

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: Mobility of youth workers

Project Title

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS: THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR THE PLANET

Project Coordinator

Organisation LA DIDINE
Address 245 LOTISSEMENT RIVIERE BLANCHE , 97212 SAINT JOSEPH ,
Martinique , FR

Project Information

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Partners ACTIVE CITIZENS OF MEDITERRANEAN (EL) , ASSOCIAZIONE TUMBARINOS DI GAVOI (IT) , Municipality of Athienou (CY) , We succeed together (BG) , Federación de Asociaciones Juveniles para la Movilidad Europea (ES) , Caribbean Education and Culture Foundation (NL) , CARAVELA - Associação Para a Cidadania Europeia (PT)
Topics Agriculture, forestry and fisheries ; Green skills ; Environment and climate change

Project Summary

Objectives

The project “Climate Change and Sensitive Ecosystems” is designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and pedagogical capacity of youth workers who engage with young people across various environments — urban, rural, vulnerable, and multicultural. At a time when the impacts of the climate crisis are increasingly severe, it is essential that youth workers act not only as educators, but also as facilitators of environmental awareness and agents of social change.

The project implementation aims to achieve the following:

1. Empower youth workers as agents of environmental education

Equip participants with knowledge about climate change, biodiversity loss, and the concept of fragile ecosystems. At the same time, provide them with non-formal educational tools and methods to meaningfully engage young people in environmental protection.

2. Develop practical skills and experiential tools

Through workshops, hands-on learning, field observations, and activity design (e.g. escape rooms), youth workers will gain practical experience in creative education formats applicable in daily practice.

3. Strengthen intercultural cooperation in the youth sector

The project brings together youth workers from diverse social, cultural, and geographic backgrounds to exchange experiences and co-create environmental strategies adapted to local community needs.

4. Support the green transition in youth work

The project aligns with the EU Youth Strategy’s objective of a “Green and Sustainable Europe.” It integrates environmental themes into youth work to encourage eco-conscious behaviors and active engagement in sustainability issues.

5. Foster leadership and initiative among young people

By equipping youth workers, the project indirectly empowers young people to become local changemakers, initiating grassroots actions that promote democratic participation and 'green communities.'

6. Create a shared pedagogical resource base

The project will produce shared materials (tools, workshop plans, activity scripts) to be reused and adapted by other youth workers across Europe, thus contributing to the long-term strengthening of non-formal environmental education.

Activities

From the preparation phase, we form working groups, define communication methods with partners, and submit proposals for the planned activities.

The methodology is rooted in non-formal education, where study visits play a central role. Dialogues and exchange of good practices are promoted extensively through experiential workshops. The activity is designed to deepen knowledge on existing policies and initiatives, while also highlighting the critical role of the sea in the livelihoods and economies developing around it.

Planned activities include: study visits; environmental and cultural excursions; reflective sessions and group dynamics on sustainable tourism through brainstorming, video forums, workshops, and analysis of good and bad practices. There will be consultations with local island authorities and professionals on sustainable tourism

initiatives that generate employment, as well as meetings with policymakers to explore paradigm shifts and the creation of sustainable wealth. Discussions with marine ecosystem experts, structured debates, and intercultural evenings will also take place.

Intercultural activities will include culinary tastings, sharing of national traditions, and cultural nights showcasing music, dance, and customs of each participating country. These aim to foster mutual understanding and appreciation of diversity. Partner networking will also be promoted.

There will be 22 participants from France, Greece, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Cyprus. Participants are involved in environmental work, sustainable development, and blue economy. They are knowledgeable about local contexts and policies, and are motivated to contribute and learn. Each participant brings personal insights, concerns, and goals.

Profiles include individuals with strong or developing social skills, who are eager to engage in civic and democratic life. They align with the project's objectives, broaden their perspectives, and build bridges with others. The group includes youth workers, youth information officers, employment and training specialists, policymakers, local authorities, mayors, decision-makers, and experienced green action volunteers. All are familiar with the English language, ensuring effective communication and smooth participation. All participants are over the age of 18.

Impact

The project is expected to deliver multiple and multi-layered results, at both individual level (youth workers and participants) and at the organizational, community, and transnational level.

From the youth workers' perspective, the main anticipated outcomes include:

- Acquisition of new knowledge and environmental competences related to climate change, endangered ecosystems, and the human–nature relationship.
- Familiarization with innovative non-formal education methods such as escape room development, experiential workshops, field-based activities, and the design of awareness campaigns.
- Strengthening communication, facilitation, and empowerment skills, especially when working with vulnerable or mixed youth groups.
- Expansion of their professional European network with youth workers and organizations from various countries.
- Recognition of learning via the Youthpass tool, supporting participants' personal and professional development.

At the level of wider impact, the project is expected to bring about:

1. A qualitative upgrade in youth work within partner organizations through the integration of environmental themes and participatory methods into their existing programs.
2. The creation of multipliers: many youth workers will be able to transfer their acquired knowledge and experience to new initiatives, train colleagues, or join new projects as trainers or mentors.
3. Youth mobilization through inspiration: empowered youth workers will encourage more young people to engage in local or international actions related to sustainability, environment, and civic engagement.
4. Development of new educational materials and tools for long-term use, such as experiential scripts, activity booklets, and training kits accessible to youth educators.
5. Strengthening of the youth sector's role in the green transition, as participants will be equipped and motivated to incorporate environmental awareness into youth work, schools, municipalities, and civil society organizations.
6. Networking and the foundation of future collaborations between organizations and youth workers, paving the way for new Erasmus+ projects, joint initiatives, and sharing of good practices.

Overall, the project aims to leave a concrete and measurable footprint in the youth field by contributing to the development of a new generation of youth workers with environmental consciousness, pedagogical tools, and a spirit of participation in the European ecosystem of change.

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