

# Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Sustainable Infrastructure  
Sustainable Tourism  
Education for Sustainable Development

5-7 of October 2022  
Nicosia-Cyprus

## AGENDA

*Launch of Publication: Engaging young people to implement ESD in the UNECE Region, Good practices on the engagement of youth in education for sustainable development*

**5<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 13:10-14:40, Room ELIA-FILOXENIA CONFERENCE  
CENTER**

**English, Live**

### Background

The UNECE post-2019 ESD implementation framework reflects in a combined and complementary way many of the issues and needs for ESD, identified above and contributes to improve educational systems and other mechanisms to enable people to learn, live and work in the planet and the region that are more prosperous, just, creative, healthy and sustainable. It is focused on the four priority strands: a) Quality Education and ESD, b) Whole Institution Approach/Institutions as communities of transformational learning, c) Digital Education, ICT and ESD, d) Entrepreneurship, Employment, Innovation and ESD. Youth is considered as a key actor of their implementation. As it is stated in the concept note “the present generation of youth is the first generation that can see the accumulated impact of crises in climate change and loss of biodiversity in the full scale, but also, perhaps, the last generation that can turn the tide and set compass for the needed transitions. This not only requires that they have to be appropriately educated, equipped and prepared for transitions towards a more sustainable world, but their active participation aspirations and creativity is needed now, during the formulation of critical policies, as major decisions of today will influence and, to some extent, will define their future, their role, their impact, and finally the shape of the world in which they will live in and are expected to manage” (p. 5.)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Draft concept note for the post-2019 implementation network, inf. Paper 7.

[https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/15th\\_Meeting\\_SC/Doc/Informal\\_documents/Information\\_Paper\\_No.\\_7\\_-\\_Draft\\_concept\\_note\\_post-2019\\_implementation.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/15th_Meeting_SC/Doc/Informal_documents/Information_Paper_No._7_-_Draft_concept_note_post-2019_implementation.pdf)

Youth has also taken an increasingly central role in international frameworks. The appointment of a special UN envoy of youth, formal youth engagement mechanisms and specific strategic frameworks, such as the EU Youth strategy, are some examples of this. Similarly, young people have been increasingly involved not only in participating, but also shaping global conferences and policy documents. Some examples include participation in the Conference of Youth held in the framework of the United Nations Climate Change conference and the different side events held at major ESD related processes, including the side-event in Milan for the pre-COP26 youth event, the UNESCO ESD Road Map, the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) launch of the Maastricht+20 preparatory process towards a new European Declaration on Global Education to 2050, and other.

A call for articles for a new publication on ESD and Youth, titled *Engaging young people to implement ESD in the UNECE Region, Good practices on the engagement of youth in education for sustainable development* was launched in early 2021 aiming to showcase successes and challenges by youth in implementing and shaping ESD now and in the future. It aims to build on other ongoing worldwide processes such as the EU competence framework for Green Skills and the UNESCO ESD for 2030 roadmap.

This publication aims to operate as a tool that will facilitate youth to share ideas, thoughts, and practices on various aspects of ESD and covers topics such as:

- The role of youth in ESD
- Empowering youth to implement ESD
- Engaging youth in ESD policy making
- Challenges faced by youth for engaging in ESD actions and initiatives and how to overcome them
- Looking towards the future of ESD under the lens of youth

#### **Official launch of the Publication**

This side event marks the official launch of the Publication and aims to delve deeper into such questions as:

- Why should young people be included? What is their **impact** on ESD? What are the **benefits** of involving young people in ESD planning and implementation of ESD policies on the national, regional and international level?
  - What are the **tools** that are needed for young people to participate on ESD actions and initiatives? How can a **meaningful youth participation** be ensured, what best practices can be implemented? How young people can be empowered? What are their needs, etc.?
  - How and in which ways can be ensured **youth meaningful participation as co-creators of ESD policies** on the national, regional and international level? What **competences and skills** are needed? Which **mechanisms and processes** can strengthen the youth participation in ESD policy making? What **practices** can operate as a good example for the national and regional levels?;
  - **Challenges**, faced by youth in implementing and participating in activities related to ESD - this can relate to financial aspects, follow-up of initiatives, etc. If possible, please try and avoid only challenges specifically faced under or only related to the COVID-19 pandemic as these will otherwise divert from the original purpose of the publication.
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- What **strategies** have young people developed related to ESD implementation to deal with new circumstances with new uncertainties in relation to climate change, pandemics and natural disasters, changing demographics? How are young people showing **resilience**?
- What are the **policy responses** that aim at supporting youth in improving, their social condition, health, well-being, as authorities worldwide seek to ensure 'recovery' and to 'build back better'? What about youth work responses? How can ESD youth policies adapt after the pandemic?
- How can ESD be incorporated into different setting including **formal and non-formal education**? What successful methodologies have been used to achieve this?

### Organizers

UNECE ESD Youth Platform

Facilitator: Eimaer Manning, Prof. Paul Vare

Rapporteur: Simon Herteleer – Coordinator UNECE ESD Youth Platform

## Preliminary Agenda

Time	<i>Title of presentation</i> Name, Affiliation
13:10–13:20	<b>Welcome message from the Editor</b> Simon Herteleer – Coordinator UNECE ESD Youth Platform
13:20–13:30	<b>Keynote address on “Youth and ESD”</b> <i>Mr Panagiotis Sentonas</i> , Commissioner of the Citizenship in Cyprus (TBC)
13:30–13:55	<b>Meaningful Youth Engagement in the UNECE Region (Panel Discussion)</b>  <i>Ms. Evgenia Chamilou YOUNGO</i> (Youth and Children Constituency to the UNFCCC)/LCOY Cyprus Coordinator  Mr. Angelos Kokkinis Board of European Students of Technology: BEST  <i>Mr Rares Voicu, OBESSU</i>  <i>Mr. Nikos Isaris, European Commission Representation in Cyprus</i>  Panel Coordinator: Ms. Eimear MANNING
13:55–14:20	<b>Panel Discussion on Best Practices on ESD and Youth</b>  Ms. Jeanine Marie Rühl, YoupaN  Ms. Valentyna Kyrychenk, Partnership Network on ESD in Ukraine  Ms. Vicky Malotidi, MIO-ECSDE  Tatyana Shakirova, CAREC  Mr. Peter Iwaniewicz, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Republic of Austria (TBC)  Panel Coordinator: Prof. Paul Vare
14:20–14:30	<b>Reflections by Panel Coordinators on the main findings in sessions</b>
14:30–14:40	<b>Youth Platform Coordinator on next steps for the publication and the youth platform</b>