

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Network, Dedalus, CIP, Pacto Verde, HESED, GEYC, CB
PIC number:	937465231, 942198928, 940477275, 949600222, 945217859, 889495433, 918685934
Project name and acronym:	Youth Involvement in the European Democratic Debate through Journalism— EFIVOS in Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	WP 4
Type:	Workshops on climate change
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Athens, Naples, Nicosia, Huelva, Sofia & Kyustendil, Bucharest, Copenhagen
Date(s):	17/11-15/12
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.geyc.ro/2023/12/unlocking-climate-consciousness.html
Participants	
Female:	119
Male:	82
Non-binary:	
From country 1 Greece	21
From country 2 Italy	56
From country 3 Cyprus	21
From country 4 Spain	20
From country 5 Bulgaria	24
From country 6 Romania	31
From country 7 Denmark	28
Total number of participants:	201
	countries
	7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The objective of these workshops were to impart knowledge to young people about the political decisions made in the European Union regarding climate issues and to help them understand the strategies for implementation. Core sessions delved into key aspects: EU Climate Change Policies, the Climate Change Agenda, Key EU Institutions, and EU Actions and Programs. The participants were Roma, young people for deprived areas and unaccompanied foreign minors coming from also non-European Union countries such as Egypt, Pakistan, Mali, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Morocco. The participants had an age range between 13 and 24 years old.

The majority of participants had limited familiarity with European climate change policies, recognizing concepts like the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda but showing a lack of awareness regarding the European Green Pact. The participants initially lacked detailed knowledge about their countries implementation of European climate policies. The consensus among participants was a shared recognition of the formidable difficulties associated with attaining the ambitious goal of climate neutrality by the designated year.

The workshop focuses on climate change as a critical challenge, looking at risks, impacts and future plans. It focuses on temperature changes, extreme events, sea-level rise and deteriorating air quality, highlighting the risks to the environment, health and the economy. It sets out the EU's position, highlighting policies to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity and promote resilience. It also looks at national applications, highlighting cooperation between Member States. Finally, it highlights key EU policies, including emission reduction targets and the Green Deal, and invites discussion on challenges and barriers.

Participants engaged in a discussion focused on discerning the roles these institutions play in shaping and implementing climate policies. The conversation illustrated the significance of legislative bodies in driving policy initiatives, emphasizing the need for legislative commitments, robust enforcement mechanisms, and continuous collaboration to effectively combat climate change.

Participants brainstormed various strategies, ranging from incentivizing renewable energy investments and enhancing energy efficiency standards to promoting sustainable agriculture and fostering innovation in green technologies. Suggestions also included the establishment of comprehensive recycling programs, the implementation of stricter emissions regulations, and the encouragement of public private partnerships for sustainable development. proposals respond to the needs of the community and offer concrete measures that seek to reduce emissions and promote sustainable transportation.

One partner used Mentimeter to gather suggestions, another one played a fun activity: a "Kahoot" quiz concerning all the issues addressed or in another case the participants produced real Christmas decoration from reusable and second-hand materials. A partner projected a short documentary in Arabic with Italian subtitles about the drought in Tunisia, which was particularly interesting for the Arab participants. After a moment of sharing ideas about the documentary they addressed the issue of sea pollution, which mostly consists of plastic and fossil fuels and illustrated the phenomenon of trash islands all above the oceans. A partner had different guest speakers, including Citizen Science projects' practitioners and researchers and members of Citizens in Power working on environmental projects.

At the end all of them declared the training was interesting and useful and even if not sure if they could live without producing 0 waste, they thought there should be more wide public discussions, better regulations and penalties and at least we all should try to use less staff and reduce consuming. They were highly intrigued by how relevant all of their day-to-day problems are as they relate to climate. Highlight the workshop's emphasis on individual responsibility, illustrating how collective impact stems from individual actions contributing to overarching climate objectives. They were happily surprised to see the EU investing so many resources in such issues.



*EFIVOS in Europe - Youth Participation
in the Democratic Process through
Journalism and Media
101081482*



Workshop 4 Guidelines



"The EU and Climate Change: Policies, Agenda, Institutions and Actions"

Estimated duration: 2 hours

Workshop Objectives:

- To understand the role of the EU in the fight against climate change.
- To explore key EU policies, institutions and actions in this field.
- To encourage active participation and discussion among participants.

Participants:

Participants are adolescents aged 13-24 from all cultural, ethnic and social backgrounds, including young people with a refugee/immigrant background, without exclusion. There will be a list of participants to be signed for statistical and reporting purposes.

There will be 2 groups of a total of 22 adolescents/young people:

22 adolescents aged 13-14 years.

Workshop structure:

I. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Welcome and introduction by the facilitator.
- Brief introduction to climate change and its importance.
- Presentation of the objectives of the workshop.

II. EU Climate Change Policies (20 minutes)

- Presentation of key EU policies and commitments on climate change.
- Shocking facts and figures:
 - "The EU is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050".
 - "The European Green Deal aims to transform the EU economy by 2030".
- Debate: What challenges does the EU face in implementing these policies?

III. EU Climate Change Agenda (20 minutes)

- Discussion on the EU climate agenda, including the long-term strategy for 2050.
- Inspirational quote: "We don't have a plan B because there is no planet B" - Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.
- Questions for discussion: How do you think the EU can achieve carbon neutrality by 2050? What are the main obstacles?

IV. Key EU Institutions in the Fight against Climate Change (20 minutes)



- Presentation of key institutions, such as the European Commission and the European Parliament.
- Example of action: "The European Parliament declared a climate emergency in 2019".
- Discussion: What is the role of these institutions in climate policy making?

V. EU Actions and Programmes (20 minutes)

- Discussion on concrete programmes and actions, such as the Just Transition Fund and LIFE, the Circular Economy Action Programme, etc.
- Interesting facts: "The EU has allocated €30 billion to the Just Transition Fund to support regions in transition".
- Questions for discussion: What other actions can EU countries take to combat climate change?

VI. Debate and Question Time (15 minutes)

- Invite participants to ask questions and share their views.
- Encourage discussion on possible solutions and additional challenges.

VII. Conclusions and Personal Commitments (10 minutes)

- Summary of the key points of the workshop.
- Invite participants to commit to personal actions to contribute to the fight against climate change.

VIII. Closing (5 minutes)

- Thank participants and hand out additional resources.
- Materials and Resources:
 - PowerPoint presentation or similar slides.
 - Sheets of paper and pens for active participation.
 - Internet access for additional information.
 - Printed documents with relevant facts and figures.

This workshop should help participants to better understand EU policies and actions in the fight against climate change, as well as inspire them to take positive action in their own lives. Make sure to foster an open and participatory environment to promote meaningful discussion.



Educational content

Fighting climate change

Sustainable development is a fundamental principle of the Treaty on the European Union and a priority objective of the EU's internal and external policies.

Under the European climate law, EU countries must cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. Their goal is to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050.

The EU is one of the leading major economies in tackling the problem of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2020, the EU's greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 31% compared to 1990 levels - its lowest level in 30 years - exceeding the EU's Kyoto Protocol target of reducing emissions by 20% by 2020. The Commission presented the European Green Deal in 2019 and is now proposing a package of measures to raise its ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 55% by 2030 and decarbonise the EU economy by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement.

Aims and achievements

The European Union has set a number of targets and actions to tackle climate change and move towards carbon neutrality. These include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy and improving energy efficiency. The following actions are highlighted:

- Emission reductions: The EU has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Sectoral targets have also been set for areas such as transport and agriculture.
- Renewable energy: The EU aims for at least 32% of total energy consumption to come from renewable sources by 2030. Each Member State must draw up plans to promote renewable energy in sectors such as electricity generation and transport.



- Energy efficiency: A target has been set to improve energy efficiency by 32.5% by 2030. Measures have been taken to improve efficiency in buildings and energy systems.
- Emissions trading: The EU operates a carbon market, where greenhouse gas emissions are capped and emissions trading between industrial installations is allowed.
- Carbon capture and storage technology: The EU seeks to implement technologies to capture and store carbon dioxide (CO₂) from industrial emissions.
- Vehicle emission standards: CO₂ emission standards have been set for new vehicles, with the aim of reducing emissions and promoting cleaner technologies.
- Cleaner fuels: The EU is working on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fuels, including the use of biofuels.
- Maritime transport: Measures have been implemented to monitor and reduce CO₂ emissions from international maritime transport.
- Control of fluorinated gases: Measures have been taken to control and phase out the use of fluorinated gases, which have a high global warming potential.
- European Green Pact: The EU has presented the European Green Pact, a set of measures to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, including more ambitious targets to reduce emissions and encourage sustainable investments.

In summary, the EU is taking concrete steps to tackle climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly economy.

A climate-neutral EU by 2050

In December 2019, EU leaders, meeting within the European Council, agreed that the EU should achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

Becoming climate-neutral means that, by 2050, EU countries will have to drastically reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and find ways of compensating for the remaining and unavoidable emissions to reach a **net-zero emissions balance**.

In its conclusions, the European Council underlined that the transition to climate neutrality brings significant opportunities for:



- economic growth
- markets and jobs
- technological development

EU leaders asked the Commission to take forward work on the **European Green Deal**.

They also recognised the need to ensure that the green transition is cost-effective, as well as **socially balanced** and **fair**.

 A climate neutral EU... what does it mean?

At least 55% fewer emissions by 2030

Exactly a year later, in December 2020, EU leaders took a further step towards climate neutrality. As an intermediate step towards the 2050 goal, they agreed to more than halve (compared to 1990 levels) the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

The new goal was a major step up from the EU's previous 2030 target of cutting emissions by 40% agreed in 2014.

Leaders called on the European Commission to put forward proposals so that countries could reach the 2030 goal, including by:

- Improving green finance standards
- Strengthening the EU emission trading system
- Spurring climate-friendly innovation
- Ensuring fairness and cost-effectiveness

From climate goals to EU law

In June 2021, the Council adopted the **European climate law** – a key element of the European Green Deal. With it, EU countries are legally obliged to reach both the 2030 and 2050 climate goals.



The climate law sets the framework for actions to be taken by the EU and the member states to progressively reduce emissions and ultimately reach climate neutrality in the EU by 2050.

Also in June 2021, the Council approved conclusions endorsing the new **EU strategy on adaptation to climate change** presented by the Commission. The strategy outlines a long-term vision for the EU to become a **climate-resilient society** that is fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change by 2050.

Another key part of the EU's work towards climate neutrality is the so-called '**Fit for 55 package**'. A set of proposals for revision of existing legislation and new initiatives, it is the EU's key plan to turn climate goals into EU law.

The package includes rules on:

- energy
- transport
- emissions trading and reductions
- land use and forestry

By June 2022, EU countries agreed on a Council position on most of the Fit for 55 proposals. Negotiations with the European Parliament are currently ongoing on these proposals.

Financing the EU's climate transition

The shift towards a climate-friendly economy will require major **public and private investment**.

EU countries have committed to spending 30% of the EU's long-term budget for 2021-2027 and Next Generation EU for climate-related projects.

To ensure that the climate transition is fair, the EU has introduced a **just transition mechanism** which aims to provide financial and technical support to the regions most affected by the move towards a low-carbon economy. Up to €90 billion is to be mobilised to this end.



Why is the green transition necessary?

Latest scientific reports show **unprecedented changes** in the world's climate. Global warming is causing increased – and in some cases irreversible – changes to rainfall patterns, oceans and winds in all regions of the world.

Higher temperatures and intensified weather events result in **huge costs for the EU's economy** and impact countries' ability to produce food.

Some facts:

- climate-related events over the last 40 years have caused more than €487 billion in financial losses in the EU
- between 1980 and 2020, over 138 000 people in the EU lost their lives due to extreme weather and climate-related events
- the economic cost of river flooding in Europe exceeds €5 billion a year on average
- forest fires cause about €2 billion of economic damage every year

The European Union in the fight against climate change

- The European Climate Law
- The 2030 Framework for Energy and Climate and the "Fit for 55" Objective 55
- Adapting to climate change in the EU: the European Adaptation Strategy
- EU climate change reporting obligations
- The EU in the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Energy and Climate Change Package 2013-2020

European climate change policy is part of a cross-cutting approach and is framed in the context of the Green Climate Pact. This pact, proposed by the President of the European Commission in December 2019, is outlined as the European Union's economic growth strategy and includes a package of policy initiatives that aim to put the EU on the path



towards a green transition, with the objective of achieving climate neutrality in the EU by 2050. It is the basis for the transformation of the EU into an equitable and prosperous society with a modern and competitive economy. The package includes initiatives covering climate, environment, energy, transport, industry, agriculture and sustainable finance, all of which are closely linked.

The EU's commitment to tackling climate change is also integrated into its budgetary policy. So much so that the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 allocates at least 30% of its resources to climate action.

This commitment is extended in the context of the EU Recovery Plan whereby 30% of the EU budget and NextGenerationEU resources will be allocated to climate action, mobilising unprecedented resources for climate action.

More specifically, European climate change policy is determined by the various legislative packages adopted to date. In particular, the 2020 Energy and Climate Change Package and the 2030 Energy and Climate Framework should be highlighted. Both respond to the European commitment to a decarbonisation of the EU economy, and to a Union resilient to climate change.

The European framework determines, to a large extent, the adoption of measures and initiatives in Spain to achieve the emission reduction targets agreed at European level and to reach the rest of the Community objectives related to climate change.

The main European instruments for combating climate change are highlighted below.

The European Climate Law

The European Climate Law, adopted in June 2021, establishes and defines the objective of climate neutrality in the EU by 2050 and provides a framework for advancing efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change, whereby all Member States must put in place adaptation strategies and plans.

In addition, it sets a binding EU target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions (emissions after removals) by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. In order to ensure that sufficient action is taken to reduce and avoid emissions by 2030, the Climate Act introduces a limit of 225 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent to the contribution of removals to this target. It also sets the next EU emission reduction target for 2040.

The Act also puts in place a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of progress by the Commission to assess, at both European and national level, every five years, progress



towards the climate neutrality and adaptation objective and the consistency of European and Member States' policies with these objectives.

To carry out this assessment exercise, the Law establishes that the Commission must base itself on an indicative linear trajectory that establishes the emissions reduction pathway from the 2030 emissions reduction target set out in the text to climate neutrality in 2050.

It also includes a review clause whereby, every five years, the functioning of this regulation must be reviewed, opening the door for the Commission to present proposals if necessary.

The European Climate Law also establishes a European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, which has been set up under the umbrella of the European Environment Agency. This Council will provide independent scientific advice and prepare reports on EU action, climate targets, indicative greenhouse gas budgets and consistency with European climate legislation and the EU's international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

[Ley Europea del Clima](#)

The 2030 Framework for Energy and Climate and the ("Fit for 55")

The European Council in October 2014 agreed on the EU's framework for climate and energy action until 2030. Considering this time horizon, an ambitious economy-wide greenhouse gas emission reduction target was set.

- to reduce GHG emissions by at least 40% compared to 1990 by 2030
- raising the share of renewables in final energy consumption to above 27%, subsequently increasing to 32%.
- improve energy efficiency by at least 27%, subsequently increased to 32.5%.
- take urgent action to reach a minimum target of 10% of electricity interconnections by 2020 and 15% by 2030.

Since then, the EU has been reviewing and increasing its level of ambition. The latest review was in December 2020 when European leaders agreed to increase the 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to at least 55% (compared to 1990) from the previous 40%.

The greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments included in the 2030 framework represent the targets to which the European Union is committed in the context of the Paris Agreement and are set out in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that the EU has submitted to the United Nations.

In order to achieve the climate objective of reducing its emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990, and because the way to achieve these reductions differs according to the sectors affected, work has been carried out in two large sectoral blocks since 2005:



- The most energy-intensive sectors (electricity generation, refining, iron and steel, cement, paper and cardboard, glass, ceramics, etc.), which are jointly regulated in the EU under the European Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) created by Directive 2003/87/EC, and which account for around 40% of the European Union's emissions. They will have to reduce their emissions by 61% compared to their 2005 emission levels.
- The remaining sectors (buildings, transport, agriculture and livestock, waste management, fluorinated gases and small industry not included in the previous block) are regulated by national targets and represent around 60% of emissions. These are known as diffuse sectors. These emissions must be reduced by 40% compared to 2005 levels.

The "fit for 55" package

In order to achieve the new target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% below 1990 levels by 2030, European energy and climate legislation needs to be revised. Therefore, in July 2021 the European Commission presented a set of legislative proposals, known as the Fit for 55 Package, aimed at reviewing and updating EU legislation and launching new initiatives to ensure that EU policies are in line with this new -55% target. The aim of this package of proposals is to provide a coherent and balanced framework for achieving the EU's climate objectives that ensures a socially just and equitable transition; maintains and strengthens the innovation and competitiveness of EU industry while ensuring a level playing field vis-à-vis economic operators from third countries; and underpins the EU's leading position in the global fight against climate change.

The proposals are currently under negotiation.

Adapting to climate change in the EU: the European Adaptation Strategy

In April 2013, the EU adopted the European Adaptation Strategy, the European framework for adaptation to climate change. The Strategy consists of three objectives in the form of 8 actions, which aim to promote the establishment of adaptation strategies in the Member States, improve decision-making in this area and promote adaptation in the most vulnerable sectors.



The Strategy Communication was accompanied by a series of papers on specific sectors or themes (migration, coastal adaptation, health, infrastructure), as well as a set of guidelines for the development of adaptation strategies, the integration of adaptation into Cohesion Policy programmes and investments, and the integration of adaptation into Rural Development Programmes.

In February 2021 the European Commission adopted the new European Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, intended as an instrument to build a climate-resilient society by improving knowledge of climate impacts and adaptation solutions; stepping up adaptation planning and climate risk assessments; accelerating adaptation action; and helping to strengthen resilience to climate change on a global scale.

EU climate change reporting obligations

Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action establishes an EU governance mechanism aimed at facilitating the achievement of the general objectives of the Energy Union and, in particular, the specific objectives relating to the 2030 climate and energy policy framework, in the field of GHG emission reductions, energy from renewable sources and energy efficiency.

The UNFCCC requires the Union and its Member States to develop, regularly update, publish and make available to the Conference of the Parties national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs using comparable methodologies agreed by the Conference of the Parties. This regulation sets out the mechanisms for estimating these emissions and removals. It also sets out reporting requirements for national policies and measures and projections of emissions and removals.

The regulation also seeks to ensure the provision of information by Member States on their adaptation to climate change and the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to developing countries, thereby facilitating the implementation of the EU's commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Finally, it also includes an obligation for Member States to report on the use of revenues received from the auctioning of allowances under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

The EU vis-à-vis the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change



The EU is a party to the UNFCCC and as such has a number of obligations, some of which are listed below:

- Submit and maintain a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.
- Formulate and communicate a long-term strategy for low greenhouse gas emissions development, also within the scope of the Paris Agreement
- submit annual greenhouse gas inventories under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol (the latter in 2022)
- Submit biennial reports under the UNFCCC (the latest, the fourth, together with corresponding tabular data)
- Submitting National Communications on its climate change actions to the UNFCCC (the last, the seventh, in 2017)

From 2024, the EU will submit biennial Paris Agreement Transparency Reports.

Energy and Climate Change Package 2013-2020

The European Energy and Climate Change Package 2013-2020 was adopted in 2008. It consists of binding legislation, setting targets for 2020 for renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions. It also introduces new elements such as carbon capture and storage and aviation.

The main objective was to lay the foundations for meeting the climate change and energy commitments made by the European Council in 2007:

- Reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, and by 30% if other developed countries commit to equivalent emission reductions and developing countries contribute adequately according to their potential.
- Achieve the 20% target for renewable energy consumption by 2020.
- Achieve 20% energy efficiency improvement by 2020.

The EU has more than met the 2020 emissions reduction target.