



Youth Laboratory Workshop: Mechanisms of meaningful youth participation in climate change governance

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CROATIA

05-08/12/2023



AKTYVIU ŽMONIŲ ASOCIACIJA
AKTYVISTAI

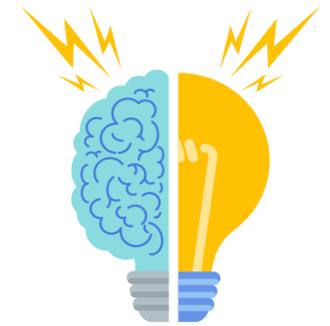


ACTIVE PEOPLE ASSOCIATION
ACTIVISTS



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EVENT OVERVIEW



EVENT FOCUS:

Strengthening youth's capacity in green public policymaking for climate change governance in Croatia

- **Specific Objective:** This emphasizes the main goal of the event, which is to enhance the skills and knowledge of young people in public policymaking, specifically in the context of climate change governance.
 - **Why This is Important:** Young people need the capacity to influence decisions on climate policies that affect their futures. By equipping them with these skills, the event aims to create a new generation of leaders who can advocate for sustainable policies at local, national, and EU levels.
 - **Contextual Relevance:** Croatia faces its own set of climate challenges, from coastal erosion to extreme weather events. The focus on local policymaking ensures that the strategies developed are relevant and actionable within the Croatian context.

EVENT OVERVIEW



TARGET AUDIENCE:

45 young people, aged 18–30, including marginalized groups

- **Details of the Audience:**

- **Number:** 45 participants, a manageable group size that allows for interactive participation and personalized guidance.
- **Age Range:** Young people aged 18–30 are targeted because they are at a formative stage where they can both influence and be influenced by policy developments. This age range also aligns with the EU and UN definitions of youth.
- **Diverse Representation:** Including marginalized groups (such as youth facing social and economic exclusion, those from rural areas, or migrant backgrounds) ensures that a broad spectrum of voices and experiences are represented. This is crucial for developing inclusive policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of all segments of society.

WHY CROATIA?



1. Local Relevance:

Croatia's unique climate challenges and the need for youth engagement in local climate governance

- **Specific Focus on Croatia:** Highlighting the unique climate challenges faced by Croatia makes the event context-specific and relevant to the participants. This can include:
 - **Climate Vulnerabilities:** Croatia is experiencing increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, more frequent and intense droughts, and rising sea levels affecting its extensive coastline. These challenges threaten biodiversity, agriculture, tourism, and local communities.
 - **National Climate Policies:** Croatia is committed to the EU's climate targets, including reaching carbon neutrality by 2050, but achieving these goals requires local-level engagement, especially from young people who can bring new perspectives and innovative solutions.
- **Need for Youth Engagement:**
 - **Critical Role of Youth:** Young people are key stakeholders in addressing climate issues since they are the ones who will face the long-term consequences. Engaging them in local climate governance empowers them to take an active role in shaping policies that directly impact their communities.
 - **Building Local Resilience:** Youth participation in local governance helps in creating context-sensitive, inclusive climate policies that reflect the unique needs of different regions in Croatia.

WHY CROATIA?



2. Youth Involvement:

Importance of Croatian youth's active role in shaping local and EU climate policies

- **Empowerment for Policy Influence:** Emphasizes that Croatian youth have the potential not only to contribute to local climate governance but also to shape EU-wide climate policies.
 - **Local to Global Impact:** Involving youth at the local level builds their capacity and confidence to engage in larger platforms, such as EU Youth Dialogues and policy consultations, influencing broader climate action agendas.
 - **Driving Innovation and Ambition:** Young people can bring fresh ideas, creativity, and a sense of urgency to climate policymaking, which is crucial for achieving ambitious climate goals.
- **Enhancing European Green Identity:** By actively participating in both local and EU-level policy discussions, Croatian youth contribute to a shared European identity centered around sustainability and climate justice.

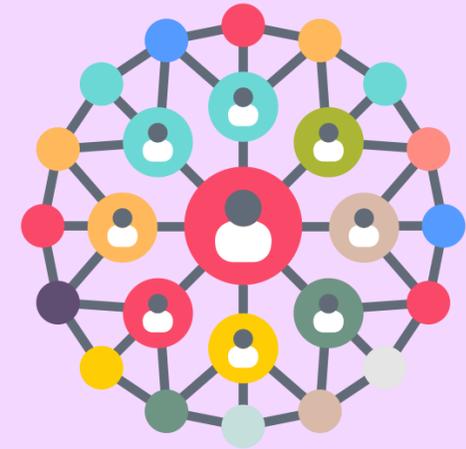
OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP



1. Key Objective: Empower Youth with Skills for Public Policymaking

- **Specific Aim:** To provide participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to effectively engage in the public policymaking process, especially concerning climate change governance.
- **Skills Focus:** This involves critical thinking, policy analysis, negotiation, advocacy, and communication skills. These are essential for young people to influence climate policies and engage meaningfully in political processes.
- **Relevance:** The emphasis on skills development is vital for bridging the gap between youth aspirations and their ability to impact decision-making processes. It ensures participants are not only aware of the issues but are also equipped to act on them.
- **Local Context:** Given Croatia's environmental challenges, this objective aligns with the need for informed local advocacy, enabling youth to drive change within their communities and contribute to national and EU-level climate governance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP



2. Key Objective: Foster Collaboration Between Youth NGOs, Policymakers, and Stakeholders

- **Purpose:** To create a platform for dialogue and cooperation among youth organizations, policymakers, and institutional stakeholders, enhancing the inclusivity and effectiveness of climate-related policies.
- **Building Networks:** The workshop aims to establish connections that encourage ongoing collaboration beyond the event. This can lead to joint initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and increased youth representation in policymaking forums.
- **Importance of Multi-stakeholder Engagement:** Climate change governance requires input from various sectors. By involving youth NGOs, policymakers, and stakeholders, the event promotes a holistic approach where diverse perspectives are integrated into policy decisions.
- **Impact on Policy Development:** Collaboration enhances the quality and acceptance of policies, as they are more likely to address the needs and priorities of all affected groups, including youth.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP



3. Key Objective: Build a Stronger European Green Identity Among Participants

- **Definition and Significance:** A "European green identity" refers to a shared commitment among youth to environmental values, sustainability, and climate action across the EU.
 - **Cultural and Social Cohesion:** This objective fosters a sense of belonging and solidarity among participants, encouraging them to see themselves as part of a larger European movement for climate justice.
 - **Motivating Collective Action:** Strengthening a common green identity can drive unified actions across different EU regions, enhancing the impact of youth-led climate initiatives.
 - **Alignment with EU Priorities:** This objective aligns with broader EU goals, such as promoting environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and active citizenship among young people.

STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP



1. Format: Youth Laboratory with Interactive Sessions, Group Discussions, and Real-World Policy Simulations

- **Youth Laboratory:** The term "Youth Laboratory" suggests an experimental and hands-on approach where participants actively engage in creating and testing new ideas for climate governance.
 - **Interactive Sessions:** These sessions are designed to be dynamic and engaging, allowing participants to actively contribute their thoughts, experiences, and ideas. This format encourages open dialogue and the exchange of diverse perspectives, fostering creativity and innovation in addressing climate issues.
 - **Group Discussions:** Group discussions provide a platform for collaborative learning, where participants can debate, analyze, and co-create solutions. This method enhances critical thinking, helps build consensus, and develops negotiation skills essential for public policymaking.

STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP



Duration: 4 days, Including Specific Sessions on Climate Justice and Policy Dialogue

- **Event Duration:** The duration of the workshop (4 days) is strategically chosen to provide sufficient time for deep engagement while remaining feasible for participants and organizers.
 - **Balanced Schedule:** A multi-day format allows for a balance between intensive learning and practical application, ensuring that participants are not overwhelmed by information and have time to reflect and integrate their learning.
 - **Sequential Learning:** The duration supports a structured agenda that builds progressively – starting with foundational knowledge sessions and advancing to more complex activities like policy simulations and hackathons.
- **Specific Sessions on Climate Justice and Policy Dialogue:**
 - **Climate Justice Sessions:** These sessions focus on understanding the principles of climate justice, such as fairness, equity, and the rights of marginalized communities. They aim to equip participants with a critical lens for evaluating climate policies and advocate for inclusive and equitable solutions.
 - **Policy Dialogue Sessions:** These sessions involve direct engagement with policymakers, stakeholders, and experts, providing participants with the opportunity to present their ideas, receive feedback, and understand the complexities of policy development. This not only enhances participants' understanding of the policymaking process but also builds confidence in communicating with decision-makers.

KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED



1. KEY TOPIC: CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE

Understanding Local, National, and EU-Level Frameworks

- **Definition and Scope:** This topic covers the different governance frameworks that exist at local, national, and EU levels, focusing on how decisions are made, who makes them, and what policies currently shape climate action.
 - **Local Level:** Emphasizes the role of local governments and communities in implementing climate policies and managing local resources sustainably. It explores how youth can engage with local authorities and advocate for localized climate solutions in Croatia.
 - **National Level:** Discusses Croatia's national climate policies, strategies, and commitments, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. It outlines how youth can influence these policies through lobbying, consultations, and participation in national youth councils.
 - **EU Level:** Examines the broader European frameworks such as the European Green Deal, EU Youth Strategy, and relevant directives that impact climate governance across member states. It highlights how Croatian youth can participate in EU-level decision-making processes, such as the EU Youth Dialogue and other forums.
- **Importance:** Provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of the different layers of governance, equipping them to identify entry points for advocacy and action at each level. Understanding these frameworks is crucial for effective participation and policy influence.

KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED



2. Key Topic: Youth Participation Mechanisms

Opportunities for Youth to Influence Policy

- **Definition and Scope:** This topic focuses on the various mechanisms through which youth can actively participate in policymaking processes and governance structures.
 - **Formal Mechanisms:** Participation in established structures such as youth councils, advisory boards, and public consultations, where young people can directly interact with decision-makers.
 - **Informal Mechanisms:** Engaging in grassroots movements, social media advocacy, and public campaigns to influence public opinion and pressure policymakers.
 - **Innovative Mechanisms:** Using digital tools (like online petitions, e-participation platforms) and creative approaches (like policy hackathons and youth assemblies) to engage in policy dialogue.
- **Importance:** Educates participants about the diverse ways they can be involved in decision-making processes, both within formal structures and through alternative, innovative approaches. It empowers them to utilize these mechanisms to voice their concerns and drive meaningful change.

KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED



3. Key Topic: Intersectionality in Climate Justice

Ensuring Inclusive and Diverse Participation

- **Definition and Scope:** Intersectionality in climate justice refers to recognizing how different aspects of a person's identity (such as race, gender, socio-economic status, disability, and more) intersect to create unique experiences of privilege or oppression in the context of climate change.
 - **Inclusive Participation:** Ensuring that marginalized groups, such as youth from rural areas, economically disadvantaged backgrounds, or minority communities, have equal opportunities to participate in climate governance.
 - **Diverse Perspectives:** Emphasizing the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives to create more equitable and effective climate policies that address the needs of all community members, not just the most privileged.
 - **Strategies for Inclusion:** Discussing specific strategies to promote inclusive participation, such as targeted outreach, accessible event formats, capacity-building workshops, and creating safe spaces for marginalized voices.
- **Importance:** Highlights the need for inclusive approaches in climate governance, ensuring that all youth, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds, have a seat at the table. This is essential for achieving fair and just climate solutions that benefit everyone, not just a select few.

LOCAL AND EU POLICY ALIGNMENT



1. Alignment with EU Youth Goals:

How This Workshop Supports the EU Youth Dialogue Priorities

- **EU Youth Goals Context:** The EU Youth Dialogue promotes 11 Youth Goals, which reflect the priorities of young people across Europe, aiming to foster youth participation in democratic and civic life, ensure inclusion and diversity, and support sustainability and climate action.
 - **Relevance to Specific EU Youth Goals:**
 - **Youth Goal 3:** Inclusive Societies: The workshop promotes inclusive participation by actively involving marginalized groups and fostering an environment where all voices are heard, supporting diverse youth representation.
 - **Youth Goal 4:** Information and Constructive Dialogue: Encourages open communication channels between youth, NGOs, and policymakers, fostering constructive dialogue and transparent decision-making processes on climate governance.
 - **Youth Goal 9:** Sustainable Green Europe: Directly aligns with the goal of promoting a green Europe by equipping young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for and shape sustainable policies at local, national, and EU levels.
 - **EU Youth Dialogue Priorities:** This workshop aligns with the ongoing EU Youth Dialogue process by promoting youth engagement in policy dialogues, supporting active citizenship, and building the capacities necessary for meaningful participation in democratic life.
- **Importance:** Aligning with EU Youth Goals ensures that the workshop's outcomes contribute to broader European objectives, thereby strengthening its impact and relevance across member states.

LOCAL AND EU POLICY ALIGNMENT



2. Croatian Context:

Relevance to National Climate Strategies and Youth Policies

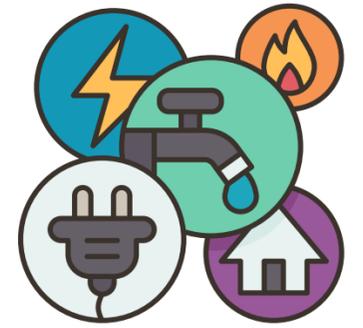
National Climate Strategies

- **Alignment with Croatian Climate Commitments:** Croatia, as an EU member state, has committed to various national climate strategies, including the Low-Carbon Development Strategy and the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). This workshop aligns with these strategies by fostering youth-led initiatives and policy advocacy that support national efforts to achieve climate targets.
- **Local Climate Challenges:** The workshop's focus on green public policymaking is particularly relevant to addressing local issues such as coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, and extreme weather events in Croatia. Engaging youth in local governance helps tailor climate solutions to the specific environmental challenges faced by Croatian communities.

National Youth Policies

- **Alignment with Croatian Youth Policy:** The Croatian Youth Strategy emphasizes youth empowerment, inclusion, and participation in public life. This workshop enhances youth engagement in policymaking processes, aligning with national priorities to involve young people in shaping the country's future.
- **Promoting Active Citizenship:** By involving young people in discussions on climate change governance, the workshop promotes active citizenship, one of the key priorities of Croatia's youth policies. It encourages young participants to take ownership of their role in climate action, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and engagement.
- **Importance:** Highlighting the Croatian context ensures that the workshop's activities are grounded in local realities and that participants understand the relevance of their contributions to both national and EU-level policies.

BUILDING GREEN PUBLIC POLICYMAKING SKILLS



1. Skills Focus:

Analyzing Policy

- **Definition and Scope:** This involves understanding and evaluating existing climate policies and their impacts, strengths, and weaknesses.
 - **Why It Matters:** To effectively influence and design policies, participants need to be able to critically assess current policies, identify gaps, and propose improvements.
 - **Relevance to the Workshop:** Helps participants gain the analytical skills necessary for informed advocacy and decision-making in climate governance.

Critical Thinking

- **Definition and Scope:** Involves questioning assumptions, analyzing arguments, and evaluating evidence related to climate policies and their effectiveness.
 - **Why It Matters:** Critical thinking is essential for developing well-founded policy recommendations and for engaging in meaningful policy debates.
 - **Relevance to the Workshop:** Equips participants with the ability to challenge existing paradigms and contribute innovative solutions to climate issues.

BUILDING GREEN PUBLIC POLICYMAKING SKILLS

Participatory Methods

- **Definition and Scope:** Techniques and approaches that facilitate active engagement of various stakeholders, including marginalized groups, in the policymaking process.
 - **Why It Matters:** Ensures that policies are inclusive and reflect the needs and perspectives of all affected groups, leading to more equitable and effective climate action.
 - **Relevance to the Workshop:** Provides participants with tools to foster inclusive dialogue and collaborative decision-making, enhancing their ability to engage diverse voices in climate policy.

Project Design

- **Definition and Scope:** The process of planning, developing, and implementing projects aimed at addressing climate challenges, including setting objectives, creating action plans, and evaluating outcomes.
 - **Why It Matters:** Effective project design ensures that initiatives are well-structured, actionable, and aligned with policy goals.
 - **Relevance to the Workshop:** Enables participants to turn their ideas into concrete projects that can drive change and contribute to sustainable development.

BUILDING GREEN PUBLIC POLICYMAKING SKILLS

2. Hands-On Practice:

Policy Hackathons

- **Definition and Scope:** Intensive, time-bound workshops where participants collaborate to develop policy solutions or innovations related to climate governance.
 - Purpose: Provides a dynamic environment for applying theoretical knowledge to practical problems, encouraging creative and collaborative problem-solving.
 - Relevance to the Workshop: Allows participants to test their skills in a real-world context, simulate the policymaking process, and generate actionable solutions to climate challenges.



ENHANCING EUROPEAN GREEN IDENTITY



GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON EUROPEAN VALUES, CLIMATE JUSTICE, AND SHARED GOALS

- **European Values:**

- Focus: Engage participants in discussions about core European values such as solidarity, democracy, human rights, and sustainability.
- Purpose: To create a common understanding of these values and how they underpin climate action across the EU.
- Relevance: By linking these values to climate governance, participants can see how their contributions align with broader European ideals, fostering a deeper connection to the EU's mission for sustainability.

- **Climate Justice:**

- Focus: Discussions centered on understanding and addressing inequalities in climate impacts and responsibilities, both within and across European societies.
- Purpose: To highlight the importance of a just transition and ensure that climate policies are fair and inclusive.
- Relevance: Encourages participants to consider diverse perspectives, especially those of marginalized communities, promoting a more inclusive approach to European climate action.

ENHANCING EUROPEAN GREEN IDENTITY



→ OUTCOME

**STRENGTHENING A SENSE OF BELONGING TO A COLLECTIVE
EUROPEAN GREEN MOVEMENT**

Definition and Scope: Creating a shared identity among participants that transcends national borders, centered around common values and goals for climate action.

- **Why It Matters:** A strong sense of belonging to a collective European green movement can motivate young people to engage more actively in environmental advocacy and policymaking at local, national, and EU levels.
- **Relevance to the Workshop:** Reinforces the idea that participants are part of a larger, pan-European effort to achieve sustainability and climate justice, fostering unity and solidarity.



THANK YOU!

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