



**EUROPEAN  
CLIMATE  
PACT**

**WEBINAR**

# **YOUTH CLIMATE LEADERSHIP FUNDAMENTALS**

**Wednesday 15 October 2025**

**12:30 – 14:00 CEST**

**#MyWorldOurPlanet**

**#EUClimatePact**

**EU**  
**climate action**  
academy





# HOUSEKEEPING RULES



By default, all attendees' microphones and cameras are off, but you can use the **Slido Q&A function** to ask questions to the speakers



There will be **polls** being launched – so be ready to respond!



This meeting is **recorded** and **materials** will be shared afterwards



# WHAT'S THE EU CLIMATE PACT?

*"My World. My Action. Our Planet."*

- Initiative launched by the European Commission aiming to create a movement of people, communities and organisations united around **climate action**.
- As part of the European Green Deal, it is helping the EU meet its goal to become climate-neutral by 2050.

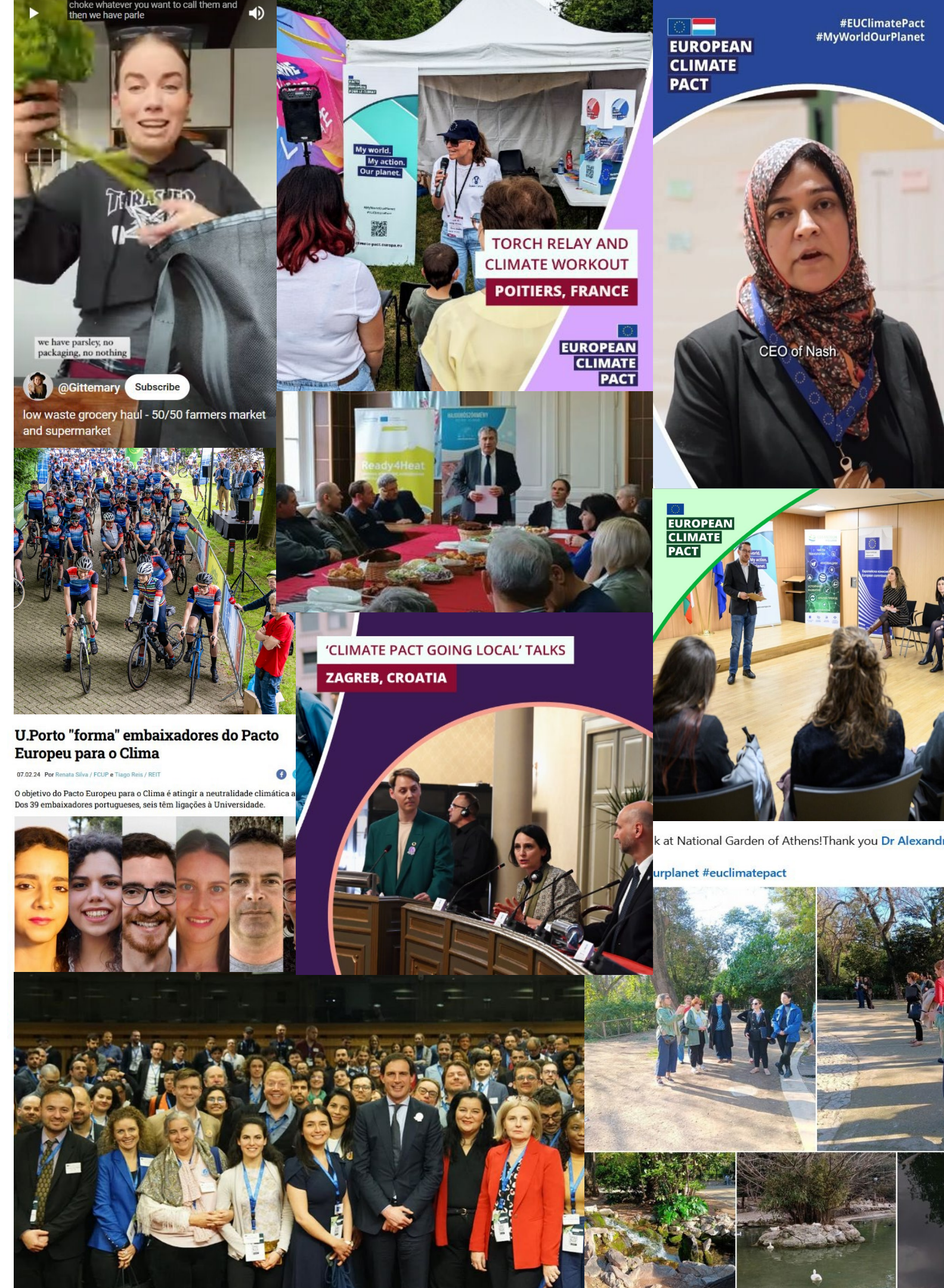
**1000+**  
Climate Pact  
Ambassadors  
in all MS

**45**  
Climate Pact  
Partners

**6**  
group  
activity ideas  
for citizen  
engagement

**184**  
Climate action  
resources on  
website

**300+**  
events in EU  
Member  
States







**In one word, what comes to mind when you hear 'climate leadership'?**





**On a scale from 1 to 5, how confident do you feel right now about taking a leadership role in climate action?**



# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



**Diana Kaekebeke**

**Climate Justice Training  
& Capacity Lead**

CARE Climate &  
Resilience Academy



**Ellen Chigwanda**

**Senior Technical Advisor for  
Education and Climate Change**

CARE Zimbabwe



**Aurora Audino**

**Climate Pact  
Ambassador**

Senior Officer at Sustainable  
Energy for All (SEforALL),  
climate & youth advocate



**Martin Velichkov**

**Climate Pact  
Ambassador**

Co-President of Youth for a  
Green Future (Bulgaria)





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# **YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE ACTION**

**Diana Kaekebeke & Ellen Chigwanda**  
CARE

#MyWorldOurPlanet

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# **DIANA KAEKEBEKE**

## **CARE CLIMATE JUSTICE CENTER**

Youth leadership in climate action

15 October 2025

#MyWorldOurPlanet

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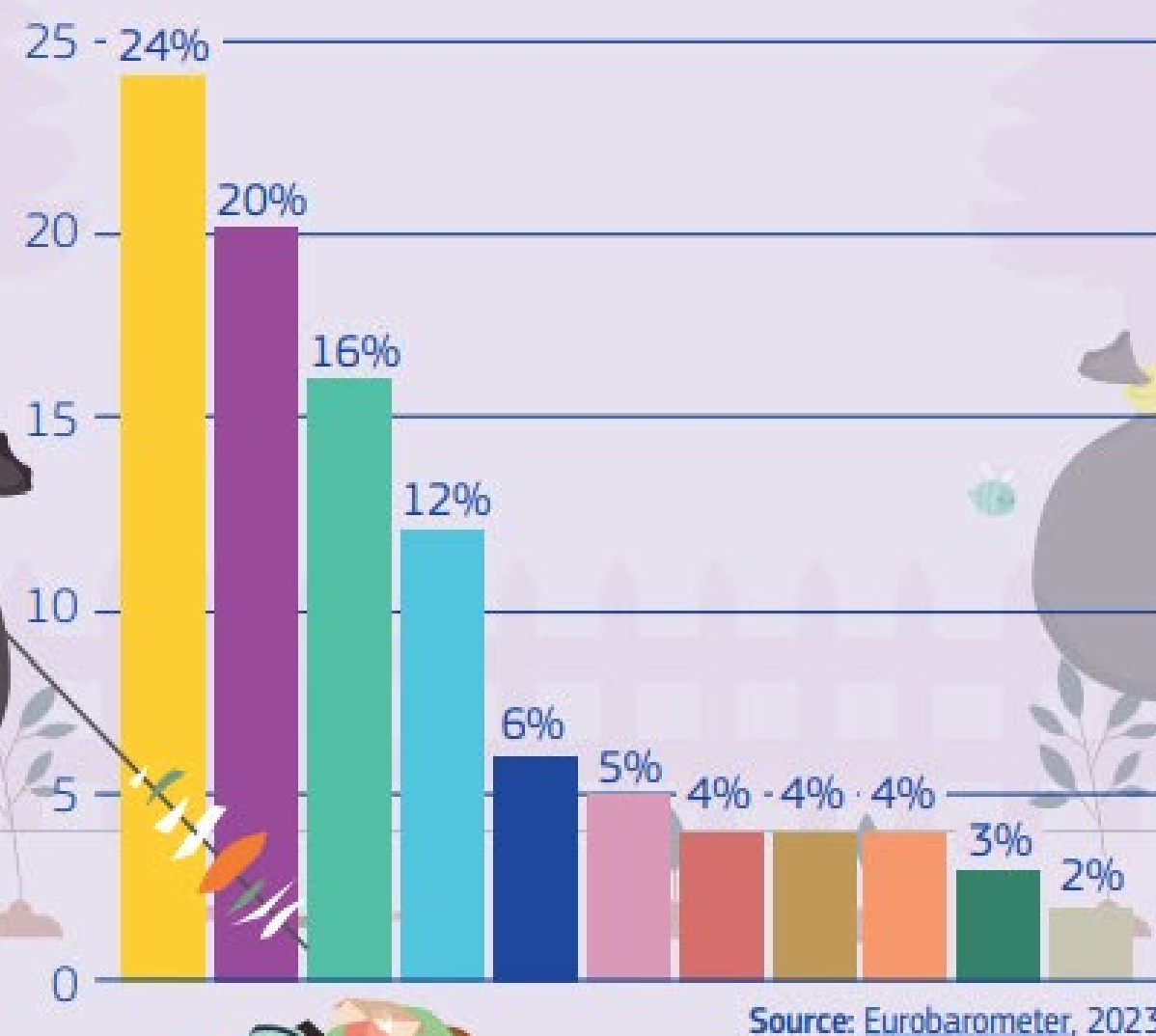
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## Young people and climate change

Young people (15-24)  
rank **climate change** as the  
**most serious problem**  
facing the world

- Climate change
- Poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water
- Armed conflicts
- The economic situation
- Deterioration of nature
- The increasing global population
- International terrorism
- Proliferation of nuclear weapons
- Deterioration of democracy and rule of law
- Spread of infectious diseases
- Health problems due to pollution





# YOUNG PEOPLE AND CLIMATE ACTION

Young people (15-24) are increasingly getting **involved in actions against climate change**



Source: [Eurobarometer](#), 2023

# CHALLENGES YOUNG PEOPLE FACE IN CLIMATE ACTION









- Policy exclusion
- Limited access to decision-making platforms
- Financial constraints
- Educational and capacity gaps
- Emotional and psychological Strain
- Socioeconomic barriers
- Cultural and gender-based challenges
- Digital divide





# TOOLKIT FOR YOUTH ON ADAPTATION AND LEADERSHIP



MODULES			
<p>Module 1</p> <p><b>Understand:</b> Climate Change</p> 	<p>Module 2</p> <p><b>Understand:</b> The basics of vulnerability and climate change adaptation</p> 	<p>Module 3</p> <p><b>Understand:</b> Vulnerable groups and climate adaptation planning</p> 	<p>Module 4</p> <p><b>Learn:</b> Youth-led climate adaptation solutions: African case studies</p> 
<p>Module 5</p> <p><b>Develop:</b> Soft skills for youth leadership in adaptation</p> 	<p>Module 6</p> <p><b>Engage:</b> Climate adaptation policies: local, national, and international</p> 	<p>Module 7</p> <p><b>Design:</b> Adaptation advocacy strategy</p> 	<p>Module 8</p> <p><b>Design:</b> Adaptation Action</p> 

# Content Types



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**TOOLKIT  
CONTENT**



**Text Resources /  
Online courses**



**Case Studies**



**Links/  
Additional Resources**



**Quizzes/ Activity/  
Games**



**Videos/ Podcasts**



**Infographics**





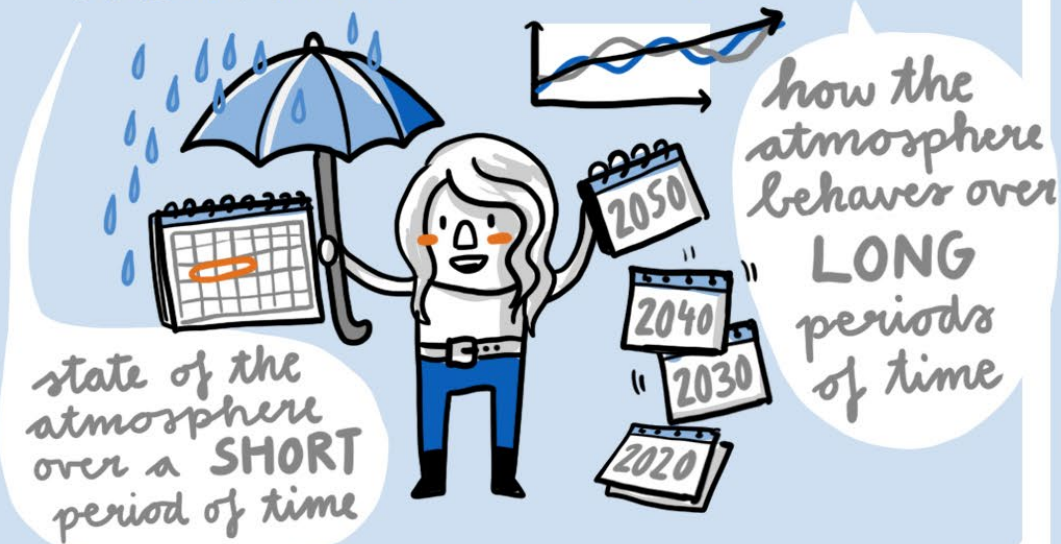
# Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership

## module 1: Understanding Climate Change

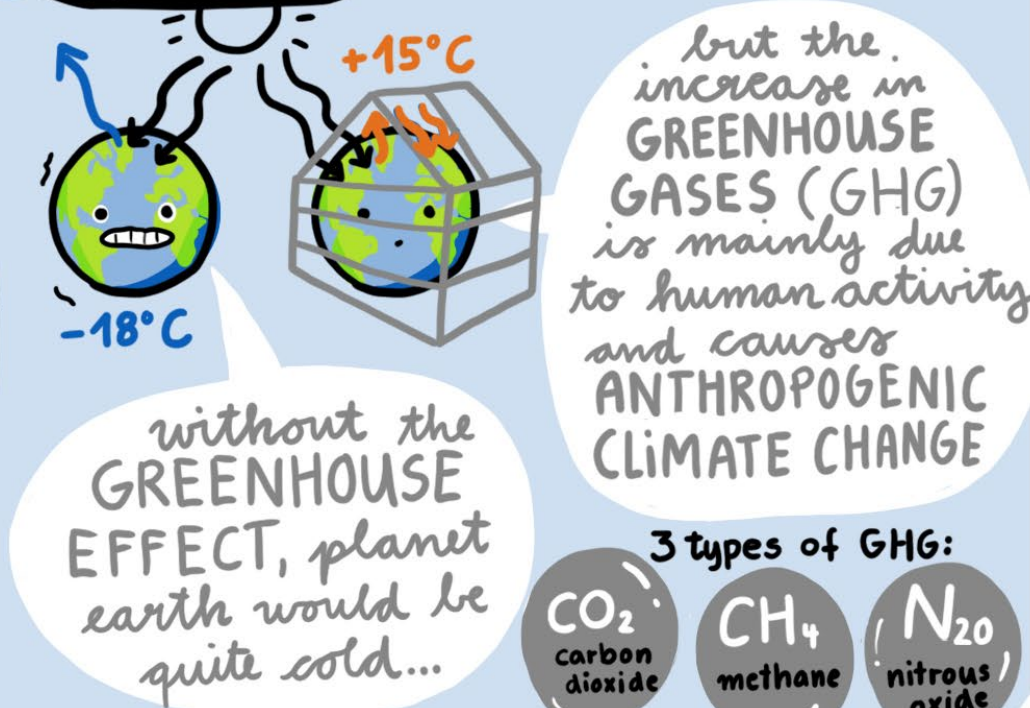


### TOOLKIT INFOGRAPHIC

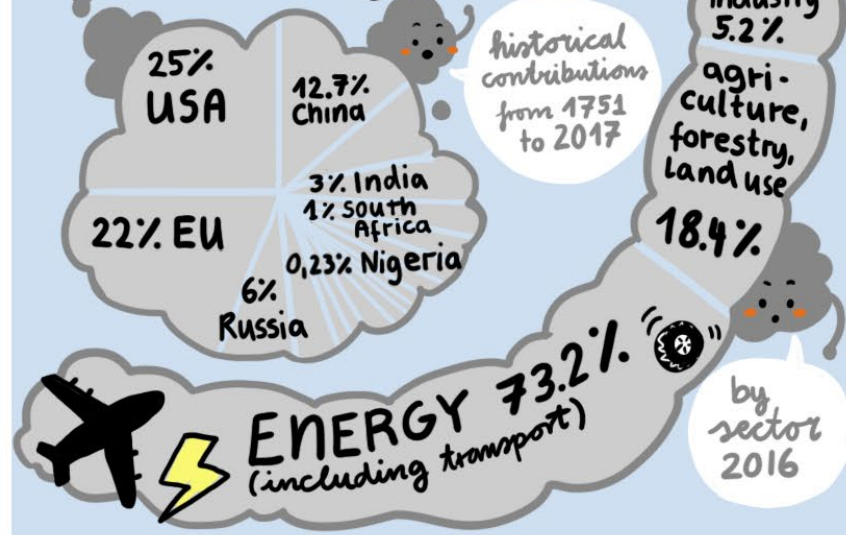
#### 1 what is the difference between WEATHER and CLIMATE?



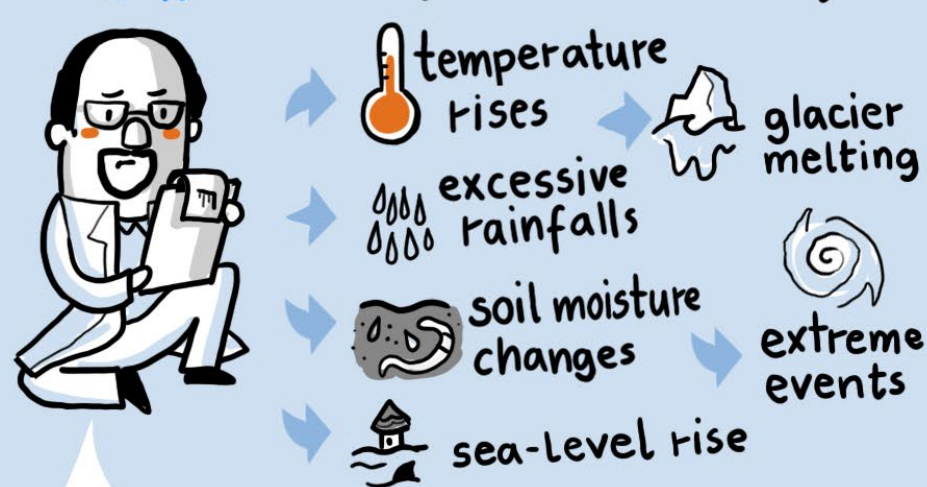
#### 2 what is the GREENHOUSE EFFECT?



#### 3 where are the GHG EMISSIONS coming from?

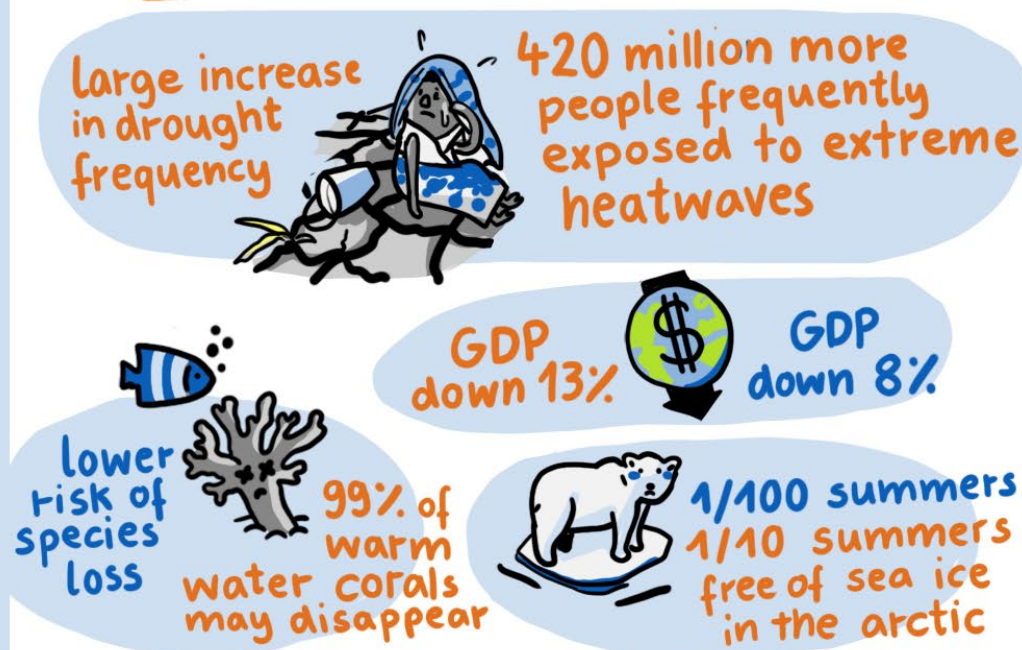


#### 4 IMPACTS of climate change

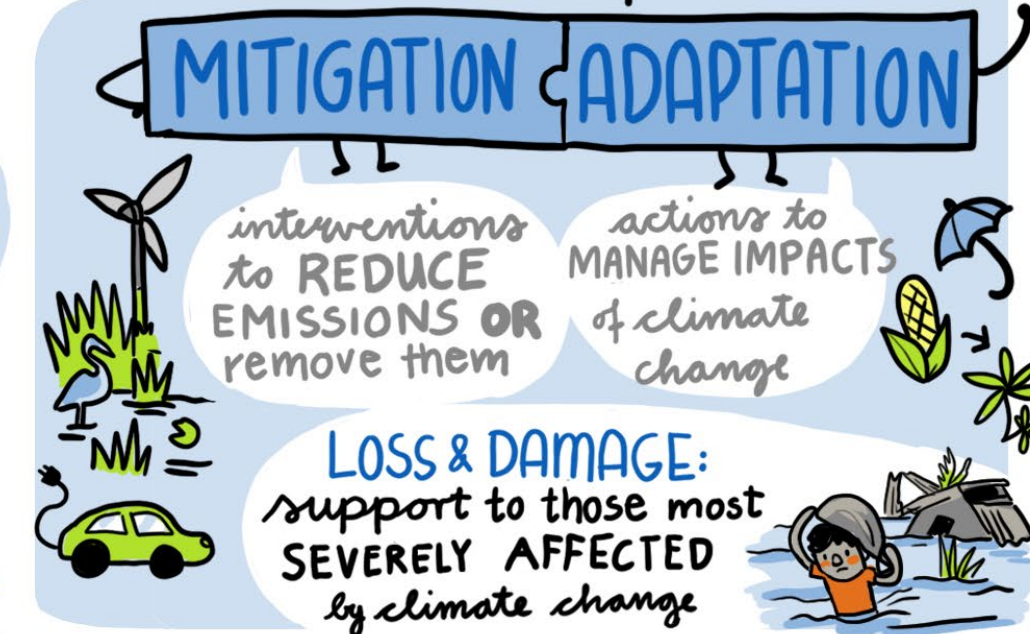


contrast between both **DRIER** and **WETTER** regions increases!

#### 5 $2^{\circ}\text{C}$ versus $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$



#### 6 how to respond:



GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION



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# ELLEN CHIGWANDA

CARE ZIMBABWE

Youth leadership in climate action

15 October 2025

#MyWorldOurPlanet

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## MODULE 5: YOUTH LEADERSHIP

This module is designed to equip **young people**, such as yourselves, with the **important skills** to become an effective leader in adaptation.

Module 5

**Develop:** Soft skills for youth leadership in adaptation





**Who inspires you? Think of a young climate leader who inspires you. What characteristic about them do you find especially inspiring?**



# WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

## Leadership involves

**Social influence:** ensuring that the work of others contributes toward achieving a defined goal.

**Taking risks:** and challenging the status quo to achieve specific outcomes.

**Setting and accomplishing a goal:** the ability to think about a future you wish to see and contribute to.



Swedish activist Greta Thunberg speaking at a climate strike in Berlin, 2019.  
*Sean Gallup/Getty Images*

# 10 CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD LEADER

Integrity

Delegation

Communication

Self-awareness

Gratitude

Learning-agility

Influence

Empathy

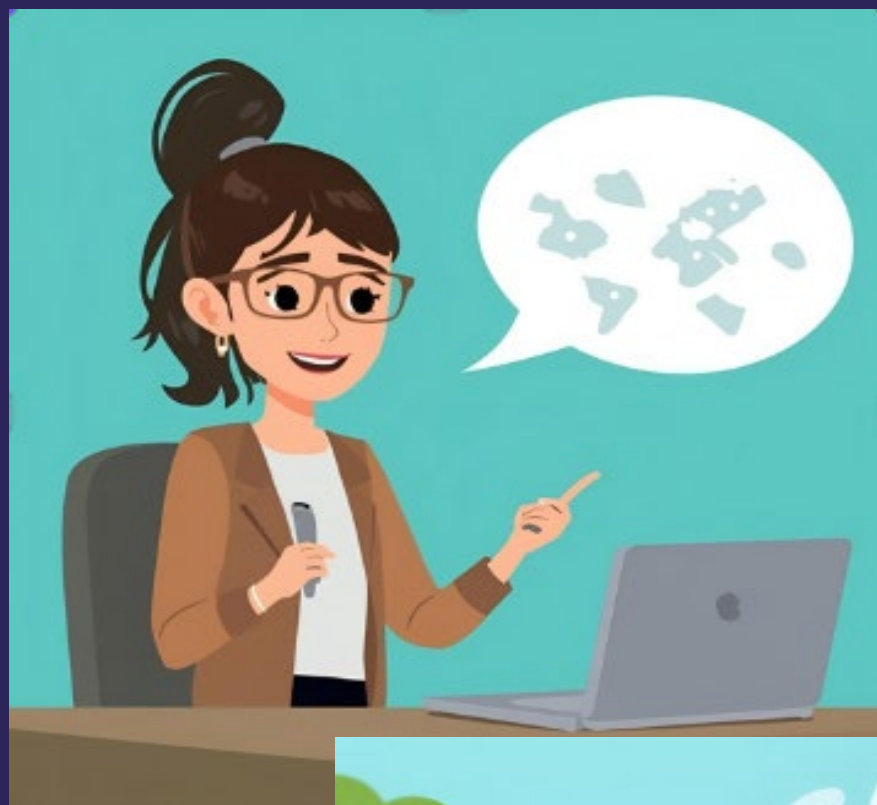
Courage

Respect



# Let's move on to the key skills!

And how to strengthen them.



AI generated images

# NEGOTIATION

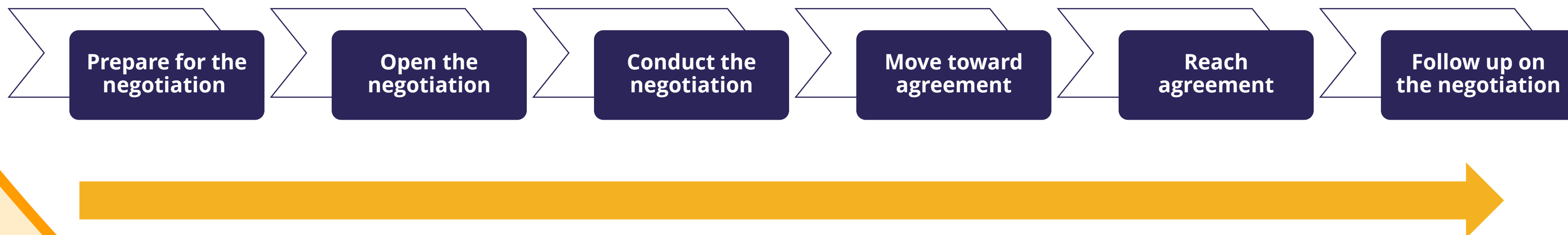
**Negotiation is an important skill** to possess as a young climate leader.

There are numerous situations where you may need to exercise your negotiation skills.

**Example 1:** When speaking to your local government representative about adaptation solutions you want to see implemented.

**Example 2:** When speaking to a local non-governmental organisation about funding for a project that engages youth in your community on climate change.

# TO NEGOTIATE EFFECTIVELY, FOLLOW THESE





# ELEVATOR PITCH



- A *short* speech (2-5 mins) that **tells people exactly who you are, what you do, and why it's important.**
- It communicates **what solutions you offer, or what you aim to achieve** with a product or campaign.
- You use it to quickly **capture someone's attention and secure their interest** for a further, deeper discussion.

# ELEVATOR PITCH FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

Your elevator pitch should give your audience:



- A **concise, basic description** of your climate change adaptation solution, campaign, or business proposition.
- An **indication of the need, or growing demand**, for what you are proposing.
- An understanding of the **value** your solution, campaign, or business brings to the community at large.
- A **positive impression of you and your team**, and an indication of your expertise (i.e. why you are the best people for the activity).

# ELEVATOR PITCH: KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

Know who you are talking to before you start.

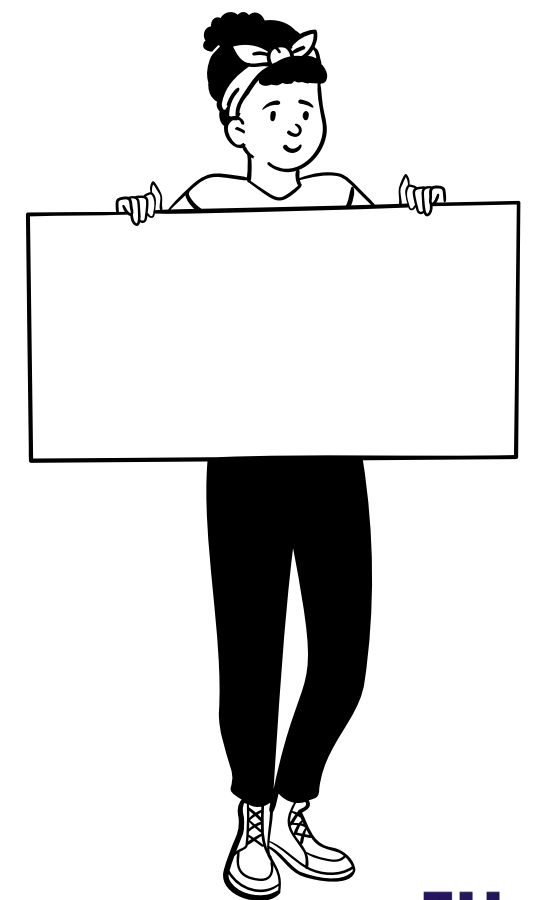
Practice, practice, practice.

If people ask recurring questions, this shows your pitch is missing something. Revise it.

Have a 1–2-minute version ready for networking events and impromptu meetings.

Have a five-minute version ready for longer pitch events.

After your pitch, exchange contacts and follow up with an executive summary about your adaptation solution, campaign, or business.





# FACILITATION



Have sufficient expertise



Be innovative and a lifelong learner



Be a good communicator



Be a good listener and observer



Be organised



Be a self-evaluator



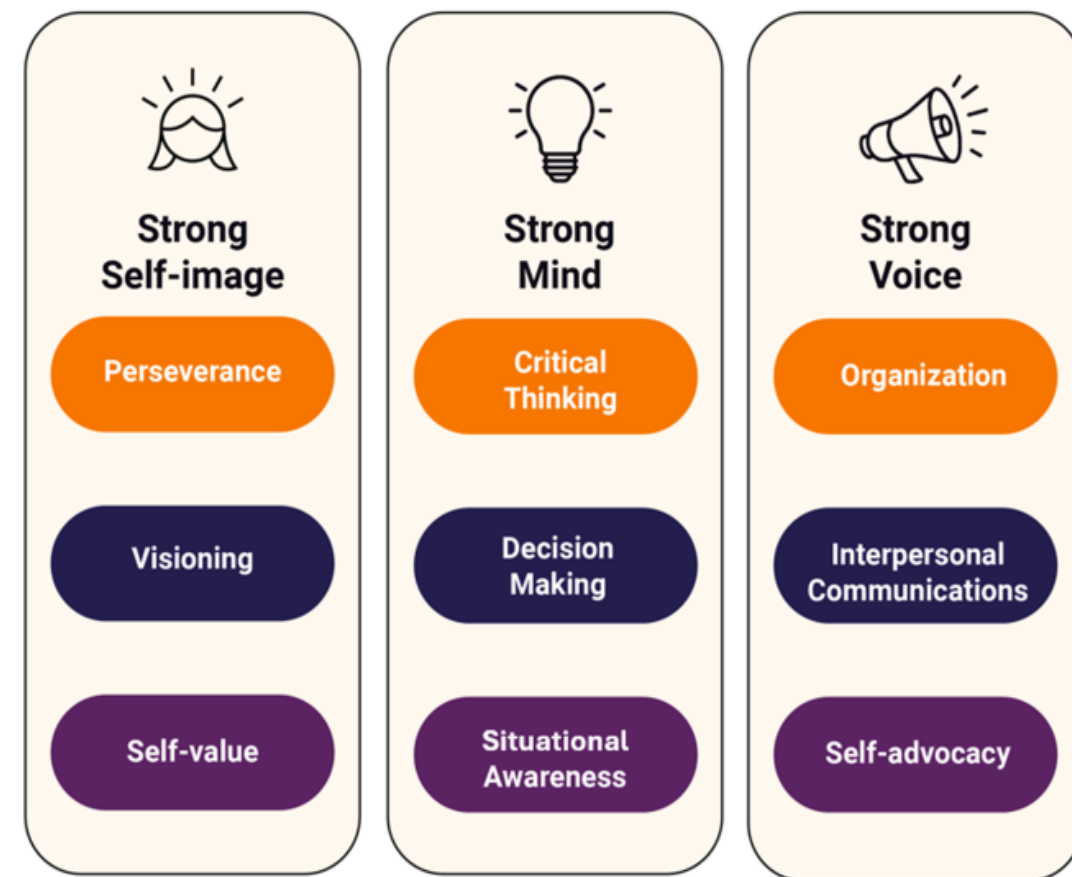
Apply an analytical mindset



Be highly adaptable

# CARE'S LEADERSHIP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT MODEL

## Power Within Competency Model



Strong social networks

Foundation: Wellbeing

Prerequisite: Self-care, help seeking, assessing services



+



CARE's **Power Within model** is a **competency-based framework** for adolescents and youths to **build** the necessary **leadership, life skills** and **resilience** needed to navigate the challenges of an ever-changing world.

Source: CARE (2024). Power Within Competency Framework for Adolescents and Youth. Atlanta, USA

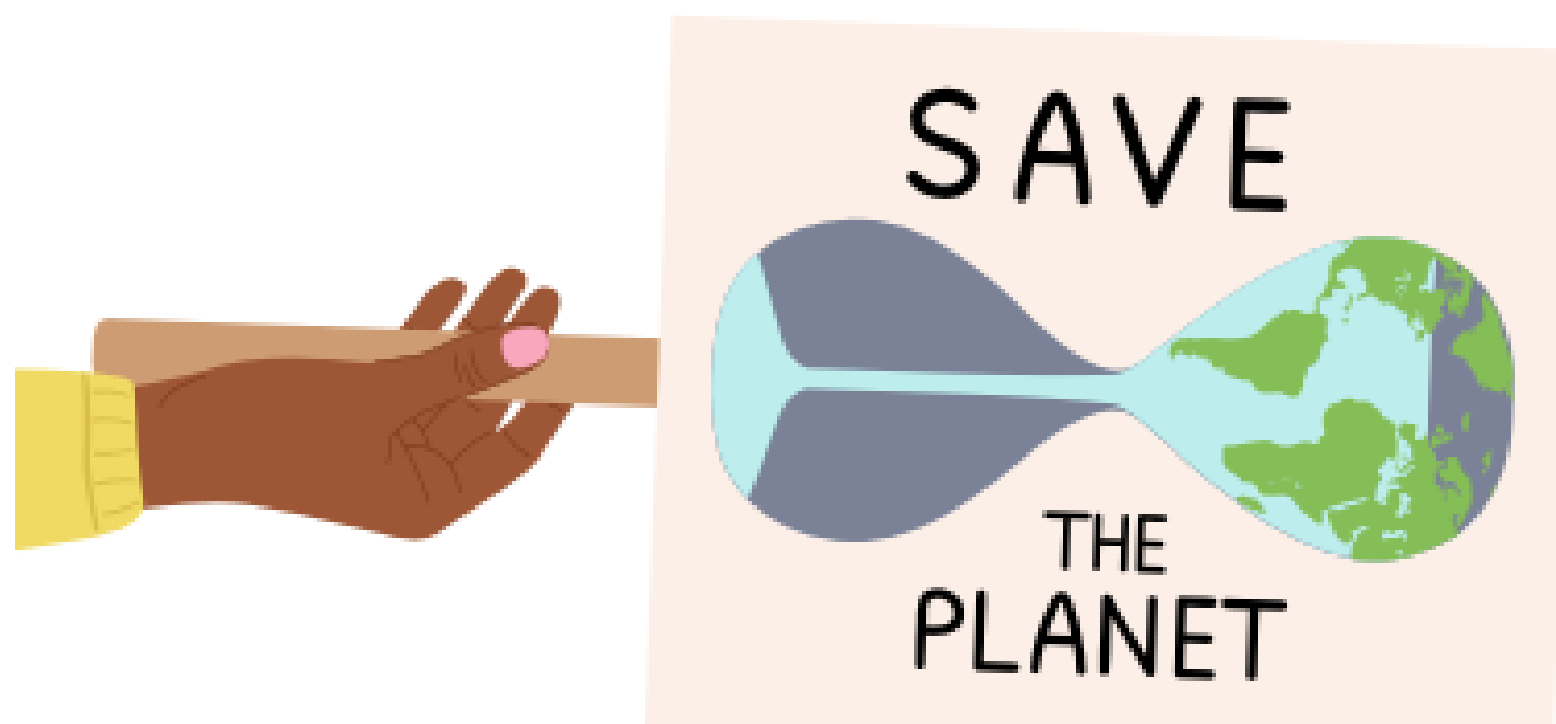


# Now how to turn your **ambitions** into **actions**?

Some practical examples and ideas.

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Examples of how young people can start to **become climate warriors...**





# CLIMATE POLICIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

How can young people engage in climate adaptation policy processes?



Photo: COP 27 Consultation on Youth Participation  
(Source: GCA)

## Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



Read up on the **Paris Agreement** and familiarise yourself with NDCs.

**Participate in NDC processes** if these are established in your country. If these processes are not in place, **advocate for creating mechanisms to involve young people in the process** of formulating, implementing and updating NDCs.

Conduct **youth consultations on NDCs** to provide recommendations for improvements to decision makers and increase ambition.

**Monitor the results of the different parts of the NDC process.**

This will help you identify challenges in the process that you may help to improve.



# STAY INFORMED AND SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW



- **Monitor** your country's **climate reports**.
- **Read** your country's **adaptation communication**. You can find all submitted National Communications at the UNFCCC website.
- **Share information about climate change** and adaptation actions on your social networks.
- Organise or join an **awareness-raising campaign** to encourage public understanding.
- Start a **petition** for a climate change adaptation policy issue.
- **Train future generations** on climate advocacy and climate adaptation issues.

# INFLUENCING TACTICS TO BE USED AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

- Send letters to your local representatives
- Design and put up posters
- Write a press release and communicate with local media
- Hand out flyers



Image used under license: Pakulin Sergei,  
Shutterstock.com



# DESIGNING YOUR PLAN FOR LOCAL ADAPTATION ACTION

## First do your homework

Questions to ask yourself at the start include:



What climate adaptation actions are already happening in your community?



Who else might be working on similar issues? Can you find allies and/or opportunities to partner with others?



Do you have the necessary technical and financial resources?



Do you or your team have the capacity?



How will your actions impact the community?

# CARE'S VISIONING TOOL

**Short  
exercise**



**CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ALLIANCE**

## **TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITY**

Building Neighborhood-led Climate Equity

~~I don't~~  
**CARE**  
about  
climate  
justice!

THANK  
YOU





## Audience Q&A



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# PRACTICAL EXAMPLES & TIPS ON CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Aurora Audino

*Climate Pact Ambassador*

Senior Officer at Sustainable Energy  
for All (SEforALL),  
climate and youth advocate

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## WHO I AM



“A nature lover, passionate about global challenges, who tries to contribute to a more sustainable world making a positive impact”



# HOW I STARTED

- From university clubs active on environmental and climate awareness
- To national associations active on climate action
- To international initiatives (G7 Youth, Youth4Climate, COP)
- To different projects, initiatives and campaigns



L'INTERVISTA

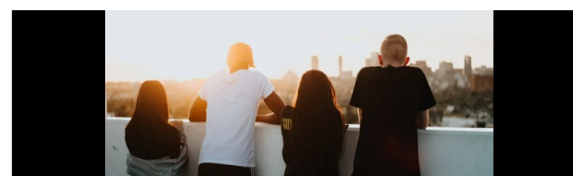


"Cosa chiediamo noi giovani alla politica? Partecipare per cambiare il mondo"

di Paola Rosa Adragna



Parla Aurora Audino, ingegnera ambientale torinese di 27 anni e una due italiane tra i 150 under 30 all'assemblea dei giovani sul clima a New York. "Vogliamo essere chiamati nei processi decisionali. Come? Con fondi e quote, simili a quelle rosa"



## 15 WILL YOUNG PEOPLE BE INCLUDED TOWARDS COP28?

JUN Climate and Advocacy, Conferences of Parties

For some years now, young people have been asking with ever stronger determination for larger and more real inclusion in the negotiation process. During the last few conferences, some progress has been made with specific initiatives dedicated precisely to giving girls and boys more space for dialogue and discussion: from the appointment of the climate champion to the establishment of the international youth delegate programme, from the Milanese edition of Youth4Climate, in 2021, up to Youth4Capacity, a series of events and activities to strengthen the role of young people in climate action. But what exactly do these initiatives entail?

After the Egyptian presidency at the COP27 had appointed the first Special Youth Envoy, Omnia El Omrani, and had confirmed a pavilion managed and dedicated to young people together with the creation of more structured dialogues between young people and the presidency (which we talked about here), the UAE presidency tries not to lower the bar. True to the COP28, on the trail left by the previous presidency, the UAE appoints the first Youth Climate Champion, Shamita Al Mazrou, with the aim of amplifying the work of youth-focused and managed organizations within the COP process.





# HOW IT CONTINUED

Joined different groups and programmes, like the Climate Pact Ambassadors

- To drive climate actions
- To provide workshops
- To advocate



# ITALY YOUTH4SDGS, POLICY BRIEF, 2023



## Analysis & ideas

**In 2023, only 15% of the SDGs were met and we were mid-point towards 2030.**

**Youth4SDGs** was an initiative led by youth done in collaboration with three Italian associations.

It aimed at providing a youth perspective to foster the implementation of the SDGs at national level with actionable proposals.





# CLIMATE DEBATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE G7 IN ITALY, 2024



## Intergenerational climate debate

It combined high-level speakers and interactive group discussions

- ✓ More than 70 citizens engaged
- ✓ 4 working groups & proposals
- ✓ Built capacity on climate action
- ✓ Raised the discussion among policy makers, academia, citizens, youth

Website: [final output document](#) and [event agenda](#)



# UN CLIMATE CONFERENCES ENGAGEMENTS

## Youth are stakeholders

- Youth are stakeholders (major groups of Children and Youth were recognised in 1992, to be involved in sustainable development activities), have a voice
- Organisation of meetings with head of delegations and youth
- Participation in dialogues to advocate for action
- Influence decision makers





# YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY..?

- Find your passion
- Engage, find your partners (you can build on something already in place) and work together!
- Learn, and learn from others
- Be smart and take the first step (be brave!)



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# YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY..?

Small steps count.

Your influence is bigger than you think!



**THANK YOU!**

**LET'S CONNECT**



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LinkedIn: Aurora Audino  
IG: @auridina  
X: @auroraaudino  
Mail: info.auroraaudino@gmail.com

*Use of pictures in this presentation shall be authorized by the owner.*



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# EMPOWERING BULGARIAN YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

**Martin Velichkov**

*Climate Pact Ambassador*

Co-President of Youth for a Green Future (Bulgaria)  
LinkedIn: Dr Martin Velichkov IG: @marvelichkov @youthforgreenfuture

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# ABOUT US



TSVETI

MARTIN

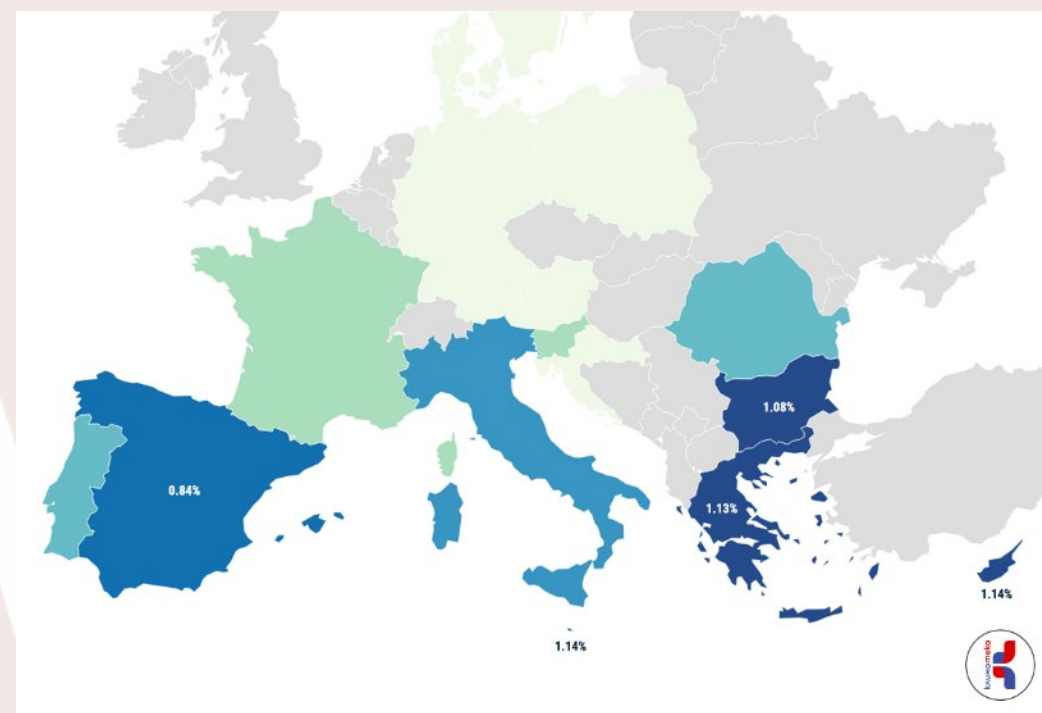
Youth for  
a Green  
Future  
Bulgaria



Founders and co-presidents of the first green youth organisation in Bulgaria



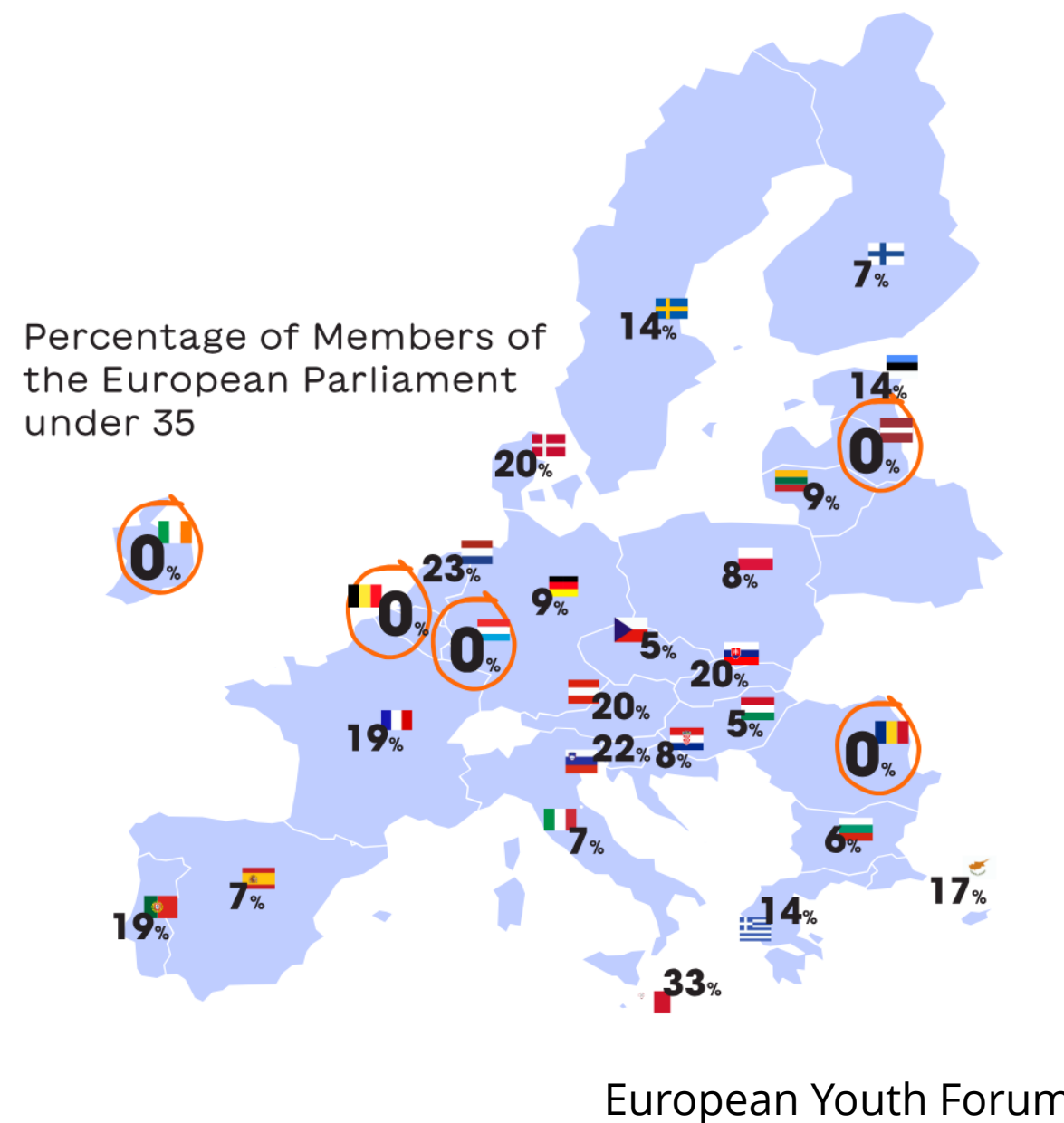
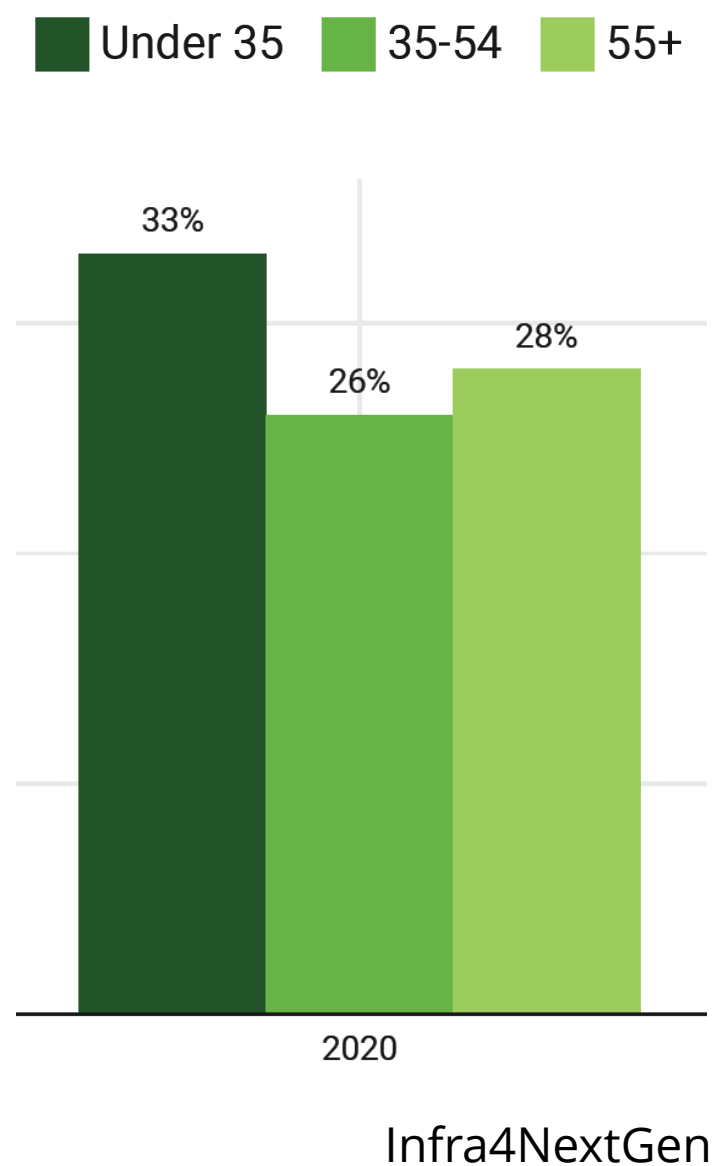
# CLIMATE DISASTERS WIPE OUT 1% OF THE BULGARIAN ECONOMY IN 2025





# YOUNG PEOPLE CARE, BUT LACK POWER

# Percentage of Europeans thinking that climate change is first or second most important issue



Young people  
comprise **25%**  
of the European  
population, yet  
they hold only  
**10%** of the  
seats in the  
European  
Parliament



# OUR MISSION

To build and sustain a **community** of active young people, promote their civic and political participation, develop their **leadership skills**, and popularise **green values** among Bulgarian youth.





# CHANGE THROUGH NON-FORMAL EDUCATION





# FIRST GREEN YOUTH ACADEMY IN BULGARIA



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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EYF

european youth foundation  
fonds européen pour la jeunesse

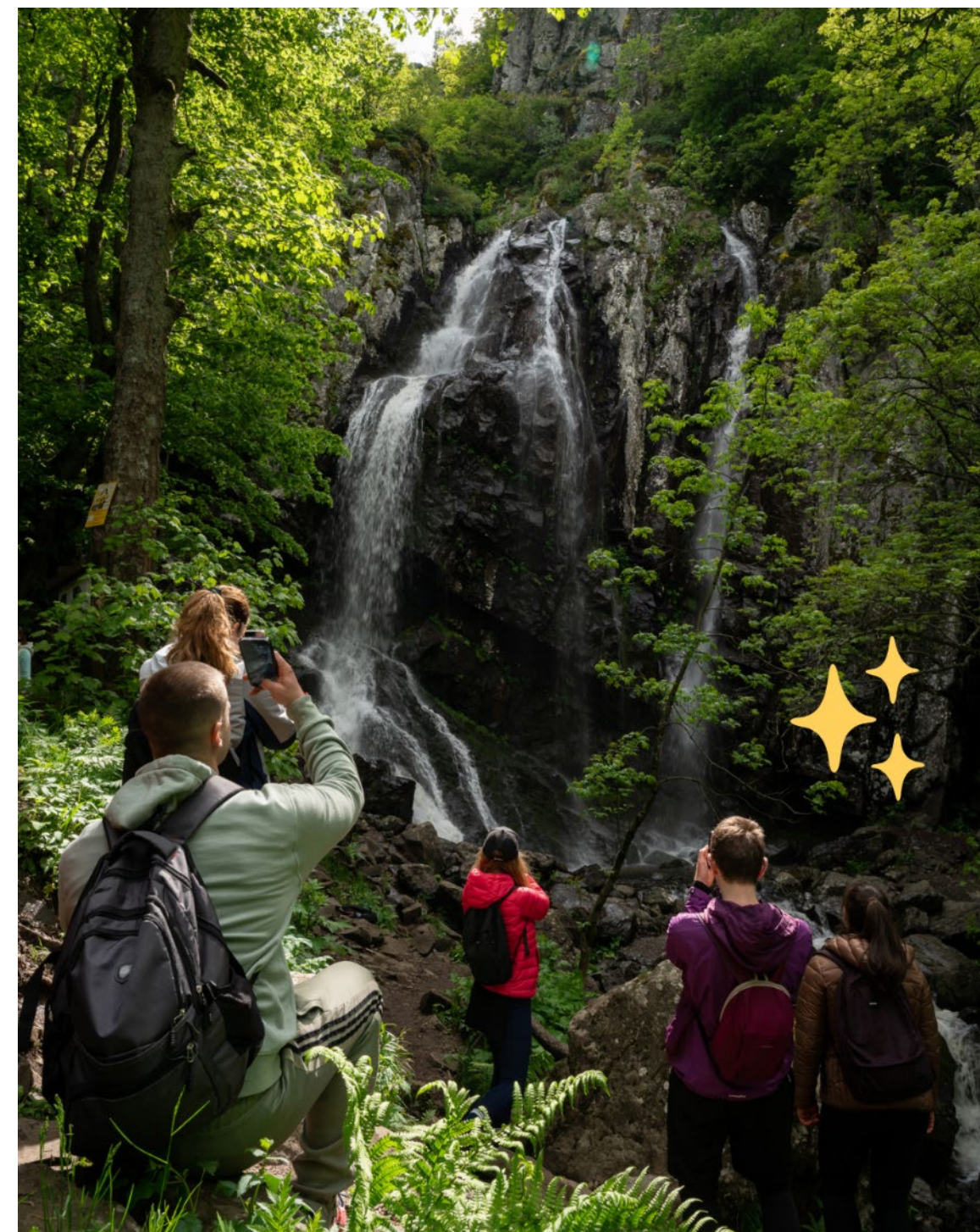
**SHIFT**  
  
**TO PLANT  
BASED**



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# YOUNG PEOPLE & ECO-EMOTIONS







# From eco-anxiety to ECO-ACTION



There is  
no **mental**  
**health**  
without  
**nature**



YEE



# HOW TO BE A CLIMATE LEADER



**Lead by example**



Your actions have an impact on those around you

**Empower others**



Leaders create leaders

**Mobilise for change**



Turn awareness into collective action

**Find a climate organisation in your community — or build your own. Together, we can do far more than we could ever do alone.**

The EU is there to support you!



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**THANK  
YOU**

LinkedIn: Dr Martin Velichkov  
IG: @marvelichkov  
@youthforgreenfuture

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Future**  
Bulgaria

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# Questions & answers



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# Final remarks



# CLIMATE PACT ACTIVITIES

## Visit the Climate Pact website to:

Build your climate knowledge with the EU Climate Action Academy's resources

-  Connect with Climate Pact Ambassadors, Partners and Country Coordinators
-  Get inspired by our photo competition winners
-  Check out our tools for citizen engagement
-  Discover Climate Pact satellite events near you
-  Subscribe to the newsletter!



Follow the **QR code**  
to visit the website

# JOIN THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT COMMUNITY!



## Applications for Ambassadors and Partners close soon!

**Become a Pact Ambassador:** Lead the way in your own community, represent the Pact by organising and attending activities, help others understand climate change and inspire them to take action.

**Become a Pact Partner:** Use your platform to mobilise your networks, share knowledge and information, connect with other organisations and deliver impactful initiatives.

Take your climate action to the next level.

Deadline: **31 October 2025**



Become a  
Climate Pact

**AMBASSADOR**

**OR PARTNER**



Follow the  
**QR code**  
to find out  
more and  
apply!



# REMEMBER TO JOIN THE DEEP DIVE SESSION



  
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**DEEP DIVE**

**YOUTH LEADING  
THE WAY TO COP30**

**EU  
climate action  
academy**

 **THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER**

 **12:15 – 13:00 CET**

*Don't miss the follow-up session to explore this topic further!*

**6 November 2025 (12:15-13:00 CET)**



Follow the QR code  
to register



# NEW SELF-LED LEARNING

## EU Climate Action Academy is now on the EU Academy platform

**Missed an EU Climate Action Academy webinar?  
Don't worry.**

Every training hosted so far is available on the EU Academy platform as an online module.

### **Key features:**

- Quizzes and resources to enhance your learning
- Learn at your pace – EU Academy will save your progress
- Download a certificate to showcase your participation
- New modules added regularly



Follow the **QR code**  
to enrol now!





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*An evaluation survey will pop up when you leave the  
webinar. We would appreciate your feedback.*


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# **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Bonus youth climate leadership  
resources and tools

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# TOOLKIT FOR YOUTH ON ADAPTATION & LEADERSHIP



**This is a comprehensive resource designed to empower young people to take meaningful action on climate adaptation and resilience.**

The toolkit provides practical tools, strategies, and case studies that equip youth leaders with the skills to address climate challenges effectively in their communities.

Focusing on inclusivity and actionable steps, the toolkit encourages collaboration and innovation in tackling climate impacts. It is an essential guide for those seeking to inspire change, promote sustainability, and contribute to global climate goals.

**Author:** CARE

 [Download](#)



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# UN CLIMATE ACTION PODCAST – NO DENYING IT

**No Denying It, is the UN climate action podcast, bringing you the voices of young climate changemakers from across our warming planet.**

This podcast with 10 episodes of 15-30 minutes brings you the voices of young climate changemakers from across our warming planet. These activists, engineers, and entrepreneurs show us how we can make big changes - in our homes, our jobs, where we vote and pray, and with our family and friends.

**From: United Nations (UN)**



[Listen](#)





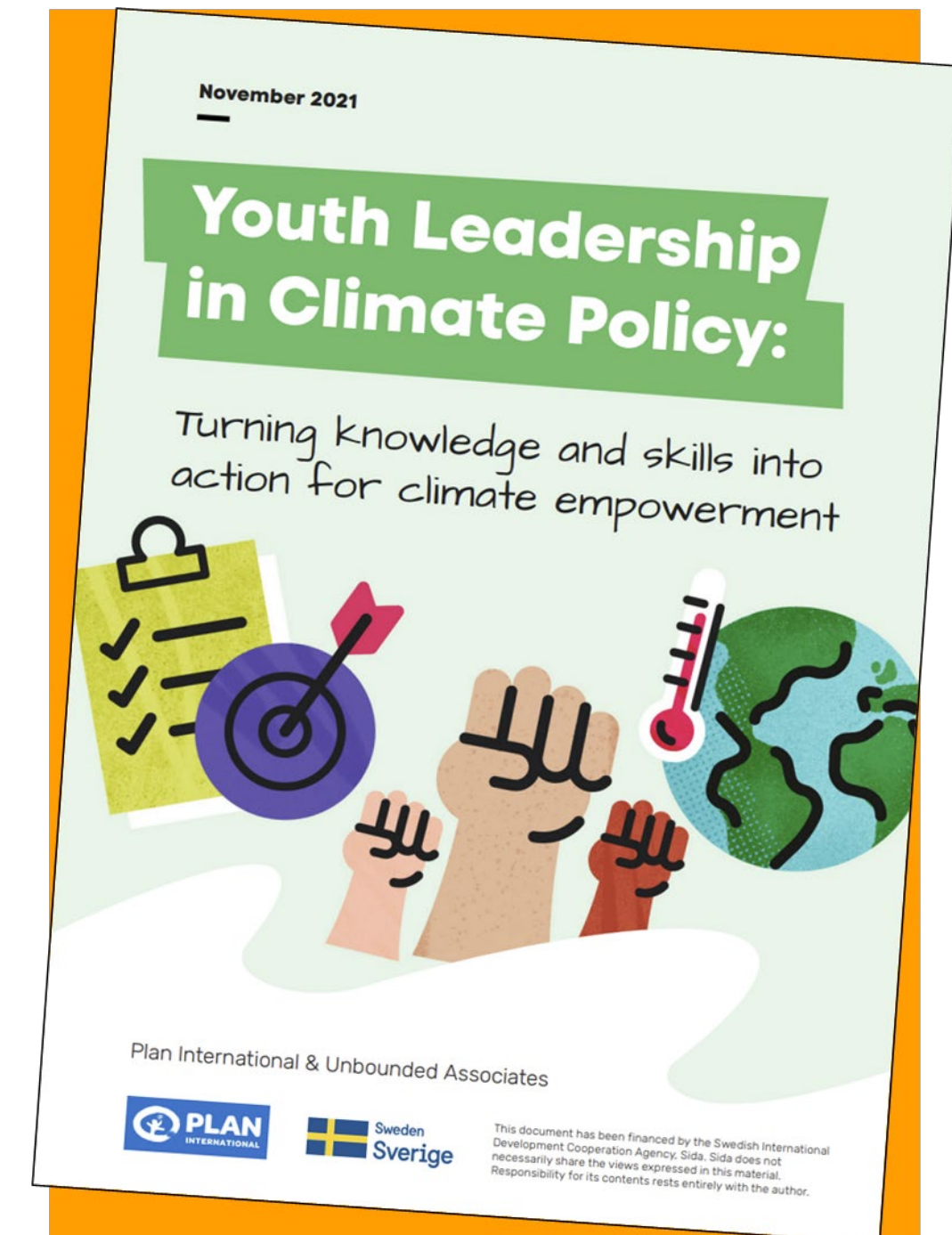
# YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE POLICY

**Do you want to engage in climate decision making but have no clue where to start? This workbook will guide you step by step to influence climate action.**

This guide aims at helping you to strengthen the knowledge and skills you need to engage in climate policy and influence action in your country. The workbook is divided in four chapters and explores: (1) What is climate policy and decision making? (2) How are countries taking action? (3) Who can help you take action? (4) Turning your knowledge into action.

**Author:** Plan International

 [Download](#)



# HOW TO RUN A YOUTH DIALOGUE

The Youth Climate Pact Dialogue allows young people to engage in European decision-making by giving them an opportunity to co-create and participate in discussions with high-level officials from the European Commission.

Through it, a group of young Climate Pact Ambassadors can voice their opinions and needs, ask questions, and discuss policy recommendations. This personal exchange between young people and European Commission officials is livestreamed, allowing people across Europe to participate and ask questions virtually.

A Youth Dialogue offers young people the opportunity to discuss current issues with politicians in person and can be adapted to any political level – local, regional, national or European level – for example, by organizing it with a city mayor, a minister, or a Member of the European Parliament.

**Author:** DG CLIMA / Climate Pact

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