



Young Activists for Peace and Climate Justice

Darmstadt Bessunger Forst 07.08.2023-16.08.2023 Daily Reports



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Background of the Initiative

Since 2015, **ICJA** offers trainings and youth exchanges in the frame of a concept we call "**Young Activists for Peace**". Until now over 400 participants came from different corners of the European Union, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, as well as the Mediterranean Region.

The "Young Activists for Peace" projects offers a wide range of activities, topics and pedagogical concepts in the field of peace education, trainings for democracy, empowerment of youngsters with fewer opportunities etc. We do this, because we believe in the impact of this work on the young participants who will contribute democratic and peaceful societies in the long term.

Global warming is a fundamental threat to all people on earth, but in different ways: The lifestyle of the rich is the main cause of the greenhouse effect; people in the global south suffer the most from the consequences, like drought, heat waves and floods. Especially poor and young people in the global North and South are bearing the consequences of a climate crisis they did not cause.

The focus of this training was the worldwide fight for climate justice. Together we looked for positive role models and helpful competences to achieve a more peaceful and sustainable future for all of us.

Goals of the Project

The youth exchange was held for young activists who wanted to get knowledge and skills and actively work for climate justice and peace. About 25 youth and young adults from Europe and neighbouring countries were invited to the youth exchange. The goals were:

- to get to know people, initiatives and their activities for climate justice;
- to gain an overview of the global problems caused by global warming and environmental pollution;
- to share experience and practice with other international participants and their youth organisation and jointly develop new methods and approaches in the field of sustainability and the UN sustainability goals;

The training consisted of the following modules:

- Workshops on understanding global warming e.g. "climatefresk"
- Workshops on just and sustainable nutrition e.g. "Food Justice".
- Workshops with examples from Global Learning;
- Visit to the Rainforest Centre "Centre for Global Sustainability"
- Workshops on creative events and campaigns on climate justice
- Learning from best practice: Excursions to initiatives in Darmstadt and Frankfurt that work for climate justice, e.g. Museum für Kommunikation.

Activities in Details

Day 1

- Arrival
- Room assignment
- Orientation/welcome meeting
- Getting to know each other
- Bonfire

Day 2

- Arriving
- Schedule and tasks
- Getting to know the names
- Developing Rules to live on a new planet
- Setting the stage
- Social contract (and secret friend)
- Climate Justice
- Youth Pass
- Home groups
- Culture night

Day 3

- Georgian dance class
- Cinema in the Forest
- Princess castle
- Energizer
- Peer to peer activities
- **♣** Feedback
- Home group
- Cleaning

Day 4

- Georgian dances
- Debate
- Mind map
- Solutions
- Meditation
- Lecture
- Presentations
- Cultural night

Day 5

- Georgian dance class
- **4** Energizer
- Simulation game
- Simulation game reflection
- Dream journey

- **♣** Feedback
- ♣ Home group
- Darmstadt

Day 6

- ♣ Frankfurt Trip
- **♣** Time in the City

Day 7

- Rainforest center
- ♣ Forest walk and activities
- Showcasing results and findings
- Videos
- Cultural night

Day 8

- Climate fresk
- ♣ Climate and me: debate
- Pizza night
- Clean the forest
- ♣ Home group

Day 9

- Breathing Technique
- ♣ Art (Connecting the dots)
- ♣ Art exhibition
- Youth pass evaluation
- ♣ Ice cream
- ♣ 5 finger evaluation
- final talk in group
- feedback
- planning for morning
- secret friend
- writing comments for each other
- final night

Day 10

♣ Farewell & Departure

Daily Reports

DAY 1 - Monday, 07.08.2023

Starting from dinner time, the participants began arriving at our location in Darmstadt. The trainers helped all the participants to settle in the building and find a room to live.

After some interactions and getting to know each other, the trainers Cornelia, Lars, Leona and Sara held a welcome meeting, where they introduced themselves. We played some games designed to get to know each other better and learn each other's names. We talked a little about our expectations for the upcoming days.

Then, the man who works at the seminar house invited us to join the bonfire with him. We talked to him and enjoyed the fire and then went to sleep.

Getting to know each other lays a good foundation for future collaboration together.

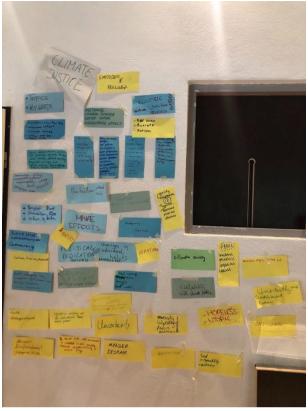
DAY 2 - Tuesday, 08.08.2023



During the morning we learned about the agenda for the week and how we want to organize ourselves during the week (who helps with food, cleaning, and daily report. Then we played a game to learn our names.

After a small break we started a group work in which we needed to discuss new rules for our group if we would live on a new planet. The discussion made us questions about ourselves and was at times

somehow difficult. It was challenging to find common ground. And then we shared the rules from each group with all participants.





After lunch we had a quick reflection about working in the groups. And based on that we created our social contract. It was fun, since we decided at first for the rule "no killing", and we had some longer discussion on the use of phone. And a lot more. Additionally, we decided to do "secret friend" during whole workshop.

Then we started with the topic Climate Justice and each person presented an object related to the topic, which they found outside.



Then we collected topics and key words concerning Climate Justice and put them up on the wall. Next we talked about our emotions/feeling concerning Climate Justice.

Then there was a brief presentation about the Youth pass.

After dinner, we had our first Home Group Session, in which we reflected the day. Then the cultural night already started. First we ate a lot of

sweets, a some small cheese, and some drinks. Then there were presentation of Georgia and Belgium (incl. some lovely dances). Then some people put music and continued dancing (this time Turkish and Georgian).



Then we cleaned up.

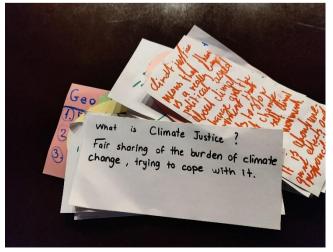
Overall, the day went over really quickly.

We went to sleep, excited for the next cultural night, and curious about the rest of the days.

DAY 3 - Wednesday, 09.08.2023

After breakfast we went to the Rainforest Center. There we watched several films about primary and secondary rainforests and the environment overall. Unfortunately, weather was very bad for walking and after 50 minutes we came back and we had free time till lunch.

At 3 o'clock we started activities. At the beginning, we played a game called princess and castle, which was supposed to be an energiser to give us some strength before the upcoming sessions.



Then we wrote our opinions about climate justice. We had a lively discussion about them. Afterwards, we had peer to peer activities. It means we talked about our country's problems and shared our feelings. We wrote a topic about our abilities, which we can share with someone (for example, some people want to study foreign languages and someone can teach them).

Our conversations, like the thought-provoking parking space, showcased dialogue's impact, deepening understanding. Resonating questions heightened awareness, propelling profound insights into our planet. Amid these exchanges, ideas converged, hinting at future strategies for harmony between humanity and the environment.

After that we had a very good dinner and at 20 o'clock we met to share our feelings about today.

DAY 4 – Thursday, 10.08.2023

In the morning, we started with vibrant Georgian dances. The intricate steps and spirited movements invigorated the participants ahead of a long day.

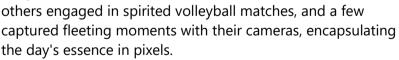
Following the dance session, participants gathered around a fireplace for a spirited debate on food justice and engaged in thoughtful discourse on the equitable distribution of sustenance.

A mind map took center stage on the board. Climate crisis, obesity, and hunger/malnutrition were interconnected. With creativity and collective intelligence, participants clustered and connected these notions, revealing the underlying systemic connections.

After this insightful exercise, participants explored solutions. Group discussions blossomed and innovative strategies began to take shape. The lunch break brought a well-deserved pause, featuring a delightful meal of broccoli soup and hot bread complemented by hummus and lentil spread.



During the break, the venue hummed with various activities - some sought restorative naps,



The afternoon session beckoned participants to re-engage with an energizing activity - active meditation.

A captivating lecture on food justice and planetary diets, enriched participants' understanding of the global food ecosystem. This intellectual journey set the stage for group

discussions, where participants dissected and deliberated ways to address food challenges. Ideas ranged from reducing overproduction to fostering planetary ecological meals and enhancing urban gardening.



The culmination of these deliberations resulted in insightful presentations, where each group showcased their proposed solutions. The room brimmed with enthusiasm and a sense of shared purpose.



The theory seamlessly transitioned into practice as participants collaborated to create a planetary meal, symbolizing the potential of collective action. This hands-on experience underscored the importance of translating ideas into tangible change and resonated deeply with the participants.

The cultural night celebrated diversity, with vibrant representations of Morocco, Martinique, Senegal, Turkey, and France.

In retrospect, the day was a fusion of artistry, intellect, cooperation, and empathy. It underscored the potential that lies within collective action and creative thinking, leaving participants inspired, connected, and equipped to make a positive impact on the world.



As the sun dipped below the horizon, participants went to bed, carrying with them the memories of a day well-spent and a shared commitment to a more just and sustainable future.

DAY 5 – Friday, 11.08.2023



We started the day with doing a morning Georgian dance with Gvantsa and few participants. It was really motivating and nice. After dancing, we decided to do an energizer with Dinah. The goal of the energizer was to guess the leader of







After that we played a simulation game. We had several groups with different roles based on 2 countries - Kaleidu and North Land. The porpuse of it was to find solution that was acceptable for everyone. The topics were about Food Justice, Obesity, Diabeties, Farmers and etc. We were supposed to talk to each other and make agreements. We all learned how important it is for everyone to have an acces to healthy food and to live in a healthy environment. And how hard it is for people to have an agreement with the government and different organizations. The only downside of it was the fact that in the

beginning some of the participants did not really understand their role and the porpuse of the game.



Afer the simulation game few of us decided to do a dream journey. which was very relaxing after a long day of activities. Dinah read us a peaceful story which helped us to clear our minds. In the end of Dinah's activities we did a feedback. Before we went to



Darmstadt we had a short homegroup session and

shared our feelings with each other.

The trip to Darmstadt turned out great. We walked around the city, had ice-cream, visited a garden, church and etc.

At the end of the day we all were very happy but a little bit tired.

DAY 6 - Saturday, 12.08.2023



in the rain.:)

Our day started with breakfast at 9:30am, after breakfast we started preparing for Frankfurt, because we should have left at 11:30. Sara, Lars and Cornelia was with us and we went to Darmstadt by bus and then from Darmstadt to Frankfurt by train. Even though we had

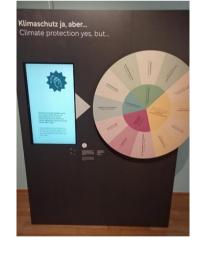


only 5 minutes to catch the train we still managed to do it.

When we got out of the train station it was heavy rain so we had to run to the Museum, despite the fact that we all were wet, personally, i really enjoyed running

Museum of communication was so interesting, we interacted with the exhibition, we played the game "Actionbond", which helped us to explore the museum better. We gained a lot knowledge about climate justice, biodevirsity, sustainability that helped us to realise the real danger of climate changes. It showed how our actions affects the entire planet and how to solve urgent problems.

Later in the day, when the sun was going down, we decided to take a calm walk by the pretty river. Kids were laughing and playing, and the air smelled like yummy coffee. Families were having fun together, couples were taking romantic walks, and friends were talking at the cafes. The sound of the river made everything peaceful. We went to a famous bridge and took lots of pictures with the city behind us. We were happy and joking around. Then we went to the old part of the city, which felt like going back in time. The streets were old and had cute shops.





Next, we went to a big mall with many stores. Some of us

shopped and got things to remember the trip. We laughed and talked while people shopped around us. We talked about our travels.

On the way back, we thought about all the things that happened. The city lights disappeared, but the memories stayed. This day in Frankfurt was really special because we

explored, had fun with friends, and had unexpected adventures.

DAY 7 - Sunday, 13.08.2023





On 13th
August,we
embarked on an
educational
journey to the
Rainforest
Center. The
day's activities
revolved around
raising

awareness about forest conservation and the crucial role it plays in preserving our environment. We engaged in a range of activities, from learning about mapping techniques to

identifying wildlife and plants, and understanding the efforts of global forest conservationists.

The day commenced with a visit to the Rainforest Center. In the morning session, the participants watched informative videos that highlighted various mapping techniques used in forest conservation. These videos provided insights into the significance of accurate mapping for understanding and protecting the rainforest ecosystem.

Following the video session, we, the participants, embarked on a guided forest walk led by Klaus, an experienced conservationist. During the walk, the participants engaged in activities such as measuring tree heights, identifying wildlife, and exploring various plant species. One group focused on identifying plants and mushrooms, deepening their understanding of the diverse flora within the rainforest.



One of the highlights of the day was the practical application of measuring tree width and height using different techniques. These hands-on exercises allowed participants to grasp the complexities of accurate data collection for conservation purposes. The acquired knowledge was then shared through presentations conducted within the forest itself, allowing participants to showcase their findings and insights.



Back at the Rainforest Center, participants were exposed to informative videos that showcased the dedication of conservationists worldwide. Notably, a video about a conservationist living in a tree in North America to protect the area from logging left a lasting impression. Other videos shed light on local communities' efforts in Kenya and various countries to protect their natural resources.

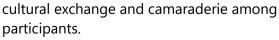
Klaus, an invaluable source of information, shared his extensive knowledge with the participants. He provided insights into the origins of trees within the forest, some of which were brought from rainforest countries like Canada. Participants were encouraged to engage with their senses, such as smelling the trees, fostering a deeper connection with the environment.

Klaus also discussed the broader context of global forest conservation efforts and the role individuals can play. He highlighted how daily habits, activism, and dietary choices can contribute to safeguarding our natural world. This session not only educated participants but also empowered them to make conscious decisions in support of conservation.



After an enriching day of activities, participants enjoyed a lunch prepared. The culinary experience was followed by home group discussions that

facilitated reflections on the day's experiences. Later in the evening, Georgian and Turkish colleagues collaborated to prepare a delightful dinner and dessert, enhancing the





The day concluded with a vibrant cultural night, celebrating diversity through dance and presentations. The participants showcased their cultural appreciation by dancing to Moroccan music. Additionally, presentations from Ukraine and Azerbaijan highlighted the uniqueness of different cultures and further strengthened the bonds among participants.





The visit to the Rainforest Center provided participants with an immersive learning experience, encompassing hands-on activities, expert insights, and global conservation awareness. The day's activities served as a reminder of the critical role forests play in preserving our planet's biodiversity. The engagement, learning, and cultural exchange made the visit not only educational but also deeply enriching and memorable for all participants.

DAY 8 - Monday, 14.08.2023



In the morning after breakfast, we had an interesting and unique activity with the trainers, called "Climate Fresk". The trainers gave us a variety of cards, all of which were related to multiple climate problems and natural disasters. Our task was to organise these cards in a way that shows which issues cause further damage to the planet, and connect them all together to see what derives from what.

We learned that most of the damage comes from human activities, which means we are the ones destroying the planet. The trainers assisted us if something was unclear.



After that, we had a really informative activity. The trainers prepared some topics, ranging from steps to save the planet to the importance of mental health in fight for climate justice. We could choose the topic that resonates with us the most of all and get



into groups according to our topics. In the end, we worked on our presentation in groups ranging from 2 to 6 people. Each group ended up presenting their topic to the colleagues. Some of the themes sparked active and heated discussions

among participants. Between presentations, we had a break to clear our minds and then continued. The conversations were heavy and we reminded ourselves how there is still a long way to go when it comes to climate justice and fighting for a healthy planet and society.

In the evening, Lars prepared a delicious pizza for us. We enjoyed it so much that he decided to prepare even more when we come back, as we were supposed to go and clean the forest from garbage. One group went to pick up trash in the forest, while another group went to the supermarket and collected a lot of garbage on the sides of the road. This activity helped us feel like we are making a small positive



impact on the world. We also reflected on the day in home groups, as usual.

Afterwards, it was time for more pizza, and everyone was full and satisfied in the end. We stayed and talked until late night about interesting cultural things in our countries.

DAY 9 – Tuesday, 15.08.2023

Today our breakfast started at 9:00, so that we would go ahead with the main program at 10 am. Once we were ready, Leona introduced us to a different kind of energizer - a new Breathing Technique, guided from a professional in a Youtube video, which lasted 10 minutes and drew the whole group in. Leona had prepared the conference room for the activity, but having the floor cleaned and freed from the furniture, so that the participants could get comfortable for the exercise. Turns out, it was fairly difficult to control the breath and switch the rhythms from time to time, but in the end everyone handled the task well.



After that, Leona offered us another unique activity - we had to create an art piece



using mainly a thread (but also other materials if needed), that would also thematically be connected to the project and the time spent here. We had overall around two hours to come up with the ideas and crafts, with a lunch break in between, and the results were amazing - everyone had their unique art pieces with different ideas and thoughts behind them. We also had a freedom of choice on where to place our creations and they were all over the place in the end, so the

whole seminar area turned into a real art gallery for a while!

After the main activity, there was a time for the evaluation. In the first part, we had a typical Erasmus+ evaluation list - different papers where we had to choose the satisfaction level of the overall project, as well as specific aspects of the training and the 8 Youthpass competences - whether they were met in this youth exchange or not. Some participants, who

were done with their art pieces earlier started marking them straightaway and the others joined later, in the end, the results were fairly diverse.



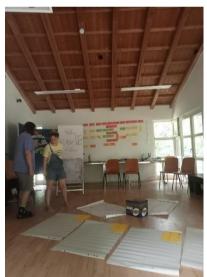
Also, Cornelia prepared a last-day surprise for us - ice cream, lots and lots of ice cream! Which of course the whole group greatly enjoyed.

After the ice-cream break we had another type of evaluation, the 5-finger method, where we provided additional feedback on what we liked, what was too short, etc. Afterwards we had a final meeting with the whole group, where we shared our thoughts and feelings and revealed the Secret Friends. At the end,

everyone was overwhelmed with emotions, but also happy to get ready for the Farewell Evening.

Meanwhile, the dinner was ready, which, as Lars had mentioned before during the final meeting that we have wasted zero to none food on this project, was composed from the dishes made earlier. We also started a nice activity - each person, both participants and leaders, had a page dedicated to them, where others would write nice things about them. Everyone had so much to say, that it seemed that only one page per person wasn't enough. In the end, everyone joined for the Farewell Night, with the snacks, song, dances and shared emotions, to spend the time we have together the best way possible.







It was a really nice last day, in which we were able to reflect, give feedback and have fun together. We had a rollercoaster of emotions and a full package of new knowledge of methods of evaluation that will be useful for our personal and professional development.

DAY 10 – Wednesday, 16.07.2023

In the morning, the participants ate breakfast as usual. Everyone was packing their things and cleaning the rooms. Outside area was filled with luggage. Most of the group was cleaning the house and managing the leftover food. Some people went to enjoy the forest for the last time. The staff of Jugendhof kindly let us remain at the territory for however long we need to wait for our trip back home.

One by one, the participants started leaving for their trains, planes and buses. There were a lot of emotional goodbyes. But many people expressed the thought that we will definitely see each other again someday, and invited each other to visit their countries.

Overall, we were happy with the training and all the bonds we have formed during the participation. We will try to apply the knowledge we received in our work and everyday life, and are waiting for the opportunity to see each other again.

Conclusions

"Young Activists for Peace and Climate Justice" project was focused on global climate issues and sustainability. This year's initiative has successfully achieved its goals of promoting peace education, democracy, and empowering young people with fewer opportunities.

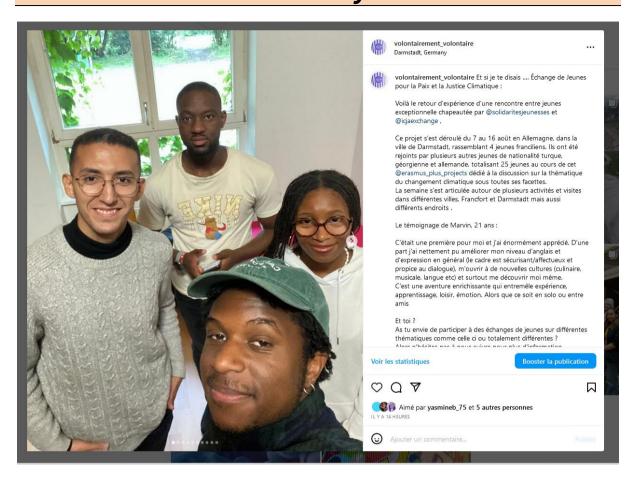
Throughout the project, the participants learned not only about the urgent global issue of climate change but also about the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic factors contributing to this crisis. They gained insights into the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities. This awareness served as a powerful motivator for the young activists to take action.

The project's objectives were met through a variety of engaging activities, including workshops on understanding global warming and sustainable nutrition, visits to centers focused on global sustainability, and exposure to best practices through excursions to local initiatives. The participants were able to create an artistic piece that reflects their views on climate justice. These activities encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving among the participants.

One of the key takeaways from this project is the importance of international cooperation and sharing of experiences. The participants were able to connect with like-minded individuals and youth organizations from different backgrounds. This networking and knowledge exchange will undoubtedly continue to benefit these young activists in their future endeavors.

The project has not only equipped its participants with essential knowledge and skills but has also ignited a passion for climate justice and sustainability. The lessons learned here will undoubtedly shape the contributions of these young activists to building democratic, peaceful, and environmentally responsible societies in the long term.

Visibility





Last August, a memorable gathering took place in the serene settings of Darmstadt Forest, Germany . We were joined by four enthusiastic participants 👰 👰 and a dedicated team leader, all hailing from Belgium 📭.

From the 7th to the 16th, our main mission was to dive deep into the worldwide fight for climate justice . Together, we embarked on a journey, seeking out positive role models and acquiring competences that we believed could pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for everyone .

The individuals who joined us were not just any participants. They were passionate activists, aged between 18 to 30, eager to enhance their knowledge and skills # . They held a burning desire to make a significant impact in the realms of climate justice and peace .

Thanks to our partners: Germany ICJ, Georgia - Civil Forum, France - Solidarites Jeunesses, Turkey - PIYA Turkey.

The project is co-funding from the European Commission, channeled through the Erasmus+ program

. Such days will forever remain etched in our memories

.











On avait dis des vacances...

Mon premier séjour en Allemagne 💌

Un échange sur la justice climatique et la paix,

Avec des jeunes européens 😊

Une semaine à vivre en forêt, de rencontres, de partage, d'échange de connaissances, de nos cultures, de nos démocraties,...

Agréable découverte de nos voisins, calme et ordre, une excellente semaine en paix @ & 3 livres lus 😉 Par contre, il faudra dire aux Verts allemands d'investir dans leurs trains 🍇

Merci à CODEC, l'équipe, aux participants et à l'Allemagne 🗪

A bientôt 😘

Übersetzung anzeigen







codec.europe • Folgen



codec.europe Last August, a memorable gathering took place in the serene settings of Darmstadt Forest, Germany . We were joined by four enthusiastic participants and a dedicated team leader, all hailing from Belgium BE.

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Gefällt 15 Mal

Melde dich an, um mit "Gefällt mir" zu markieren oder zu kommentieren.



Greetings, a Belgian organization is looking for 4 participants for a youth exchange in Germany



When? - 07 - 16.08.2023

Where? - Darmstadt Forest, Germany

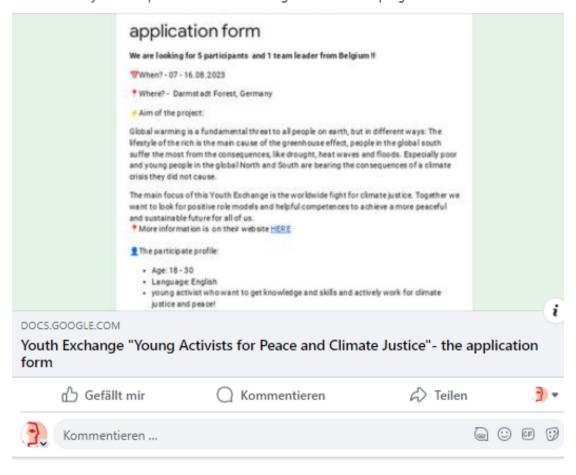
Apply here: https://forms.gle/gE86SY8oVoWKoZ4VA

Application deadline: as soon as possible.

Goal of the project:

The main focus of this youth exchange is the global struggle for climate justice. Together, we want to seek positive role models and useful competencies to achieve a more peaceful and sustainable future for us all.

- Profile for participation:
- Age: 18 30
- Language: English
- To be a young activist who wants to gain knowledge and skills and actively work for climate justice and peace!
- -Participation fee: €40 for the host organization
- ■JAII expenses are covered (food, accommodation, travel €180, green travel €210). The project is financed by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ program.





We are looking for 4 participants and 1 team leader from Belgium!!

When? - 07 - 16.08.2023

Where? - Darmstadt Forest, Germany

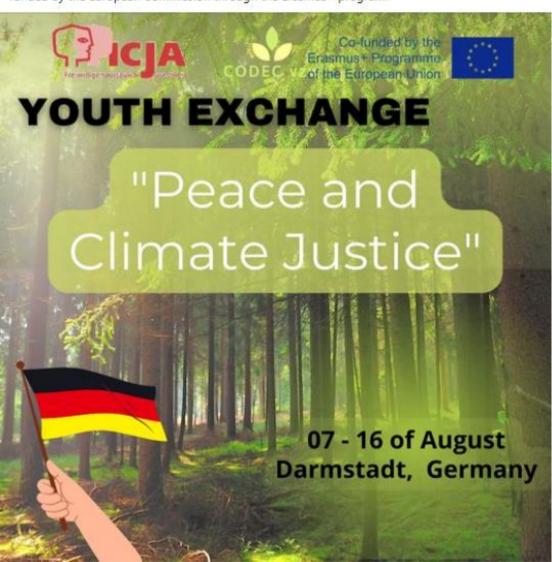
Apply here: https://forms.gle/gE86SY8oVoWKoZ4VA

Deadline to apply: as soon as possible

Aim of the project:

The main focus of this Youth Exchange is the worldwide fight for climate justice. Together we want to look for positive role models and helpful competences to achieve a more peaceful and sustainable future for all of us.

- The participate profile:
- Age: 18 30
- Language: English
- Be young activist who want to get knowledge and skills and actively work for climate justice and peace!
- -Participation fee: 40 € for the host organisation
- MIAII costs are covered (food, accommodation travel 180€, green travel 210€,). The project is funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ program.



Participating Organisations

Turkey	PIYA Turkey	Website	contact.person(at)pigenclikdernegi.org
Germany	ICJA	Website	youthexchange(at)icja.de
Georgia	Civil Forum	Website	civilforumorg(at)gmail.com
France	SJ	Website	sle@solidaritesjeunesses.org
Belgium	CODEC	Website	codec.ka1(at)gmail.com

Coordinating Organisation

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Nikolaus Ell
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This project is registered as local awareness-raising activity associated with the Raising Peace campaign

Raising Peace is a networking initiative that aims to contribute to the construction of peace, the guarantee of human rights all over the world, and to highlight the role that International Voluntary Service (IVS) plays in the field. The programme achieves this through advocating for human rights, non-formal education training and capacity building, empowerment of activists and organisations and through communication and visibility campaigns.

This project was co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.