

# UNECE ad hoc meeting YOUTH

17.& 18.02.2020

Venue: Ministry of Climate Action, Vienna

- Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Climate Action, Environment,  
Energy, Mobility,  
Innovation and Technology



Belarus



Norway



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Austria



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Estonia



UNECE ad hoc meeting

2020

Ministry of Environment

Peter Iwaniewicz, Austrian Ministry for Climate Action

# Inputs from Austrian Youth Organisations

- **Clara Porak** (CliMates Austria)
- **Katharina Rogenhofer** (Citizen`s initiative on climate & Fridays for Future)
- **Nathan Spees** (WWF Austria, Generation Earth)  
with  
**Bernhard Ottinger**, Generation Earth Steering Committee member &  
**Franziska Pezzei**, co-lead on an EU Water Framework Directive youth-  
WWF project as “good practice”

# Questions

- What are your recommendations for the mobilization of young people in (international) sustainability processes?
- Which actions and methods would you implement, if money was no object?

# Mobilisation & Involvement

- Believe in each person that they can do something and make them believe in it themselves. Structure is important so that people can get involved
- take young people seriously and learn to think outside the box: new structures, new forms of engagement (e.g. just show up on Fridays). Use specific talents and passion, empower people to create their own project
- Give creative freedom, open structures (not the same feeling as in schools); Respect, take them and their concern seriously;
- Motivation and rewards (e.g. the feeling of community, something they get back, some sort of recognition);
- Save environment: Family feeling, experimentation, if something doesn't work out you can come to a safe haven.

# Advised Actions

- Climate action and climate justice has to be an issue to everybody: Every school, ministry, company
- Reinstall small structures of decision making and getting active. Install little bubbles of decision making, of democracy
- You can't push up everybody, you have to focus on change makers. You need to find the change makers and build them up

# Other Recommendations

- How to reach young people all over the world?  
Think outside of the box: Use social media and informal communities and networks. Talk to people directly. E.g.: News outlets that are young and direct have environmental sections, use younger media
- Funding: Ministries, LCOY is picking up money (crowd funding), association fees for members
- If a country is not yet fully democratic, what to do as Minister: Create a new social image of leaders for young people to orientation.



# Discussion on Best practice

**Group 1:** How does your country involve young people in sustainability processes?

National youth strategy and via different NGOs, Youth Councils

Time and money shouldn't be the main issue, instead passion.  
Test your ideas in a smaller field and then expand.

Create Councils and networks in your country, make clear goals for conferences, see youth as part of society.

Mobility is an important issue for young people especially from rural areas, problems to participate at conferences and meetings.  
Use synergies of governmental frameworks and newly established frameworks and other structures

# Group 2

What do you think about the recommendations of the speakers? Are they realistic? Could they be implemented in your countries?

- Need for national umbrella organisations that are properly funded and are working as intermediate between youth organisations and government.
- Digital inclusion of the youth, so you reach those who are not in formal associations as well.
- Educate and train people to dare to speak up for themselves.
- Simplify language so that everybody can participate. Laws need to be transparent. Budgets that are open and transparent, so that people can see where the money is going.
- Develop access for youth associations to ministries. The youth representative should be a good representative with a good touch to the people she/he represents.

# Group 3

Best practice examples of youth engagement in your country

- Cooperation, global youth network, global youth working groups, national working groups, digital networking groups, platforms on a national level in national language to reach as many people as possible.
- Implement checklists for countries, so they have a tool to check what ways there are to include youth into the process.
- Problem with active people in youth councils : After one year delegates leave and are out of touch. Implement an online platform for continued communication

# Group presentation

## Strand 1: Whole institution approach

- Complicated topic, simplification is needed so that more people can read and understand it; young people are missing, because they don't have the space.
- Youth participation should not be mandatory, but at least feedback should be taken into account.
- Working with this kind of document is not easy for young people, the content should be more user friendly and interactive so that young people can understand it.
- Maybe also use Social Media or “democracy bubbles” that already exist and make it more accessible. In addition, documents on the local level could be used to help the process, e.g. a document in Estonia.
- We have to make youth the owners of the process; we have to give them the instruments and the framework to engage. The recommendations should be broken down to local level so that people can work with them and use them. We should use “meaningful participation”.

# Strand 2: Quality Education

- Include youth in the planning and discussion about QE
- Look through all the places where you list necessary actors and add youth. Ask yourself why youth is already not included
- The process of ESD should always be between youth (also leaders) and teachers (even non formal ones). Its not a one way directional process
- give youth empowerment to find solutions which also help society to become more sustainable
- only take documents which help involving youth from text to action

# Strand 3: Digital Education

- introduce digital tools, youth is an integral part, introduce youth to steering committees
- establish and develop a global youth network and use digital tools for that
- use social media as a tool
- take into account the digital education action plan
- basic infrastructure is needed before digitalization
- we can't discuss digitalization without proper infrastructure and basis.

# Strand 4: Entrepreneurship, employment and innovation

- Need for smaller groups based on the strands
- Mainstream youth because young people are entering the job market
- The mission should go in the line of education for sustainable economy
- Learning, experiencing and researching: young people need to learn (get proper information), experience (projects, internships, learn by doing) and have their own research
- Missing: More in line with the quality and sustainable economy and engagement and circular economy; There is a need of definition on green economy
- Establish an online platform to share documents, experiences and knowledge

# Worksession 1

## Presentation: Youth and ESD

### **Aravella Zachariou**

UNECE – Chairwoman of the Steering Committee on ESD, Head of the Unit of EESD, CPI, Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth



# Worksession 2

Introduction of the main questions for discussion and the draft of the concept note

**Simon Herteleer**

Youth Focal Point, UNECE Steering Committee on ESD

**Thank you for your attention**  
**спасибо за Ваше внимание**