



YOUTH & ENVIRONMENT EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



ABOUT YEE

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is the largest independent European network of environmental youth organisations. As of the end of 2021, YEE network unites 42 organisations from 25 countries.

YEE was founded as the European region of the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) in 1983 in Stockholm, Sweden. Currently, our head office is located in Prague, Czech Republic.

OUR VALUES

We believe in the essential role of young people in solving the climate crisis and achieving a socially fair inter-generational transition that leaves no one behind. We strive for:



Healthy democracies



Social & Climate justice



Freedom of speech



Intersectionality

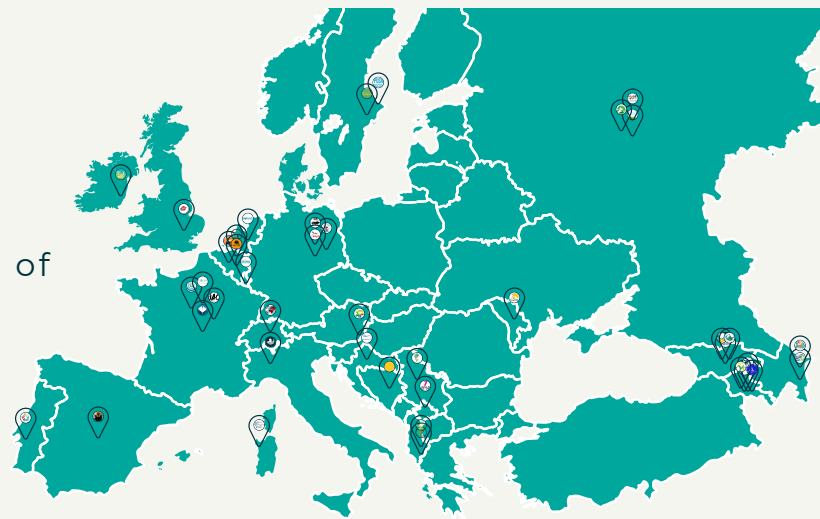


Inclusivity

OUR GOAL

is to mitigate the climate crisis by:

- Raising awareness and building capacity among youth on environmental conservation and the climate crisis;
- Enhancing international cooperation and knowledge-sharing among our members;
- Strengthening youth participation in environmental and climate decision-making processes.



Our mission is to unite environmental youth non-profit organisations in Europe.



STRUCTURE OF YEE

A NETWORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BY YOUNG PEOPLE

YEE BOARD

The board is composed of 6 youth volunteers from our member organisations, who are elected for a year-long mandate at the General Assembly.

SECRETARIAT

The network is supported by 10 young professionals under 30, from different parts of Europe.

PROJECT LEADS

We currently have 3 project leads who focus on 3 YEE projects. The project leads are supported by the Secretariat and the Advocacy Working Group.

REGIONAL TEAMS

YEE has 4 regional contact persons and 4 regional assistants who regularly communicate with our member organisations, and help them facilitate cooperation.



WHAT DO WE DO?

WE DRIVE LOCAL ACTION AND MOBILISATION

We provide capacity building, mentorship, a strong international community, and small sub-grants to help young people realise their own projects and initiatives to mobilise local youth for democratic action towards a more sustainable future.

Between 2018-2021, we granted 23 youth movements with small-scale grants (500-900 EUR).

Between 2022-2023, we will provide larger grants (3000-5000 EUR) to another 16 organisations with the objective to empower the most marginalised.

2019-20 LET GRASSROOTS GROW

8 small grants to Latvia, Georgia, Russia, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova



TAKE A GREEN STAND WORKSHOP

2018-19 TAKE A GREEN STAND

8 small grants to Albania, Armenia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia



2020-21 IMAGINING THE GREEN FUTURE

7 small grants to Serbia, Italy, Armenia, Georgia, Denmark, Poland

2021-23 SUPPORTING LOCAL ADVOCACY AND INCLUSION

16 countries from all over Europe

& SUPPORT LOCAL INITIATIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPE

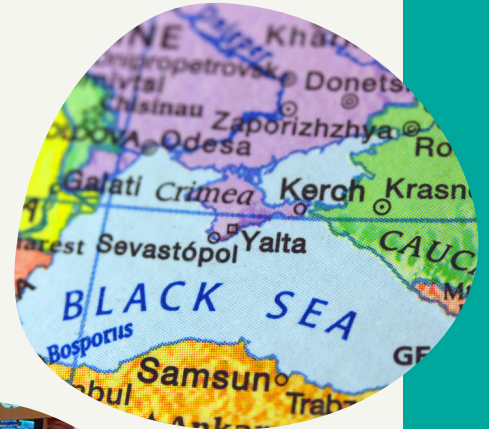
WHAT DO WE DO?

WE BRING THE VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER EUROPE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES



We bring the voices of young Europeans

to diverse international youth movements to YOUNGO, UNEP MGCY, GYBN, and international climate movements (CAN, EEB)



We select and empower young people

from all over Europe focusing especially on those coming from non-EU European countries (Central Eastern Europe, Balkans, Black Sea...)



We identify and campaign

towards key international environmental and climate events.

In 2021, we focused on:



WHAT DO WE DO?

WE CREATE SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN TOGETHER

We work on diverse environmental issues and bring youth perspective to environmental advocacy

We aim at becoming a hub for young people and youth movements who want to start their own **climate litigation** initiatives.

We stand for **climate justice** wherever we are. We fight for stronger regional and international agreements and implementation rooted in social justice and intergenerational principles.

We work at empowering young people to learn about **biodiversity** and strive to be part of decolonizing conservation.

We advocate for a **green Europe** where climate and environmental actions are rooted in social justice.

We spread awareness on the ocean and **marine conservation** issues through ocean and marine literacy.

We want a more sober Europe where **sustainable energy** comes from real sustainable sources.

We are working with **green cities**, namely with recipients of the EU Green Capital Award to extend our outreach to youth movements everywhere in Europe.

We support intergenerational perspectives in global **environmental governance** and a good understanding of the political and economic diversity of Europe.



At the heart of our portfolio is our one-year Leadership Program, which empowers 8 young activists to become tomorrow's green leaders.



2021 ACTIVITIES

WE EMPOWERED GRASSROOT ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE MOVEMENTS

International youth exchanges, training courses, workshops and webinars for best practises sharing and learning opportunities

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

SHOWCASING THE UNHEARD

With our project, we want to support young people with fewer opportunities in entering the climate movement. In 2021, we started developing the safeguarding policy for YEE and developed the subgranting programme that will be launched in 2022.



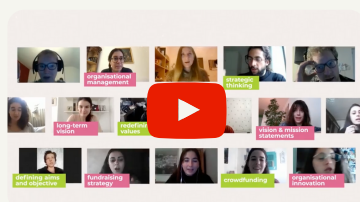
FRANCO-RUSSIAN YOUTH DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

50 participants from France and Russia worked together on 20 recommendations for the next 20 years on Biodiversity, the Arctic, Sustainable Energy, and Green Cities to their governments.



IMAGINING THE GREEN FUTURE

Our main aim was 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.



During May 2021 we supported 7 climate local actions across Europe in Serbia, Armenia, Italy, Georgia, Denmark, Poland

2021 ACTIVITIES

WE OFFERED TRAINING AND DEVELOPED RESOURCES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES

We led projects on several issues including geoenvironment, nuclear energy, biodiversity, environmental law and climate litigation.

01/2021



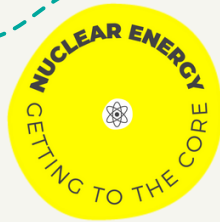
We conducted workshops and developed resources on controversial topics, such as geoenvironment and nuclear energy.

10/2021



We offered workshops about the Aarhus Convention and the importance of access to justice

05/2021

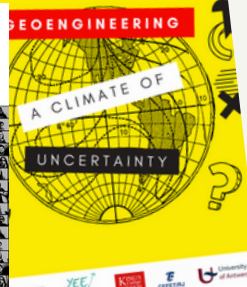


We developed workshops and resources for youth movements on climate litigation

12/2021

We produced and disseminated toolkits and publications

EU Environmental Law - A Simple Introduction



We showcased activists

We showcased young European activists and organisations from marginalised communities and regions through our partnership with Euronews and publishing interviews on our social media.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

Training course - "Advocates for a Green Future", 12 – 18 April 2021

This training course brought together young leaders, volunteers, and youth workers from environmental movements, informal groups, and organisations wishing to revise their structure or strengthen their impact of work on environmental policies and policymaking. Trainers and experts, together with the project team designed a programme focused on developing skills that are needed to get engaged within political processes – how to do advocacy and lobbying, how to design and implement a successful online campaign, how to communicate with different stakeholders, and how to mobilise communities to join environmental projects.

Local projects - "Step up and stand up!", May 2021

The final activity consisted of various local projects organised by participants of the training courses and member organisations. The 7 selected applicants received funds to organise their local projects with young people, to create a basis for their future organisation, and start working on environmental issues through political processes on a local level. They were not only able to practice the skills obtained during the training courses, but also to raise the environmental awareness and empower young people in their communities. In May 2021 we supported 7 climate local actions across Europe:



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

“Climate is changing, are you?” / Serbia

This educational workshop for youth happened on 27 May in Belgrade, Serbia. Organised by one of our member organisations, the Young Researchers of Serbia, and led by Aleksandra Sotirovic, Tijana Ljubenovica, and Marija Peric, The aim of this local action was to educate, inspire and move a group of young people in Serbia to start acting on the climate crisis. A one-day workshop in nature gathered 15 students (aged 18-30 years old), to plan green actions in different parts of Belgrade and Serbian rural areas.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To encourage leadership activism in local communities;
- To raise awareness about environmental protection and sustainable development goals among young people (waste pollution, sustainable water management, and recycling);
- To understand the importance of nature in fighting against climate change and pollution;
- To build capacities of young people about writing projects;
- To support networking among young people in order to advocate for a greener future.

In the first part of the workshop, participants listened to experts talking about environmental issues and challenges in the local community. In the second part, participants were divided into groups and each team developed its own idea of how to solve a certain environmental problem. The main focus was on topics of environmental youth education, sustainable water management, waste cleaning, and recycling.

Most of the participants had similar ideas and recognized the same problems they face in Serbia. Participants were motivated to share experiences and ideas, which resulted in all objectives being achieved. *“The main outcome of this local action is raising awareness among youth about environment and sustainability. Young people are motivated to start and organize a new local action. We were happy that teams created 3 project ideas that can be now put into practice”* said the local action coordinator Alexandra.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

“World Biodiversity Day Clean- Up” / Italy

This beach clean-up action was organised by our partner association MOH in Bari, Italy. Thanks to this action, more than 50 people met on World Biodiversity Day, which happened on 22 May 2021, to clean up the city beach – and the results were truly impressive.

The main aim of this climate action was to involve the local community and encourage young people to take action to protect our beautiful environment and seas, on which our life depends. “The choice of World Biodiversity Day was not casual as we aimed at fostering a reflection about the importance of protecting our biodiversity which is more and more at stake,” explained Rosanna Bellomo, the clean-up coordinator.

The cleanup took place on the Santo Spirito pier in beautiful Bari and involved also two other local environmental actors, Vogliamo Santo Spirito Pulita and the Local Group of Greenpeace Bari. Together, the volunteers collected 84 kilos of plastic debris and 157 kilos of debris in total and 245 plastic bottles. In addition, the action helps the organisers reach out to local young people and empower them to become more environmentally active.

The main objectives were:

- to foster active citizenship and civic engagement,
- to encourage young people to take action for the environment,
- to raise awareness about continuous biodiversity loss,
- to better understand the impact of our choices on our environment’s health and foster a collective reflection about the plastic pollution issue.

Participants had the chance to learn about what biodiversity is and the constant loss we are facing nowadays. The local action succeeded in engaging people and raising awareness about biodiversity loss – at the end of the cleanup young people felt more empowered and willing to do more for the environment; participants and people just passing by had a chance to reflect on how much plastic we use in our lives.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

The unexpected result was that a lot of youngsters asked to join the MOH – this local action helped organisers to get more visibility within the local community. “Another pleasant result is that we created a new partnership with a SUP amateur sports association, which will help by sea during our next cleanup,” said Rosanna. At the end of the cleanup, the action team executed a brand audit and collected data on the plastic bottles they found, which they shared with the #breakfreefromplastic movement.

“Ecolution” / Armenia



Ecolution was an environmental education and awareness-raising project, focusing on improving the understanding and education connected to environmental issues that society and mother Earth are facing. There are plenty of environmental issues inhabitants of the country.

This two-day Ecolution workshop was organised on 22 and 23 May 2021 in Gyumri, Armenia by the project team from the Youth Development Center of Armenia (YDC). “Our main aim was to improve the teaching and learning about environmental issues and challenges and provide essential, factual, and concrete information on the current environmental condition in Armenia and outside of Armenia as well, and create the will and commitment among the participants that are needed to preserve and protect life on Earth” explained the local project coordinator, Meri Vanesyan.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To develop a general understanding and sense of environmental awareness and its main challenges,
- To develop the required curiosity and capability among the participants for accepting the environmental issues through non-formal educational methods,
- To help the participants in realizing the importance of taking proper steps to solve environmental problems and inspiring them to start making changes in their communities.



FILM NEGATIVE



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

The workshop tackled the issue of unawareness of people connected to this topic, the mass pollution that our country is facing, the loss of animal and plant species as well as water and energy waste. All of these issues are pretty obvious in Armenia and people simply aren't aware of them. However, the new generation is ready to stand up and play their role in creating a better place to live.

The project included 23 participants of different ages and backgrounds. The workshop had sparked an interest, particularly amongst youngsters, hence, the participants were fairly younger. The youngest participant was 15 years old and the oldest one – was 25 years old.

“We consider the main achievement of the project the great motivation that the participants gained after the local action,” said Meri. All participants had already created some ideas and are very excited to start leading a more sustainable life. This is what we were aiming for and this is one of the main goals that our team considers achieved.



“Separating waste for the green future” / Georgia

We also supported the environmental and waste management youth workshops in Georgia, organised by our member organisation Umbrella. Considering the current situation in Georgia, the Umbrella project team came up with an idea to empower regional youth centers and help them to develop more sustainable and eco-friendly approaches. The main aim was to involve young people from the youth centers in taking climate action by introducing them to effective waste recycling actions.

STEP UP AND STAND UP! 🔍

7 locations in Europe
7 local climate actions

- “Separating waste for the green future” Georgia
- “Climate is changing, are you?” Serbia
- “World Biodiversity Day Clean-Up” Italy
- “PLAYing our part on change” Italy
- “Discussion on Silesia’s Region Just Transition” Poland
- “Ecolution” Armenia
- “Together Against Food Waste” Denmark

2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

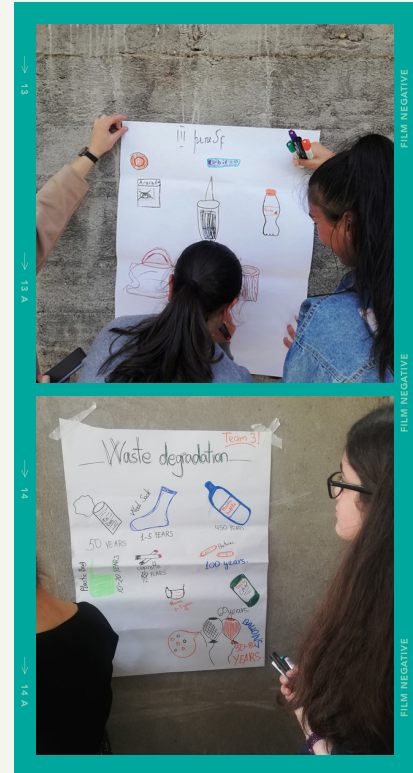
The objectives of the action were:

- To equip local young leaders/youth workers with competencies related to waste literacy and global warming actions,
- To provide sufficient waste separation infrastructure (waste separation bags and bins) to the youth centers,
- To connect youth centers with recycling companies,
- To implement youth-led information raising campaign in the community,
- To promote environmentally friendly approach/policy examples at youth centers.

Through this action, the organisers were able to provide recycling infrastructure for selected Georgian youth centers. The participants built new bins themselves before they attended workshops on waste literacy. In total, there have been 3 workshops at different locations during which 53 participants developed the competencies on waste separation, exploring what is the difference between waste and garbage, and how they can identify different types of plastics and paper. Participants have realised what kind of impact proper waste separation can have on their everyday life and climate change. "They started thinking about their individual attitude and developed action plans on how they could contribute and share useful information among youngsters. In the end, they came up with some interesting ideas!", said Ani Gabedava, the local action coordinator.

The workshops were followed by a clean-up event. As a result, participants deepened their competencies in waste literacy and could distinguish waste from trash/garbage. It was not just a regular clean up but they also collected and sorted different types of plastics and paper, aluminum cans. To spread the word and encourage other youngsters to take action, participants have recorded educational videos related to waste literacy.

In the end, the project team connected youth centers to recycling companies via online meetings. Young people have raised several questions related to waste separation and literacy, finally, they have agreed to future cooperation.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

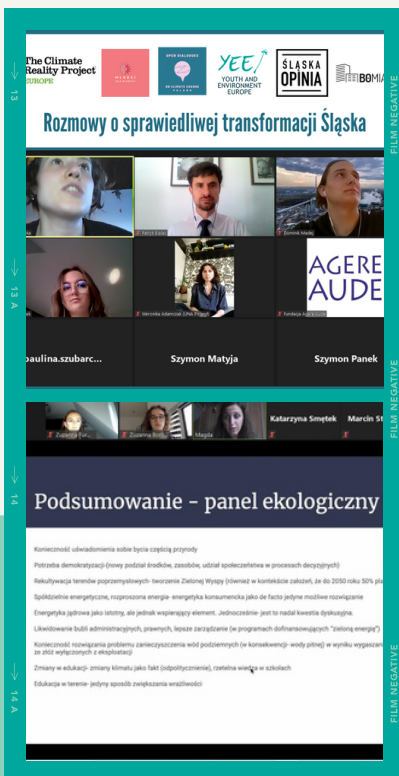
Georgia doesn't yet have a quality waste management infrastructure, which causes several environmental issues. Our target communities Kulikami, Sadakhloo, and Sagarejo are one of the most polluted in Georgia, where people used to throw waste into rivers or streets. Because of the lack of information and interest, there were main issues which led us to contribute to youngsters to raise awareness of waste literacy.

Before joining the action, young people were not aware of what's difference between waste and garbage, how they could separate the waste, and what kind of contribution they would have to the environment. It was a surprisingly new topic for them. They didn't know that there could be different types of plastics or papers, that it is possible to recycle the waste, also it was not known how waste separation could influence their everyday life and on climate change. What changed is that participants now have a clear vision of waste literacy, they have changed their attitude towards waste and started collecting, and separating them.

"Discussion on Silesia's Region Just Transition" / Poland

Our Polish partner organisations Młodzi Dla Klimatu, BoMiasto, and Climate Reality decided to boost the discussion on the just transition in Poland, and particularly in the region of Silesia, by organising two inspiring online events supported by the digital campaign.

Two online just transition youth debates happened on 27 and 29 May 2021, gathering 34 participants and expert speakers with the main aim to raise awareness on a sustainable and fair coal transition in Silesia with Silesians. "It's of high importance as people still lack knowledge or are divided, even between families, experts, etc. Making sure there's enough information and talks on this topic helps to build bridges and transform behaviors", described Patrycja Przybylska, the local action coordinator.



The organisers are now preparing the final conclusions from the just transition youth debates and hope to present them as recommendations for COP26, organising a follow-up event prior to the COP26 in November 2021.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

“Together Against Food Waste” / Denmark

Denmark and specifically Copenhagen are facing a food waste crisis, where over 700,000 tons of food are being wasted annually. There is a great demand for individual and systemic action necessary to reduce food waste and unsustainable consumption patterns. This is why, with the local action “Together Against Food Waste”, the project team from the UN Youth Association of Denmark wanted to emphasize the scale of the problem, and introduce ways to responsible consumption behaviours and possibilities to engage in a systemic change.

With this project, organisers wanted to introduce to Copenhagengers, and especially youth, a variety of accessible ways of shifting their consumption patterns and consequently reducing food waste in their households. Combining the online campaign with an in-person workshop and thanks to the volunteer engagement and support from our local collaborators and food waste activists, we were able to achieve those objectives. “Our social media outreach gathered the attention of young individuals not related to our organisation and not familiar with the topic of food waste. When planning the action, we did not expect to gain interest from so many young people, already active in the topic organisations and activists that further expressed interest in becoming our long-term partner” said Anita Magdalena Zalisz, the local action coordinator.

The in-person food waste workshop was co-organised between UNYA Denmark and a local start-up – Grandma Sita, which took the lead in the workshop. The participants and project team were involved in the organisation of the campaign and workshop and gained a better understanding of the complexity and scale of the problem of food waste here in Denmark. Moreover, they learned about the way they can improve our consumption patterns in our day-to-day life, being introduced to a range of sustainable alternatives of food and resources, and where to actively engage in the creation of a systemic change. During the online campaign, 29 people fully participated, however, the overall outreach was bigger. Due to limited time and COVID-19 restrictions, only 5 participants were able to participate in the workshop physically, the other 13 participated online.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Imagining the Green future: Environmental strategy and Youth advocacy

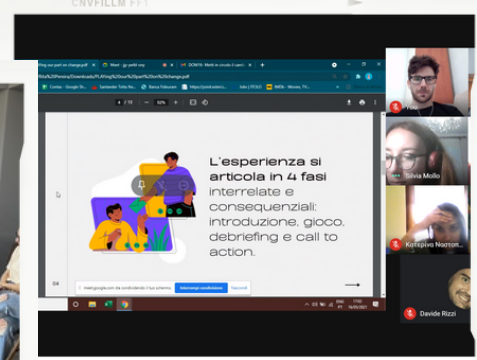
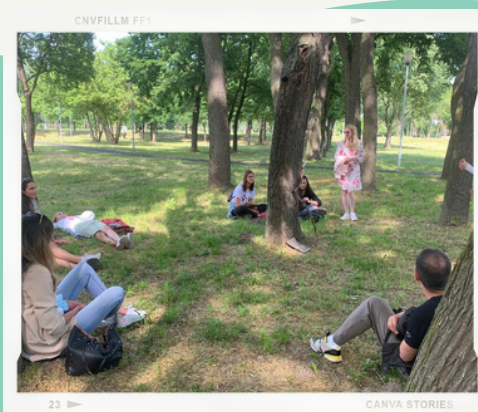
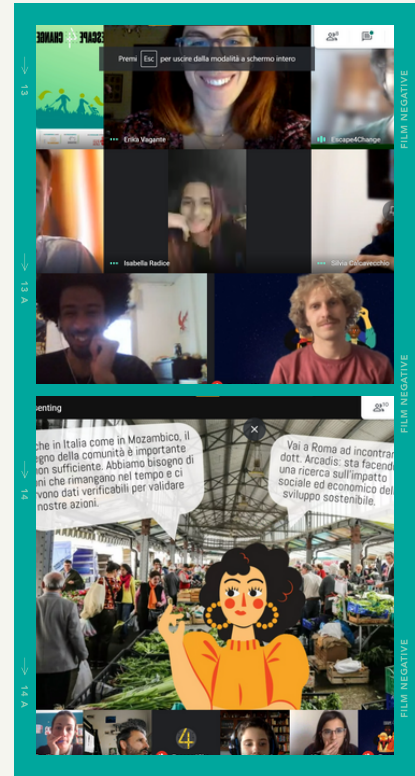
“PLAYing our part on change” / Italy

Have you ever heard about gamification? The project team from our partner organisation Eufemia in Italy organised “PLAYing our part on change” online training courses for young people on the topics of climate change and circular economy while exploring the facilitation of non-formal activities and gamification as a tool to address these.

“We raised awareness on these topics and provided a space for discussion. The activity also allowed us to empower the participants with new tools for them to implement in their local projects and actions” explained Rita Pereira, the local action coordinator.



The main achievement of this activity was the development of a small community of participants interested in these topics. This activity allowed organisers to connect with young people and youth workers interested in the topics and in developing activities and initiatives for other young people on climate change related issues. The training provided 22 participants with new tools to create and facilitate game-based activities for other young people. Therefore, the project team engaged not only with young people but also with youth workers who will now multiply the impact in their organisations.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Geoengineering: A Climate of Uncertainty

Can technology save the planet?

Geoengineering is the technological intervention in the Earth's climate, and includes low-risk activities such as large scale afforestation to higher-risk stratospheric aerosol methods. It is currently being advocated by some scientists as a response to climate change.

Youth have been at the forefront of climate justice movements but tend to be excluded from environmental policy-making discussions and decisions, and there have been few efforts to include young people's perspectives in social science research about geoengineering.

Geoengineering is at a sufficiently early stage that the needs and interests of different groups of people in different parts of the world can be recognised, and mechanisms built into decision-making to ensure that outcomes are distributed fairly (taking account of both spatial and temporal scales of justice).



ASSUMPTION 1

Geoengineering refers to a range of technological approaches to mitigating the climate crisis with varying degrees of effectiveness and risk.



ASSUMPTION 2

Technological 'fixes' which do not address the root causes of climate change delays effective action. Technological responses must be considered against the range of existing social and political responses.

This project aimed to

1. establish international interdisciplinary partnerships between academics (science/philosophy/geography education) and youth environmental networks to develop the capacity of young people to respond to proposed technological innovations;
2. test online participative methods to generate an evidence base on youth responses to geoengineering science and the ethical, social and political questions that it raises;
3. understand youth perceptions of the implications of geoengineering for climate and inter-generational justice.

Together with our project partners, we facilitated a series of four online workshops focusing on geoengineering and exploring the four key elements – science, ethics, politics, and society.



ASSUMPTION 3

Geoengineering is likely to have global impacts, with uneven distribution of risk. Social science research must include those most likely to experience these risks.



ASSUMPTION 4

The impacts of decisions about geoengineering have long-reaching consequences. Those most affected are youth, who tend to be excluded from decision-making processes.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Geoengineering: A Climate of Uncertainty

Participants of the workshops examined the social, ethical, and political issues associated with geoengineering, and developed a youth vision for geoengineering to be shared with policymakers.

During four workshops, participants:

- Learned about the potential and risks associated with engineering the Earth's climate, and develop a position on geoengineering in relation to mitigation and adaptation;
- Built networks with other young people in Europe;
- Contributed to research on youth priorities for climate action;
- Developed capacity for collective action on climate change;
- Collaborated on a policy paper and geoengineering handbook that foregrounds youth perspectives and priorities.

Science Workshop, 24 April 2021

The purpose of this workshop was to establish a shared understanding of solar and carbon geoengineering technologies on land, sea, air, and space. Participants were introduced to each other, and then to the context: that the climate crisis demands a response. Responses include adapting to the consequences of climate change and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and stabilizing the amount of these in the atmosphere (mitigation). The purpose of the workshop was to learn about a range of technological proposals currently being proposed and to examine these in the context of mitigation and adaptation.

Participants shared their priorities for learning and were then placed in groups (each with a facilitator attached) to research different geoengineering proposals. Over the course of the afternoon, they prepared a presentation and in the final session of the day, this was shared with the other groups. In addition to building the sense of a team, these presentations formed the basis of knowledge for further discussion in the ethics, politics, and society workshops.

Ethics Workshop, 25 April 2021

The purpose of this workshop was to create and explore social and ethical questions associated with geoengineering and climate change. The session started with a review of learning and questions remaining from the science workshop, and teambuilding in response to where participants stood on a range of contextual provocations such as 'scientists are responsible for their



2021 ACTIVITIES

Geoengineering: A Climate of Uncertainty

inventions’, ‘politicians are better placed than scientists to make decisions about geoengineering’ and ‘Social solutions to climate change are more important than technoscientific solutions.’ There followed a series of mini-inquiries on questions including ‘can a molecule be bad?’, ‘does the Earth need a doctor?’ and ‘can young people change the world?’

We returned to geoengineering proposals to identify which principles are most important in tackling climate change and making decisions about the proposals. Principles identified included minimisation of harm, equity, responsibility and accountability, affordability, predictability of consequences and impacts, transparency of decision-making, prioritisation of mitigation, and tackling the root causes of climate change.

The workshop resulted in the production of a resource containing different types of questions for young people to discuss in relation to climate change and geoengineering. Questions include:

- Is climate change the biggest threat to the population?
- Is geoengineering a distraction from other climate measures?
- Is it possible to live without harming the planet?
- What is the best way to protect global ecosystems?
- How could different geoengineering methods impact society?
- Who would be responsible for geoengineering?...and who is accountable? How?

Politics Workshop, 8 May 2021

The purpose of the politics workshop was to identify and communicate key messages about geoengineering for young people and policy-makers.

The workshop started with a re-connecting exercise making a mural on key questions, concepts, conflicts, and feelings about geoengineering, and identifying important people and organisations for the work. Organisations identified included educational institutions, non-governmental organisations, think tanks, scientific advisory groups, governments, religious groups, international organisations, representations of civic society, and the most vulnerable people and groups in society.

We then identified what the youth guide and policy brief should include, how it should be structured, and the message to be communicated, and worked in groups to write, edit and refine the guide in a shared Google doc.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Geoengineering: A Climate of Uncertainty

The aim of the guide was for to explain what geoengineering is, explain the link between geoengineering and the climate crisis and identify questions that need to be considered when taking a position on geoengineering.

Society Workshop, 9 May 2021

The purpose of the final workshop was to identify priority audiences and actions to disseminate the youth guide and policy brief.

We began with an opportunity quadrant to identify whom to influence, events and opportunities for influencing, methods of influence, and challenges associated with actions planned and prioritized these actions. The goals identified included raising awareness, sharing information, campaigning for mitigation as a priority, and making connections between education, youth policy, and environmental policy.

Final edits were made to the policy brief, with an opportunity to work in new groups to edit and review the final text and make notes on how it should be presented. The session concluded with an in-depth reflection exercise on the methods and outcomes over the 4 sessions.

The workshop resulted in a youth guide and policy brief written by young people available [here](#).

Society Workshop, 9 May 2021

Over the course of the workshops, youth participants co-wrote and produced a Youth Guide and Policy Brief on geoengineering. This resource was written by young people to inform their peers about geoengineering and to share youth views and perspectives with decision-makers.

The purpose of this guide is to introduce key ideas and questions about geoengineering in order to spark a conversation about intervention in the Earth's climate system in the context of the range of possible responses to the climate crisis.

Download the full guide [here](#).



2021 ACTIVITIES

Natural Resources Explained

What are natural resources? How bad is current overconsumption and waste? How can we transition to a prosperous future? This project seeks to increase young people's understanding about the current state of natural resources worldwide, how to sustainably manage them, and how this impacts the environment and society by communicating the work of the International Resource Panel (IRP).

The IRP includes scientists and governments from both developed and developing regions, civil society, industrial and international organizations. It was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build and share the science-based knowledge needed to improve our use of resources worldwide. Its goal is to steer us away from over-consumption, waste and ecological harm to a more prosperous and sustainable future.

Scientific information and research play a critical role in tackling environmental issues and managing our natural resources sustainably. Research enhances policies for tackling the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity, and pollution by providing necessary information and data for an improved understanding of the actual environmental risks and response alternatives. It is also essential for activists and campaigners to be able to remain informed so that they can be sure to hold those in charge of this policy-making to account.

However, the common problem when it comes to communicating environmental research findings is that they are rather exclusive and often accessible and fully understandable only to politicians, decision-makers, scientists, or the research community. The truth is that scientific information is very much needed for everyone to help us make conscious and sustainable decisions in our everyday lives and advocacy.

Communicating about environmental science has its own unique challenges, nevertheless we believe that it is possible to communicate it in a way that makes that message appealing for young people in particular to understand, and makes it more relevant to our personal stories.

That's why together with UNEP's International Resource Panel (IRP) we brought important research facts to your daily life through the Natural Resources Explained project.

The IRP investigates the world's most critical resource issues with a view to supporting governments, industry, and society to improve resource efficiency — a necessary condition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our common aim is to bring environmental science communication to the public, particularly to young people.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Natural Resources Explained

Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Social Media Campaign, April-May 2021

During April and May 2021, YEE created visual material and social media post to disseminate information on the “Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: Material Efficiency Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future” Summary for Policymakers at COP 25 in Madrid, Spain, which the International Resource Panel (IRP) launched in December 2019. This document generated great interest from the climate community in the potential of material efficiency mitigation options.

In November 2020, the full report which provides more detailed information has been launched. The report highlights:

- The important contribution of resource efficiency to global climate mitigation efforts,
- The status and trends of emissions from the production of materials,
- Potential reductions of GHG emissions in residential buildings and passenger cars, from the implementation of several material efficiency strategies,
- A new state-of-the-art and bottom-up model with data for G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States), China and India,
- Policies at the regional, national, and local level aimed at encouraging or mandating material efficiency strategies.

Biodiversity and Natural Resources Social Media Campaign, May-June 2021

During May and June 2021, YEE created visual material and social media post to disseminate findings from the Natural Resource Management report that features four principles to turn biodiversity loss into biodiversity value through Natural Resource Management:

- Know your true impact – Value-chain transparency
- Plan together – Integrated landscape planning
- Grow with nature – Nature-based and circular solutions
- Value nature – Recognize nature’s benefits

Those principles are also illustrated by a selection of case studies implemented successfully around the world.

As policymakers prepare for the CBD COP 15 (Kunming, 11-24 October 2021), these science-based principles can help them move beyond pledges and commitments, and take action that we can soon see working in the natural world.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Natural Resources Explained

Building Biodiversity: Youth Dialogue with IRP Co-Chairs, 24 June 2021

An online webinar co-hosted by YEE and the IRP, this event builds on YEE and the IRP's recent work to bring its research to a new audience: European youth. This online "Youth Dialogue with the IRP's Co-Chairs" launched a new chapter of YEE and IRP collaboration.

The webinar hosted the following speakers:

- Merlyn Van Voore, Head of Secretariat, International Resource Panel (IRP), UN Environment Programme
- Izabella Teixeira, International Resource Panel, Co-Chair, former Minister of Environment, Brazil
- Janez Potočnik, Co-chair of the International Resource Panel and Partner at SYSTEMIQ
- Jessica Micklem, Coordinator of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) in Europe and Central Asia
- Kristela Toskaj, Liaison Officer on Biodiversity, YEE
- Vania Olmos Lau, Regional Facilitator for the Latinamerica and Caribbean region, UNEP MGCY

It was moderated by Karolina Fabianova, Project and Communication, YEE and Cathal Swan, Liaison Officer on Environmental Governance, YEE.

Did you know?

Why do we need to pay greater attention to material efficiency?

The way in which we manage natural resources deeply influences the Earth's climate.

How we extract these resources and how we produce and use them determines GHG emissions.



23% of global GHG emissions come from the production of materials

NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLAINED

Speakers and Moderators:

- Merlyn Van Voore, Head of Secretariat, IRP
- Izabella Teixeira, Co-Chair of the IRP
- Janez Potočnik, Co-Chair of the IRP
- Jessica Micklem, Coordinator of the GYBN
- Kristela Toskaj, Liaison Officer on Biodiversity, YEE
- Vania Olmos Lau, Regional Facilitator for the Latinamerica and Caribbean region, UNEP MGCY
- Cathal Swan, Moderator
- Karolina Fabianova, Moderator

#Building Biodiversity Youth Dialogue with UNEP International Resource Panel 24 JUNE 2021 | 17:30 - 18:30 CEST

Did you know?

An estimated 80% of global GHG emissions from material production were associated with material use in construction and manufactured goods, especially homes and cars

NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLAINED

NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLAINED

Policy intervention is required if material efficiency benefits are to be achieved

2021 ACTIVITIES

Strengthening the European Youth Climate Movement: Showcasing and Supporting the Unheard

SHOWCASING
the
UNHEARD

When young people from marginalised communities engage in environmental activism, they face many structural barriers to make their voices heard and achieve long-lasting changes. Featuring their perspectives is key to making the youth climate movement truly far-reaching, representative, and inclusive.

In the past two years, young people have been holding politicians accountable for climate action and environmental protection in an unprecedented way. At YEE, our members work every day to empower young people in tackling the twin social and climate crises.

However, environmental youth movements remain mostly made up of privileged young Europeans from homogeneous socioeconomic backgrounds – a middle-class or upper-middle-class – with sufficient financial resources and access to good education.

Marginalised young people are not disengaged by these issues, yet they remain largely under-represented within the youth climate movement. They often have to worry about security, discrimination, and resource scarcity before they can think over the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation.

Marginalised communities are the most impacted by the effects of global warming and ecosystem destruction, yet they have the fewest resources to deal with these effects. Only by involving those at the frontline of the twin social and climate crises will the youth climate movement be able to promote climate justice for all.

Despite this, very few funding opportunities are currently being channeled towards better inclusivity of marginalised young Europeans in youth green NGOs and grassroots movements. There is a lack of knowledge within the climate youth movement on how to include them in decision-making processes.

With our project, we want to support young people with fewer opportunities in entering the climate movement. We want to actively engage marginalised Europeans between the age of 12 and 30 years old, through participation in community projects and local decision-making processes.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Strengthening the European Youth Climate Movement: Showcasing and Supporting the Unheard

To this end, we will:

- Build capacity of YEE's Member Organisations to work with young people from marginalised communities, engage them in projects and local decision-making processes
- Provide a small grants opportunity to YEE' Member Organisations to further develop their own capacity for working with marginalised young people
- Showcase initiatives and success stories of young environmental and climate activists from marginalized communities.
- Support youth delegates from marginalised communities to European and global decision-making events.

Over the course of the project, we will publish a series of nine articles about young activists from marginalised communities. We want to provide them with a platform to share their stories, celebrate their successes and expose the challenges they face. By showcasing the stories of activists they can relate to, we hope to inspire other young people with fewer opportunities to join the youth climate movement.

What we did in 2021

We have already interviewed three activists and published their stories on YEE's website and in Euronews Green.

To make our organisation safe and inclusive for all, we started developing a comprehensive safeguarding policy and conducting internal training sessions for YEE staff members and volunteers. As we learn about safeguarding standards and set up concrete mechanisms to prevent harm, exploitation, abuse and neglect, we will develop our internal capacity of working with marginalised and vulnerable people.

We have already surveyed and interviewed some member organisations to understand their work with children and vulnerable adults and potential risks they are facing in their work. This information as well as desk research will serve as a basis for the safeguarding policy of the network.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Nuclear Energy: Getting to the Core

Will nuclear energy drive Europe towards climate neutrality?

Is nuclear energy an option that will drive Europe towards climate neutrality? This mythical question has been increasingly addressed in recent years in the European political sphere.

Although Europe has experienced a nuclear disaster in Chornobyl 35 years ago and for years has undertaken commitments to decrease the production of nuclear energy, the EU still depends on nuclear power for one-quarter of its electricity. Nuclear energy is a recurrent element in the European agenda, which recently is being regarded as an answer to solve the climate crisis.

The public and political debate on energy production, particularly in nuclear energy, is one of the most important conversations of this decade in which the future of humanity is at stake, and making sure that citizens particularly young people are informed about the risks and advantages of nuclear energy is essential to ensure their participation in democratic and free political processes on this issue.

To equip young people with proper knowledge and capacity for active involvement in the debate on nuclear energy issues, YEE implemented a project “Nuclear energy: Getting to the Core”, with the support of Heinrich Böll Foundation Europe.

The objectives of the project were:

- Spreading knowledge among young people on nuclear energy production and waste storage, including its challenges and threats.
- Informing and strengthening a debate among young people
- on the limits of production and consumption and how we can live more sustainably.
- Building a community of informed young leaders on energy issues to shape the production strategies of the future.
- Disseminating and showcasing research from the Heinrich Böll Foundation including Nuclear Power in Europe.



THE STATE OF NUCLEAR POWER ENERGY IN EUROPE

A youth viewpoint on why nuclear energy is *not* the answer to tackle the climate crisis



Friday, 29th October 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm CEST

2021 ACTIVITIES

Nuclear Energy: Getting to the Core

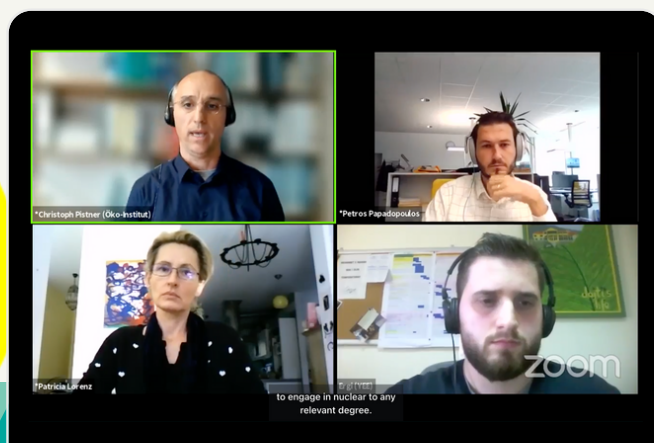
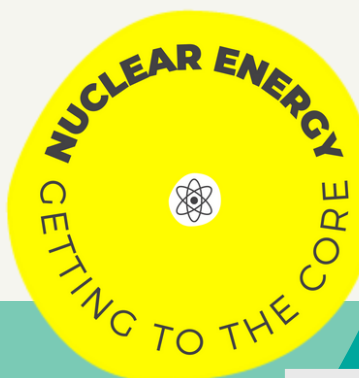
Online interactive dialogues on nuclear energy took place throughout the project with the aim of creating an exchanging space between active young environmental and climate activists at the local level and experts and European energy advocates.

Throughout the project, two webinars were organised covering topics like the current state of nuclear power energy across Europe, nuclear waste management, the risks of nuclear power, the importance of understanding the uncontrollability factors of nuclear energy, and the need to reduce our energy production and consumption.

Webinar: the State of Nuclear Power Energy in Europe, 29 October 2021

The agenda and concept of the 1st workshop was designed to equip European young climate activists with a general overview of the development of Nuclear Energy in Europe, with a particular focus on the past & current state of nuclear power energy in Europe; the complexity of nuclear power energy - waste storage, risks, and uncontrollability factors; and most importantly introducing to young people the key stakeholders involved in the nuclear energy issues in European level. The topics were covered by the invited speakers/experts, namely Dr. Christoph Pistner- Head of Division, Nuclear Engineering & Facility Safety, Öko-Institut e.V.; Mrs. Patricia Lorenz, Friends of the Earth Europe (AU) and Msc. Petros Papadopoulos, safety analyst.

Following the panel of discussion, an interactive session took place, where the participants were divided into two break-out rooms. The sessions were facilitated by the YEE team. The goal of this session was to create a space where participants exchange viewpoints on the sustainable alternatives to nuclear energy, their vision for the energy production 2030 in Europe, the energy production in their communities/countries, and possible joint actions for sustainable energy production.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Nuclear Energy: Getting to the Core

Webinar: Nuclear Waste Management and the Inter-Generational Aspect, 10 December 2021

The workshop agenda and concept were designed to provide viewpoints on the issue of nuclear waste and intergenerational aspects, from the angles of European decision-making, technical/academia, and youth lens. The scope of the 2nd workshop was focused on the intergenerational toxic waste crisis, namely on: the task for future generations in dealing with the nuclear waste inherited by past generations; the importance of involving the future generation in the issue of nuclear waste management and the nuclear energy debate in general; the need to facilitate the participation of young people in a technical discussion like nuclear waste management; lessons learned throughout the years for the intergenerational component of nuclear waste management; and the international legal opportunities/tools that enhance the participation of young people in the debate of nuclear waste management.

The topics were covered by the invited speakers/experts, namely: Mrs Jutta Paulus, Member of European Parliament, Greens- European Free Alliance (Germany); Mrs Eszter Matyas, Researcher on nuclear and environmental issues (Hungary); and Mrs Laura Hildt, YEE Project Lead - Environmental Law (Brussels).

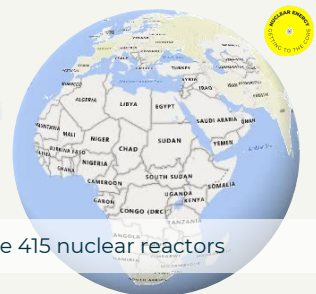
Furthermore, after the panel of discussion an interactive session took place, facilitated by the YEE team, aiming to collect inputs on the weakness points of youth activists/organisations in tackling nuclear energy issues and dynamics of youth participation in the debate of nuclear waste management.



Number of nuclear reactors



33 countries operate 415 nuclear reactors



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE INTER-GENERATIONAL ASPECTS

Who will deal with the inherited nuclear waste of the past generation?



Friday, 10th December 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm CET

2021 ACTIVITIES

Nuclear Energy: Getting to the Core

A digital Campaign through YEE's social media networks

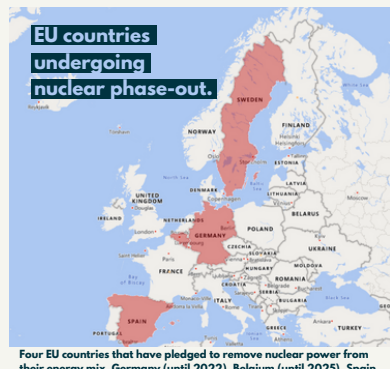
A digital campaign of a duration of 8-weeks (2 posts per week) was conducted in the frame of the activity. The purpose of this campaign was to spread basic concepts of nuclear energy and its threats, touching upon controversial issues, such as nuclear waste management, health and environmental impacts, decommissioning, etc. Through this campaign, the work of Heinrich Boll Foundation European Union on nuclear energy, particularly the recent dossier, has been widely promoted by showcasing info-fragments by the publications and articles of the foundation. A visual identity was created for the campaign by the YEE Communication Manager, ensuring the visibility of the activity.



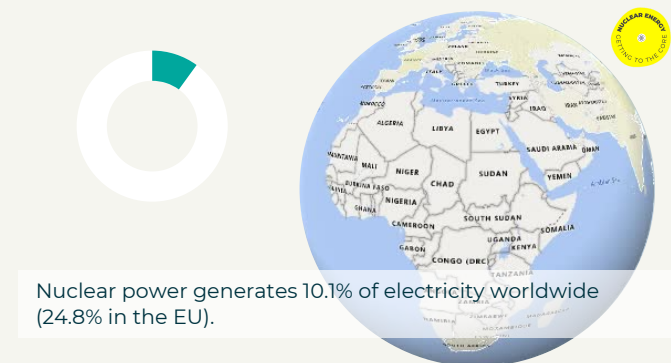
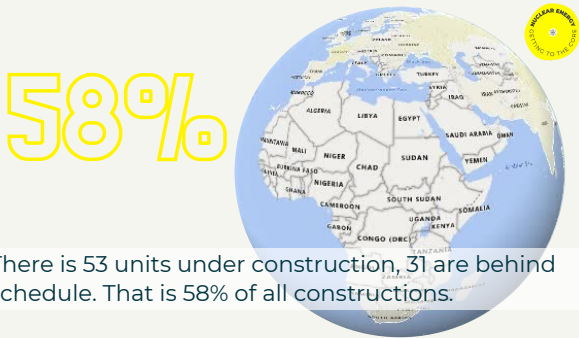
There are 106 operating reactors (56 in France alone) in 13 EU countries.



There are 4 nuclear reactors under construction in the EU - 2 in Slovakia (since 1985), 1 in Finland (since 2005), and 1 in France (since 2007).



Four EU countries that have pledged to remove nuclear power from their energy mix. Germany (until 2022), Belgium (until 2025), Spain (until 2035) and Sweden (until 2045).



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE INTER-GENERATIONAL ASPECTS

Who will deal with the inherited nuclear waste of the past generation?



Friday, 10th December 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm CET

2021 ACTIVITIES

Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges that we are facing today. The effects of climate change span the physical environment, ecosystems and human societies. We can feel them everywhere in the world, including both Russia and France.

Today's youth is going to bear the consequences and live through the challenges of climate adaptation in the nearest future, however, we can still reverse the worst-case scenario. That's why YEE organised the Franco Russian Dialogue on Climate Change. We invited 50 young people from Moscow and Paris to develop ideas together and empower each other to become the voice of the generation. With YEE's support, they consolidated efforts to tackle the climate emergency and raise concerns to political actors in their countries. The project was funded by the French Embassy in Russia under the Trianon Dialogue initiative.

Every two weeks, 50 young people (18-30 y.o.) from Moscow and Paris, gathered for online youth dialogues, facilitated by a YEE trainer and expert speakers. Each dialogue covered a selected topic related to both countries and climate change – sustainable energy, biodiversity, the Arctic and sustainable cities.

The goal of the Franco-Russian online youth dialogues was to establish connections between the Russian and French young activists, share the knowledge, think together and to develop a policy paper with the demands of young people for political action on climate change mitigation, which will be presented to decision-makers in both countries, promoted through the media, and presented at the United Nations.

Ice-Breaker Session, 4 October 2020

At the kick-off meeting, 50 participants from France and Russia met for the first time to get to know each other and discover the diversity of the backgrounds they are coming from.

After the presentation of YEE, the project team and the Dialogue de Trianon initiative, participants went to the break-out rooms to start the discussion and brainstorm on their personal experience and knowledge of climate change. We ended the Ice-Breaker Session with a "chatterfall", an interactive online method for sharing opinions, fears and expectations via chat. We also discussed how can we support the participants throughout the project to ensure the best learning experience for them.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change

1st Online Dialogue / Sustainable Energy, 11 October 2020

During our first dialogue of the #francorussiandialogue on Climate Change, we explored the topic of sustainable energy, together with our guest expert Benjamin Strzelecki.

Participants had a chance to look into the complexity of the causes and effects of the climate crisis using the En-ROADS Climate Simulator and discuss possible solutions in the energy sector.

Together we confirmed once again that carbon price is the single most effective solution to reduce global warming emissions. Despite the complexity of the climate crisis and the lack of political will, we are looking to the future with hope, as we are certain there are solutions and it is in our hands to demand action from the policymakers now.

Paris-St. Petersburg Hybrid Conference, 23 October 2020

On the 23rd of October, YEE together with our Member Organisation Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour le Climat (JAC) and the Dialogue du Trianon organised a hybrid conference that took place in Paris and Saint-Petersburg, and online at the same time. The discussion was held in Russian and French languages, with a simultaneous translation assured.

A special focus was given to the Arctic region which is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, and the role of young people in tackling the climate crisis. One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation by Margarita Usachyova, a 4th-year student of the Russian State Hydrometeorological University. We were delighted to know more about the student participation in the Transarctica expedition first-hand from Margarita herself, who joined the expedition in 2019.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change

About the speakers at Paris-St. Petersburg Hybrid Conference

We had the honor of having a dialogue on the French side with Mr. Mered, geopolitics teacher specializing in the Arctic, Antarctic and Hydrogen at Sciences Po Paris, the Catholic University of Lille, ILERI, and the School de Guerre where he is also responsible for the Safety and Environment committee. Finally, he is also an expert appraiser for the European Commission. In 2019, he published his first book, “Les Mondes Polaires” (University Press of France), and in 2021 will publish his second book dedicated to the geopolitics of hydrogen in the Arctic and around the world.

On the Russian side, Dr. Sergei Smychliaev, doctor in physical and mathematical sciences, professor at the Department of Meteorological Forecasting of the Russian State Hydrometeorological University and Margarita Usachyova, 4th-year student, talked about “Fundamental problems of global warming: l’importance of taking into account the indirect effects of climate change in the Arctic and surrounding regions ”and“ Student participation in the Transarctica-2019 expedition.

2nd Online Dialogue / Biodiversity, 25 October 2020

This time we met for another session of the Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change, dedicated to biodiversity. During this Dialogue, we dived into international biodiversity frameworks, policies, targets and agreements, their effectiveness and the national ownership. Together with two experts, Felix Feider and Sebastien Willemart, participants posed important and challenging questions on international frameworks and their effectiveness, lack of political action and real actors of change, which would follow the international discussions and agreements. Felix and Sebastien guided us through the Climate-Biodiversity-Health nexus, the international biodiversity framework (CBD, Nagoya, Cartagena), international discussions, and reports, as well as ownership, and participation on the national level.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change

3rd Online Dialogue / Debate Session, 08 November 2020

On November 8th, the Franco-Russian Dialogue participants met again for a brainstorming and debate session, following the expert sessions on sustainable energy and biodiversity. They shared knowledge and brought up related issues and cases from France and Russia. At the beginning of the session, we welcomed Nathan Metenier, a Member of the UN Secretary-General Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, and YEE's External Relations Officer & Vice-Chairperson. Nathan shared his experience as a youth climate advocate, the struggles he faced and the strategies he developed to overcome them. The project team explained the concept and the framework for the policy paper, which will be the next step for participants!

4th Online Dialogue / The Arctic, 22 November 2020

The 4th Franco-Russian Dialogue carried a holistic session on the Arctic. Thus, we were able to get a comprehensive overview of the issues and the questions that the climate change effects bring up in the Arctic. The most important thing we learned at this dialogue is however that what happens in the Arctic, doesn't stay in the Arctic.

During the session, we heard contributions from:

Gerhard Krinner, Senior scientist of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) & IPCC contributor talked about the science behind thawing permafrost.

Susana Hancock, Specialist in Arctic affairs, joining us on behalf of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), talked about the political and economic implications of climate change in the Arctic.

Laure Gandois, Researcher of carbon cycling in peatlands and soils at CNRS with extensive experience of work in the field in the Arctic, shared the experience from her expeditions in Siberia.

Viacheslav Chadrin and Dilbara Sharipova, Climate activists, representatives of indigenous peoples in Russia, explained how climate change affects their lives, homes and communities.

2021 ACTIVITIES

Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change

Writing a policy paper, December 2020 - June 2021

The work on the Policy Paper took place between November 2020 and June 2021 as a part of the Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change, supported by the Trianon Dialogue Program. The process was organised by a team of dedicated volunteers: Konstantin Blondeau, Marion Cousinie, Sofya Epifantseva, Viktoria Kosmatova, and Juan Antonio Pérez. Participants worked in four working groups. They have agreed on the proposals together in groups, then let other working groups review their proposals, and then worked on each proposal divided into pairs.

Presentation at the IUCN Pavillion, 5th of September 2021

Anna, Valery, Konstantin and Marion, who took part in the Franco-Russian Dialogue, were able to talk about our project as guests of the French Pavilion at the Exhibition area. During our 30 min slot, they presented the results of the Franco-Russian dialogue on Climate change. As we said at the congress: "Our paper displays the willingness of the youth to be more involved in political action on climate change mitigation. This paper, although it is trying to be based on scientific facts as much as possible, remains a reflection of what the youth found the most urging actions to take on. We are not yet experts and our work can always be improved, mainly thanks to your help as well, but we think that our voice should be heard and the policy paper is the first step to achieve it."

As the congress focused on biodiversity, we decided to present our 5 propositions about biodiversity. Anna and Valery, our participants and ambassadors of the project, developed the proposition they worked on namely over-exploitation and ecosystem services loss.

"Today, 80% of the world's original forest cover has been degraded or destroyed in just 3 decades."

"Only 20% of the population thinks that biodiversity is a major concern for their country."

"More than 70 percent of food crops need pollination, bees themselves have already been doing their job since the end of the Cretaceous period."

2021 ACTIVITIES

Franco-Russian Dialogue on Climate Change

“Many wild animals are in great demand for different uses. For example, in China, more than 1,500 animal species have medicinal value.”

But it was also important to us to expose the other proposition made by the biodiversity group and represent all the work achieved by all the 50 participants. We decided to show a video at the end of our speech to showcasing some of our participants and the reason for their involvement. Our project was 100% remote, and being able to talk about it in person was the finalisation of our work. But we remain conscious that the next step is the promotion of our Policy Paper through further debate with decision-makers and an efficient communication strategy.

This was the first experience in an international congress for the four participants. As Marion said: "It would be lying to say that there was no stress. But this stress was a good one, it sets our mind to produce the best work possible. The speech went well and most importantly we felt listened to. We were quite amazed by the organisation of the congress, where everything runs smoothly with the support of the French Pavilion organisation and tech teams. But it is also time to thank the associations that are giving opportunities to young people like us, who start in life, often without networks, means, and few experiences."

Anna said: “It was an honour to represent the 48 other young people with whom we worked. Bearing their voice to the IUCN WCC was really important for us, not only because it was our project, but because at that moment we were representing all the youth.". Valery also added: “This conference was a great international experience, I’m really glad that I was a part of this event and I want to be a part of it in future.”



2021 ACTIVITIES

Lights on Aarhus: Access to Climate Justice

Could law make climate change illegal? How can we use existing environmental laws to slash greenhouse pollution and promote the sustainable transition? What is the Aarhus regulation and why it matters? Climate change litigation, is an emerging body of environmental law using legal practice and precedent to further climate change mitigation efforts, and young people should be part of it!

The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice, in governmental decision-making processes on matters concerning the environment. The Aarhus Regulation deals with these rights towards EU bodies. In May, the European Parliament will vote on a revision of the Aarhus Regulation and it is up to us to ensure an ambitious proposal. Now is the time to learn more about Aarhus and get involved in a campaign to ensure that the EU complies with its Convention obligations.

In light of the European Commission's draft report on the Aarhus Regulation, we believe there is a growing awareness of the importance of youth engagement and involvement in climate and environmental policy-making and decision-making processes. Yet, it appears that young people are not making as much use of available legal tools to demand the implementation and enforcement of existing obligations. In the face of slow politics of climate change delaying climate change mitigation, young people should use judiciary systems to advance the effort.

Thus “Lighsts on Aarhus” project was held to increase engagement of young activists in legal processes, ranging from impact assessments to making use of environmental democracy rights, to engaging in strategic and routine litigation at local, national or EU level. With this project, we aimed to:

- help overcome some of these barriers by informing, empowering, connecting and enabling youth activists on the topic of environmental law and Aarhus regulation,
- strengthen the European youth climate movement and providing them with tools to better advocate – including arming their advocacy with environmental law tools.

The project's activities are divided into two parts: awareness-raising webinars and the “Access to Justice” campaign.

2021 ACTIVITIES

Lights on Aarhus: Access to Climate Justice

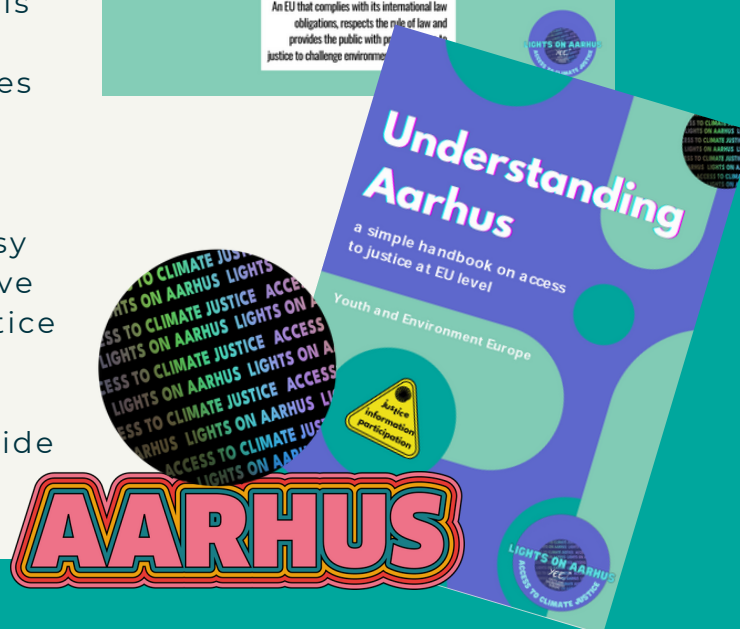
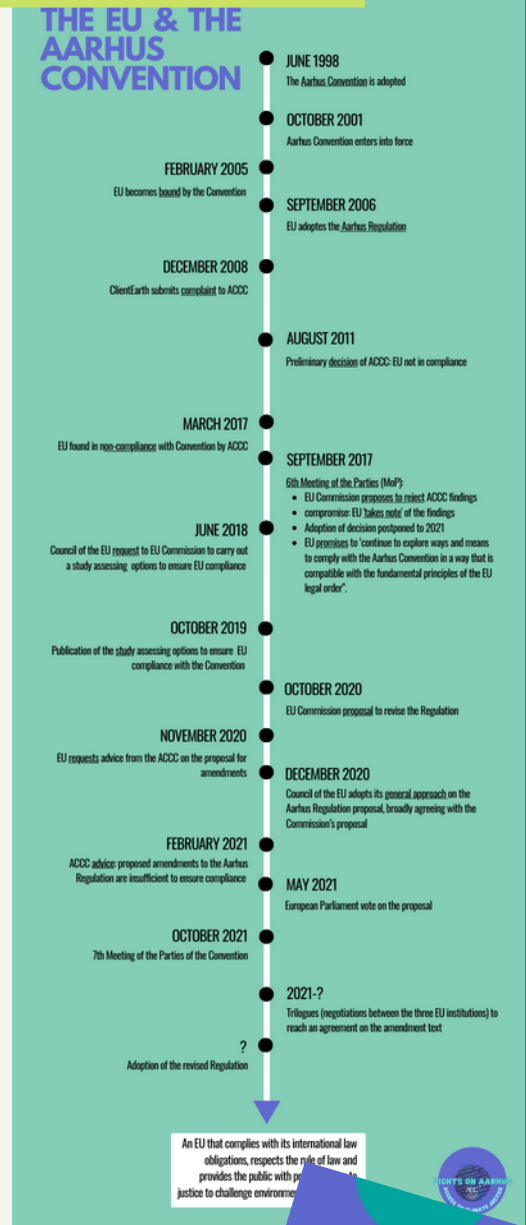
For the awareness-raising part, we organised two webinars, an introductory and conclusive one to shed light on the Aarhus Regulation and EU's reforms and amendment on it.

The speakers who contributed were:

- Anne Friel, who leads ClientEarth's work on environmental democracy in the EU
- Hana Begovic, the Director of Earth Advocacy Youth
- Jessica den Outer, board member and jurist at Earth Advocacy Youth
- Hendrik Schoukens, Environmental Lawyer

The campaign included a workshop on campaign building as well as work with a coalition to push for stronger access to justice to be passed by the European Union. We also created a publication titled "[Understanding Aarhus: A simple handbook on access to justice at EU level](#)". With this handbook, we aim to provide an overview of access to justice issues to challenge the decisions of the EU institutions. We hope that this will help you to understand the importance of access to justice and empower you to join the fight for proper Regulation on access to justice. One that is in line with international law, that is democratic, that enables us to challenge key decisions affecting our current lives and futures and that respects the rule of law.

We start with an introduction to the Aarhus Convention, then an overview of the EU's messy relationship with the Convention before we dive deeper into the current rules for access to justice and explain why the EU is in breach of international law. As this handbook can only provide an overview of this vast topic, we provide lots of links throughout and a list of useful resources at the end.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Understanding the G20: Behind the Slogans

Webinar, 30 September 2021

The G20 Heads of State and Government Summit was held in Rome on October 30th and 31st 2021, with the participation of the G20 Heads of State and Government, of their counterparts from invited countries, and of the representatives of some of the main international and regional organizations.

The G20, under Italian Presidency, focused on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, Prosperity.

The G20 is also intent on paving the way to rebuilding differently in the aftermath of the crisis. More efficiently, through better use of renewable energies and with a firm commitment to protecting our climate and our common environment.

People, Planet, Prosperity: these are the pillars of action proposed for this G20. In all of these, youth is undeniably a key part of, and needs to be considered when going forward.

But are youth ideas being taken into consideration at the G20? Are the decisions being taken (which have the potential to impact our lives for a long time) ambitious enough, and comprehensive enough?

This webinar discussed these questions, gave both an overview of the G20 process and an opportunity to raise questions and concerns regarding the direction it should go in.

We addressed important questions such as:

1. What is G20 and what aims? Why should young people care? How are young people being included in G20 and what is the work of Y20?
2. How should we start redefining prosperity as youth? Are the current ways of defining economic prosperity suitable for the world we live in?
3. What impacts will the G20 have on the environmental agenda? Are we placing the environment as a priority?

The following speakers contributed to the discussion:

- Julius Lajtha, Y20
- Paul de Zylva, Friends of the Earth
- Sonja Dobson, G20 research group

2021 ACTIVITIES

Understanding the G20: Behind the Slogans

G20 Policy Paper

The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies. Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet. Its members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

Every year, the intergovernmental forum addresses some of the most pressing global issues. Previous summits have addressed the 2008 financial crisis, the Iranian nuclear program, and the Syrian civil war. Unsurprisingly, the climate is on the agenda this year. However, the ambition to tackle the climate crisis might fall short in light of current challenges.

YEE advocates for the overall importance of involving young people in the decision-making process and ensuring that our generation's voice is heard in matters that have to do with our future and livelihood. The G20 has enormous power when it comes to shaping policies and decisions that will tremendously impact our lives. As a result, presenting demands in line with our priorities is of paramount importance.

In order to present said demands, YEE organized a webinar with experts and conducted a consultation with our Members, asking what they would consider priorities and key demands for the G20. After working with our team and identifying major points of interest, we are presenting the following demands:

1. For the Rome Summit and the G20 to take responsibility for their role in shaping not only their own, but the world economy by supporting less wealthy countries and to do so by:
 - a. Ensuring that the weight of the economic toll that countries are suffering or will suffer due to climate change-induced crises is taken up by G20 countries, so that truly no one is left behind – taking responsibility for the role they played in exacerbating the climate and environmental crisis;
 - b. Take action to support a just green transition, both within and outside their countries, always in accordance with principles of equity, self-determination and human rights.

2021 ACTIVITIES

Understanding the G20: Behind the Slogans

2. For the Rome Summit and the G20 to include young people in the conversation on economic, social, political and environmental developments and to do so by:

- a. Raising awareness, but also according youth's right to a seat at the table and to be not only heard but listened to, to make sure political decisions are long-sighted and will have a significant long-term impact;
- b. Ensuring the voices of young people are representative of the diverse needs and realities of their generation – specifically accounting for the huge barrier to youth involvement posed by economic difficulties, but also race, gender, beliefs, sexual orientation and other factors of discrimination.

3. For the Rome Summit and the G20 to take into consideration the question of inter-generational debt when looking at prosperity and to do so by:

- a. Take climate action now in order to ensure that the burden of fighting against climate change and climate change-induced crises will not uniquely fall upon the next generation;
- b. Challenging the current mindset of exponential growth which is not sustainable in light of the strains it poses to our environment and health.



2021 ACTIVITIES

Convention on Biological Diversity

Workshop, 6 October 2021

How can young people take an active role in international biodiversity decision-making? This workshop aimed towards explaining the Biodiversity Framework and provided an opportunity to learn more about international negotiations on biodiversity, including how we can advocate for approaches to address the biodiversity and climate crises and find ways to support implementation. We shared insights about how the CBD has been implemented to date and break down the key themes that will be negotiated at the upcoming COP. As young people, it is fundamental to advocate for the preservation and regeneration of the biodiversity that our and future generations depend on. To do that, it is important to know where we fit into this debate and discover together on how we best can influence them.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international treaty that strives to conserve biodiversity, promote its sustainable use and the fair access and benefit-sharing arising from its genetic resources. It establishes guidelines and principles for the international governance of biodiversity, providing an actionable framework that individual nations can determine how to implement for themselves. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the main governing body that develops the framework by building consensus among the parties.

In 2021, the 15th COP was planned and China held the presidency. Due to the pandemic, COP15 was held in two sessions – the first was held online from 11 – 15 October and the second was planned to be hosted in Kunming, China from 24 April – 8 May 2022. In Kunming, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be agreed and then implemented by countries across the world over the next 10 years. This is an update to the earlier Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets, which were set in 2010, Japan.

The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework has the potential to transform the global outlook on biodiversity and help secure the right of today's and future generations to "live in harmony with nature". Living in harmony with nature by 2050 is the vision of the Framework Theory of Change. This could be achieved through urgent action to transform economic, social and financial models, which will stabilise biodiversity loss and allow natural ecosystems to recover. Young people can take an active role in the negotiation process of the CBD by advocating for ambitious targets that tackle the issues we care about and give us the opportunity to be involved in implementation.

2021 ACTIVITIES

Nature Restoration Law Project

Webinar: Empowering Youth to Restore Nature, 25 November 2021

Following the 'green wave' of the European elections in 2019 and the release of the political guidelines of today's EC president Ursula von der Leyen on 17 July 2019, marked a new period for nature conservation policy in the EU. Halting biodiversity loss became, alongside combating climate change, a political priority for the EU within the EU Green Deal, which was presented in December 2019. This meant that after years of defensive advocacy work, trying to safeguard the environmental acquis, an opportunity was created to start advocating for new legislation.

With the release of the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy, the political support of the European Commission to restore the EU's nature for biodiversity and climate has become obvious. The EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy includes a commitment from the European Commission to put forward a proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets in 2021 to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. The legally binding restoration targets will require a new legal instrument and present a major opportunity for turning the tide against biodiversity loss while also contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation.

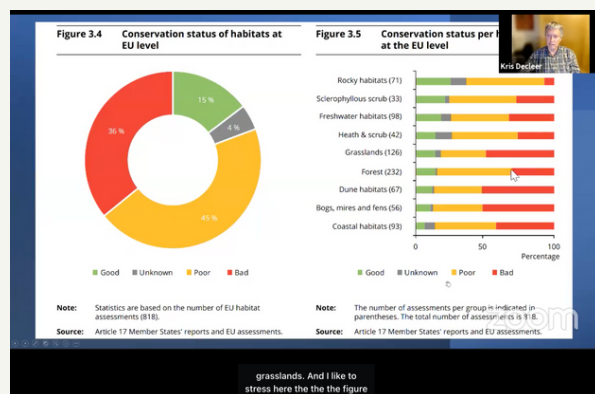
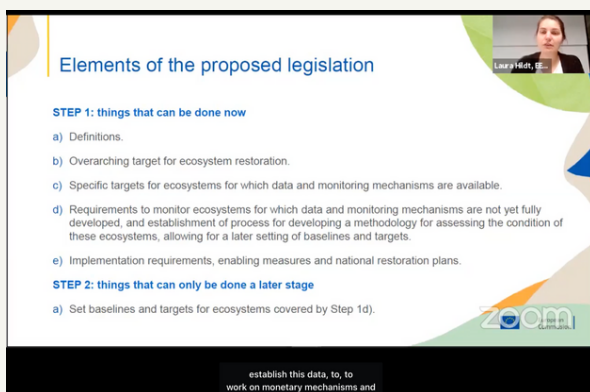
Now it is the time to translate this ambition into a new EU law and to not lose precious time. Youth can play a special role in protecting and restoring nature. Young people should be ready to take leadership roles in climate action and nature restoration efforts and ensure changes are made towards achieving the Sustainable development Goals. Therefore there is a necessity to create awareness and cultivate the next generation of conservationists and restorers.

The webinar was organized by WWF EPO and YEE in the context of EU Nature Restoration Project. Two guest speakers provided us two different perspectives regarding the EU Nature Restoration Law, giving us more insights into the scientific as well as the legal aspects. The first speaker was Kris Decler, a board member of Society of Ecological Restoration, a lecturer at University of Antwerp, teaching habitat conservation and restoration in Flanders region, as well as researcher and policy adviser in the field of ecosystem restoration at research institute for nature and forest. The second speaker was Laura Hildt, a Policy Officer for Biodiversity and EU affairs at European Environmental Bureau, who focused on the follow-up and implementation of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, ecological restoration and the implementation of the Nature Directives.

2021 ACTIVITIES

Nature Restoration Law Project

Through this webinar we aimed to increase understanding of EU nature restoration law discussions among youth and to build capacity of youth networks. Empowering active young people in youth organizations we want to create a springboard effect to motivate more youth to join the movement of preserving and restoring ecosystems.



Youth Position on EU Nature Restoration Law, December 2021

As the drafting of the Nature Restoration Law was under development, we have joined forces with Generation Climate Europe, Biodiversity Action Europe, Global Youth for Biodiversity Network Europe, Young Rewilders & Young Friends of the Earth Europe, and developed a Youth NGOs' position paper.

We emphasised the need to seize the opportunity of this law for the protection of the fundamental rights of younger generations which should also be reflected with an explicit reference to the important role of youth in future restorative action in the EU and beyond.

We proposed three crucial points that the Nature Restoration Law must take into account:

1. Genuine and full stakeholders and youth engagement;
2. Policy consistency (coherence, additionality, linearity);
3. Funds and subsidies aligned with biodiversity and youth

The full position paper can be downloaded [here](#).



2021 ACTIVITIES

Nature Restoration Law Project

Run4Nature, live stunt in Brussels, 28 October 2021

YEE together with WWF EPO, organised a relay run to emphasise the importance of an ambitious EU Nature restoration law to young people in Europe. 27 runners from 27 member states ran approximately 400m, passing each other a symbol of climate change's impact on nature. At the finish line in front of the Berlaymont entrance, the symbol was handed to the Environment Commissioner Sinkevičius.



Delegation to the 7th Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) of the Aarhus Convention & side event

In October, YEE participated at the 7th Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) of the Aarhus Convention, bringing a youth voice to this process. We contributed with statements on the EU's double-standards regarding its non-compliance with the Convention and on the importance of youth in public participation processes, and we created a simple handbook on access to justice at EU level.

We also held a MoP side-event on youth environmental defenders and how this new instrument can support them. The side-event provided a brief snapshot of the realities of young environmental defenders, seeking to identify barriers and protection gaps in the existing frameworks. It also focused on the Rapid Response Mechanism and the opportunities it brings in providing immediate support to young activists, contributing to the implementation of Art.3(8) of the Aarhus Convention. Through an interactive discussion, we gathered recommendations for an effective and accessible Rapid Response Mechanism that takes the needs of young people into account.

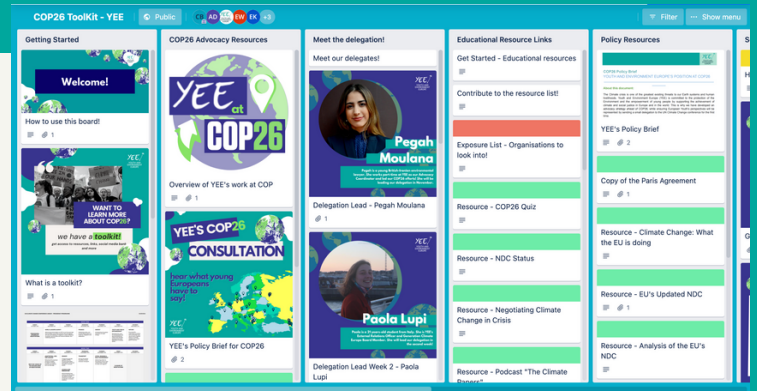


2021 ACTIVITIES

Delegation to COP26

COP26 Toolkit

YEE compiled a toolkit on COP26 participation for young people to help them to discover and be involved in COP26 processes. You can find our COP26 Toolkit here. This Trello board is



open-access and all resources are available for download. The board is divided into educational resources (from links to articles, infographics to podcasts) to policy resources to a social media bank of videos, images, Twitter templates and hashtags that you can use freely – for your own advocacy!

YEE at COP26

YEE nominated 9 delegates to attend COP26 on behalf of the network. With NGO observer badges we got access to the Green and Blue zone. Most of our time was spent at side events, listening in on plenaries and, when we could, meeting and discussing with key actors such as Frans Timmermans, the Vice-President of the European Commission, with whom we were delighted to be able to enter into dialogue three times in the second week of COP. It was moments like these that were “highlights” according to our delegate and Board Member, Paola, who also called attention to “other great moments included meeting head of Greenpeace Jennifer Morgan and entering plenaries to hear countries representatives discuss their plans.”

Other delegates had specific targets, such as Naïs, our Treasurer, who said her “time with YEE was spent meeting with funders, discussing fundraising strategies and meeting some of our member organisations”.

Vadim, our delegate from Russia, concluded: “My first COP26 is over, and for me it was a tremendous experience. The time I spent in Glasgow was full of in-person meetings, collective work, official and informal events, panel discussions, and conversations with policymakers.”

For all the highs we had at COP26, there were an equal amount of lows. Our delegate, Anna, poignantly described: “While at first I was enjoying the variety of the Pavilions, a realization gradually formed and then suddenly struck me about this environment: turns out we won’t have access to the negotiating rooms for at least the first two days of the conference – and yes, apparently there was a Bluer Zone at the end of that aisle.”



2021 ACTIVITIES

Delegation to COP26

Besides, as a colleague has rightfully noted, most of the Green Zone exhibition area had basically been “eaten” by businesses and corporations “selling” themselves, rather than being fully dedicated to civil society.

As the days got busier and busier for us Observers, following the actual negotiations and getting updates on what was happening behind closed doors turned out to be less difficult from the outside than from inside the Blue Zone.

Many hours were spent queuing to enter venues and rooms, and even then, due to capacity limitations and the priority of party delegates over civil society, we did not enter all the events we were aiming for.

A key issue we faced was accessibility, despite our badges. This COP has been dubbed “the most exclusive COP ever” between visa and travel issues, which we ourselves experienced with our Armenian delegate not getting his visa approved, to the actual layout of the venue. Our delegate Anna explained:

“We were ready to bring youth voices in every conversation and negotiating room, but the reality was that we found it quite hard to even get access to some events on youth day.”

Moreover, “Youth, indigenous people, and civil society as a whole should not be part of the dialogue only on a dedicated single day – which, by the way, seriously lacked the opportunity for active and meaningful youth engagement – and then be forgotten during the rest of the conference.

After all, would it really make sense to host



[Read the full YEE COP26 Policy Brief here!](#)

"Science is clear: the time to act concretely to mitigate the climate crisis is now. It is due time that all Parties renew their NDCs and implement policies that are consistent with a 1.5 °C scenario while also taking concrete steps towards mitigation and adaptation solutions that do not harm but are rather beneficial to ecosystems or human livelihoods and indigenous rights"

- Anna

2021 ACTIVITIES

Delegation to COP26

a Youth4Climate, forever, as announced by the Italian Minister of Ecological Transition, if the final text of this youth collective effort is not even remotely taken into consideration or vaguely mentioned in the COP26 outcomes?”

Overall, the two weeks were “both incredible and exhausting” as Paola put it. For our delegation, COP26 represented also an occasion to meet each other after over a year of working digitally together, spread across Europe. It represented an occasion to meet representatives of our Member Organisations, to meet other activists and discover wonderful organisations.

This is best recounted by Anna: “I got to meet some dear colleagues in person for the first time, and I had the chance to meet and listen to the stories of so many more climate activists from all over the world. Especially during the protests of the Global Day of Action, experiencing the power of a community getting together and rising up to ask for climate justice, both the global youth community and my YEE community, will always represent one of the most heart-warming experiences of my life and it is what gives me hope for the future of my action as a young environmentalist.”

Hearing other voices of the environmental movement was fundamental to our motivation as our delegate Hajar expressed “I was pleasantly surprised to witness the power of the collective and what civil society was able to do around the event itself. It was this strength that made me realize that I was legitimate enough at COP26 and that the voices I wanted to represent also were.”

— Written by Chloé ten Brink.



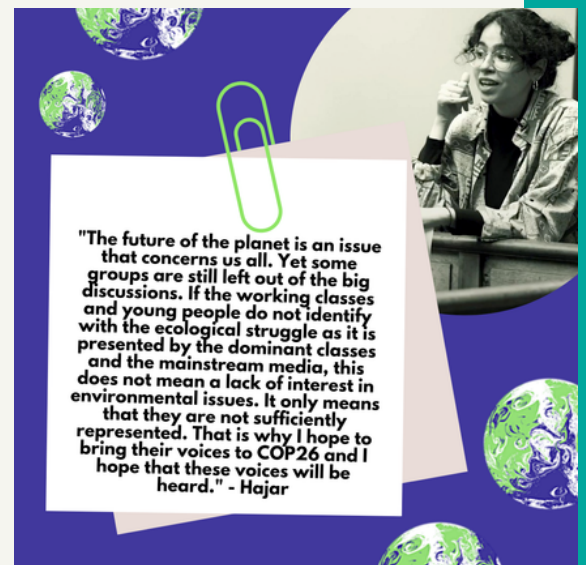
YEE ON ENERGY & CARBON AT COP

We need to end energy poverty of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups though ensuring safe access to clean energy sources.

Curtailing government subsidies and big banks' investments into carbon-intensive industry ("brown" investments and projects) as soon as possible is a key condition to start acting concretely for GHG emissions reduction and achieve climate justice.

Prioritise research and investments into energy efficiency and carbon-negative solutions for those sectors where decarbonisation is more difficult

carbon offsets are NOT an excuse to invest less to reduce emissions



MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

2021

According to the statutes of YEE, point 4.5.3 of section 4.5 Membership Review and End of Membership, If membership fees are not paid for longer than two years and the Annual Meetings are not attended either without giving any explanation, then the membership status shall be reviewed by the General Assembly as described in part B 2. of the Rules of Procedure.

The following members of Youth and Environment Europe have not attended the Annual Meeting of YEE or paid the membership fee in more than two years:

7Arte, Kosovo
 Asociación Biodiversa, Spain
 Blejan NGO, Armenia
 Eco-Logic, Macedonia
 Environmental Youth Club EYC, Russia
 Green Echoes Association, Romania
 Hnuti Brontosaurus, Czechia
 InYouth Ukraine, Ukraine
 Ipso Jure, Ukraine
 Khazer, Armenia
 Luonto Liitto, Finland
 Mine Vaganti NGO, Italy
 Natur Og Ungdom, Denmark
 Oddzial Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie – OA PTTK, Poland
 Public Awareness and Monitoring Centre, Armenia
 SAEM Georgia Youth EcoMovement, Georgia
 Young Biologists Association, Armenia
 Youth Without Borders, Armenia

All listed member organisations have been contacted in due time before the General Assembly via email with an inquiry about their interest to remain members of the network.

These member organisations have sent an explanation to the Board and Secretariat and expressed their interest in preserving their membership status at YEE:

7Arte, Kosovo
 Asociación Biodiversa, Spain
 Khazer, Armenia
 Mine Vaganti NGO, Italy
 SAEM Georgia Youth EcoMovement, Georgia



MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

2021

The Board of YEE 2020/2021 and Secretariat proposed to discharge the following members at the General Assembly 2021, the proposal was accepted by the General Assembly:

BALTA DABA, Latvia
Blejan NGO, Armenia
Eco-Logic, Macedonia
Environmental Youth Club EYC, Russia
Green Echoes Association, Romania
Hnuti Brontosaurus, Czechia
InYouth Ukraine, Ukraine
Ipso Jure, Ukraine
Luonto Liitto, Finland
Natur Og Ungdom, Denmark
Oddzial Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie – OA PTTK, Poland
Public Awareness and Monitoring Centre, Armenia
Young Biologists Association, Armenia
Youth Without Borders, Armenia

BALTA DABA asked to be discharged as a member due to the following reason (quoted message from BALTA DABA):

*"Dear YEE team,
We (BALTA DABA) had a great opportunity to be a part of YEE family for many years. We have organized so many great events together. We are very thankful for that! Unfortunately it is time to stop our partnership in YEE. Our organization members are getting older and we do not have new members in youth age. Therefore we do not have young people who could participate in YEE projects. Since YEE is network of youth organizations, but most of our members are not in youth age anymore, it would be fair to leave YEE family. Therefore BALTA DABA had made a decision to withdraw/leave YEE network."*

On a more positive note, we are delighted to welcome four new organisations as members of YEE:

"Odlar Yurdu" Youth Public Union, Azerbaijan
BITISI, Georgia
Climates, France
Youth Development Center of Armenia



FOLLOW OUR WORK



WE ARE A MEMBER OF



Generation
Climate
Europe



CAN
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
Europe



european
youth forum



EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

WE ARE SUPPORTED BY



european youth foundation
fonds européen pour la jeunesse

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



LÉA
NATURE



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

