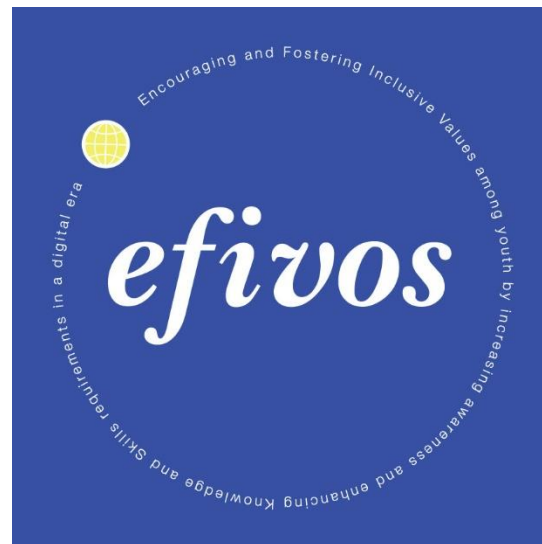


EFIVOS in Europe: Youth Participation in the Democratic Process through Journalism and Media



Work Package n°4: Climate Change Workshops - Reports



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Network for Children's Rights (Greece)

Location: Youth Center (part of Network for Children's Rights),

Konstantinoupoleos 198, Kolonos

Date: 21 & 22 /11/23

Duration: 2h and 30 minutes

No. of participants: 21 (13 boys, 8 girls)

Age of participants: 13-21

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.

Summary of Workshop on EU Climate Change Policies

1. Presentation of EU Policies and Commitments:

- The workshop commenced with an overview of key EU policies, emphasizing the commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and the transformative goals of the European Green Deal by 2030.

2. Debate on Implementation Challenges:

- Participants engaged in a lively debate, identifying challenges in implementing these policies. Concerns included the need for widespread behavioral changes, economic adjustments, and international cooperation to meet ambitious targets.

3. Discussion on EU Climate Agenda:

- The focus shifted to the EU's long-term strategy for 2050. An inspirational quote from Ursula von der Leyen prompted discussions on achieving carbon neutrality and overcoming obstacles, with an emphasis on innovation, technology, and global collaboration.

4. Key EU Institutions and Their Role:

- Key institutions like the European Commission and Parliament were highlighted, showcasing the European Parliament's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Participants discussed the pivotal role these institutions play in shaping and implementing climate policies.

5. EU Actions and Programs:

- Concrete EU programs, such as the Just Transition Fund and the Circular Economy Action Programme, were explored. Participants acknowledged the substantial €30 billion allocation to the Just Transition Fund, recognizing its significance in supporting regions undergoing transition.
- 6. Discussion on Additional Actions:**
- A dynamic discussion was carried out on additional actions EU countries could take to combat climate change. Ideas included incentivizing sustainable transportation, investing in renewable energy, and promoting eco-friendly practices in industries.
- 7. Debate and Question Time:**
- Participants were encouraged to actively participate by asking questions and sharing their perspectives. This session facilitated a diverse exchange of ideas, solutions, and concerns related to climate change policies.
- 8. Conclusions and Personal Commitments:**
- The workshop concluded with a summary of key insights. Participants were invited to make personal commitments to contribute to the fight against climate change, emphasizing the importance of individual actions in achieving collective goals.

Discussion Contents

At the workshop's outset, participants hailing from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds in areas around deprived central Athens initially demonstrated limited awareness of EU policies on Climate Change. It also successfully provided a comprehensive exploration of EU climate change policies, fostering informed discussions, and inspiring participants to take tangible steps toward a sustainable future.

- The workshop delved into the EU's climate agenda, spotlighting the long-term strategy for 2050 and emphasizing the urgency of the situation through the poignant quote from Ursula von der Leyen: "We don't have a plan B because there is no planet B." The ensuing discussion revolved around the critical question of how the EU could achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and identified key obstacles. Participants explored potential solutions, including the need for robust policy frameworks, technological innovations, and international collaboration. The inspirational quote set the tone for a thoughtful conversation on the collective responsibility and innovative measures required to address climate challenges.

The session then transitioned to an examination of key EU institutions in the fight against climate change, featuring presentations on pivotal bodies such as the European Commission and the European Parliament. An illustrative action was highlighted: the European Parliament's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. 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. The example provided a tangible demonstration of the institutional commitment to

addressing the climate crisis, encouraging participants to consider the broader impact of such declarations on policy outcomes and public awareness.

- The workshop explored concrete EU actions and programs designed to tackle climate change, spotlighting initiatives like the Just Transition Fund, LIFE, and the Circular Economy Action Programme. Notably, participants delved into a discussion on the impressive allocation of €30 billion to the Just Transition Fund, emphasizing its role in supporting regions undergoing significant transitions. The discourse touched upon the importance of targeted funding to facilitate a smooth shift towards more sustainable practices and the circular economy. Participants engaged in a thoughtful examination of these programs, considering their potential impact and scalability for widespread adoption across EU member states.

As the discussion unfolded, the workshop posed the question: “What other actions can EU countries take to 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. The diverse array of proposed actions reflected a recognition of the multifaceted nature of the climate challenge and the need for a holistic approach involving both governmental and societal efforts to achieve meaningful and lasting change.

New proposals on mitigating the effects of climate change

The debate on EU climate change policies highlighted the lack of knowledge of participants, who proposed practical solutions to address the problem. Their suggestions included:

1. Restriction of Car Use:

It was proposed to limit car use by creating policies to encourage the use of more sustainable means of transportation.

2. Incentives for Mass Transit:

It was proposed to incentivize the use of public transport to encourage a shift to more sustainable options.

3. Involving young people in Environmentally Relevant Activities:

It was proposed to create incentives for young people to participate in forest planting activities in their neighborhoods.

4. Investing in Bicycle Paths:

It was proposed to invest in creating more bicycle paths, with subsidies from EU funds.

5. **Free Bicycle Provision:**

Free provision of bicycles to the residents of Athens was proposed as an incentive to switch to more environmentally friendly travel.

6. **Integrated Green Infrastructure in Urban Planning:** Propose the incorporation of green spaces and eco-friendly urban planning principles into local policies, aligning with the EU's commitment to sustainable and resilient cities.
7. **Mandatory Renewable Energy Standards for Buildings:** Advocate for local regulations that mandate the integration of renewable energy sources in new construction projects, aligning with the EU's emphasis on transitioning to clean energy.
8. **Incentivize Sustainable Transportation Practices:** Suggest local policies that offer incentives for sustainable transportation options, such as cycling or public transit, aligning with EU goals for reducing carbon emissions from the transportation sector.
9. **Youth Environmental Education Initiatives:** Propose the inclusion of comprehensive environmental education programs in local schools, supporting the EU's emphasis on raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility among the younger generation.
10. **Community-Led Tree Planting Campaigns:** Advocate for city-supported initiatives that encourage communities to participate in tree planting campaigns, aligning with the EU's commitment to biodiversity conservation.
11. **Plastic-Free City Ordinances:** Propose local ordinances aimed at reducing single-use plastic consumption and promoting recycling, in line with the EU's broader circular economy goals.
12. **Youth Participation in Urban Planning:** Advocate for mechanisms that allow youth input in local urban planning decisions, aligning with the EU's emphasis on inclusivity and engaging diverse perspectives.
13. **Promotion of Sustainable Practices in Local Businesses:** Suggest local policies that promote and reward businesses adopting sustainable practices, aligning with the EU's focus on encouraging environmentally conscious economic activities.
14. **Urban Farming and Local Agriculture Support:** Propose local policies supporting urban farming and community gardens, aligning with the EU's push for sustainable food systems and reduced carbon footprints associated with food production and distribution.
15. **Youth-Led Climate Action Platforms:** Encourage the establishment of youth-led climate action platforms at the local level, aligning with the EU's broader goal of encouraging grassroots movements and community engagement in climate initiatives.

These proposals respond to the needs of the community and offer concrete measures that seek to reduce emissions and promote sustainable transportation. They deserve to be considered and integrated into the broader context of the policies and measures the EU is adopting to mitigate climate change.

In the concluding segment of the workshop, participants collectively summarized key insights gleaned throughout the session. The discussion encapsulated a comprehensive understanding of EU climate change policies, including the ambitious goals set forth in the European Green Deal, the imperative for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, and the pivotal role of institutions such as the European Commission and Parliament in policy implementation. The exploration of concrete actions and programs, such as the Just Transition Fund and the Circular Economy Action Programme, illuminated the tangible efforts the EU is making to address climate challenges. Participants also reflected on the necessity of continued collaborative efforts, international cooperation, and innovative solutions to overcome obstacles on the path to a sustainable future.

As a call to action, attendees were invited to make personal commitments to contribute to the fight against climate change. These commitments ranged from adopting more sustainable lifestyle choices, reducing carbon footprints, and advocating for environmentally conscious policies at individual and community levels. The workshop's emphasis on personal responsibility showcased the collective impact of individual actions in achieving broader climate goals. By encouraging participants to translate knowledge into tangible commitments, the session aimed to foster a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility in the ongoing effort to combat climate change.

Workshop's Focus on Individual Empowerment:

Highlight the workshop's emphasis on individual responsibility, illustrating how collective impact stems from individual actions contributing to overarching climate objectives. By motivating participants to translate acquired knowledge into tangible commitments, the session seeks to cultivate a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility, fostering ongoing efforts in the global fight against climate change.

Crossing Borders (Denmark)

Workshop Dates: December 13th-14th, 2023

Location: Flakkebjerg Efterskole, Slagelse, Denmark.

Description: The two-day workshop at Flakkebjerg Efterskole served as an immersive exploration of the European Union's pivotal role in combating climate change. With 28 participants ranging from ages 15 to 16, the workshop aimed to deepen understanding, spark discussions, and inspire active participation. Facilitated by engaging sessions, the workshop navigated through key EU policies, the climate change agenda, relevant institutions, and concrete actions taken. The workshop was designed to empower

participants, irrespective of background, to comprehend and contribute to the ongoing battle against climate change.

Workshop Methodology: The workshop adopted a dynamic and interactive methodology, employing multimedia presentations, open discussions, and case studies. The we initiated proceedings with a warm welcome, providing a brief introduction to climate change and articulating the workshop's objectives. Core sessions delved into key aspects: EU Climate Change Policies, the Climate Change Agenda, Key EU Institutions, and EU Actions and Programs. Each session encouraged active participation, fostering an environment conducive to meaningful dialogue.

Workshop Results: The workshop yielded positive results, evident in the increased awareness and understanding demonstrated by participants. Engaging discussions showcased critical thinking, as participants analyzed challenges and proposed solutions to the EU's climate goals. The workshop also elicited personal commitments from participants, signifying a sense of individual responsibility towards climate action. Overall, the workshop successfully empowered participants, leaving them inspired and equipped to actively contribute to addressing climate change within the context of EU policies and actions.

Workshop Reflection: The success of the workshop was evident in the lively discussions, thoughtful questions, and the commitment displayed by participants. The facilitator effectively balanced informative content with participant engagement, creating a positive and open learning environment. The workshop's impact was reflected in the increased awareness and understanding of EU climate change policies and the encouragement of individual responsibility. The session concluded with participants leaving inspired and empowered to make a positive contribution to addressing climate change within the framework of EU policies and actions.

Dedalus (Italy)

The workshop about climate change and the European Union's actions concerning climate, provided by Pacto Verde, took place at the Intercultural Center Nanà, managed by Dedalus social cooperative. The workshop was held on the 5th and 6th of December 2023 with a global group of 56 youngsters (23 boys and 33 girls), 40 on the first day and 16 on the second one. It was composed of both European youngsters 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 workshop was structured in two days and each meeting had a duration of 2 hours. For this workshop we hosted three classrooms in the human sciences field of study coming from the "IIS Francesco Degni" of Torre del Greco (Higher education School). The various composition of the group participating enhanced the opportunity of socialization between boys and girls with cultural, ethnic and social differences.

The facilitators started the workshop with the presentation of the objectives of the meeting and a brief introduction to climate change and its importance. We addressed its main causes, explaining the strong impact that human activities have had on our climate since the industrial revolution of the 19th century. The facilitator explained the role of fossil fuels in the complex dynamic of global warming, focusing on the relation between the combustion of oil, coal and natural gas (fossil fuels) and the greenhouse effect, which we explained as “the gradual heating of the atmosphere caused by air pollution which traps energy from the sun.” We chose to have a focus about one particular cause of pollution that we consider to be particularly close to the young participants, which is fast fashion. We discussed its link with water pollution, emission of greenhouse gasses and the overstock of dumps.

After this informative part, the facilitator explained the EU climate change Policies: we mainly focused on the EU’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, its objective to make at least 32 percent of total energy consumption to come from renewable sources by 2030 and energy efficiency. Very insightful was the discussion about the EU’s Agenda on climate change, which the facilitator explained in detail. We also discussed all the other main actions promoted by Europe, such as: new carbon capture and storage technologies, new vehicles’ emissions standards, cleaner fuels and reduction of emissions resulting from maritime transport. Next, we talked about one of the most important EU’s policies: the Green Deal, which aims to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. The facilitator explained how the Green Deal is structured and how it operates in different countries. Since the Green Deal reiterates the need for climate transition, the facilitator explained the reasons why climate transition is necessary. Amongst the EU policies we discussed actions such as the new EU climate change adaptation strategy, the “Fit for 55” and the European law on climate. Then the facilitator showed to the participants the EU energy and climate change package which is a binding legislation that sets 2020 targets for renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions. In particular the legislation binds the EU to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020, achieve the target of 20% renewable energy consumption by 2020 and achieve 20% energy efficiency improvement by 2020. The European Union has already reached the goal to reduce its emissions by 2020.

After a 15-minute break the focus of the workshop shifted on the green transition: the facilitator explained what it is and why it is necessary. We showed data about financial losses suffered by the EU because of extreme climate events and newspaper articles of some of the most recent and catastrophic climate events around the world such as: the forest fires in North Africa, drought followed by heavy rains in Somalia and the recent floods in Northern Italy. After showing some pictures, we had a focus on the drought phenomenon which is already very problematic in Northern Africa. In order to delve deeper into the subject, we 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 we 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. The workshop terminated with a fun activity: a “Kahoot” quiz concerning all the issues addressed during the meeting.

The workshop was deeply interactive and the debate was very well managed by the facilitators. Thanks to the diversity of the group, a dynamic of mutual enrichment was possible, for example the youngsters coming from Maghreb made an interesting intervention about the water resources in Morocco, and the participants coming from Torre del Greco (Na) shared their experience with the retreat of the coasts, a problem that has recently affected their city. Many themes were spontaneously brought up by the youngsters, such as deforestation, food waste and the food industry. All the participants expressed a negative opinion on deforestation, making manifest their desire for a more binding legislation about the cutting of the trees. As far as it concerns the problem of food waste and waste in general, everyone proved to be deeply self-conscious about their mistakes, manifesting the desire to do better in the future. In conclusion, the workshop highlighted the young generation's interest in climate change and the youngsters' commitment to make a concrete effort in the creation of a better, more eco-friendly, world.

GEYC (Romania)

What

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

Where

Colegiul National "Elena Cuza", Bucharest, Romania

When

27th of November 2023

Who

10th Grade highschool students in the philology class

How many people

31 participants 15-16 years old (+ 2 supervising teachers)

Why

In a dynamic two-hour workshop, a diverse group of adolescents gathered to unravel the European Union's pivotal role in combating climate change. Guided by a facilitator, the participants learned more about key EU policies, institutions, and actions, exploring the urgency of addressing climate challenges. The workshop encouraged lively discussions, inspired by facts and quotes from EU leaders, fostering an open exchange of ideas. From the ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 to the concrete actions, such as the Just Transition Fund, participants discussed the EU's commitment. The workshop culminated in a spirited debate and question session, allowing participants to share their perspectives, propose solutions, and collectively ponder the way forward. As the workshop concluded, a sense of empowerment filled the room,

with participants poised to translate their newfound knowledge into personal commitments for a sustainable future.

METHODOLOGY:

How did you plan the workshop

- We planned this workshop based on the presentation offered by the Pacto Verde Org. We identified the context of the students that are going to take part in the workshop, their everyday problems given the context of the city they live in as well as the cultural conversations happening locally and online regarding climate change and the EU.

Which were the activities

- We had a series of conversations based on the digital presentation. We created the context for multiple debates to happen based on the questions presented.

We also collaborated through Menti offering the space to give long-form answers.

What were the reactions

- They were highly intrigued by how relevant all of their day-to-day problems are as they relate to climate. They were happily surprised to see the EU investing so many resources in such issues and they were also highly pleased to know how many of the things they saw around them relate to solving climate change.

What was the knowledge before and after

- Before we started this workshop, they were aware climate change is relevant, but they didn't exactly know why. They weren't aware of the fact that the EU is highly involved in the process of addressing the issue of climate change.

What was the approach/methodology

- This workshop was a series of discussions based on the digital presentation created as well as the supporting Mentimeter. We approached this workshop through the lens of the student and their understanding of climate change. We attempted to first question their current understanding on climate change and EU institutions, and then deal with the larger conversation of how exactly the EU institutions impact their day-to-day life when it comes to sustainable living and dealing with climate change.

What went wrong

○ During the workshop, one joke became quite popular and most people started adopting the joke in their Mentimeter responses. The students needed a break to make sure their energy levels and attention would come back to normal.

Was any material produced

○ Yes, there was a Mentimeter report generated. A digital material with all of the answers of the students was generated. We were able to gather all of their responses to both open-ended questions and word clouds and add them into a PDF.

QUESTIONS to be asked on the results:

Did the young people know about the topic?

○ Yes, they were vaguely aware of the topic, but were not highly informed. They understood the EU was doing a lot for its citizens in terms of climate change, but they weren't aware what exactly it does and through what mechanisms.

What was the part that they were most interested in?

○ The part they were most interested in was the one where we talked about the real-world everyday issues they were dealing with as they relate to climate change. By far the part of the workshop they showed the most interest in was when we talked about the real issues they were dealing with (such as traffic & pollution & the availability of hot water).

Which do they consider most important?

○ Based on the conversations we had during the class, they considered the conversation about renewables to be the most important one. They were eager to learn and better understand how renewable energy can be made more available as well as the different programs that enable renewable energy purchases on a consumer level.

Have they taken part in a similar activity regarding the topic?

○ They have been introduced to topics relating to climate change, but never to the topic of the EU institutions being actively involved in dealing with climate change.

What are their thoughts on the topic?

○ They were highly intrigued by the amount of money and effort dedicated by the EU & its institutions for trying to solve the issue of climate change.

How do they feel after the workshop on the topic?

- They felt like the EU does a lot more than they expected and they were much more aware of just how many programs and incentives actually exist and how it affects their every-day life.

Pacto Verde (Spain)

Introduction

Pacto Verde organised two workshops on the 11th and 12th of December in Huelva, Spain, held at the University of Huelva. These workshops saw the participation of 20 young individuals, both men and women, all of whom are university students, from two different countries (Spain and Iraq).

The objective of these workshops is 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. The goal is to acquaint students with these decisions and enhance their understanding of the role they will play in achieving them

Organisation of the workshops

As mentioned above, the workshops were held at the University of Huelva. Despite having scheduled workshops with the Montessori school, with whom we collaborated on WP3, we have decided to relocate the sessions to the university. This decision is prompted by the approaching Christmas holidays and the week-long break in mid-December. Similar to our approach in WP2, the workshops at the university have involved a PowerPoint presentation, engaging discussions with participants, and comprehension sheets for participants to complete.

Objectives of the workshops

The primary objective of these workshops is to foster a heightened awareness among young individuals regarding the policies actively being implemented by the European Union to address the pressing challenges posed by the climate crisis. Throughout the workshop sessions, participants will delve into the intricacies of these policies, gaining insights into their origins, objectives, and the broader impact they aim to achieve on a global scale.

The overarching goal is to equip workshop attendees with a well-rounded understanding of European policies related to climate action. By delving into the finer details, participants will comprehend the theoretical framework and explore the practical facets of policy implementation. This holistic approach extends to an in-depth examination of how these European policies are translated and executed at the national level, with a specific focus on unravelling the nuances of Spain's approach in aligning with these ambitious environmental measures.

Through engaging discussions and multimedia presentations, participants will actively contribute to the collective learning experience. The ultimate aspiration is for each workshop attendee to emerge with not only a general knowledge of European climate policies but also a nuanced understanding of their

real-world applications, especially within the context of Spain. In essence, these workshops seek to empower the younger generation with the knowledge and perspectives necessary to become informed advocates for sustainable practices and active participants in the ongoing global effort to combat climate change.

Implementation of the workshops

The sessions took place on the 11th and 12th of December.

The workshops have been meticulously executed with the invaluable aid of dynamic PowerPoint presentations and engaging discussions with the participants. Noteworthy is the diverse range of knowledge levels among the participants concerning climate change policies, which has dynamically influenced the delivery of the workshops. This diversity has led to a multifaceted approach, with some sessions adopting a didactic style, while others took on a more interactive and debate-oriented format.

At the outset of each workshop, a series of comprehensive general questions were posed to gauge the participants' baseline understanding of the topic. This initial inquiry aimed at establishing a starting point, recognizing the varied levels of familiarity with climate change policy. Subsequently, the central theme was elucidated through a meticulously crafted PowerPoint presentation, serving as a comprehensive guide to the intricacies of climate change policies. The ensuing discussions provided a platform for participants to actively engage with the material, encouraging an exchange of ideas and perspectives.

In the culmination of each session, participants were presented with results sheets, meticulously designed to prompt reflective contemplation on the discussed topics. This reflective component serves as a valuable exercise, allowing participants to crystallize their thoughts, articulate newfound insights, and solidify their grasp of the subject matter. The workshops, therefore, not only functioned as information dissemination platforms but also as dynamic arenas for collaborative learning, adapting to the varying levels of participant knowledge and fostering a rich and multifaceted exploration of climate change policies.

Reflection on the topic

Did they know about the topic & terminology?

The 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. While global frameworks were acknowledged, the specific policies outlined in the European Green Pact needed to be more well-known.

Recognizing this knowledge gap, the workshops aimed to address it by offering insights into the European Green Pact. Through interactive sessions, discussions, and focused presentations, participants were guided to understand the pact's goals, strategies, and its significance in shaping sustainable policies within the European Union. The goal was not just to inform about this key policy framework but also to deepen participants' understanding of its implications and its role in the broader context.

In essence, the workshops provided a platform for participants to move beyond general global climate initiatives, and explore the specifics of European policies. The aim was to nurture a more informed perspective on the complexities of climate change governance.

Did they know how the situation is in their country?

The participants initially lacked detailed knowledge about Spain's implementation of European climate policies. However, as I provided explanations, they began to form a clearer understanding. Some key points that emerged during our discussions included upcoming restrictions on domestic flights scheduled to commence in 2024 and limitations on car usage within cities. Delving into these specifics helped participants connect the dots and build a more comprehensive awareness of Spain's contributions to European climate initiatives.

Did they find it interesting?

Yes, all participants were enthusiastic about the workshop, they really enjoyed learning about this topic.

Did they mention any examples?

The participants engaged in extensive conversations, focusing on topics such as hybrid and electric vehicles. Additionally, they delved into discussions about prominent private companies and the challenges associated with achieving climate neutrality by 2050. 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. These discussions provided a platform for a diverse range of perspectives, fostering a more nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding climate-related issues, particularly concerning the automotive industry and corporate dynamics.

Is there any material produced during the training(s)?

Each participant actively participated in the workshops by diligently completing a set of summary comprehension questions related to the discussed topic. This exercise served as a valuable tool to gauge the depth of their understanding, allowing them to reflect on and consolidate the information covered during the sessions. The completion of these questions not only reinforced the key concepts but also provided participants with an opportunity for individual reflection, ensuring a more comprehensive grasp of the workshop content.

Have they participated in a similar training?

No, they had never attended a workshop like this.

Will they use the information learnt?

Some more than others. Some participants were interested in the topic. But more directly or indirectly, this information is really valuable for their lives, to understand what the EU is doing for a better future for all of us.

Citizens in Power (Cyprus)

C.I.P. Citizens in Power has organised two workshops under the context of the WP4 Efivos in Europe. This is because the first workshop was attended by 10 young people. Both workshops covered similar topics, offering an introduction to the EU's environmental policies and the Cypriot agreements and policies for 2030 and 2050. The first workshop took place at the C.I.P. Impact hub on the **17th of November 2023**, with the help and support of a facilitator from the activist environmental organisation Friends of the Earth. The second workshop was also delivered at the C.I.P. Impact Hub on the **13th of December 2023**, by two facilitators working at Citizens in Power. The second workshop was organised in cooperation with another project, Citisci4All, which focuses on Citizen Science and the deaf community.

In total, 21 young persons from Cyprus, Germany, Syria and India took part in the workshops on climate change and EU policies.

Methodology of the workshops

The workshops were planned in such a way as to offer a comprehensive understanding of the European environmental policies as well as the local policies and how the Cypriot government has integrated the EU climate law, policies, and treaties for cutting at least 55% of greenhouse gas by 2030 and achieving a climate neutral by 2050.

As argued by Natasa, an activist working at Friends of the Earth, during our first workshop on the 17th of November, in Cyprus, environmental policies are often drafted in ways that would benefit or support the business sector instead of protecting the environment. She shared information about the actions undertaken by the Friends of the Earth and other local and national initiatives, groups and NGOs to protect the environment, such as local campaigns, consultation meetings with policy-makers, cleaning days, recycling days etc.

In the second workshop, we offered participants a more practical understanding of different national actions and projects that work directly with the protection of the environment and which aim to involve local communities in this process. At our workshop on the 13th of December, we had different guest speakers, including Citizen Science projects' practitioners and researchers and members of Citizens in Power working on environmental projects.

The participants were actively involved in the workshops, taking part in interactive activities and group work actions creating their own action plans on the creation of environmental awareness campaigns. Two of the participants are also in the process of developing their own articles, and potentially one podcast, as well on topics related to the environment. More particularly, one participant will write an article on Cyprus' natural gas and oil and the implications these could have on the environment as well as on the political scene of the island. Another participant is interested in writing a piece on sustainable fashion. The experts who joined and facilitated the local workshops will remain in touch with the participants and consult them accordingly for the production of their own articles and podcasts.

Results of the workshops

The overall comments received by participants at the end of the workshops were very positive. Young participants had the opportunity to network with each other, exchange knowledge and talk about the

crucial need to take actions to protect our environment. They were interested in finding out more about the European and local environmental policies and laws and finding out about actions they could take individually to help protect the environment.

Images





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