



ESTABLISHING YOUTH LOCAL CLIMATE COUNCIL

Project Number:

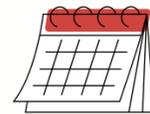
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AKTYVIU ŽMONIŲ ASOCIACIJA
AKTYVISTAI



ACTIVE PEOPLE ASSOCIATION
ACTIVISTS

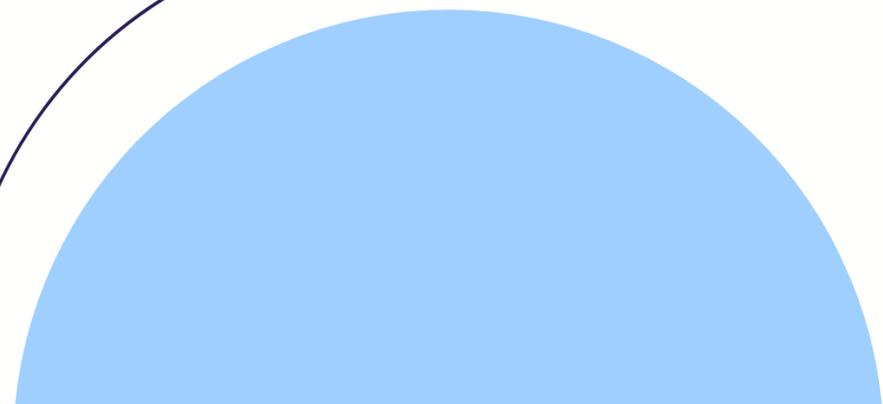


Co-funded by
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Purpose and Objectives of the Event

The purpose of this event is to establish Youth Local Climate Councils in Greece, providing a platform for young people to actively participate in climate governance. This aligns with the broader goal of empowering youth to take a leading role in addressing the climate crisis, which is crucial for achieving sustainable and just climate action.





Objectives

1. Develop a Stronger Culture of Dialogue: Encourage open discussions among youth and decision-makers to ensure young voices are integrated into policy-making at all levels.

2. Enhance Youth Participation: Foster active involvement of young people in EU political and social leadership, specifically concerning climate justice.

3. Raise Awareness and Knowledge: Educate youth on climate issues and the importance of their participation in decision-making processes.

4. Build Capacities and Networks: Strengthen skills related to critical thinking, policy advocacy, and collaboration among youth organizations, NGOs, and public authorities.

Importance of Youth Participation in Climate Justice

- **Youth as Key Stakeholders:** Young people, aged 18-30, represent a significant and diverse demographic directly impacted by climate change. Their involvement is essential to ensure policies are responsive to their needs and futures.
- **Fresh Perspectives and Innovation:** Youth bring innovative ideas, fresh perspectives, and energy that can drive ambitious climate action. Their diverse experiences and intersectional identities contribute to more comprehensive solutions.
- **Long-Term Impact and Accountability:** As the generation that will face the long-term consequences of climate inaction, youth are motivated to advocate for bold, accountable climate policies that prioritize justice and sustainability.

Importance of Youth Participation in Climate Justice



- **Building a Sense of Ownership and Responsibility:** Encouraging youth to participate in climate justice fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the environment. This is essential for cultivating a culture of sustainability and proactive environmental stewardship.
- **Enhancing Democratic Processes:** Youth participation enhances democratic legitimacy, ensuring decisions are representative of all societal groups. It aligns with the democratic principles of inclusivity and equal representation.
- **Link to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Youth involvement is critical to achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Their active participation supports efforts toward sustainable development and resilience-building.

Overview of the Climate Crisis



- **Brief Overview of the Current Climate Crisis**

The climate crisis represents one of the most urgent challenges facing humanity today, characterized by rapid environmental changes resulting from human activities, primarily greenhouse gas emissions.

Key aspects of the current climate crisis include:

Overview of the Climate Crisis



- **Global Warming and Temperature Rise:**

The planet's average surface temperature has increased by about 1.2°C since the late 19th century, primarily due to increased carbon dioxide and other anthropogenic emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that exceeding a 1.5°C increase could lead to catastrophic consequences.

- **Extreme Weather Events:**

An increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, droughts, floods, and heatwaves, is directly linked to climate change. These events disrupt ecosystems, economies, and communities, causing significant loss of life and livelihoods.

Overview of the Climate Crisis

- **Rising Sea Levels:**

Melting polar ice and glaciers, combined with thermal expansion of seawater, are causing sea levels to rise, threatening coastal cities, small island nations, and millions of people worldwide with displacement.

- **Social and Economic Inequities:**

The climate crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, such as low-income communities, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups, who have contributed least to the problem but face the greatest impacts.



Connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The climate crisis is closely intertwined with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- **SDG 13: Climate Action:**

SDG 13 specifically addresses the need for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Achieving this goal requires global cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience, and integrate climate measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.



- **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy:**

Transitioning to renewable energy sources is vital to reducing carbon emissions and achieving SDG 7, which calls for affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.



Connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities:**

Climate change threatens urban areas with increased heat, flooding, and pollution. SDG 11 aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, which involves integrating climate resilience into urban planning.



- **SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation:**

Climate change affects agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and hunger (SDG 2), and exacerbates water scarcity and access to clean water (SDG 6).



Connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:**

Addressing climate change is crucial to reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and ensuring peaceful, just, and inclusive societies (SDG 16), as climate impacts can exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities and contribute to conflicts.



- **SDG 15: Life on Land and SDG 14: Life Below Water:**

Climate change significantly affects ecosystems on land (SDG 15) and in the oceans (SDG 14), causing species loss, deforestation, desertification, and coral bleaching, which endanger biodiversity and human well-being.



Overview of EU Youth Dialogue and Its Goals

EU Youth Dialogue is a participatory process that brings together young people, youth organizations, and policymakers across Europe to engage in discussions on youth-related issues. It is a youth-led initiative aimed at ensuring that young voices are heard in EU policy-making, particularly concerning matters that affect their future.



Key Goals of the EU Youth Dialogue

- **Increase Youth Participation in Democratic Life:**

Enhance the engagement of young people in democratic processes, ensuring they are involved in decision-making at all levels — local, national, and EU-wide.

- **Promote Equality and Social Inclusion:**

Address inequalities faced by young people, including those related to gender, socioeconomic background, ethnicity, and disability, to promote equal opportunities and inclusion.

- **Foster Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement:**

Encourage young people to develop their potential, skills, and competencies, and actively participate in civic life and community development.



Key Goals of the EU Youth Dialogue

- **Enhance Cooperation Among Youth Organizations and Policymakers:**

Strengthen collaboration between youth organizations, National Youth Councils, policymakers, and other stakeholders to create a more inclusive and representative decision-making process.

- **Support Sustainable Development and Well-being:**

Align youth policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing sustainable development, health, and well-being.

- **Make European Youth Goals Visible and Actionable:**

Ensure that the 11 European Youth Goals, which address a range of social, political, economic, and environmental challenges, are integrated into EU and national policies.



Relevance to Climate Justice

- **Youth as Key Actors in Climate Governance:**

The EU Youth Dialogue recognizes that youth are not just stakeholders but also key actors in climate governance. Young people are often the most motivated and committed to tackling climate change due to their direct stake in the future and their potential to drive societal transformation.

- **Intersectionality and Inclusivity in Climate Action:**

The dialogue emphasizes the need for inclusive participation, recognizing the diverse identities and experiences of youth. Climate justice requires addressing the intersectional vulnerabilities that young people face, such as those related to gender, race, and socioeconomic status, ensuring that climate policies are equitable and fair.



Relevance to Climate Justice

- **Youth-Led Initiatives for Climate Justice:**

The EU Youth Dialogue promotes youth-led climate actions and initiatives. Young people are at the forefront of climate activism, and their involvement is crucial to ensure that climate policies are ambitious, inclusive, and justice-oriented.

- **Creating Spaces for Dialogue on Climate Justice:**

The dialogue provides a platform for young people to engage directly with policymakers, advocate for more stringent climate action, and ensure that their perspectives are considered in EU and national policy frameworks. It supports creating safe and inclusive spaces where all youth can contribute to the climate conversation.



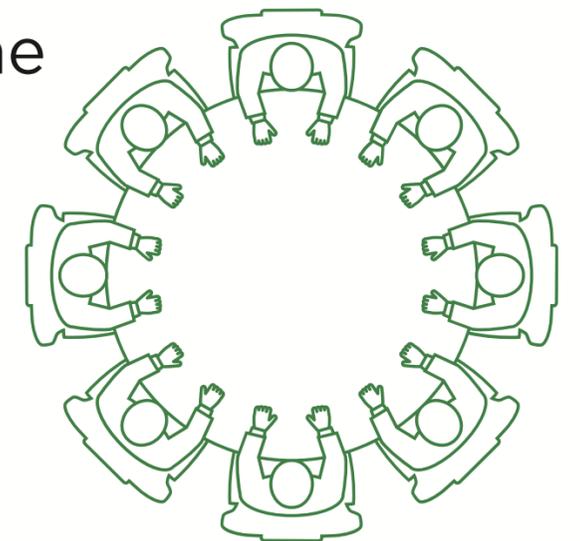
What are Youth Local Climate Councils?

Youth Local Climate Councils are youth-led bodies created to actively engage young people in local climate governance. These councils provide a structured platform for youth to:

- Voice their concerns about climate issues affecting their communities.
- Propose and advocate for local climate action plans that align with broader national and EU climate strategies.
- Participate in decision-making processes that impact local and regional climate policies.
- Promote inclusive and equitable climate solutions by considering the diverse perspectives and needs of young people.



Youth Local Climate Councils aim to bring young people to the forefront of climate action by empowering them to influence local policies and actions directly.



Their Role in Local and EU Climate Governance

Youth Local Climate Councils play a dual role in both local and EU climate governance:

1. Local Level:

- **Advisory Role:** They act as advisory bodies to local governments, helping to shape and implement local climate strategies.
- **Community Engagement:** Councils serve as a bridge between local authorities and the youth community, promoting dialogue and raising awareness of climate issues.
- **Policy Advocacy:** By representing young people, councils advocate for policies that address climate justice, sustainability, and environmental resilience at the local level.
- **Grassroots Action:** They organize local initiatives, campaigns, and projects to address climate challenges in their communities, fostering grassroots involvement.



Their Role in Local and EU Climate Governance



2.EU Level:

- Integration into EU Policy Frameworks: Youth Local Climate Councils can connect local actions with EU-wide goals, such as those outlined in the European Green Deal or EU Youth Dialogue. They can provide critical feedback on how EU policies are perceived and implemented at the local level.
- Amplifying Youth Voices: These councils serve as platforms to elevate local youth perspectives to the EU level, ensuring that the diverse experiences and needs of young people across Europe are considered in broader policy discussions.
- Cross-Border Collaboration: They foster cooperation among young people from different EU countries, sharing best practices, innovative ideas, and solutions to common climate challenges.
- Monitoring and Accountability: Councils can track the progress of EU climate commitments, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), from a youth perspective and hold policymakers accountable for meeting their targets.



Importance

Why Are They Important?

Youth Local Climate Councils empower young people by providing them with the knowledge, skills, and platforms needed to:

- Influence climate policies that directly impact their lives and future.
- Create more inclusive and participatory forms of governance that incorporate youth perspectives at all levels.
- Ensure that climate action is ambitious, just, and sustainable, aligning with both local priorities and EU climate goals.



Empowering Young People to Take the Lead in Climate Justice

Youth Local Climate Councils empower young people by placing them at the center of climate action and decision-making. This empowerment happens in several key ways:

- **Leadership Opportunities:**

These councils provide young people with the opportunity to lead local climate initiatives, encouraging them to take ownership of the solutions to climate challenges in their communities.

By holding leadership roles, young people can gain experience in governance, advocacy, and policy development, which builds their confidence and capacity to engage in civic life.

- **Skill Development:**

Participants acquire critical skills, such as public speaking, negotiation, strategic planning, and project management, all of which are essential for effective climate advocacy and leadership.

Through training, workshops, and active participation in council activities, youth can enhance their understanding of complex climate issues, policy-making processes, and sustainable development goals.

Empowering Young People to Take the Lead in Climate Justice



- **Creating Agents of Change:**

Empowered youth can become influential change-makers in their communities, advocating for sustainable practices and innovative solutions to climate challenges.

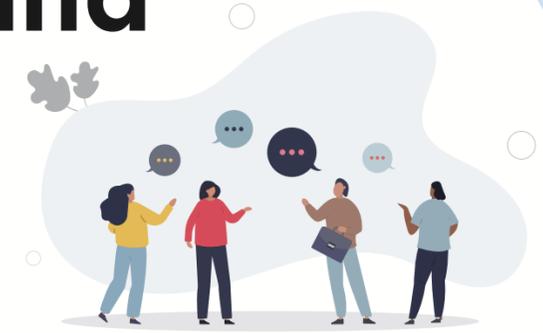
They act as role models, inspiring peers and younger generations to become involved in climate action and to advocate for climate justice.

- **Promoting Equity and Inclusion:**

The councils are platforms for multiple marginalized youth groups to express their unique perspectives and contribute to policy discussions, ensuring that all voices are heard.

This inclusive approach allows for more equitable climate solutions that address the needs of diverse communities.

Fostering a Culture of Dialogue and Cooperation



Youth Local Climate Councils foster a culture of dialogue and cooperation by creating spaces where young people, policymakers, and community members can collaborate effectively:

- **Building Trust and Mutual Understanding:**

Regular interactions between youth and local authorities help build trust and mutual understanding, breaking down barriers and stereotypes that often exist between generations and different sectors of society.

Open dialogue fosters respect for diverse perspectives and encourages constructive debate on climate policies and actions.

- **Facilitating Cross-Sector Collaboration:**

The councils act as a bridge between various stakeholders, including youth organizations, NGOs, public authorities, and academic institutions, promoting cross-sectoral collaboration.

Such partnerships enhance the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices, leading to more comprehensive and innovative climate solutions.

Fostering a Culture of Dialogue and Cooperation



- **Enhancing Community Engagement:**

By engaging local communities in discussions about climate change and sustainability, councils raise awareness and mobilize broader public support for climate actions.

This engagement creates a sense of shared responsibility, encouraging more people to participate in climate initiatives and contribute to achieving local and global climate goals.

- **Promoting Democratic Values:**

The councils model democratic practices by ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in their decision-making processes.

This democratic approach enhances the legitimacy of their actions and decisions, encouraging greater youth involvement and a stronger commitment to climate justice.

- **Creating Networks of Support:**

Councils help build networks among young climate activists across different regions, promoting solidarity and cooperation on common issues.

These networks enable youth to learn from one another, share experiences, and coordinate their efforts to influence climate policies at local, national, and EU levels.

Expected Outcomes



Stronger Networks Among Youth Organizations and Policymakers

- **Enhanced Collaboration:**

The project will foster stronger connections between youth organizations, NGOs, policymakers, and other stakeholders, promoting a collaborative approach to tackling climate challenges.

These networks will enable sharing of knowledge, resources, and best practices across different regions and organizations, leading to more coordinated and impactful climate actions.

- **Building Trust and Mutual Support:**

Regular dialogue and interaction between youth and policymakers will build trust and mutual understanding, breaking down barriers that may exist between these groups.

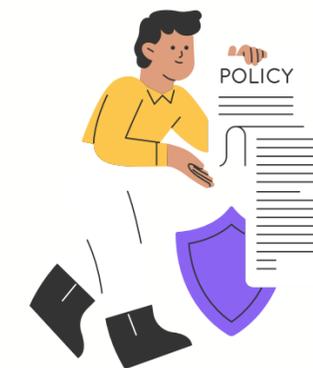
This trust can lead to more constructive partnerships and long-term collaboration on climate initiatives.

- **Creating a Platform for Dialogue:**

Youth Local Climate Councils will serve as a platform for ongoing dialogue, ensuring that youth voices are continuously heard in climate policy discussions.

These platforms will also facilitate peer-to-peer learning and networking among youth organizations, enhancing their capacity to influence policy and drive change.

Expected Outcomes



Development of Actionable Policy Recommendations

- **Youth-Informed Policy Proposals:**

Through their participation in the councils, young people will help develop policy recommendations that are grounded in their experiences and needs, making them more relevant and actionable.

These recommendations will focus on addressing specific challenges faced by youth in the context of climate justice, ensuring that policies are youth-centric and effective.

- **Evidence-Based Recommendations:**

The councils will utilize data, research, and on-the-ground experiences to formulate evidence-based policy proposals that policymakers can readily implement.

By providing concrete examples and case studies, these recommendations will demonstrate the practical benefits of integrating youth perspectives into climate governance.

- **Tailored Strategies for Different Levels of Governance:**

The recommendations will be tailored to different governance levels (local, national, EU) to ensure they are applicable and effective across diverse political and social contexts.

This approach will help align local actions with national and EU climate strategies, promoting coherence and consistency in climate policies.



THANK YOU!

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