



Esperanto Day 2026: Sustainable development and volunteering

On 26 July, the Universal Esperanto Association will celebrate Esperanto Day, the date of the publication of the International Language Esperanto 139 years ago. Esperanto was born with a simple but profoundly relevant goal: to bring people together through communication under equal conditions. More than a planned language, it represents an international movement supported by volunteer labour, cooperation and respect among cultures.

Volunteerism is one of the pillars of Esperanto organizations across the world, along with respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, today, efforts to contribute to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The work of these organisations advances international networks of solidarity, inclusion, cooperation, reduction of inequalities and the strengthening of international partnerships.

For example, volunteer teaching of the Esperanto language to reduce language barriers and broaden access to learning contributes to goal number 4, on education. Likewise, we contribute to goal number 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through advancement of intercultural dialogue based on equality among peoples and connecting individuals without linguistic imperialism in the building of a culture of peace.

The building of a better, juster and more sustainable world for all depends not only on public policy but also on the voluntary engagement of citizens who decide to collaborate for the common good. By uniting volunteerism, education and intercultural dialogue, Esperanto continues to demonstrate that such construction is a collective effort. As the President of the UN General Assembly Annalena Baerbock has emphasised, we are “better together”.

We invite the entire international community to experience with us the use of Esperanto as a means to build collaboration based on universal equality and the valuing of difference. We will meet in Graz, Austria, from August 1 to August 8 at the 111th World Congress of Esperanto.