
**Annual Work Plan 2020:
“Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy”**

Introduction

Work Plan is a type of a project structure by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, and YEE has been granted for the third time in a row this year. It enables us to reach to admin grants, invite participants from all over Europe, gives us the ability to design trainings building up on each other therefore creating a complete learning experience for the participants and ensure a year of activities.

Work Plans should have several complementary activities to each other. (criteria)

Idea Development Process

We have taken into consideration the needs of our member organisations (assessed throughout the previous trainings through evaluation forms, prep-team evaluations etc.), their ideas from Annual Meeting 2018 and the Evaluation Meeting of the campaign “Take a Green Stand” and finalized it with the Executive Board.

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The world is facing major unprecedented environmental crisis. In response young people take part in non-violent protests, campaigns, and direct actions. They do so as individuals, by joining organizations or forming informal action groups. Generally, these groups come together to organize a specific campaign, action or workshop. These tend to be one-time events that aim to achieve a specific goal. After one such event takes place people often part ways, regardless of whether it succeeds or not. When this happens the momentum and involvement that each person has in any given event is lost. The scale of the environmental crisis we face demands a rapid and better structured response.

This insight came during the Evaluation Meeting of our 2018 WP, “Active youth-better Environment!”. YEE asked 10 local action coordinators, who worked on actions targeting environmental problems in their local communities, to share their lessons learned. What emerged was the need to make participants feel like change-makers in the long term and strengthening informal groups. Young people need support on know how of building a more organized and sustainable structure after the events they take part in or organize.

With the WP “Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy” YEE wants to develop strategies for informal environmental youth groups, youth workers, and environmental youth organisations to build up organisational structures from one time activities, grassroots movements to achieve long-term impact on environmental policies and influencing local policy making through participation in political structures by campaigning and advocacy.

Aim of the work plan is to contribute to the sustainability of the activities and structure of environmental youth movements, informal groups and organisations to ensure young people’s access to participation in policy making processes.

Objectives:

1. Vision Building: to support youth workers and informal groups to create a vision and structure for entering political environment
2. Advocacy for environment - to develop competences of youth workers and informal groups of young people needed to advocate, campaign and lobby for environmental policies on local level.

3. To support and empower local groups to influence local environmental policies through advocacy, campaigning and lobbying.
4. To create a space for exchanging good practices and learning from each other among youth workers and informal groups of young people

Stages of the Work Plan

The work plan is composed of 3 activities: two international trainings and local actions.

The first activity - Training Course “Building the Vision: Youth environmental organisations of the future” will take place in Riga, Latvia (TBC) on 27.04-03.05.2020. With this activity we would like to prepare young people from environmental movements, informal groups and NGOs to think of establishing (or rethinking) their structure and defining (or re-defining) their vision, organisational aims and objectives. We will focus on the necessity of membership management and financial sustainability. We consider that this is the right base for any movement to establish before diving into advocacy and lobbying on local level.

The second activity-TC “Advocates for a Green Future”, which will take place on 20-26 July 2020 in Berlin, Germany. The TC will bring together volunteers, youth workers from movements, informal groups and organisations wishing to revise their structure or strengthen their sustainability to work on environmental policies and policy making on local level. Trainers and experts, together with the prep-team will design a programme to develop the skills which are needed to get engaged within political processes: how to do advocacy and lobbying, how to design and implement a campaign, how to communicate with different stakeholders, how to mobilise communities to join their projects.

The final activity will consist of various local projects organised by participants of the TC’s and member organisations. The selected applicants will receive funds from the project to organise local projects with young people, to create a basis of their future organisation and start working on environmental issues through political processes on local level.