



Engaging Youth in Sustainable Energy Planning (EYES)

Recommendations for local Climate and Energy Planning by young people

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Table of Contents

- Introduction..... 5**
- Objectives of the EYES Project 5
- Objectives of the output..... 5
- Approach..... 6
- Guiding principles..... 7
- Focus areas 8
- 1 Denmark..... 10**
- Guiding principles.....10
- Focus areas11
- Permanent structure proposed16
- Conclusions.....17
- 2 Spain 19**
- Guiding principles.....19
- Focus areas19
- Permanent structure proposed24
- Conclusions.....25
- 3 Italy..... 27**
- Guiding principles.....27
- Focus areas28
- Permanent structure proposed30
- Conclusions.....32
- 4 France 33**
- Guiding principles.....33
- Focus areas33
- Permanent structure proposed36
- 5 Bulgaria..... 38**



Guiding Principles38

Focus areas39

Permanent structure proposed40

Conclusions.....40

6 Poland 42

Guiding principles.....42

Focus areas43

Permanent structure proposed45

Conclusions.....46



Introduction

Objectives of the EYES Project

The main objective of the EYES project (*Engaging Youth in Sustainable Energy Planning*) financed by the European educational program Erasmus+, is to engage young people in the local climate- and energy-planning process. The project strives to create, implement and evaluate an innovative way for youngsters to get more involved in the public matters of their municipality. Climate change is a global threat and often the young people feel that they find themselves irrelevant in the public debate. Therefore, the project has focused on empowering the youngsters and creating a safe space to learn and develop active citizenship, while getting more engaged.

This output gathers the recommendations elaborated by the Young Intervention Teams (YITs) after the research and validation period they conducted to elaborate recommendations to policymakers. It also includes an evaluation on the key issues identified during the EYES project process. This output reflects on the youth views, including the vulnerable groups of youth and it is a result of the work done by the YIT together with the Advisory Board in each participating municipality. The reader should note that there is a version for each pilot involved in the EYES project (Denmark, Spain, Italy, France, Poland and Bulgaria) and that this is the compilation of all the pilots.

Objectives of the output

This output derives from the upscaling part of the project. It upscales the methodology to six pilots, but it also upscales the activities performed by the core group of Young Intervention Teams (YITs), formed by 10-20 members, to a larger group of youngsters, and the scope of the research, analysis and communication of the results developed by them. It therefore means that the activities performed by the YIT, even if might be more challenging, are more likely to result in consolidating specific skills, self-confidence, and civic involvement by the YIT members.



Approach

Overall this reflects a summarizing process by the YIT members where they have structured the findings from the EYES Survey which focused on topics of importance for the youth in the climate and energy planning process and barriers for engaging them efficiently into the process.

This process has led to:

- Identification of strategic principles in relation to the general research and the findings from the survey.
- Identification of focus areas in relation to “Youth Citizens” and “Youth Engagement”.
- Elaboration of activities and key aspects within these focus areas to improve the energy and climate plans incorporating the youth perspective, engaging youth, and seeking social inclusion.

All this has been done with the accompaniment of the Advisory Boards (AB) and the local project partners, who have guided them to draw conclusions and concrete recommendations through various working sessions with the YIT. Guiding principles and focus areas



Within each country the strategies developed include a set of guiding principles determined collaboratively with the Advisory Board and the Project Team. These are to guide all engagement efforts with youth.

Further various focus areas are defined reflecting the priorities identified by the Youth through their research and in workshops with the Advisory Board and the Project. Each Focus Area contains specific actions to implement the recommendations given in relation to the area.

Guiding principles

The guiding principles defined particularly reflect the situation in each of the pilot cities and the research done by the individual Youth Intervention Teams in cooperation with the ABs..They can be considered core values and principles that effectively reflect the common beliefs and understandings in relation to engaging youth in the local planning processes.

Some of the common principles identified in the pilot cities include:

- **Focus on stages of life, not ages** (gymnasium/high school student, young adult, university student, young professional, young politician). Each needs a different approach to become engaged in planning discussions.
- **Put youth in positions of influence.** Youth engagement works best when they see their peers in positions of influence, it gives them greater confidence that their interests and perspectives will be respected and reflected.
- **Be active where youth are.** Meeting youth in the physical and virtual spaces they inhabit or use can bring them into dialogues in a way that is convenient for them, and thereby it will be easier to attract their interest.
- **Facilitate partnerships.** Cooperating with youth-focused organizations will help youth to get an interest in climate and energy planning and build their capacity.
- **Building relationships** are key to building and sustaining positive youth involvement. They must be built on respect and trust. Working in partnerships means youth have a voice in decision processes and both adults and youth are valued for their contributions.
- **Make it fun and cool.** Youth are more likely to participate in a process that is fun, creative or social.



- **Setting examples.** Youth may follow examples set in the education institutions, the community and by peers and celebrities. Youth will listen to young and famous persons speaking to them about the issue. Encourage positive role models and messages.
- **Engaging youth should be a learning process.** The voluntary engagement should be rewarded by diplomas, recommendations or other ways of accreditation.

Focus areas

The focus areas as indicated reflect the main priorities and recommendations given by the youth and contain specific sections to implement the recommendations. As with the guiding principles these are related to the situation in each pilot.

Some main features given by the recommendations can be summarised as:

- Improving **learning** in education on sustainability and climate planning, and collaborating with **education** institutes and businesses to build/promote professional careers within the climate and energy sector. Such structures are in place in most of the pilot cities to some extent but needs further development according to the recommendations given.
- Establishing **partnerships** engaging unemployed youth and volunteers (e.g. Youth Ambassadors, services for other groups, various city services related to sustainability)
- Establishing physical and digital structures that improve **communication** towards the youth group, for example forums that enable youth to connect with and learn from each other and where they can also connect socially with their peers, develop new interests and become engaged in local issues on climate and energy planning in the communities.
- Creating **permanent forums** to engage youth in local energy and climate policy (e.g. youth climate council).
- Specific recommendations from the youth on **specific areas** in the planning process, Most notably the youth have provided recommendations as how to improve **sustainable transport and mobility** in general in the pilot cities and in relation to the needs of the youth. And to a large extent also in relation to **waste management**, but also in areas like **energy efficiency** and **water management**.



Please refer to the country sections below for a description of the focus areas and their assisted action in each of the six pilot cities.

The process also contributed to defining a permanent structure for youth engagement in the six pilot cities. Some initial descriptions are given by the country sections below, while more details in the structures are given by the WP4 reporting



1 Denmark

Guiding principles

From the work carried out in collaboration with the AB members and the YITs during the EYES process, it has become clearer how to effectively work with youth and climate issues. In particular the informal meetings with the YITs, the workshops with AB members and YITs combined along with the survey have revealed two specific barriers: communication between the Municipality and the local younger generation and how to make engagement more approachable for the youngsters.

The work with the Danish YIT group has shown that there are several ways of diminishing those barriers and making it easier for a bigger number of the local youth to get involved in local climate- and energy planning.

Put youth in a position of influence: Peer to peer communication works great, and lets the young people see that their interest and perspective are being heard and respected.

Long term and short-term: Giving the young people a chance to be involved in both long-term and short-term matters diminished the age barriers and showcases a room where everyone is welcome – and it does not require a big commitment. Hereby both parties can see a quick but also a systematic change on climate action in the Municipality.

Meeting the youth on their turf: Sønderborg have a great youth house making it easy and accessible for youth with different backgrounds to meet and create climate related projects. The youth house is a safe space, creating the opportunity for the youth to express themselves freely. We quickly discovered that virtual communication is an important tool.

Partnerships: Creating partnership and building bridges across ages, the Municipality and youth, companies, schools etc. provides a huge amount of learning capacity for the youngsters. The partnerships can strengthen the projects created by the youth.

Let the youngsters be independent and create by themselves: Encouraging the youngsters to create events, campaigns etc. by themselves is important for them to take ownership and learn by doing.



A learning space: Being a part of the climate change debate can seem intimidating, if you do not feel you are knowledgeable enough on the subject. Therefore, it is crucial that such a youth community must portray a safe learning space. A space to develop and broaden your knowledge on climate issues.

More than climate action: Youngsters want to be a part of a community. Make climate action about more than saving the planet. Make it a place where you can meet friends, inspire each other and make a difference together.

Focus areas

Focus Area 1: Sharp and Targeted Communication

This focus area aims at improving communication from the Municipality to the youth of Sønderborg in relation to the local Climate and Energy Planning Process.

Specific objectives include

- Improve communication channels and messages between the municipal authorities and young people.
- Improve the perception and understanding by young people of the information they receive from the municipality

The general recommendations given by the Youth in relation to this focus area include:

- Continue and expand the peer-to-peer methodology. Use the young people's own language and media. The research data and the YIT members emphasise how the dissemination of climate issues is significantly more successful when it is taking place in relational settings and networks (friends, school, self-selected pages on social media).
- **The communication needs to be fun, short and concrete**, but must be well seasoned with factual knowledge. The language and visual outlook should often be humorous and ironic, to create a strong appeal to the youngsters.
- Make sure to have a **balance between young actors and experts** with great professional insight as providers of information on the climate issues.
- **Focus on tangible initiatives and actions that are close to young people's everyday experience.** When presenting the impact of a particular climate initiative, the communication effort needs to be precise on describing both the consequences (if



we do nothing) as well as the concrete benefits (how do our initiatives contribute in a positive way).

Specific actions proposed by the youth to implement these recommendations are described below.

Action 1.1: Design a Youth Newsletter

Design a Youth Newsletter that could be distributed on educational institutions, leisure clubs etc. each month. The newsletter should give a clear overview of current activities and participatory events, and a summary of the newest political decisions on the climate and energy issue in the Municipality. It should contain hip features and event features that encourage young individuals to take action in their local setting.

Action 1.2: Integrate climate in the educational curriculum

Integrate the climate issue to a greater extent and with higher ambition in the educational curriculum. Students should not only learn about climate issues in science classes, but it is also important to integrate learning on climate related subjects in humanities classes and arts classes.

The teachers should create more space for creative teaching and exploratory methodology to engage the young students in the climate topics.

It is evident from the results in the survey that many students in Sønderborg are not familiar with “House of Science” (partnership between local education institutions to include sustainability issues in education) and there is a huge need and demand for more climate related learning on all levels.

Action 1.3: Develop an independent Youth Information Hub

Develop a forum where youth can connect with and learn from each other in places— both physical and digital—that are run specifically for them, and by them. This should be places where youth can connect socially with their peers, develop new interests and become engaged in local issues on climate planning in the municipality.

The climate and energy planning authorities within the municipality should collaborate with this forum to support their work and connect youth to planning engagement processes. This could be an integrated part of the youth climate council in Sønderborg. It is important to stress that the Municipality should be a very supporting actor in this process and help develop a strategy and maintain the channels used to communicate with.



Web platform - Website and Social Media (SoMe)

Continue using/developing a website and SOMEs (Facebook, Instagram) to inform youth on various thematic climate issues through online news, articles, competitions, chat forums and other online events.

Offline events

Arrange various forms of physical events on various climate issues (social and fun events).

Develop their own projects

Generate and develop new ideas from the youth e.g. recommendations from the Youth on the cycle infrastructure.

Focus area 2: Increase youth engagement

Overall, this action aims to create concrete structures for young people to get sufficiently engaged in the local energy and planning process, e.g. in relation to the already established Youth Climate Council.

Only 10% of the 516 respondents in the EYES research believe that youth should not be involved in the local climate and energy planning process. 50% suggest that the involvement should be based on direct requests from the municipality and approx. 70% that the involvement should be based on an independent Youth Climate Council representing the views and the interests of the youth.

Action 2.1: Establish a permanent Youth Climate Council

The youth support a continuation of the Youth Climate Council and invite the Municipality into a dialogue of developing a permanent setup.

The recommendations from the youth are summarized below:

- **Acknowledge the Youth Climate Council as a political actor** and a resource base in the Municipality. The youth council should be invited into the decision-making process, by asking the young members to give their perspectives and critique on the respective proposals.
- It is important to acknowledge a **need for financial support** for the work of a local youth climate council. This for example means providing professionals to help coordinate the council and the youth.



- **Strengthen the collaboration and dialogue** between the Youth Climate Council and the policymakers by implementing a long-term strategy for supporting youth involvement. It is crucial to create fixed structures for consulting the youth council that are accessible and inclusive for all the young members.
- **Approach the Youth Climate Council as a community**, where the social relations and encounters are important for maintaining a strong and active youth participation.
- **Facilitate consultation and/or fundraising about event-planning and organization** for young actors. When young people host self-organized events (eg: plant-based cooking, waste collection, flea market, presentations, documentary nights), there is a larger chance to engage other youngsters in the climate issue.
- **Provide more accessible information** on the great options for meet-ups, workshops etc. in the Municipality. When young people know about the free access to venues, platforms and funds in their local setting, they are more likely to involve themselves in the climate and energy planning.
- **Set up youth working groups** that focus on specific issues related to the climate. These working groups could be invited once a year to a joint happening, where they exchange their perspectives and insights from their work.

Action 2.2: Involve youth in volunteering activities (Volunteering for impact)

There are many benefits for young people by being involved and connected to the municipality through volunteering. This will help create good habits of citizenship, and help youth to gain new skills necessary for the job market such as leadership, communication skills and decision making.

The municipality could benefit from involving youth in various volunteer services in relation to the local climate and energy planning process. This may include:

- Climate Ambassadors representing various age groups
- Youth involved in planning and implementing sustainable logistics for events (including making a guide for this).
- Engaging vulnerable youth in various volunteer services and green job creation

Volunteer services could be managed through the Youth Climate Council. Thus, youth can apply to the Youth Climate Council that they would like to take part in voluntary work - which



is then organized by the Youth Climate Council in collaboration with the municipality (and possibly other youth organizations).

Focus Area 3: Sustainable Transport

From the very beginning of the process it was important to signal the importance of the YITs and their voice within the EYES-project, making sure they feel ownership and are appreciated as important actors, especially in relation to having their imprint on designing the EYES survey.

The YIT members were from the beginning very interested in sustainable transport and specifically wanted to focus on their own age group (15-25 years of age), feeling a lack of focus on this group from the Municipality and other local actors. The YITs themselves mentioned that they wanted to ask their peers about their transportation habits and therefore it was decided to add a section in the survey about transportation habits, designed by a working group within the YIT. The questions specifically focused on identifying what factors are present when choosing a transportation form. The YITs are currently working on ideas to enhance the use of sustainable transport within their own age group.

Action 3.1 Develop an idea catalogue on improving sustainable transport for youth in Sønderborg

This will include analysing the data from the EYES research on transport and develop a catalogue of ideas from youth on how to improve the use of sustainable transport forms in relation to the age group 15 – 25 years. One example is a competition between classrooms in the local high schools and youth education, creating a fun incentive to choose the bicycle to and from your school. The competition would involve other local actors, helping shape the competition, creating a website to help register the participants and an online measuring of how each team is doing and e.g. showcasing how much CO2 has been saved.



Permanent structure proposed

The topic of a permanent Youth Climate Council in Sønderborg was continuously discussed by the project partners, the YIT and AB-members during the process of developing recommendations. The aim is to create a permanent youth team focusing solely on climate-, environment, and sustainability issues. The group should prioritise two main tasks: 1) represent their peers on the mentioned subjects within the Municipality, 2) engage and stimulate active citizenship among their age group.

A permanent structure called, *Sønderborg Youth Climate Council*, will be proposed to the mayor and the local city council. The recommendation is that Sønderborg Municipality should help establish Sønderborg Youth Climate Council. The task of the council is to deliver events, campaigns and other activities focusing on engagement and information. Other tasks would be to produce documents and proposals to be submitted to the relevant administrative municipal department on youth and climate issues. It is also recommended that relevant municipal departments consults Sønderborg Youth Climate Council on relevant topics, this would provide the members with key knowledge on the local policy process, knowledge they can share with their peers, and inspire to stimulate active citizenship. The aim is also for this recommended collaboration to stimulate Sønderborg Municipality and make sure they listen to and take the youth seriously, thus creating a positive incentive for the youth.

The age group is set to be between 15-25 years of age. The eligible representatives are:

1) Residents in Sønderborg Municipality. There is no requirement of a Danish citizenship.

The youth further recommends that the council consist of several working groups focusing on their own areas. It could be valuable to help identify the strength of each member, helping them choose the right topics to work with. It is also important that there is some flexibility and freedom for the members to decide what topics they want to work with. Some topics can also be decided by the current administration within the Municipality, when it is relevant for the institution to include a young local voice.

Practicalities

The council can meet at the new youth house in Sønderborg, which is free to use for all youth in the Municipality and specifically designed for youth initiatives and organisations to host meetings.



Another recommendation is based on the current meeting structure. The Danish YITs are currently attending two types of meetings:

- 1) Coordination meetings: Also called board meetings, due to the similarities. Here the members decide on strategies and the overall direction of the council.
- 2) Activity meetings: Here each working group meets up to work on their project, event, to produce a document on a proposal etc.

Each meeting should be held once a month. The members are free to decide what meetings they want to attend and when. This creates a space for a more diverse group of youngsters, because they can decide on their own workload, responsibility, and subject area.

It is very important to attach a key person to the council – a coordinator, having experience with youth engagement and facilitating meetings, projects, local contacts, networking etc. The coordinator must help the youngsters facilitate their meetings – writing an agenda and taking minutes. Also help them supervise their projects, helping them contact relevant local actors or persons, while making sure the majority of the workload is being done by the young members.

Online platforms are an important tool to summon for meetings, sharing agenda and minutes, inform about events, etc. A Facebook-group have been used to share all relevant information to the YIT, and Google Docs. It is important to create a relaxed tone on the online forums, making sure the youngsters feel safe communicating and sharing inspiring articles, ideas, etc.

Conclusions

Overall it can be concluded that there is a need and a desire for a Youth Climate Council in Sønderborg, with 67% of the respondents to the EYES survey answering that they want to be represented by a local youth climate council – a council that would inform, raise awareness amongst their peers about active citizenship and expand opportunities for youngsters in the Municipality to take part in the local policy making processes, specifically in climate- and energy planning.

To ensure the existence of Sønderborg Youth Climate Council, it is important for the project partners, the YIT and the AB-members to lobby this proposal to the local policy makers. The first step is to contact the municipal youth coordinator, climate coordinator and the mayor,



asking them how the Sønderborg Youth Climate Council can become a permanent structure within the Municipality. It is important to ensure personal meetings with the involved parties and explain the result of the EYES-project and argue how this specific permanent structure can inspire early active citizenship in regard to the pressing matter of climate action.



2 Spain

Guiding principles

- **Promote active participation** through mentoring and follow-up sessions, and also face-to-face activities. Directly ask what they think of each topic to be discussed.
- **Improve their involvement**, by giving them tools so that they have a certain decision-making capacity. Make them feel valued and get more involved.
- **Social networks**. Be present on the most relevant social networks for them (in this case, Instagram and Twitter) and ask for their participation.
- **Website**. They can contribute with original content on the website (videos, healthy recipes, etc.) to make it more dynamic, so they can learn while they have fun.
- **Influencers**. Regarding the ECOFest festival, they can come into contact with young and influential people (for example: Fridays For Future Catalonia) who carry out a workshop there, and with whom they can feel identified and motivate their desire to participate.
- **ECOFest**. The intention of making a festival like the ECOFest is that it is not only part of the Project Eyes, but that it can be celebrated year after year, that young people have an indicated date in the calendar and that they feel motivated by their arrival.

Focus areas

- **Youth Learning** – their involvement both in the research process and the ECO-festival allow them to acquire skills that they can use tomorrow in their respective jobs or in the organisation of events.
- **Youth Education** – people from the environmental sector can hold talks in schools and study centers to raise awareness among young people and make them see the possibilities of working in a sector that is growing.
- **Youth Business** – influencers or experienced people in the environment can support or sponsor youth entrepreneurial initiatives related to sustainability.
- **Youth Behaviour** – raise awareness among youth in the proper use of natural resources to care for the environment; reduce the use of plastics, etc.



- **Youth Hubs** - create Youth Councils where young people can express their ideas and support initiatives that can be presented, on a monthly basis, to the political leaders in Granollers.
- **Youth Communication** - establish adequate communication channels with young people to inform them of events, news, applicable regulations or possibilities of cooperation (city Council - young people or between young people from different cities).

Recommendations elaborated by the participants

The recommendations document has been elaborated during the mentoring sessions and also in other online sessions to prepare the ECOFest (where the document will be delivered to the Major of Granollers, in the middle of November). But before that, the recommendations will be finally worked in two different sessions: on September the 25th, when a focus-group dynamics will take part to discuss the document; and on October the 1st, in a validation session also with the AB members.

YIT members are distributed in four different working groups (will be detailed now), and every group has elaborated its own recommendations with the help of other group members. The groups and its recommendations are the following:

Working Group 1: Sustainable consumption and mobility

Consumption:

- To promote local consumption through a communication campaign for shops, which includes the creation of a local currency to boost the local economy and local trade.
- Arrange and make available to the young population more areas of urban gardens, as a green infrastructure for food self-sufficiency and agroecology in the city. Organize workshops to create orchards oriented to self-consumption and with agro-ecological criteria.
- Promote domestic and collective composting, through the contract for the collection of municipal waste in the city and tax credits.
- Introduce the use of reusable packaging or the return of packaging with a credit card for each returned packaging into the vending machines for drinks in City Hall buildings. Create tax incentives for reusable and bulk products.



- Environmentalisation of the municipal waste collection service: indicators of traceability and transparency, composting, awareness-raising programs for action, reuse of materials, tax incentives for waste prevention, logistical optimization for collection, low-emission and use of vehicles and use of regenerated water.
- Ensure that the urban developments and activities of the Formula One Circuit and its surroundings are responsible for the environmental protection of the municipality (not increasing noise, light, air pollution, consumption of energy resources, water and territory, and ensuring the protection and function of natural systems).

Sustainable mobility:

- Create more bike lanes in the city, taking advantage of the framework of the new Traffic Ordinance, which establishes the “Zone 30” (km/h) in all the streets of the city.
- Continue to make progress in the introduction of low-emission vehicles in the bus fleet and in the Granollers City Council vehicle fleet, until it reaches 100% vehicles.
- Encourage the total renewal of vehicle fleets of the bus companies operating in Granollers through tax incentives in the coming years. Once achieved, pass on fuel savings to the price of public transport.
- Carry out anti-CO2 mobility policies.
- Signpost the existing routes / walks well and create new ones taking advantage of the natural environment of Granollers, to make it easier to walk safely; generally raising awareness among the population not to take the car if it’s not essential.
- To approve the supramunicipal Action Plan for the improvement of air quality in the region, and in Granollers area, to schedule and provide the necessary resources.

Working Group 2: Culture, education and politics

Culture:

- Creation of a semi-annual / annual award for young people who contribute ideas, solutions or projects on sustainability and to address the climate emergency at the local level (regarding originality and viability).
- To conduct a championship for healthy and sustainable living in Granollers, inclusive and with mixed teams, focused on healthy and environmentally sustainable lifestyle.



- Organize festivals that promote health, environment and well-being of people, with the participation of doctors, environmental health experts and nutritionist as speakers.

Education:

- Education campaign in schools on the effects of climate emergency; awareness days for adults, teenagers and children.
- Create open spaces for debate for public access from the youngest to the oldest.
- Recycling education in schools is considered not to be taught enough. Strengthen information campaigns for the population to prevent waste dumping and intensify municipal sanctioning action in the face of uncivil actions.
- Make policies to reduce paper consumption in the 16 local schools and institutes.

Politics:

- Create a permanent structure of young people for the climate emergency - “Youth Table” - so that they have an opinion and have the support of the municipality and the political leaders; that there are more spaces for young people to start debates, etc.
- Create tax incentives to prevent the generation of waste by citizens, and that those generated by the secondary and tertiary sectors increase recycling and reuse.
- Manage the collection of plastic caps from the City Council, helping non-profit organizations to benefit from them.
- Create a certificate or municipal badge accrediting the destination of the fraction collected (% reuse, % recycling, % recovery, % controlled deposit). This will improve transparency to the public about the process of municipal waste collection and management and will also allow them to know the function of selective collection.
- Create and implement a new Municipal Employment Plan for a healthier and more sustainable Granollers, aimed at people between 18 and 29 years old.
- Take advantage of the structure generated by young people within the EYES project to create an interdepartmental commission that systematically oversees the challenges of the climate crisis and future generations in the city, integrating the departments of education, youth, social services, health, environment, mobility and urbanism, culture, technological systems and communication, and with the ability to



interact with the youth of Granollers and to promote and lead projects and initiatives to address the climate emergency.

- Allocate more resources to actions for a healthier and more sustainable city.

Working Group 3: Conscious eating

- Intensify the promotion of sustainable food in municipal schools, with more balanced menus and the introduction of mandatory clauses on the origin and consumption of local and local agricultural products, and also establish a minimum percentage of organic products. This way, children will be able to acquire good habits from an early age.
- Promote the consumption of local products, incorporating evaluation criteria in the specifications of particular administrative clauses regarding the consumption and use of local or short-circuit food in different services of the City Council.
- Ensure that all public entities have a meat-free day (impact associated with CO2).
- Dedicate specific days per year when joint meals are made with the whole city. Everyone can bring whatever they want; it must serve to make society aware of the impacts that are generated on the planet due to food. Conscious eating extracurricular workshops; elaboration of original recipes (combining ecological awareness with fun); vegan cooking workshops, both in schools and for people of different ages.
- Organize festivals to present dishes with less environmental impact. For example, establish a tradition of eating unleavened bread, rice, and more dishes to reduce harmful emissions and carbon footprint.

Working Group 4: Science and Technology

- Create a specific annual investment program for the implementation of renewable energy in public facilities over the next three years, which serves as a complement to the projects already developed by the City Council.
- Use the local initiative “Roca Umbert FabLab project”, to develop solutions to contribute to a more environmentally sustainable and socially just city.
- Create and implement a program to raise public awareness of the climate emergency, providing possible solutions.



- Creation of a point of energy advice to the population and of specialized training in the field of the energy transition.
- Establish a program for local researchers to address the climate emergency in the city.
- Define and implement a citizen science program that focuses on noise and air pollution in the city, through for example, the temporary loan of pollution meters.

Permanent structure proposed

The permanent structure in Granollers, Spain will relate to the annual ECO Festival.

The Goals are:

1. The ECOFest aims to be an annual or biannual event to promote sustainable behaviour and engage young people into creative and critical thinking, but most importantly, it is an event that has a special space for young people to debate with the mayor of Granollers and provide her/him with climate change proposals.
2. Since the ECOFest wants to be a place to bring proposals to the municipality; the second goal is to think and reflect about the challenges that the municipality is facing and the current climate change actions that are being done and how they can be improved. As such the ECOFest is a big event to inform about the results of a participation process by presenting specific climate change related proposals not only to the municipality representatives, but also to the citizens.

In this context the municipality aims at involving a group of between 15-20 young people to organize and a capacity to gather around 150 people.

The engagement process comes from interviews to people who are interested in having an impact. Then, a co-creation process based on physical or online mentoring sessions are carried out to think and develop the ECOfest objectives. The ECOFest is created following one or more focus areas. For the first edition there were 4 thematic focus areas (or motives) chosen by the young people:

Sustainable
consumption &
mobility

Culture, education
& politics

Conscious
nutrition

Science &
technology



While the festival is yet to be established as a regular one, the foreseen composition and the one that was taken into account for the first edition was:

- **Age limits:** specifically addressed to young people between the ages of 16 to 30 years old. Nonetheless, both for the creation and the participation on the ECOFest, a secondary target audience is people who are interested in tackling climate change and have previously worked in the field of climate change. They can be involved as mentors or experts.
- **Specific target:** young people in vulnerable situations are a key target since they are the ones who are more rarely listened to. In addition, they are the ones who are going to be more hit by climate change.
- **Total number:** 150 potential participants

Conclusions

Youth in Granollers participated in three final and important events with impact on governance: Youth Table for Climate Action (25/09/2020), Validation session (01/10/2020) and ECOFest festival (14-15/11/2020). All events are related, especially for the recommendations document that: 1) was elaborated during all the project and discussed on the 25/09/2020 session 2) was validated on the 01/10/2020 session and 3) was virtually presented by two members of the YIT to the Mayor of the city of Granollers during the celebration of the ECOFest.

The most immediate challenges to consolidate the participation of young people in the field of climate action are:

1. To give continuity to the festival either in the same format or others (fair, hackathon, climate action marketplace, climate action FabLab).
2. Professionalize the collaboration of some of the young people of the Granollers' YIT, through future initiatives and projects that involve them in climate topics in the city.
3. Guarantee the active participation of young people in existing participation structures such as the Environment and Sustainability Council-CAMS (through annual meetings) or the creation of a new youth participation structure in Granollers (as suggested in the recommendations delivered by the YIT to the Mayor), a "Youth Table", so that they have an opinion and have the support of the municipality and the political leaders. Also,



guarantee that there are more spaces for young people to start debates, present works, etc.).



3 Italy

Guiding principles

From the work carried out together with AB members and YIT, in particular the informal meetings, the validation sessions and the survey, two elements emerged as barriers perceived by young people: the lack of communication between institutions and youth people and a lack of appropriate educational path on environmental issues.

To smooth out this gap of youth engagement, the guiding principles below can help to improve communication and let the schools and education institutes be active partners in the process of knowledge acquisition on the environmental topics:

- introducing Environmental education as subject in all school cycles, stressing on an inclusive and interactive teaching approach;
- on-the-road events such as little fairs or bike tours, in order to raise awareness among citizens about the environmental sustainability and giving the young people an active role to influence their peers;
- use a communication more appropriate to the young people, talking their language, that means some young people must be involved in the information campaign creating a direct channel with their peers ;
- make tailored events (online and face to face) in which their idols can talk about environmental topics such as influencers, football players, singers, actors and so on;
- make a virtuous circle to engage young people: all young volunteers can be rewarded with a certificate at the end of a training path and after this they can engage other young people who in turn will be involved in a certificated training path.



Focus areas

The main objective was to gather the opinion and point-of-view of young people participating in the project activities, in order to provide some suggestions and recommendations to local policy makers about concrete actions that meet their needs and that can be implemented and put in place to address and manage climate change issues at local level.

This document reflects the youths' opinions about some topics identified by them and discussed during the project activities, in particular:

- energy efficiency in buildings;
- water management;
- sustainable mobility and tourism;

Approach

The working sessions were based on a bottom up approach, focus group and a learning-by-doing methodology during the activities. From the debate, three topics emerged that the YIT would have liked to know better: water management, energy efficiency in buildings, sustainable mobility and tourism. For this reason, the sessions were characterized by studying data literature research provided by AB members and ANEA staff: Deliberation “Oxygen as Common goods” (Metropolitan City of Naples – 2019), Deliberation “Water as Common goods” (Municipality of Naples – 2011), Sustainable Energy action Plan (SEAP) of the Municipality of Naples (with a dedicated focus on sustainable mobility and tourism). Initially, the YIT realized the difficulty of finding such kind of information, which despite being public news and published by local entities, would have been difficult to find even online (probably because of lack of efficient communication) without the support of AB members and the supervision of ANEA staff.

This recommendation report will be delivered both in an online and an off-line mode to the local public authorities of the Metropolitan Area of Naples in the next months. The recommendations are listed in 3 different topic groups (energy efficiency in buildings, water management and sustainable mobility), described below in the section 3 (Focus Area).

According to the results of the project a list of main recommendations for the policy making have been defined, divided in the project's three topics:

Energy efficiency in buildings

- To promote the use of LED lighting in the public buildings (such as Universities)



- To promote the use photo-voltaic solution in the historical buildings;
- To solicit local political representatives to meet regularly and with more frequency the Cultural Heritage Superintendency to find alternative and faster solutions for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in historical buildings;
- To invite the Cultural Heritage Superintendence to be more flexible and adopt standard solutions for the main and common issues. This is one of the main problem, being a bureaucratic issue, since the majority of buildings in the city center of Naples (both public and residential) are protected under the UNESCO Cultural Heritage label and therefore each interventions or measures to be implemented, need to be accepted and authorized by Cultural Heritage Superintendence, the local office of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage. It means to find the right compromise between the need to improve the energy performance of the buildings and the need to preserve a building that constitutes the world cultural heritage of humanity.

Water management

- To spread on the city territory more public drinking water points, since many public water points have been eliminated over the years;
- To organise dedicated communication campaigns addressed to citizen, to:
 - discourage the use of bottled water, in particular those in plastic package;
 - privilege the use of water through metal and glass bottles;
 - stimulate the adoption of sustainable behaviors among citizenship (turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, hands or shaving; use appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers only when fully loaded);
- To organise a dedicated event on 22th March of each year in which World Water Day is celebrated, in order to raising awareness about the importance of the rational use of the water;
- To implement of rainwater collection systems for irrigation of public green areas (gardens, parks);
- To ensure proper maintenance of the water pipes, since in many points of the city there are water leaks that come out from the subsoil;



- To provide incentives (for example tax deductions) for citizens and households who are able to consume less water.

Sustainable mobility

- To promote electric systems for sustainable transport (car sharing, bike and scooter sharing)
- To expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in all areas of the city, since, to date, there are very few “charging points”;
- To incentivize other sustainable transport, such as push scooter;
- To provide local incentives (in addition to the national) for the purchase of electric vehicles;
- To widen bike lanes in order to involve all the city limits;
- To organise a dedicated communication campaign for stimulating and promote the use of local public transport;
- To organise dedicated event during the European Sustainable Mobility Week;
- To open more pedestrian areas and LTA (Limited Traffic Areas)

Permanent structure proposed

According to the aim of the project, ANEA (after discussing with the AB members and YIT) thought of resuming a permanent structure of the Metropolitan City of Naples to ensure the engagement of youth. The aim is to stimulate active citizenship as instruments to develop an active citizenship among young people that can learn more about policy processes and, at the same time, to stimulate the institution in listening to the youth’s thinking. Furthermore the youth can bring in the permanent structure of their experiences about climate and energy, conditioning the policy making and encouraging a climate of interchange.



The following presentation should be considered as a proposal, an idea for the future.

The permanent structure will be proposed to the Metropolitan City of Naples that gather 92 Municipalities, since ANEA is a consortium whose main stake is owned by the Metropolitan City of Naples. In addition, as scheduled by the Italian law n. 56 of 7th April 2015 establishing the 13 Metropolitan Cities in Italy, replacing the old Provinces, the Mayor of the Metropolitan City of Naples is the Mayor of the Municipality of Naples, thus allowing it to have an important reference political representative.

The Permanent structure is called “**Young Forum – Youth Council of Naples**”. The Youth Council is a permanent board with the aim to support youth activities in the city.

Its task is to produce documents and proposals to be submitted to the relevant municipal administration bodies on youth issues, to promote research and meetings on youth topics such as environmental and social issues. Furthermore the board aims to foster the connection between youth groups and local institutions.

The main aim is to stimulate active citizenship as an instrument to develop an active citizenship among young people that can learn more about policy processes and, at the same time, to stimulate the institution in listening to the youth’s thinking.

The permanent structure is composed of minimum 15 maximum 25 members, aged between 16 to 30 years. Every council groups of one of the 92 Municipalities of Naples’s area can elect its own representative for the youth-commissions on specific topics:

- Sustainability and climate change
- Culture and sport
- Jobs, Training, Social Policies
- Gender Policies, Active Citizenship, Civil Service
- Foreign Affairs, European and International Mobility Integration



The permanent structure can be hosted in one of the rooms in the headquarters of Metropolitan City of Naples. It is in charge for 4 years (as the majority of the other Italian experiences) and the board structure meets every 3 months to discuss topics relevant for them such as sustainability, youth involvement in the environmental policy of the local government.

The engagement process will be done through an increase of communication by the municipality, and by means of various online and offline activities.

Conclusions

ANEA, through the participation in the EYES project, would like to stimulate the interest of the Local board, raising the awareness among the young generation about the opportunity to be involved in the local policies. ANEA suggests to make a lobbying action on the policy makers to restore the permanent structure as a way to give a voice to the young citizens. The first step would be to write and communicate to the main institutions (such as youth policy councilors and the Mayor of Metropolitan City of Naples) about the possibility and the need to create a structure able to host young people. After this, it could be necessary to organise face-to-face meetings with the interested institutions, to explain the results of the project and the importance of the creation of the permanent structure to build up the future citizenship.



4 France

Guiding principles

Following the work done between Young Intervention Teams (in Vaulx en Velin and Oullins) and the Advisory Board (specially youngsters coordination realized by ALEC Lyon, the recommended guiding principles to improve youth engagement are :

- Use an **appropriate communication** to target youth through social networks, quiz, challenges (Kahoot App, Tik Tok videos);
- Part from **young people needs and centers of interest** (hip hop culture, photography and arts);
- Propose **attractive events** (concerts, festivals, sports events) with a **climate topic**;
- Implement a **structure to gather youth projects** and provide social & financial support;
- Develop **social encounters** with actors involved on climate issues and **sites visits** (sorting and wasting disposal centers);
- Identify **existing structures to involve youngsters** to carry on the dynamic and implement the proposals;

Focus areas

The focus areas identified by the YITs are the six topics previously mentioned and the actions are the recommendations listed under each topic. Here are all the focus areas :

- Awareness - Education
- Waste and Food Waste
- Mobility
- Food
- Energy and water



- Urban planning and biodiversity

List of recommendations

The suggested actions in Lyon is set up as a list of 40 actions related to the 6 focus areas mentioned above.

Awareness - Education

1. Strengthen the presence of **eco-delegates** and create with them real projects in **schools and middle schools**
2. Offer free and regular **visits to sorting centers** to raise awareness of sorting in order to have a higher recycling rate
3. Offer after-school **interactive workshops** such as the “**Climate Mural**” and integration into sustainable development education projects
4. Promote and **make visible collective eco-responsible projects** for citizens of Lyon Metropolitan
5. Send a **sustainable development check** to the inhabitants (can only be used in certain identified and listed businesses)

Waste and Food Waste

6. Set up a greater number of **metropolitan composters** managed by Metropolitan departments or by a public service delegation.
7. Set up a greater number of **municipal composters** managed by the city services or by a public service delegation.
8. Promote the **Zero Waste approaches** to traders (paper bags, reusable / returnable trays)
9. Set up a **public glass deposit system**
10. Promote **repair shops** for damaged household items (repair cafes)
11. Encourage and facilitate more people to **buy in bulk** (bulk distributors in every food store)
12. Encourage and facilitate more people to **come to the stores with their own containers** (cloth bags, paper bags, etc.)
13. Organize **Clean Walks**



14. Increase the **visibility of sorting bins** in the city
15. **Give unsold products** to people who need them most (the homeless for example)
16. Encourage the **purchase of refurbished electronics** (in conjunction with the sustainable development check)
17. Call on the “**Sorting Messengers**” of **Lyon Metropolitan** to lead awareness-raising actions among residents
18. Promote the initiatives of associations around **shared meals** in the neighborhood based on **market gleaning operations**.
19. Create a **public dressing room** (or clothes box) on the same principle as the book boxes
20. Organize an annual event around **second-hand clothes**

Mobility

21. Develop **more cycle paths** in towns and strengthen the **security** of all cycle paths.
22. Reduce the place of cars in the city by developing **lanes reserved for low-polluting vehicles**
23. **Advantage travel times** for non-polluting transport (priority routes)
24. Promote **ecological urban development** (Vélo'v station)
25. Promote **soft transport** in the main street of Oullins center
26. Set up **secure cycle paths** and **install Vélo'v stations** in the Mas du Taureau and La Grappinière sector

Food

27. Provide access to a **vegetarian and local meal every day to each student** in any school (schools and colleges as a priority)
28. Promote **shared gardens** throughout the city
29. Maximize the **offers of local products** and producers on the markets

Energy and water

30. Reduce the **presence of public and private lighting at night**



31. Set up a support system in the municipality to obtain and **install rainwater collectors** at home to water the garden

Urban planning and biodiversity

32. Develop the **creation of city parks and orchards**

33. **Clear and green** the public space (squares, streets, etc.)

34. Promote the **development of fair trade businesses that respect the environment** in the city center (visibility and promotion among younger generations)

35. Create **ecological corridors** to preserve biodiversity

36. Do not accept **projects in total opposition to the environment** and to employment (Amazon site in Saint-Priest for example).

37. **Promote the actions of awareness-raising associations** (gleanings on the large markets in Vaulx-en-Velin and Lyon for the benefit of charitable associations.)

38. **Maximize pedestrian crossings** and encourage walking (at Part Dieu and Oullins among others)

39. Offer **days of planting** to the inhabitants (flowers, trees)

40. Make a **neighborhood garden** for everyone

Permanent structure proposed

To **ensure the engagement of youth in the local climate and energy planning process**, ALEC Lyon has come up with the idea to implement a **permanent structure** based on informal discussions with YITs and other Advisory Board members.

Nota bene : This permanent structure has not been presented to elected people of the Lyon Metropolitan area.

Thus, the following presentation should be considered as an idea for the future and no more.

The structure would be called **Lyon Metropolitan Youth Climate Council**, divided in working groups according to themes: food, waste, mobility, sustainable consumption, energy, biodiversity...) composed of 30 youngsters aged between 18 and 30 years old.



The selection process would be declined using draw.

The engagement process would include an income for each young counselor (per diem to calculate).

The composition of the Youth Council would be:

- 30 people maximum : 50% men and 50% women ;
- Aged between 18 and 30 years old ;
- Selection process : draw between candidates ;
- Commissions : food, waste, energy and water, sustainable consumption, mobility, education and communication, nature and biodiversity (maybe others ?)

There would be a connection with related events, initiatives and networks (local, national and international).



5 Bulgaria

Guiding Principles

The outcomes of the research process show that the most important topics youth care about are related but not limited to:

- Monitoring and control on pollution in urban areas
- Reduction of plastic bags, plastic packages and use of eco-friendly ones
- Separate waste collection
- Cleaning actions and campaign on beaches
- Green actions: reduction of over building actions thus saving the trees
- More use of public transport in urban areas than private cars
- Interactions between the local authority and the young people mainly through the social media
- The guiding principles for youth engagement entails targeted objectives as follows:
 - To improve/ intensify delivery of information targeted to youth mainly through establishment of social media interactions
 - To activate communication between the municipal administration, school authorities and school boards, where the young people more actively take part
 - To ensure the work of the Youth Forum as a permanent body represented by young people, AB members incl. the municipality



Focus areas

Three focus areas were identified during the validation sessions and actions for enhancing young people participation were proposed under each area. Following these Business plans will be developed including specific procedures and events and would ensure the operation of the Youth Forum in cooperation with the municipality.

Focus area 1. Green activities and initiatives

Action 1.1: Launch of training activities as part of the school curriculum on the impacts of climate change.

Action 1.2: Organization of “green weekends” for planting, cleaning activities, etc. in residential and urban areas.

Action 1.3: Information campaign for use of public transport, cycling. Construction of parking places for bicycles near schools, museums, bus stations and other public buildings.

Action 1.4: Municipal funding of youth projects with focus on environment on annual basis

Focus area 2. Waste management and monitoring

Action 2.1: Organization of regular campaigns and cleaning actions in urban areas; campaign for cleaning the beaches.

Action 2.2: Campaigns for separate waste collection. Organization of school competition on separate waste collection of paper, plastics and glass.

Action 2.3: Information campaigns on the impacts of the pollutants on human health campaigns aimed at CO2 reduction.

Focus area 3. Innovations and digital solutions

Action 3.1: Creation of online applications for parking management and bike transport.

Action 3.2: Extension of the social media used by the municipality across the respective regional administrations.

Action 3.3: Creation of digital and edutainment applications on environmental impacts: transport, waste, water, etc. for the students as part of the school curriculum.



Action 3.4: Regular reporting of the activities realized on energy and climate. Reports of the state of implementation of the policy documents related to climate and energy

Permanent structure proposed

The UBBSLA team decided to use the established and operating Youth Forum in Varna municipality and to integrate the YIT and the AB members to pursue and diffuse the outcomes of the EYES project and capitalize on the active youth engagement in the local life. The Youth Forum is an independent body within Varna municipality uniting more than 140 youth organizations from Varna and the region.

The main goal of the Youth Forum activity is to stimulate public engagement and youth participation in development and implementation of the long-term development of Varna, especially in the youth strategy development process. At the same time this would be an instrument stimulating the cooperation between the youth organizations in the development and application of youth initiatives in Varna.

The goals that the Youth Forum will pursue by its work are:

- To enhance the cooperation between the youth organizations in development and application of youth activities
- To pursue inter-sectoral youth policy to ensure the multiple youth representation in the municipal policy development
- To stimulate public engagement and youth participation in development and implementation of the long-term development of Varna, especially in the youth strategy development process

Conclusions

Youth in Varna, Bulgaria, have through the EYES project realized the importance of climate change as a topic to lie within the agenda of the municipal policy implementation. Meetings between the AB, YIT members and municipal experts have been carried out to discuss local issues and find effective solutions to them. Currently there is an established practice of monthly meetings of the youth operating body e.g. the Youth Forum in Varna Municipality where existing challenges facing youth activities are debated. In addition, manifold ideas on active youth involvement in municipal actions have been generated through the EYES events and meetings. New business endeavours have been put into discussion and feasibility



actions have been initiated for their realization. The Youth Forum will deliver the motivation the youth care and further promote the inspirations for achievement of a resilient local environment.



6 Poland

Guiding principles

The EYES process has shown that youth have quite a good understanding of the city's needs, as well as ideas how it should further develop in order to be both climate and citizen-friendly. Their voice should be heard and taken into consideration when planning and implementing local climate & energy policies. In order to further improve youth engagement the following guiding principles should be followed:

- Show youth that they are equal partners to other local stakeholders and that their voice and opinions are as important as those of the others;
- Give feedback to each recommendation proposed and implement at least some of them; make them feel that they are really making the change and influencing the city's development
- Create a sense of ownership – they should feel responsible for the process and proud of the results that they achieve
- Give recognition to their work and promote it not only among the Advisory Board members but also among the general public
- Guide but do not „preach” – let them find their own answers and solutions;
- Use different working methods and tools to allow integration and co-creation, both physical and on-line
- Invite youth to join common energy & climate initiatives; let them introduce their concepts into life (e.g. ask them to help you annual city days more sustainable event)
- Encourage them to propose and implement own projects/campaigns; support them in the process
- Be where the youth are and listen to them;
- Use young activists as multipliers that will help you reach other youth;
- Give opportunities to build own knowledge and engage with local stakeholders
- Use appropriate communication channels, including social networks, events, etc.



- Remember that today's youth are future politicians, employers, etc. Help them prepare for these roles.

Focus areas

During the EYES process several different focus areas have been identified as there are many local challenges that need to be tackled with and where youth has suggestions for improvement. These are:

Key topics:

Air quality

There are serious problems with smog in the wintertime, which not only affect citizens' comfort but also have serious impact on their health (especially in case of elderly and young babies); they are mostly caused by individual boiler houses where poor quality fuel (and often even waste) are burnt. There is a need for targeted and efficient campaigns increasing awareness in this matter and encouraging people to switch to less emissive heat sources. Youth could be engaged in such campaign.

Transportation & mobility

Cieszyn city center is a historical one, with narrow roads and no possibilities to modernise them to make the traffic more fluent. There is a need for reducing motorised individual traffic in the center, Inter alia through banning cars with fuel engines around the market square, improving public transport and introducing city bikes and better cycling infrastructure.

Green & blue infrastructure

The historic center is very paved, with limited green spaces, which causes heat Island effect, as well as problems with city floods when the rain is too heavy to be taken by the sewage system. Also the heated up walls give no relief even at nights in the summer, which is especially bothersome for the elderly and sick. There is a need for more green and blue infrastructure, especially in the city center, as well as more trees where the people gather (e.g. bus stops, benches).

Sustainable event organisation

There are a lot of local events organised that create a good opportunity to raise people's energy and climate awareness. To be more effective in this matter, they should be organised



in a more sustainable way, e.g. using normal dishes instead of paper or plastic ones, encouraging people to bring their own cups, ensuring waste separation, etc.

Other important topics:

- Sustainable food
- Energy and water consumption
- Waste reduction & recycling
- Climate & energy education of youth
- Climate & energy education of the general public (with the possibility of planning specific campaigns/actions focusing on certain groups that are the most vulnerable to climate change problems but at the same time often are the least climate friendly, e.g. burning waste or poor-quality coal, e.g. elderly, people leaving on the outskirts of the city, etc.)
- Climate- and citizen-friendly city center / city landscape
- Green jobs



Permanent structure proposed

The permanent structure will be the Cieszyn Youth Climate Council (CYCC), which will be a continuation of the council established and operating within the project. It will be built around the „core group”, i.e. members of the „original” council wishing to continue their engagement and support new members in their tasks.

The recruitment of the new members will be done annually, preceded with the declarations from the previous council members concerning continuation/discontinuation of their involvement (this will show how many „free” places there are in the council).

The recruitment will be done in schools (the EYES project showed that it is easier to work with younger target groups as, e.g. later-stage students are rarely present in the city), via social media, city hall communication channel, personal contacts and during events gathering youth.

Young citizens interested to join CYCC will be asked to submit their application via on-line form, leaving not only contact data for further communications but also sharing their individual reasons for applying to the council and the topics that they are the most interested in. In case there is bigger interest than „places” in the council, some interested youth might be invited to join „think thanks” supporting CYCC in specific areas.

The main space for dialogue will be regular council meetings, held partly on-line and partly physically. It is proposed to have monthly on-line meetings and quarterly physical meetings. It is up to each „new” CYCC and the Mayor/City hall whether these meetings will be held at predefined time and hour (the same each month) or the date and hour will be set up from meeting to meeting.

Each meeting will be prepared by a selected CYCC leader or thematic leader in cooperation with the city representatives and will focus on a specific problem/issue that will be shared with the CYCC members in advance. Upon the possibility, the meetings will be opened by the Mayor or Vice-Mayor to show the youth City’s recognition of their work, as well as give feedback on the inputs provided so far.

Once per semester results of the CYCC work will be shared with the Advisory Board, which will also continue its operation beyond the project. Depending on the specific topic/issue that



the CYCC will be working on, AB members might be also asked for support/joining the meetings.

In case some issues/topics will need more work or more youth inputs than just the ones from the YCC members, supporting „youth think thanks” might be created and facilitated by selected CYCC members (e.g. thematic leaders).

The next space for dialogue will be a Facebook/Messenger group set up to communicate and discuss in between the meetings, solve immediate problems, exchange ideas, opinions and own activities, as well as share some food for thoughts. Also an open CYCC Facebook profile will be managed to inform the local community on CYCC action and share invitations to relevant events, consultations, etc.

The final space for dialogue will be the events and campaigns organised by the city or AB members, where CYCC will be invited to have their part, help in events organisation and dissemination, use them to increase energy and climate awareness of other youth, etc.

Conclusions

Thanks to the project, youth in Cieszyn learned more about the biggest climate challenges that the city is facing, as well as learned that they can have impact on fighting these challenges in cooperation with local authorities and stakeholders. They became more aware of their strengths, the fact that their opinions matter and that the future is in their hands. They learned different co-creation methods that helped them come up with recommendations and solutions together and that will be useful in their future professional lives. They also established relations that will last beyond the project. The EYES project helped to make the first important step towards larger youth engagement in the local policy making process. It proved efficient and will continue with the „renewed” Cieszyn Youth Climate Council.