Pilot Workshop on climate justice and climate change, concerning digital competences for smart youth engagement

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Overview of the Event

- The Youth Participation Event is a pilot workshop on climate justice and climate change, hosted in Lithuania.
- The event will focus on enhancing digital competencies to foster smart youth engagement in climate action.
- A total of 45 youth participants, aged 18-30, from diverse backgrounds will join, including those facing social and economic exclusion or from rural and migrant communities.
- The workshop is designed to amplify youth voices and strengthen their role in climate governance and policy-making through interactive and participatory activities.

Objectives of the Workshop

- Engage Youth in Climate Action: Encourage meaningful participation of young people in climate justice discussions and actions at local, national, and European levels.
- Enhance Digital Skills: Develop digital competencies that empower youth to effectively engage in climate-related initiatives and policy dialogues.
- Facilitate Networking and Collaboration: Create a space for youth to connect with peers, youth organizations, NGOs, and policymakers, fostering cooperation and shared learning.
- Promote European Action-Led Initiatives: Inspire youth to participate in European-wide actions and projects that contribute to climate justice and sustainability.
- Contribute to Youth Empowerment: Empower youth by providing them with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to advocate for climate justice and participate in democratic processes.

Importance of Youth Participation in Climate Action

Why Youth Engagement Matters for Climate Justice:

- **Youth as Key Stakeholders:** Young people, aged 18-30, are among the most affected by climate change due to their long-term exposure to its impacts. They will face the consequences of today's decisions, making their engagement essential for equitable and sustainable solutions.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** Youth bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a sense of urgency to climate action. Their diverse identities (age, gender, socio-economic status, etc.) offer unique insights that can lead to more inclusive and effective policies.

Importance of Youth Participation in Climate Action

Why Youth Engagement Matters for Climate Justice:

- **Intergenerational Justice:** Involving youth in climate decision-making is vital to ensure intergenerational justice. It ensures that today's policies do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Aligning with Global Goals:** Meaningful youth participation is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Youth engagement in climate justice contributes to broader efforts to address inequalities and promote sustainable development.

Digital Competencies for Youth Engagement

Explanation of Digital Competencies:

Definition: Digital competencies encompass a range of skills, knowledge, and attitudes required to effectively use digital technologies for communication, collaboration, content creation, safety, and problem-solving.

Core Areas:

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Digital Competencies for Youth Engagement

Core Areas:

- **Information and Data Literacy:** Ability to locate, evaluate, and use digital information critically.

- **Communication and Collaboration:** Proficiency in using digital tools to communicate, share ideas, and collaborate in both local and global contexts.

- **Digital Content Creation:** Skills to create, edit, and manage digital content, including text, images, video, and multimedia.

- **Safety and Security:** Understanding of digital safety practices, such as protecting personal data, recognizing digital threats, and ensuring online privacy.

- **Problem-Solving:** Capacity to use digital tools and resources to solve problems, innovate, and adapt to new digital environments.

Digital Competencies for Youth Engagement

Their Role in Enhancing Youth Participation:

- **Facilitating Access to Information:** Digital competencies enable youth to access and interpret relevant climate information and resources. This informed understanding empowers them to engage meaningfully in climate dialogues and decision-making processes.

- **Enabling Broader Communication and Advocacy:** Digital skills enhance youth's ability to communicate their ideas, concerns, and proposals effectively. They can leverage social media, online platforms, and digital campaigns to raise awareness, influence public opinion, and advocate for climate justice.

Digital Competencies for Youth Engagement

Their Role in Enhancing Youth Participation:

- **Encouraging Collaborative Efforts:** Digital tools foster collaboration across borders, allowing youth from different countries and backgrounds to work together on shared climate goals. This enhances the impact of their collective actions and builds a sense of solidarity.

- **Supporting Creative Problem-Solving:** Digital competencies allow youth to develop innovative solutions to climate challenges. For example, using digital modeling tools to design sustainable projects or creating apps that promote green practices.

- **Enhancing Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Digital engagement reduces geographical and social barriers, making it easier for marginalized youth groups (e.g., those in rural areas or with limited mobility) to participate in climate-related activities and discussions.

EU Youth Dialogue Priorities and Goals

- *Inclusion and Diversity*
- **Priority:** Ensuring equal opportunities for all young people, regardless of their background, by promoting inclusivity and combating discrimination.
- **Goal:** Address barriers that hinder marginalized and disadvantaged youth from participating fully in civic and democratic life.
- *Participation and Empowerment*
- **Priority:** Enhancing youth engagement in decision-making processes and fostering their active participation in democratic and civic life.
- **Goal:** Strengthen youth's capacity to influence policy and practice at local, national, and EU levels.
- *Education and Employment*
- **Priority:** Improving educational opportunities and employment prospects for young people, focusing on skills development and job readiness.
- **Goal:** Equip youth with the necessary skills to thrive in the labor market and contribute to economic growth.

EU Youth Dialogue Priorities and Goals

- *Health and Well-being*
- **Priority:** Promoting the overall well-being of young people, including mental health and physical health.
- **Goal:** Support initiatives that enhance quality of life and address health-related challenges among youth.
- *European Identity and Civic Engagement*
- **Priority:** Fostering a strong sense of European identity and encouraging active participation in European civic and democratic processes.
- **Goal:** Develop a shared European identity and engage youth in European and international activities.

Relevance to the Workshop's Objectives

- ***Engage Youth in Climate Action***

Relevance: The workshop aligns with the priority of inclusion and diversity by focusing on engaging a diverse group of youth in climate action. It ensures that marginalized and disadvantaged youth are actively involved in climate justice discussions.

- ***Enhance Digital Skills***

Relevance: By developing digital competencies, the workshop supports the goal of empowering youth and enhancing their participation. Digital skills are crucial for effective engagement in modern democratic processes and climate advocacy.

- ***Facilitate Networking and Collaboration***

Relevance: The workshop's aim to connect youth with peers, organizations, and policymakers aligns with the priority of participation and empowerment. It creates opportunities for youth to collaborate and influence decision-making processes.

Relevance to the Workshop's Objectives

- **Promote European Action-Led Initiatives**

Relevance: The workshop's focus on European-wide initiatives supports the goal of fostering a European identity and encouraging civic engagement. It helps youth see their role in broader European efforts and enhances their connection to European policies.

- **Contribute to Youth Empowerment:**

Relevance: Empowering youth through the workshop supports the priority of participation and empowerment. By equipping youth with the knowledge and skills needed for effective advocacy, the workshop contributes to their active and meaningful involvement in climate justice.

Climate Justice and Youth: Context and Challenges

Definition of Climate Justice:

- Climate Justice refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in climate-related decision-making and actions, ensuring that the benefits and burdens of climate policies are shared equitably.
- It emphasizes the need to address historical inequalities and the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, including marginalized youth, low-income populations, and developing nations.
- Climate justice seeks to integrate social equity and environmental sustainability, aiming to rectify the injustices caused by climate change and promote systemic change.

Climate Justice and Youth: Context and Challenges

Key Challenges Faced by Youth in Climate Action

1. **Limited Access to Resources and Decision-Making Platforms:**
   - Youth often lack access to critical resources, such as funding, training, and platforms to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes.
   - This limitation hinders their ability to initiate and lead climate action projects effectively.
2. **Socioeconomic and Geographical Barriers:**
   - Youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or rural areas face additional barriers, including limited access to education, technology, and networking opportunities.
   - Geographic isolation can restrict their participation in national and international climate initiatives.

Climate Justice and Youth: Context and Challenges

Key Challenges Faced by Youth in Climate Action

3. **Intersectional Inequalities:**
   - Marginalized youth, including those from indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, or LGBTQ+ backgrounds, experience intersecting forms of discrimination that compound their vulnerability to climate impacts.
   - This intersectionality necessitates tailored approaches to ensure their inclusion and effective participation in climate action.
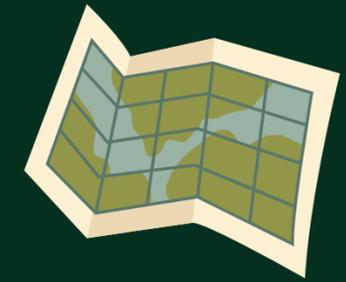4. **Lack of Representation and Agency:**
   - Youth voices are often underrepresented in climate policy discussions and decision-making processes, leading to a disconnect between the needs of young people and the policies being implemented.
   - Ensuring that youth have agency and influence in shaping climate policies is crucial for achieving equitable and effective outcomes.

Activity 1: Digital Tool Scavenger Hunt

! *Objective: Familiarize participants with various digital tools and platforms.*

Instructions:

1. **Preparation:**
   - Prepare a list of tasks and corresponding digital tools (e.g., creating a social media post, setting up a collaborative workspace).
   - Ensure all participants have access to the tools listed.
2. **Introduction:**
   - Briefly introduce each digital tool, explaining its purpose and features.
3. **Team Formation:**
   - Divide participants into small teams of 3-5 people.
4. **Scavenger Hunt:**
   - Provide each team with the task list.
   - Teams have 30-45 minutes to complete as many tasks as possible using the digital tools.
   - Each task should be documented with screenshots or links.
5. **Submission:**
   - Teams submit their completed tasks by the end of the allotted time.
6. **Review and Discussion:**
   - Review each team's submissions and discuss the effectiveness and ease of use of each tool.
   - Highlight any challenges encountered and provide tips for overcoming them.

Activity 2: Climate Justice Social Media Campaign

! Objective: Develop skills for creating impactful social media content.

Instructions:

1. Preparation:
   - Select a climate justice issue for the campaign.
   - Provide participants with guidelines for creating effective social media content.
2. Introduction:
   - Explain the objectives of the social media campaign and the importance of digital engagement in climate justice.
3. Team Formation:
   - Divide participants into small teams or let them work individually.
4. Campaign Creation:
   - Teams or individuals design a series of social media posts on the assigned climate justice issue.
   - Use tools like Canva for graphic design and schedule posts using social media management tools.
5. Presentation:
   - Each team or individual presents their social media campaign, explaining their content strategy and goals.
6. Feedback:
   - Provide feedback on the effectiveness of the campaigns, discussing what worked well and what could be improved.

Activity 3: Virtual Policy Hackathon

! *Objective: Simulate policy development and advocacy.*

Instructions:
1. Preparation:
   - Define a clear policy challenge related to climate justice.
2. Introduction:
   - Explain the policy challenge and the objectives of the hackathon.
3. Team Formation:
   - Divide participants into groups, assigning each group a role (e.g., youth advocates, policymakers, NGOs).

4. Hackathon:
   - Allow groups 60-90 minutes to brainstorm and develop policy recommendations or action plans.
   - Each group should use digital collaboration tools to organize their ideas.
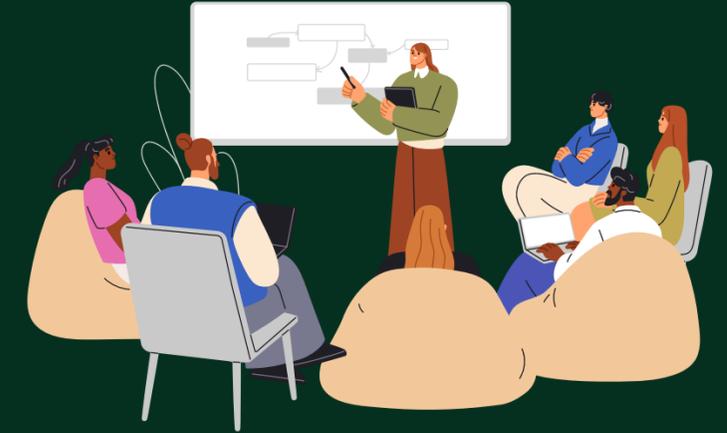5. Presentation:
   - Each group presents their policy proposals or action plans to the larger group.
6. Discussion:
   - Facilitate a discussion on the proposed solutions, providing feedback and considering potential real-world applications.

Activity 4: Interactive Data Visualization Workshop

❗ *Objective: Teach participants to present data effectively.*

Instructions:

1. Preparation:
   - Provide a dataset related to climate justice.
   - Ensure participants have access to data visualization tools.
2. Introduction:
   - Explain the importance of data visualization and its role in climate advocacy.
3. Hands-On Activity:
   - Guide participants through the process of creating visualizations using tools like Canva or Infogram.
   - Participants should work individually or in pairs to develop visual representations of the data.

4. Presentation:
   - Participants present their visualizations, explaining the data and its implications for climate justice.
5. Feedback:
   - Provide feedback on the clarity and effectiveness of the visualizations, discussing how they can be used to support advocacy efforts.

THANK YOU!

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