LEAF:
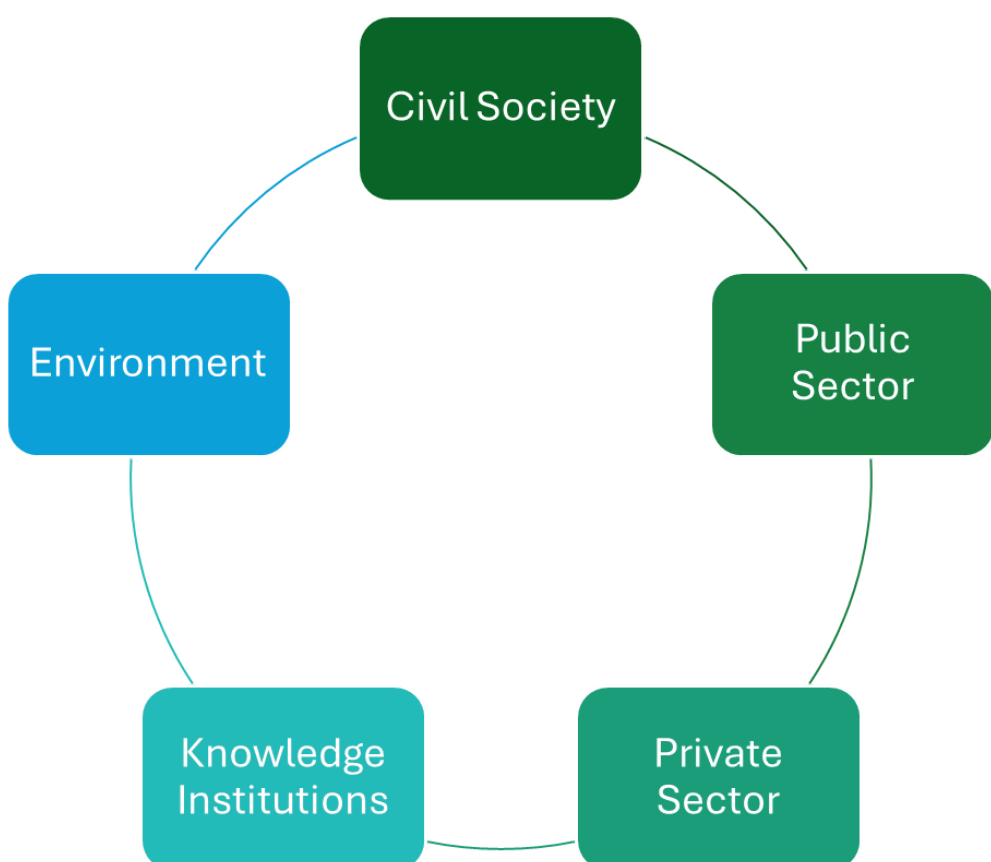# Learning Ecosystems Taking Action for the Future

Learning Communities

As a knowledge institution, it is imperative for TU Delft's Climate Action Programme to include research, **education**, and **society**. Learning communities provide an environment in which these three elements come together as one. Centred around an overarching theme, a learning community is challenge-based, with the solution unknown. Students from different learning levels work together with stakeholders and citizens on a collective, urgent issue. As such, learning communities aim to increase and accelerate innovation capacity that is responsive to community's needs, by plugging education into our model of co-creation in the learning communities. Moreover, they provide a space for life-long learning, as it invites professionals as well as academics and students to all engage in the process of finding new solution pathways together.

Student Needs

Students want to be empowered through education on climate leadership. Research has shown that climate anxiety is a contributing factor to deteriorating mental health, particularly among younger generations. At the same time, there is an uptick in societally engaged students who are drawn to engineering because they want to make a positive impact on a sustainable society. This requires a shift from merely understanding science, to knowing how to use it to effect change. Because a learning community brings a transdisciplinary environment, they support the development of students into resilient, resourceful and engaged future-oriented changemakers when it comes to climate and beyond.

Progress so far

Following a student panel in December 2023, **twelve** learning communities have been created around three themes. Each of these learning communities include representatives of the quintuple helix, are rooted in society, and have identified various challenges. **Six** currently have students from various backgrounds working together on these challenges. We've also soft-launched a platform that will serve as overarching ecosystem and provides access to new and upcoming challenges, progress made within each learning community, and life-long learning materials. See QR code for details: