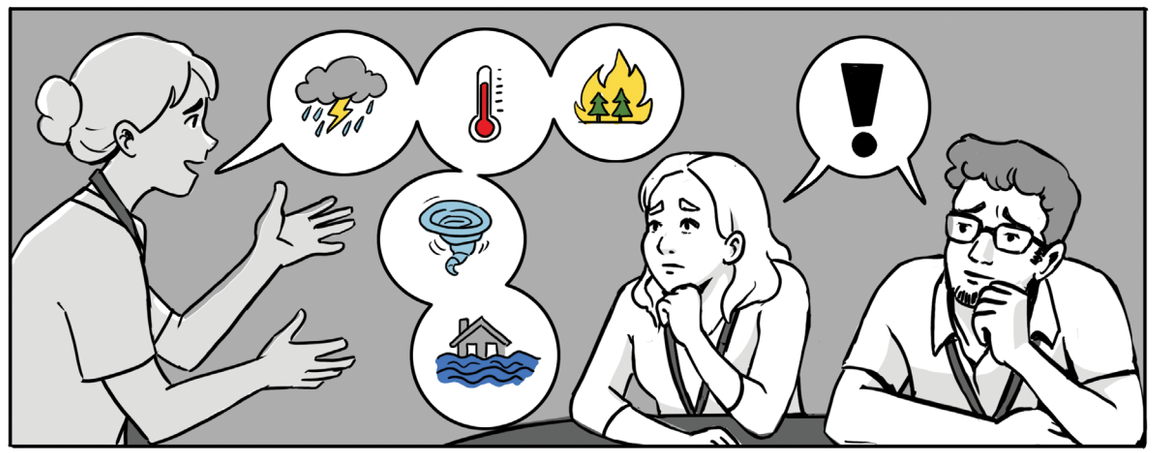



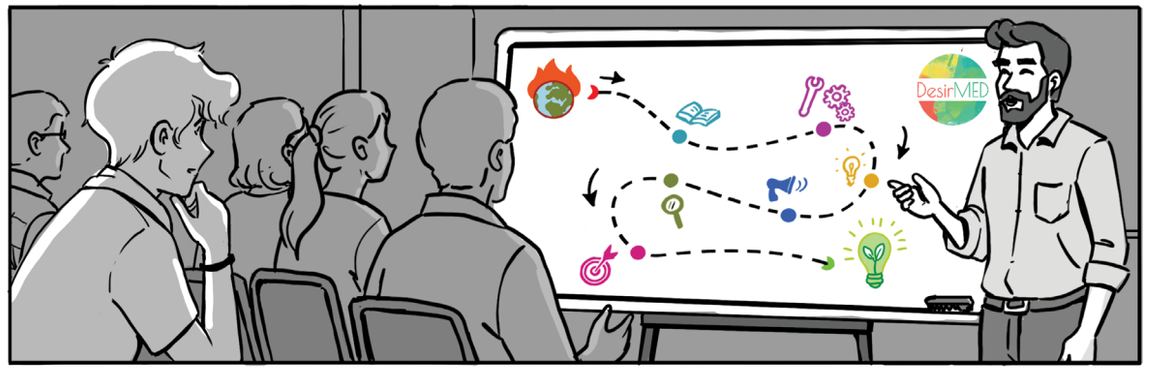
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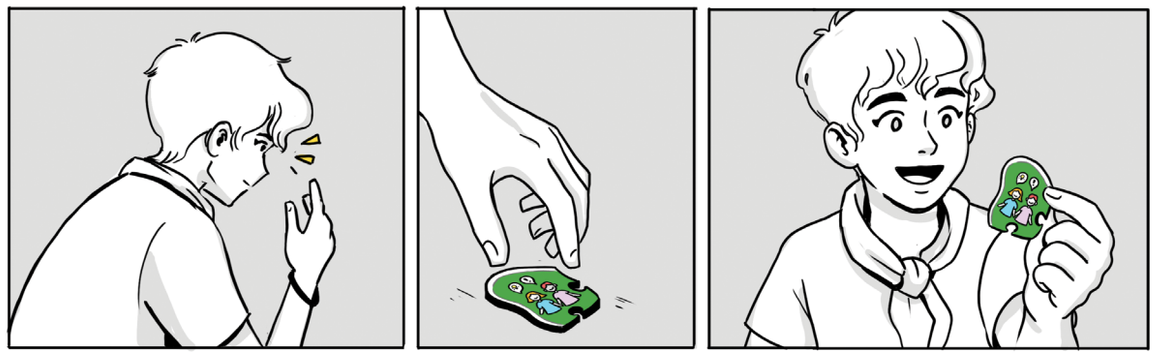

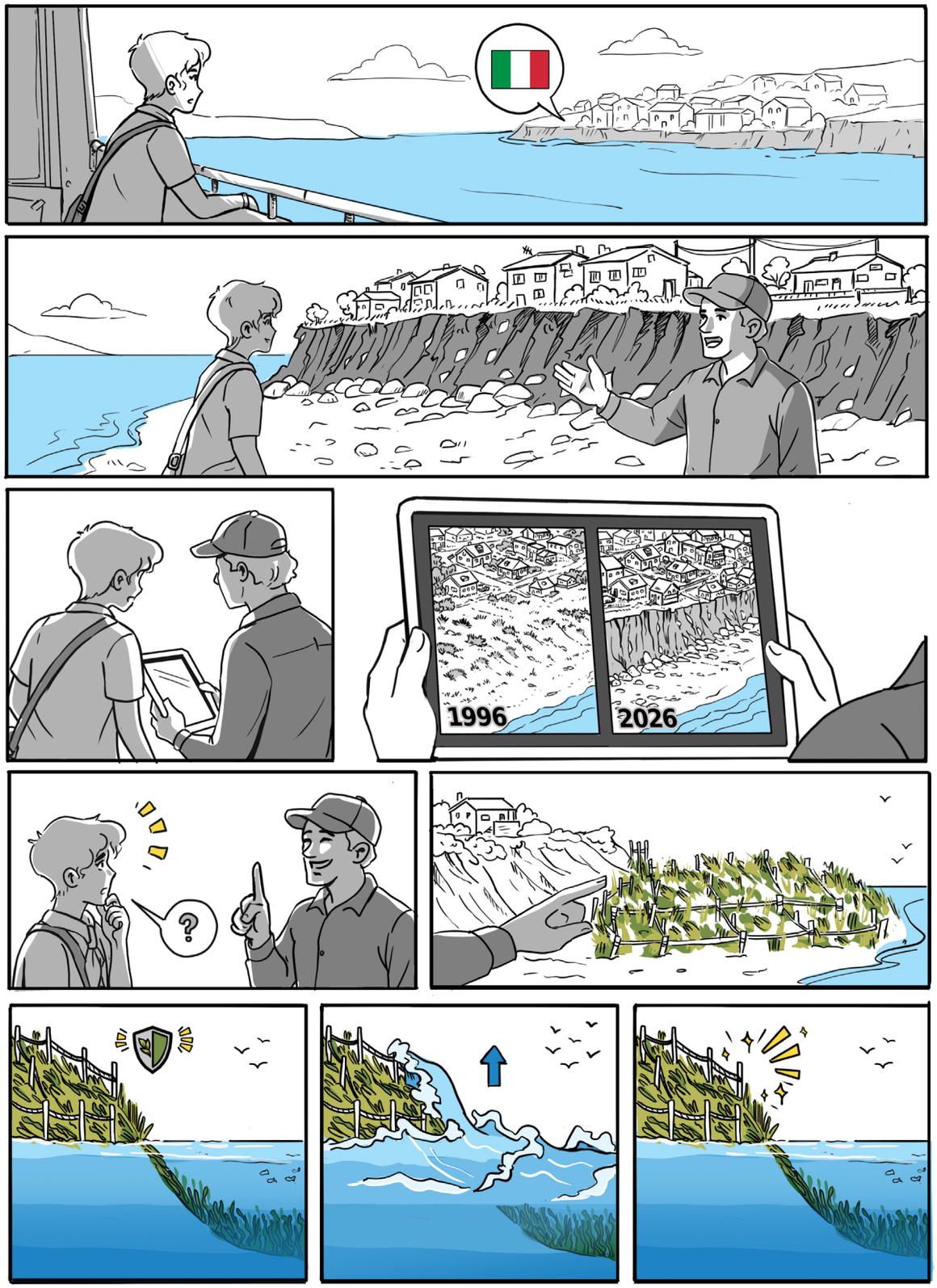
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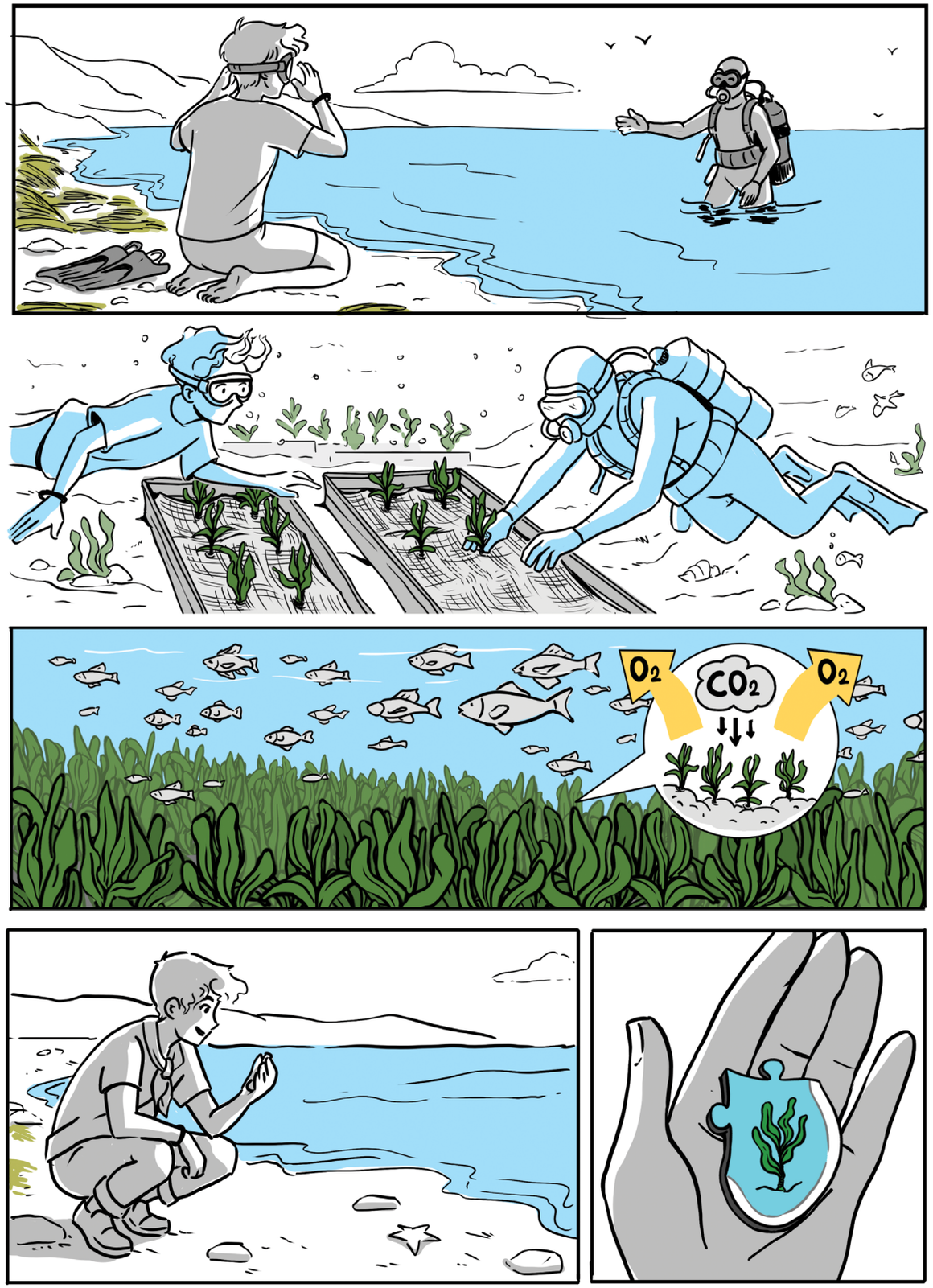
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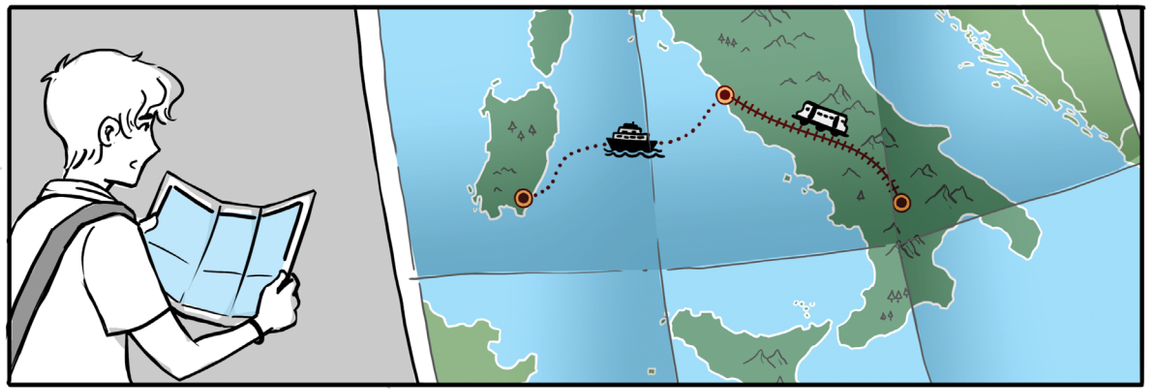


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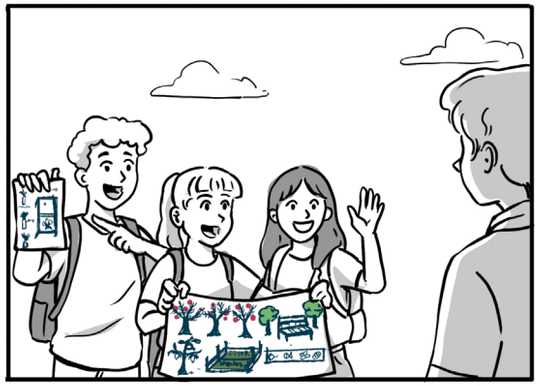



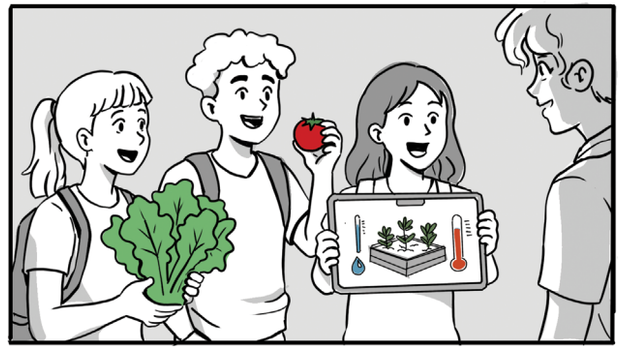

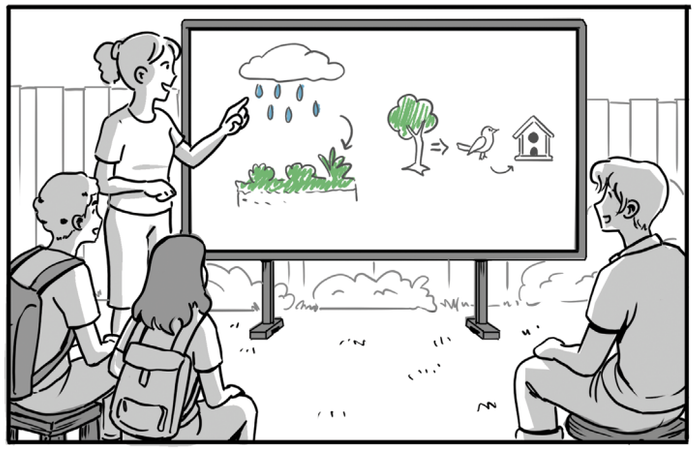

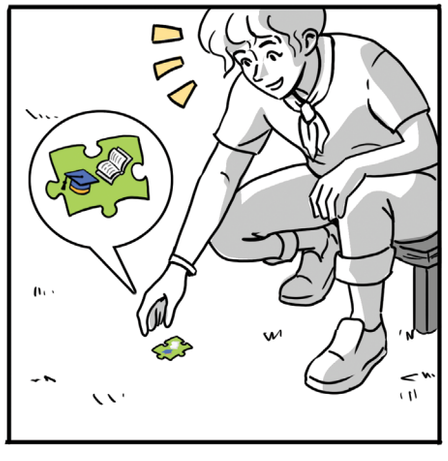





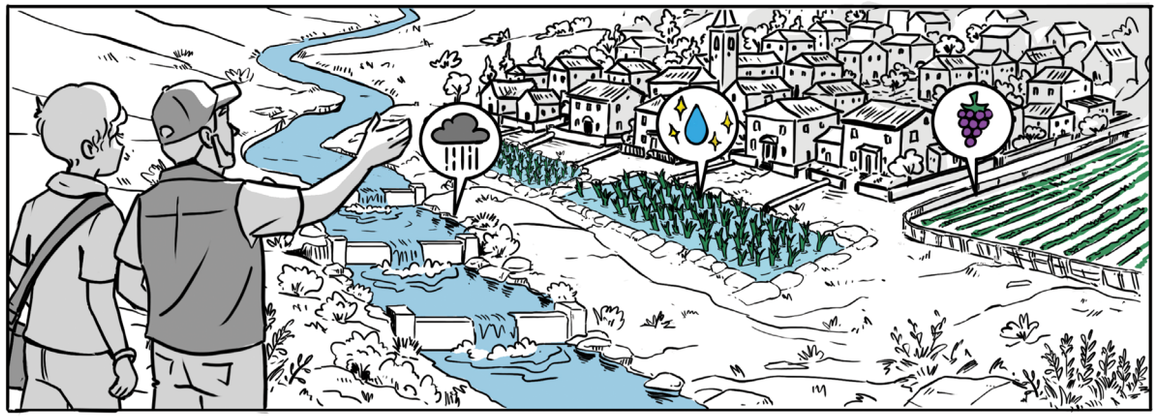

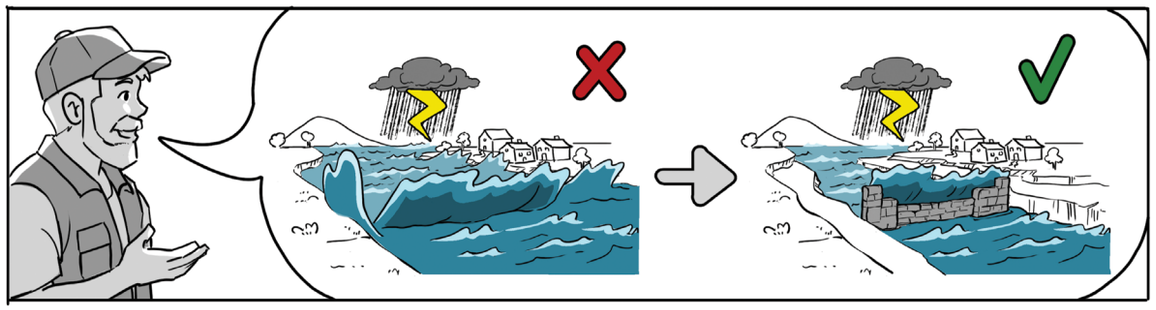

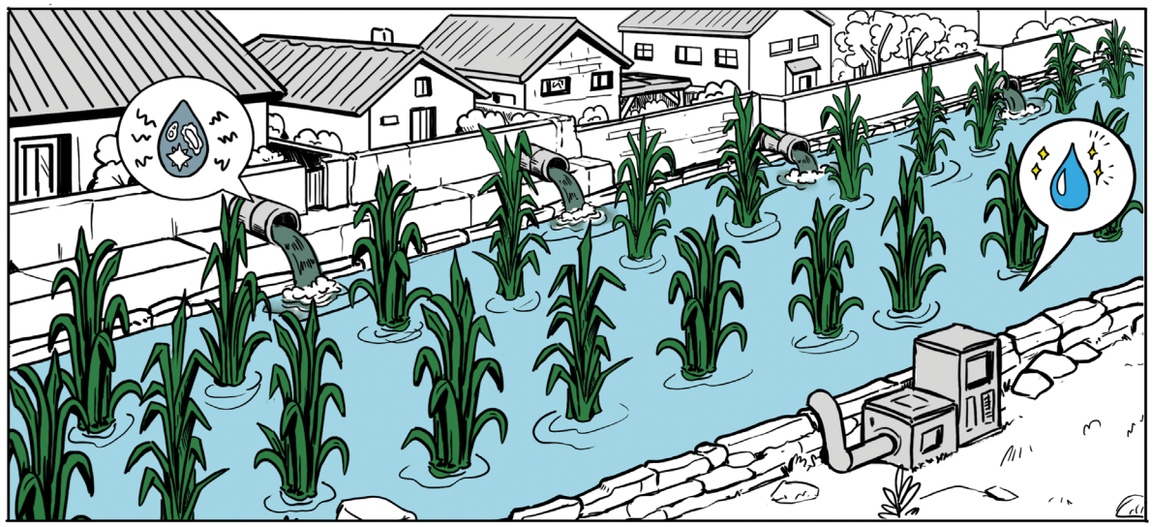

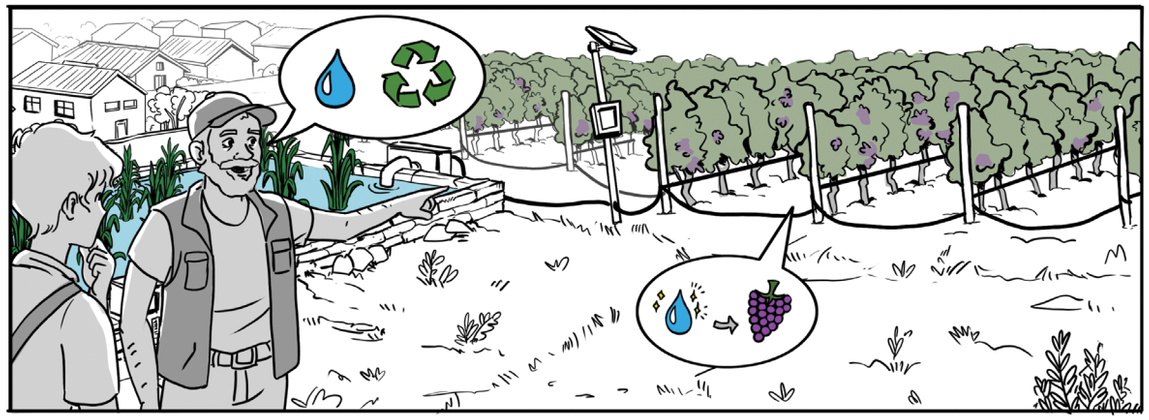

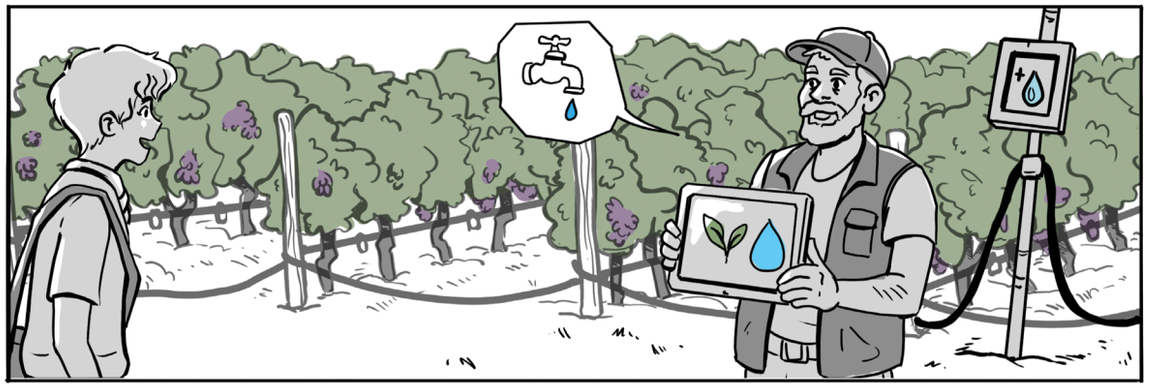



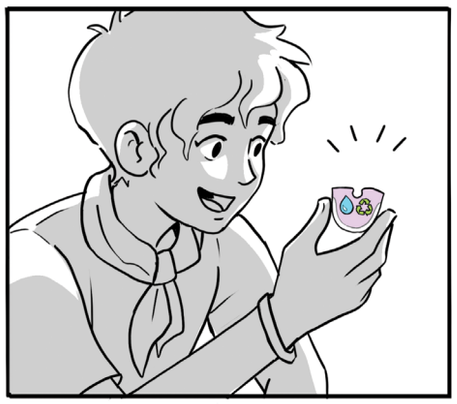



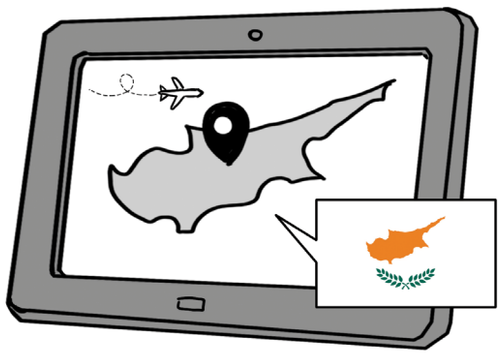


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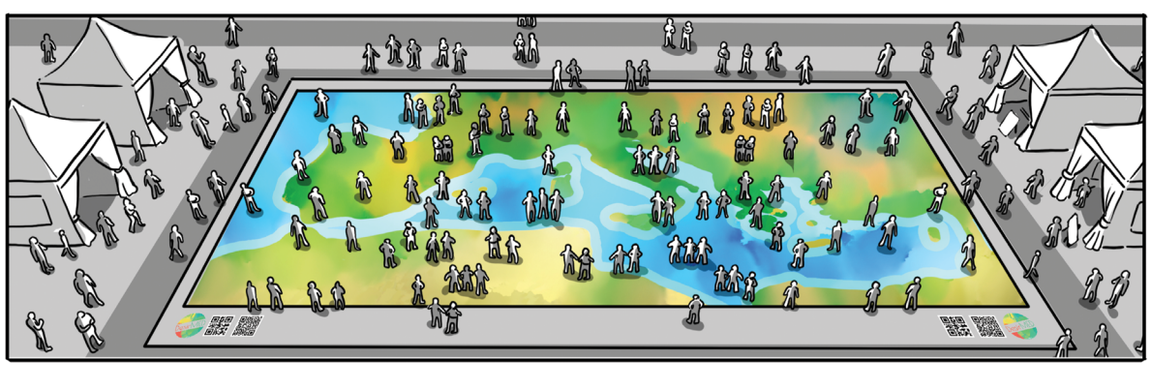
Adaptation Festival
The Mediteranean
We Desire



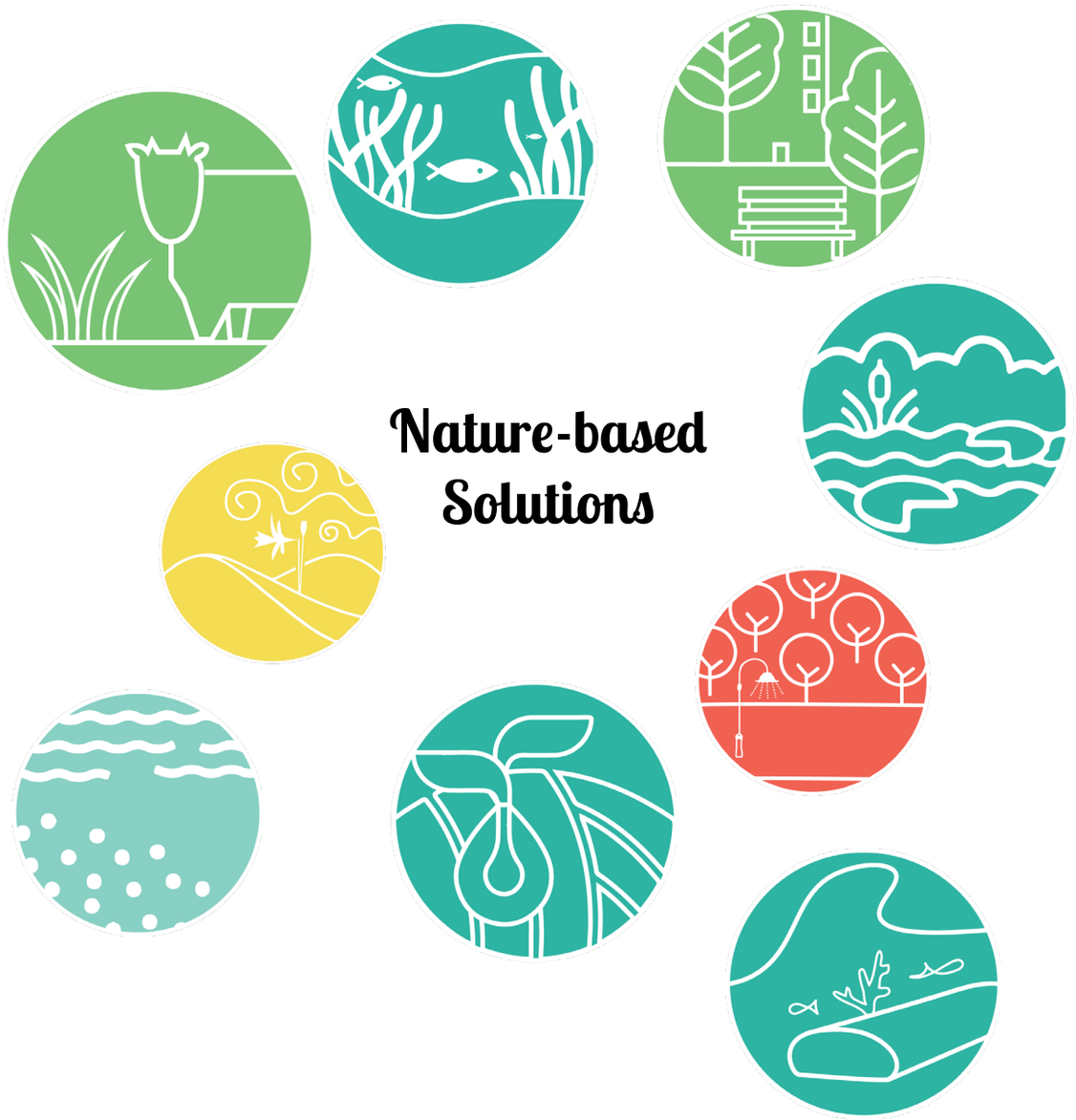




What are Nature-based Solutions?

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems that address everyday challenges faced by societies, effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

In simpler words... NbS are practices based on nature's mechanisms and provide a multitude of services to humanity and biodiversity. They secure a healthy natural capital, provide ecosystem services and increase socioeconomic value.





What is DesirMED?

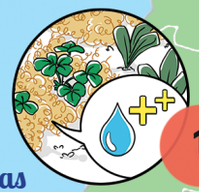
DesirMED (Demonstrating and anchoring nature-based solutions to drive climate-resilient transformation across the Mediterranean) is a project funded under the Horizon Europe Programme prioritising NbS, innovative technologies and social practices to accelerate the transformation towards climate adaptation and resilience in the Mediterranean regions. The DesirMED partnership counts 34 partners from 10 countries: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands.
DesirMED involves actors in 8 Mediterranean regions, working hand-in-hand with scientific partners to foster the transformation needed to reach climate resilience.

Overall, DesirMED will strengthen knowledge and capabilities of Mediterranean regions and communities to take leadership and ownership in their transformative Climate Change Adaptation journeys and accelerate the implementation of transformative solutions required to increase their resilience over the long term.

ALEX'S JOURNEY WITH DesirMED

Get to know our solutions!





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Comunidade Intermunicipal das Beiras e Serra da Estrela, Portugal



2

Valencia Region, Spain



3

Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, France



4

Sardinia Region, Italy



5

Potenza Province, Italy



6

Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia



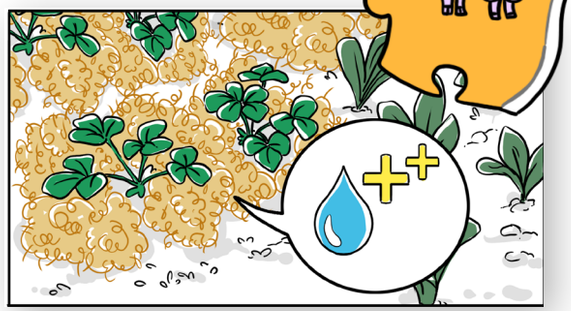
7

Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region, Greece



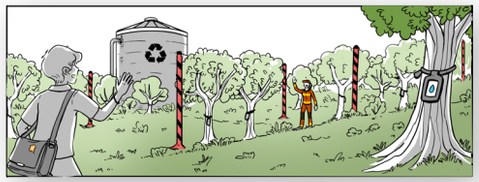
8

Cyprus



Comunidade Intermunicipal das Beiras e Serra da Estrela, Portugal

In Portugal's Serra da Gardunha, farmers are helping local cherry trees survive extreme weather with tougher, climate-adapted varieties, and bringing back the mountain breeds of sheep and goat raised here. Centuries of drought and heat shaped them for a climate that keeps getting hotter.



Valencia Region, Spain

Valencia's forests are built to burn, but hotter, drier summers and abandoned land make fires fiercer. Two ideas fight back: rings of green, low-flammable plants watered with recycled water to shield neighbourhoods, and sensors that let the region 'listen to nature' and act before fires spread.

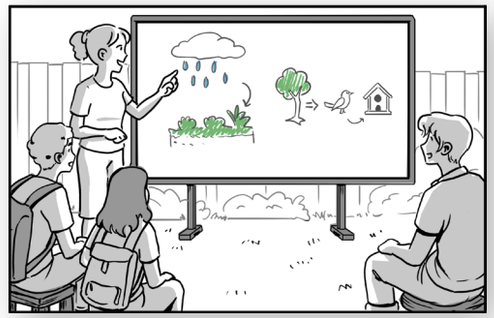


NEXT



Sardinia Region, Italy

The sea around Sardinia is rising and warming, and bigger storms eat its beaches away. Scientists are helping the coast fight back. They find room for beaches and dunes to move, use sediment caught behind dams to rebuild beaches, and protect the underwater seagrass, affected by warmer waters.

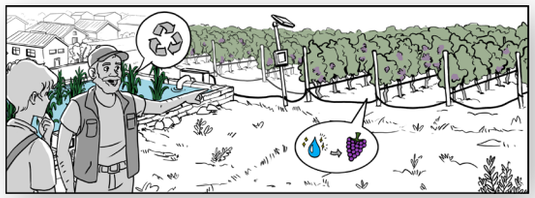


Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia

On Croatia's Dalmatian coast, summers are getting hotter and storms heavier. Here children are turning bare schoolyards into living gardens. The plants give shade and soak up rain, bees and butterflies move in, and pupils learn hands-on how nature can cool a town and face a changing climate.

Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region, Greece

In northeast Greece, the land swings between drought and floods. Four nature-based ideas fight back: sensors that water crops only when needed, small stone dams that catch floodwater and refill wells, reed wetlands that clean dirty water for reuse, and underwater sand barriers that guard the shore.



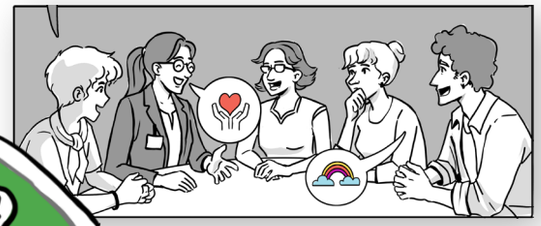
Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, France

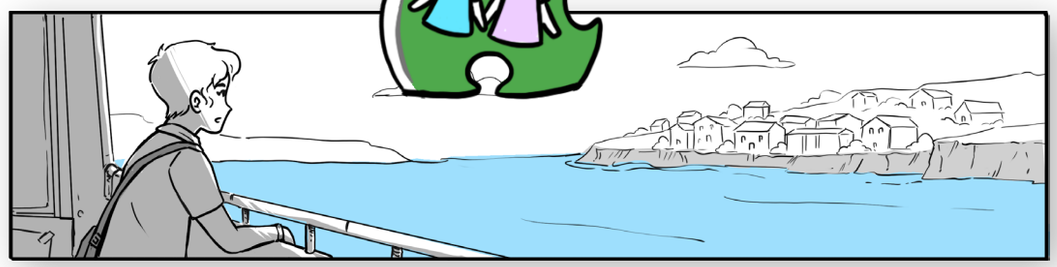
Southern France is a wildlife treasure, but it is warming fast and its towns keep spreading over nature. Région Sud is changing how towns plan: it brings councils together in a network, trains their staff and gives them tools to build on less wild land, adding trees, parks and river corridors.



Potenza Province, Italy

In Potenza Province, small ageing villages face droughts, fires, floods, earthquakes and landslides. With no single project to build, the province gets ready: it trains its authorities, gathers better data, and plans greener rivers and joined-up natural areas to help the land recover.





Cyprus

Cyprus is a Mediterranean island whose coastal towns, like Larnaka, sit between salt lakes, dunes and a warming sea, facing floods, droughts, heatwaves and a shrinking coast. Cyprus isn't building a project but changing minds: it helps people understand how climate change hits their towns and daily life, wins support for working-with-nature solutions, and brings residents and leaders together to plan the coast's future.







Find out more on

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