



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Climate Justice Now!

Report of the study session held by
Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe
and
World Student Christian Federation Europe
in co-operation with the
European Youth Centre
of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Strasbourg
12th - 18th of September
2010



This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

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Acknowledgements

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1. Greetings from course director

Dear participants of the study session *Climate Justice Now!*

Greetings on behalf of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE) and World Student Christian Federation Europe Region (WSCF-E)! I hope this finds you all well.

Almost a year after our encounters and wonderful week together in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg I have the pleasure to present you with the report of the work we did together!

I hope this publication will give a good insight of what had been done during the study session, all the hard work, good ideas, achievements and the great atmosphere we had! It should also help to recollect the debates and discussions, to revise the knowledge, new methods and ideas gained and most of all - to strengthen your motivation and once again enhance your inspiration to address the issues of climate justice!



Once again, I would like to thank all the participants whose enthusiasm, experience and knowledge created opportunities for growth and enrichment! Together we achieved a very important understanding - that we as young people have not only the responsibility, but also a great potential to raise awareness of the issues, which are affecting every being on this planet! Together we realised, how important it is to live in love and solidarity with the creation, while raising our voices for those who have no possibility to advocate for themselves. Together we reviewed our daily habits and the influence of our way of life on the lives of other people.

I hope that the ideas we developed and commitments we took together have started to effect changes in our local communities and will further bring changes to our organisations, countries and the global community! I hope that we will maintain our green and fresh approach to making a change!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kristīne Jansone', written in a cursive style.

Kristīne Jansone
EYCE General Secretary

2. Greetings from the participants

In an age of pervasive materialism and convenience, even the most radical activists may find it difficult to make environmentally friendly choices on an everyday basis. Moreover, making such choices is often more expensive, inconvenient, and non-conventional. Living a simple lifestyle in harmony with creation requires enormous courage – courage to challenge the *status quo*, courage to critically examine our lifestyle and how it impacts the environment and our brothers and sisters across the globe.



In my experience, such courage cannot easily be found when I'm on my own. I need to meet like-minded people, so that we can support each other in making good choices. Thus, for me, the Climate Justice Now study session in Strasbourg provided the perfect venue to meet other young Christian leaders from all over Europe, all passionate about preventing and reversing climate changes. Here, I met young adults who are willing to not only live simply and sustainably themselves, but who also want to convince others to do the same.

We gathered at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg – a beautiful space for seminars, group work, and social gatherings. For one week, we shared our lives, our experiences, successes, failures, visions, and hopes for a sustainable future. It was a very powerful experience for me to get to know people from such different backgrounds and to see that we are still united in our beliefs and desire to care for creation. Meeting other young adults like myself helped me recognize that each and every one of us are capable of living as ordinary radicals. Together we can support each other to live simply, so that others may simply live.

Janne Dale Hauger, Norway



I feel very lucky that I heard about EYCE this year and was able to participate in such an important seminar about climate change. It was held in the beautiful old town Strasbourg. The organizers had outdone themselves in making our stay both pleasant and very interesting by organizing different events and sessions. The atmosphere was friendly and outgoing, making everyone feel at ease to share their ideas.

Climate change affects all life on our planet and it is up to us the young people from all countries to take steps and make real changes to save our planet. Such

seminars are a valuable asset toward getting people together to make a difference. All was done in a very fun way with games, brainstorming, watching films, listening to lectures and all the time interacting and sharing ideas. The film about climate refugees was very sobering and made us realize the urgency of the matter.

It was a new and fascinating experience for me to prepare and take part in the morning and evening prayers, which helped all the participants to feel a special bond. The international evening was also a great icebreaker, where we learned a lot about the country of each member and tried some of the special dishes and drinks. I enjoyed the green party where everyone was dressed in green, too.

Overall, I can say that besides being extremely useful and informative this seminar gave me many new friends, with whom to share ideas and try to make the world a better place. This is the biggest treasure.

Romina Nikolova, Bulgaria

3. Executive summary

30 young people, including the preparatory team, representing 20 different nationalities took part in the study session "Climate Justice Now!" at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from 12th - 18th of September 2010. By gathering young people and students from diverse backgrounds, the study session sought to enhance intercultural and ecumenical dialogue about the social, political, economic, cultural and theological dimensions of climate justice.

There were several aspects of causes and consequences of climate change discussed during the study session, both in informal discussions, lectures, the workshops and group work.

The main themes discussed during the study session were the political, theological and practical aspects of climate justice. The participants explored together the various situations with regards to climate justice in Europe and beyond by presenting the problematic issues and good practice examples from their countries. A good insight into the legal framework and international negotiation on the climate justice was provided by the trainer Cosmin Coredea. This gave an opportunity to the participants to explore themes of climate refugees, the debate of global south, as well as international climate negotiations.

An important input to the study session was the theological perspectives given by Rev. Peter Pavlovic from the Conference of European Churches. Not only it elaborated the moral imperative of Christianity to care about the creation, but also revealed various theological approaches, e.g. dualistic approach, which puts the spiritual and earthly in opposition, thus denying the need for the latter, as well as concepts of eco-theology. Rev. Ilkka Sipilainen contributed to the content of the study session with a lecture on the practical involvement of churches in the work towards an ecologically responsible society.

Through a variety of interactive approaches, such as discussion groups, a simulation game, practical workshops, the participants further developed their understanding on the issue of climate justice and exchanged their views and experiences.



The most important achievement of the study session is the statement developed and signed by the participants. With this statement the participants acknowledged the strong need to promote climate justice as a Human Right and called for more awareness and action. The statement highlights rethinking our excessive consumerism and the consideration of alternative ways of life. It also points out the need for the improvement

of climate education involving all parts of society as being a crucial part of the change. The statement claims the recognition of climate refugees as an official category in the UNHCR-statutes.

The statement prepared by the participants was carried forward to the Consultation of the Conference of European Churches "Poverty, Wealth, Ecology", where it served as basis for the "Budapest Youth Declaration".

Following up the discussions and workshops, the participants developed several tools and methods for addressing climate change in their local context, such as public awareness raising campaign, several activities for youth groups (e.g. "eco-treasure hunt", interactive "green footprint quiz"), as well as drama with an elaborate scenario and usage of the "spectactor" method.

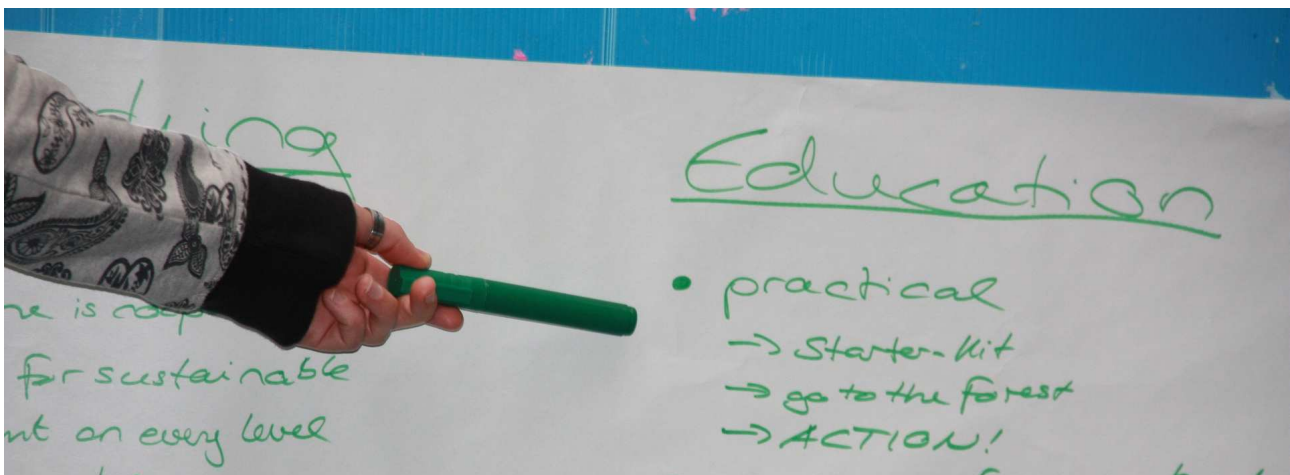
The outcomes of the study session were reflected in the MOZAIK publication of WSCF-E and reported to the executive bodies of both of the organisations.

Recommendations for future events of the two organizations, e.g. vegetarian day, which were developed through the discussions and exchange of experiences during the study session, were forwarded to the executive bodies of the organizations and are already being implemented.

Finally, the study session provided a solid basis to the EYCE 3-year "Campaign to Promote Ecological Justice", which was launched in March 2011.

The most important outcome of the study session is the statement developed by the participants, which includes the main points of discussion that emerged during the week. The statement was also presented at a Consultation of the Conference of European Churches "Poverty, Wealth, Ecology", which took place in November 2010 in Budapest, and served as a basis for the "Budapest Youth Declaration".

The practical outcomes of the study session, such as methods developed and approaches suggested, are already used in the daily practices by EYCE and WSCF-E.



4. Introduction to the study session

During the preparation of the study session the thematic framework was discussed by both of the organisations. Also, the needs of the young people in the ecumenical movement with regards to the theme were identified in order to develop relevant aim and objectives for the study session.

It was agreed that climate change is one of the most serious and urgent issues that is challenging our society. Still, the awareness of the variety of its aspects in society is low. Young people and students, who

have a good potential in addressing the issues of climate justice in their own context, often lack knowledge, skills and a factual framework to do so.

Both of the organisations being Christian and Ecumenical organisations felt deeply the need to address the issues of climate justice and ecology as part of our Christian responsibility for the creation, which requires protection and care. By organising this study session EYCE and WSCF-E hoped to join forces, experience and resources to take part in the common response to climate change, which could be brought to churches, as well as to European and global ecumenical organisations.

The main aim of the study session was:

to raise awareness of climate change and enhance active environmental responsibility among young Europeans, by deepening factual knowledge, changing day-to-day ecological habits, and by providing concrete skills and tools for them to be active promoters of green thinking.

In order to reach this aim, the following **objectives** were formulated:

- to provide a safe forum to encourage inter-cultural dialogue among young people in Europe;
- to raise the awareness concerning climate change among our member groups;
- to deepen the knowledge of participants by exploring facts and figures on climate change;
- to study and analyse the developments from Kyoto to Copenhagen and beyond.
- to explore the ethical aspects of climate change and concepts of responsible dominion;
- to analyse the roles and responsibilities of young people in slowing the process of climate change;
- to provide practical advice and tips for ecologically responsible lifestyles and concrete follow-up actions in local environments;
- to provide relevant skills for participants to be able to think and act in ecologically responsible ways, in their daily lives and beyond - to act as ambassadors for the Earth.

5. The participants

The study session brought together 24 participants from all over Europe and beyond, with different cultural, social and denominational backgrounds, creating a unique and diverse basis for discussions on the ecological situation in various countries, and the role and responsibility of young Christians in these situations.

Participants of the study session were young people and students, aged 18 - 35 from EYCE and WSCF-E networks. Preference was given to the participants, who have the potential to implement concrete projects to enhance environmentally responsible thinking and practice of young people in their network and social environment. However, as a basic criteria, these participants identified and were acquainted with the theme of the study session, motivated and capable to engage themselves into the discussion.



The group of participants was diverse and balanced in terms of gender, denominational, age and regional background.

The participants came from the following countries:

Armenia	2	Lithuania	2
Belgium	1	Norway	2
Bulgaria	2	Poland	1
Colombia	1	Russian Federation	1
Denmark	2	Slovakia	1
Georgia	1	Sweden	1
Germany	2	United Kingdom	2
Greece	2	Ukraine	1

6. The Preparatory Team

The following persons composed the Preparatory Team, which was in charge of planning and implementing the study session.

- Kristīne Jansone (EYCE, Belgium/ Latvia)
- Vaida Krisciunaite (WSCF-E, Lithuania)
- Inka Lindroos (EYCE, Finland)
- Paweł Pustelnik (WSCF-E, the Netherlands/ Poland)
- Philipp Ruess (EYCE, Germany)

7. Guest Speakers



Rev. Ilkka Sipilainen, World Council of Churches' Working Group on climate change.

Rev. Sipilainen works as secretary of social responsibility in the office of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. He is one of the drafters of the Lutheran Church of Finland Study on climate change and contributor to the Ecumenical Review on the themes of climate change.

During the study session he gave a lecture on a practical approach towards climate change from the Churches' perspective.



Rev. Peter Pavlovic, Conference of European Churches.

Rev. Pavlovic is among the founders and currently the coordinator of the ECEN - European Christian Environmental Network. He gave a lecture on theological aspects of responsibilities of young Christians towards the environment. Various theological concepts, including eco-theology were addressed in his contribution, which sparked many discussions.



Cosmin Coredea, External Trainer of the Council Of Europe.

Cosmin Coredea is a lawyer from Bucharest, Romania, living and working in San Francisco, US.

He is best known for initiating and developing the concept of 'hybrid law' in 2007, a legal research tool for human rights, refugee and environmental law. Mr. Coredea's experience in the area of refugee and environmental law includes field research in Pacific, Europe and Asia, consultancies for different UN bodies like UNFCCC, UNDP, UNHCR and

UNHCHR and expertise for East-West Center, USHRN, HREA, RSC, University of Oxford and Columbia University School of Law.

Since 2004 he also serves as a trainer/consultant for the Council of Europe and the European Commission's SALTO programme.

During the study session he contributed with a lecture on climate justice law. It offered profound factual background on the themes addressed, as well as gave significant input to the final statement.

8. Venue of the study session

The venue of the study session was the European Youth Centre Strasbourg (30, rue Pierre de Coubertin, Strasbourg, FRANCE).

More information about the venue can be found at www.coe.int/youth.

9. Timetable

	Sunday, 12.09.	Monday, 13.09.	Tuesday, 14.09.	Wednesday, 15.09. VEGETARIAN DAY	Thursday, 16.09.	Friday, 17.09.	Saturday, 18.09.	
8:00 - 9:00	ARRIVALS	BREAKFAST						DEPARTURES
9:00 - 9:30		Opening Prayer	MORNING PRAYER					
09:30-11:00		Introductions and icebreakers	Earth marketplace Presentation of situations in various countries	Climate Justice in practice Guest speaker	Climate Justice in theology Guest speaker	What does the Bible say? Bible study		
11:00-11:30		COFFEE BREAK						
11:30-13:00		Getting to know each other Organisers and participants	Climate justice in files and laws Guest speaker	Climate Justice in practice Group discussions	Climate Justice Now! Developing statement	Climate Justice Now! Developing statement		
13:00 - 15:00		LUNCH						
15:00-16:30		How much do we know? Approaching the theme	Copenhagen: Replay Role game	Workshops Tools for active participation in promoting climate justice	Reimbursements	Evaluation		
16:30 - 17:00		COFFEE BREAK						
17:00 - 18:30		Climate change in discussion Plenary discussion	CONTINUED. Copenhagen: REplay Role game	Roles and responsibilities of young people Work in plenary	FREE AFTERNOON			
19:00		DINNER				DINNER		
20:00	PRAYER					Closing prayer		
Evening programme	Free evening	Intercultural evening	Water and the yellow cans Movie night and discussion	Dresscode: GREEN Costume party	Dinner in town	Farewell party		

10. Day by Day Programme

Sunday, 12th of September

On Sunday the participants were arriving at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg (EYCS). In the evening welcome drinks, and ice-breakers to get to know each other better and create a warm atmosphere, were offered by the preparatory team.

Monday, 13th of September

The official opening of the study session was on Monday the 13th of September. The morning started with an ecumenical prayer prepared by the preparatory committee.

The first session was dedicated to introductions and practical information. The participants were given a presentation about the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is an organisation, which promotes and works for democracy, human rights, contributes the development of social cohesion and to safeguarding peace. The Council of Europe has 47 member states and is voicing the concerns, hopes and aspirations of 800 million Europeans. Its most recognized institution is the European Court of Human Rights. However, the Council of Europe also works on many different themes and issues through many different departments. For example, one of these is the Department for Youth and Sports, which is responsible for work with young people and human rights education with young people.

The European Youth centre in Strasbourg is one of two youth centres of Council of Europe, where study sessions, workshops, intercultural language courses and other educational activities are held.

The next session was dedicated to exploring and sharing the expectations and fears of the participants towards the study session. This was followed by the introduction of the team and the participants, as well as team building games and ice-breakers.

To approach the theme of climate justice the participants were challenged by a “true” or “false” quiz, which included facts about ecology, green lifestyles and climate change.

The quiz was followed by the green footprint test, which brought forward some shocking results for the participants. This led to a discussion about realistic and unrealistic views of green lifestyle. Among the questions asked, there were: What is excessive consumption? What are exaggerated views on being green? Which should be the moderate and most effective way of living? Having been challenged to think about their own daily lives, the participants discussed how green behaviour can be increased on a daily and global level.



The working sessions were concluded by the explanations on the global effects of the climate change by the trainer Cosmin Corendea.

The evening prayer was organised by the protestant participants. The participants gathered to share their "God's moment" of the day. The prayer was focused around the Psalm 23, which reflected the overall theme of the study session.

The evening programme of the first day was dedicated to the Intercultural evening. The participants shared food and drinks from their countries. Some participants performed national songs and dances for the group and some even taught them to others!

Tuesday, 14th of September

The day started with a prayer which took place outside and was prepared by the Orthodox participants. It gave participants an opportunity to learn about the Orthodox liturgy, as well as to think of theological approaches to nature and creation.

The first session was dedicated to *Earth marketplace*. During this session participants worked in regional groups, where they discussed the problematic issues with regards to ecology and climate justice in their countries, as well as shared examples of good initiatives in their countries working to solve these issues. The results of the discussion were presented in plenary as creative posters. The result of the work of all regions present was summarised in a creative exhibition, showing the differences of regional environmental situations and campaigns preventing environmental problems. This method enabled participants to distinguish the impact of climate change and concrete environmental situations in various regions in Europe and also globally. Furthermore, the participants gained an overview on how other regions deal with the impact of climate change or try to prevent further hazards.



The next session was focusing on the international law related environmental issues. The comprehensive presentation given by Mr. Cosmin Corendea showed various aspects and the complexity of international law, when it is related to sensitive issues such as climate change. He explained, how climate justice is connected with already existing international law and that it is not always possible to interpret the existing law in terms of environmental problems. Therefore, the law should be adapted to the specific subjects.

Mr. Corendea mentioned three pillars in international law, which are connected with climate justice issues.

- *Environmental Law*, which would focus on clean environment as a basic human right, e.g. „every person has the right to live in clean environment, if not he can be considered to be a victim of environmental disasters“
- *Refugee Law*, which would be the law having the historical background of the Cold War and is being implemented by the UNHCR, e.g. principle of *Non-refoulement*, which regards protection of refugees from being returned to places where their lives or freedoms could be threatened.
- *Human Rights*, which would work to promote the recognition of victims of environmental disasters as refugees, which is currently difficult due to the general definition of the term „refugee“.
- These three pillars are interacting, but they are not providing a full legal basis for helping victims of environmental disasters.

The two last sessions of the day were dedicated to exploring the processes of the international climate negotiations through the role game „Copenhagen – Replay“. This role game was simulating the Conference of Parties (COP) meeting in Copenhagen in 2009, which focused on developing a follow-up to the Kyoto-Protocol, which is expiring in 2012. Since the meeting was generally unsuccessful and there were no binding agreements, e.g. about the reduction of CO₂-emissions the meeting and also the role game was called „Nopenhagen“.

Each of the participants was given a certain role - official representative of the country, media, NGO and other. The participants could exercise their negotiation skills by trying to influence the decision-making process and representing their views. In the meeting highly industrialized countries like USA were

represented, as well as developing industries like China or low developed regions like Africa. In addition to the representatives of the countries, also the NGOs, world press and even political activists and victims of climate change were represented and equally took part in the role game.

The main discussions during the role game focused around the following questions.

- Who is responsible for climate change and who will compensate the harm which is already reality in some countries due to climate change? During the discussions it became clear that Less Developed Countries (LDC) claim the economic power to be responsible for the current climate change and on its impact on the environment. The highly industrialized countries were defending themselves harshly.
- What could be the main points of a common global policy? There were two suggestions which were finally combined in one paper. All industrialized countries would have to invest 1,5 % of the GDP in measures preventing further negative impacts of climate change. There will be an international commission established, which would be fully independent in deciding, which measures for climate protection will be funded or not. In addition, every country will be bound to reduce its current CO2 emissions by 30 %.



During discussions on these questions the participants were confronted with the great diversity in the interests of the particular parties involved, as well as with the great diversity of development in the world. Every participant demanded respect for their national interests, which made the decision making process very complex and difficult.

During the evening programme the documentary *About Water. People & yellow cans* (2007) was viewed. This film showed the role of water in three different stories taking place in three different regions. In Bangladesh flooding destroys crops and homes; in Kazakhstan, the harbour city of Aralsk is now a dust bowl after the Aral sea shrinks to half its original size; in Kibera, Nairobi, Africa's largest slum, there are only 15 official clean water points for a population of 1.4 million people. This contrast of personal stories of people affected by too much or too little amount of water was thought-provoking. The participants noted that these personal stories should not only make us reflect critically our way of water consumption, but also motivate us to strengthen our personal measures to prevent climate change.

Wednesday, 15th of September

The daily programme started with an ecumenical prayer in the Taizé tradition prepared by the Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran participants and team members.

The first session of the day was focusing on climate justice in practice and the role of churches in this whole process. Rev. Ilkka Sipilainen from Finland gave a detailed lecture on climate justice in practice together with examples of eco-theology and climate programmes implemented in churches. He explained that in Christianity humans are given dominion of the earth, but this dominion requires responsibility and ethical living and does not give license for the exploitation of the earth. Instead – this responsibility requires protection and care. He also outlined the ways, how young people can address the ecological issues within their churches and social contexts.

During the second session, participants followed up the input by Rev. Sipilainen by discussion in groups.

In the afternoon various workshops were offered to the participants, where they could acquire useful tools and develop ideas for addressing climate justice in their own contexts. The following workshops and discussions were offered: how to make our daily choices ecological, how to make Christmas greener, how would we define climate justice and developing ways to educate young people in climate justice.

Back in the plenary the roles and responsibilities of young people concerning climate change were discussed as a starting basis for the statement, which would be developed further during the week.



A group of participants proposed organising an action near the European Parliament to protest against the high emission policies by holding the monthly plenary sessions in Strasbourg. This would include participants each holding a big letter of the sentence: CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW! During the evening a small letter-making workshop for Thursday's action took place.

The evening programme brought much excitement as the Green costume party took place. Each participant had prepared a green-eco-funny-wicked costume. The

social committee had prepared the evening very well - there were snacks, drinks and games offered in the creatively-decorated Austrian room. Thanks to the DJs everyone spent the evening in a nice atmosphere. The winner of the costume competition is still to be revealed!

Thursday, 16th of September

The day started with a prayer as usual.

As most of the participants looked rather tired, they were offered an energiser - the Shaking dance.

During the first session theological aspects of climate justice were addressed by the guest speaker Rev. Peter Pavlovic, who represented the Church and Society Commission of the CEC and European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). Rev. Pavlovic talked about the responsibility of Christians to take care of the environment. He underlined that ecology is linked with everything else in the world as a part of creation. The Biblical references to creation, such as Genesis 1 and the passages from the New Testament, were mentioned. The speaker used passages to illustrate the positive relation between our faith and the creation. It was explained that the Bible had been often misused to argue wrongly about the misuse and mistreat of the creation.



Rev. Pavlovic spoke about Maximus the Confessor and his Trinitarian theology. It was explained that Maximus speaks about God as Trinity, which moves towards fulfillment and perfection. Maximus underlines that the salvation is part of the creation and talks about the dynamics between God and humans, which is shown in human's response to God. This notion creates the whole *God-human-creation* and shows how they

are all interconnected. Furthermore, Rev. Pavlovic outlined the creation theology of Martin Luther. According to Luther, humans are dependent on creation and dependent on this earth. This dependency is very personal. Luther underlines that there are bad and good things in creation. The key notion is that the good in creation is worthy of our effort and salvation. He noted that we need the theological knowledge and insight into the relation between creation and mankind. Creation is a gift God has given to humans and therefore it does have a certain meaning. The gift is always given to someone, who is loved. The important question is how we receive the gift. It reflects and defines the relationship between the giver and the receiver of the gift.

Further, the speaker elaborated on the notion of justice. It is important to understand, what justice means. The understanding is important, as justice can lead to narrowminded thinking. An important part of justice is solidarity and that we share the justice with our fellow-beings. Justice is also part of creation and is much more than courts. As Christians we do justice not only because it is right, but also because of compassion. We do not do things out of fear, we do things out of compassion.

During the next session the participants worked to develop the key issues to be addressed in the final statement. By using the method of World Café the participants were asked to identify five most important challenges to be addressed with regards to climate justice. Finally, the participants identified the following issues: education, climate refugees, poverty, Christian understanding of creation and consumerism. The issues were further discussed on the following day and melted into the final statement.

The group spent the afternoon enjoying Strasbourg, displaying the sentence CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW! in front of the building of the Council of Europe and sharing a traditional Alsatian meal - Tarte Flambée.

Friday, 17th of September

The first session in the morning was dedicated to further exploring the theological and Biblical aspects of climate justice in a Bible study.

During the following session the group was working on the final statement. Participants were divided into 4 groups and each of them had to work hard on one of the issues to be addressed: education, climate refugees, Christian understanding of creation and consumerism.

All the groups presented their section in the plenary, where the statement was put together and final amendments were made. Each participant had an opportunity to express their opinion, make comments on the statement presented and make proposals. All the decisions were taken on the bases of consensus, which means everyone had to agree. As the group consisted of different denominations, various approaches were presented, which caused a lot of argumentation. Finally, the statement was adopted by all the participants of the study session.

The final part of the study session was dedicated to the evaluation of the week. The participants looked back at the expectations and fears they had formulated in the beginning of the week, as well as shared their impressions, experiences and learning points with the whole group.

To close the study session the preparatory team, external trainer and all of the participants were thanked for their work and contribution.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Ecumenical Opening prayer

13th of September, Strasbourg

Song: O Lord, Hear My Prayer A1

Leader:

Lord, we thank you for creating humankind according to your likeness. Help us, like you, to see the goodness of creation. Help us to remember that we are part of a greater whole, and that we have a duty to care for the earth, not just for ourselves. Help us to live in balance rather than conflict, to treat the material world with care and gentleness, and to conserve and nurture the things around us.

All:

We join with the earth and with each other. To bring new life to the land. To restore the waters. To refresh the air. We join with the earth and with each other to celebrate the seas. To rejoice in the sunlight. To sing the song of the stars. We join with the earth and with each other to recreate the human community to promote justice and peace. To remember our children. We join with the earth and with each other, we join together as expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all Life.

Bible reading: Genesis 1, each person reads a verse.

Song: Morning has broken B28

Reflection:

Leader 1:

We are the earth.

(Be conscious of the Earth beneath our feet and the feel of your body where it contacts)

Earth is stardust-come-to-life, a magic cauldron where the heart of the universe is being formed.

In me, the Earth and its creatures find their voices. Through my eyes the stars look back on themselves in wonder. I am the Earth. This is my body. Listen and remember.

Silent reflection

Leader 2:

We are the air

(Be conscious of breathing)

Air is the breath of the Earth, the movement of life, the quick violent stem the slow, caressing breeze. In my breathing, life is received and given back. My breath unites me to all things.

Silent reflection

Leader 3:

We are Fire

(Be conscious of inner activity of thoughts and emotions)

Fire is the energy of the universe, the source of power and new life. In my thoughts burn the fires of the original eruption of life; in my emotions, lightning fl ashes; in my love, new life is conceived.

I participate in power. I share in energy of the universe, to keep warm, to fuel my body, to create my relationships. I am fire, this is my power. Listen and remember.

Silent reflection

Leader 4:

We are Water

(Be conscious of saliva, sweat, tears)

Water is the womb of the Earth from which all life is born. The oceans flow through the Earth, bringing abundance. The oceans flow through me carrying food, recycling waste, expressing emotions. I am water.

This is my life, listen and remember.

But we have forgotten who we are. This earth is my sister; I love her daily grace, her silent daring,
And how loved I am, how we admire this strength in each other, all that we have lost, all that we have
suffered, all that we know; We are stunned by this beauty, and I do not forget; What she is to me, what I am
to her.

Silent reflection

Song: He's got the whole world in his hands, *B5*

Bible reading: Revelation 4:9-12

Prayer

All:

Creator God, maker and shaper of all that is, seen and unseen, you are in the expanse and depth of
Creation, and in the processes that make life possible. Yet we are distracted by the gods we make ourselves
and our lives become fractured and fragmented. We assume to be crowns of creation, we take without giving
back and consume recklessly, we forget that we owe you all the gifts we receive. Help us to choose love not
fear, to change ourselves and not the planet; to act justly for the sake of the vulnerable; and to make a
difference today for life tomorrow.

In your name – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father... in our own languages.

Appendix 2

How Green Are You? test

1. Do You Recycle At Home?

- A.** I recycle plastic, paper, cans, glass, cardboard, magazines and junk mail... and I compost our food scraps as well.
- B.** I recycle plastic, paper, cans and glass.
- C.** I recycle cans/bottles, they pay you for them!
- D.** I just throw everything in the garbage can.

2. What do you use for shopping bags?

- A.** I always use a shopping bag I carry with me and never take plastic bags.
- B.** If I cannot avoid the plastic bag, I usually re-use it or use it for putting in the trash bin.
- C.** I have one or two really stylish cotton bags, but I usually forget to bring them.
- D.** Shopping bags from the store, what else is there?

3. How many electronics are running in your house, when you are there?

- A.** The light is on in the room I am in, all the electronics are turned off or unplugged. I do not have many devices anyway...
- B.** The lights are on in the room I am in and the kitchen. TV is only on if we're watching it. All electronics are on 'remote ready'.
- C.** The lights are on in half or less of the house, the TV is most always on when I'm home.
- D.** Most of the lights and all the electronics are ALWAYS on and/or 'remote ready'.

4. How many energy saving light bulbs are there in your house?

- A.** All the light bulbs in my house are energy saving?
- B.** I have changed about half of them, I cannot afford to do it all at once.
- C.** I have changed one for an experiment, but I do not really like the light they give.
- D.** I have never heard of those...

5. On average, how long does it take you to take a shower?

- A. I have a ten minute limit, anything longer is a waste of water.
- B. About 15-25 minutes, depending on if I shave and wash my hair.
- C. At least 45 minutes. I like to stay until I run out of hot water!
- D. What shower? I take a warm bath, it uses much less water!

6. How many aerosol cans are in your house right now?

- A. None!
- B. I try to buy alternative products when I can, but still end up with an aerosol now and then.
- C. I've switched my Deodorant to a roll on...but I won't give up my favourite hairspray.
- D. Hairspray, Air Freshener, Deodorant, Mosquito Spray... Hmm, a bunch!

7. Do you use green and recycled household products?

- A. Everything in my household is green - from the laundry soap to the floor cleaner. I use recycled toilet paper.
- B. About half the products in my house are green. Though there are a few 'tried and true' products I refuse to give up.
- C. I've tried one or two of them but I usually end up buying the same old products I've always used. I don't like change.
- D. No! They cost too much and they don't work! (At least that's what I think...I've never really tried them.)

8. How often do you eat meat?

- A. I am a vegetarian.
- B. I never cook meat at home, but I always order it at a restaurant, if I eat out.
- C. 2-3 times per week.
- D. Every meal.

9. Do you compost the compostable items from your food leftovers?

- A. I compost everything compostable and use the resulting rich soil to grow my own vegetables every year.
- B. Coffee Grounds & Egg Shells go in my flower bed/garden/compost.
- C. We eat leftovers a couple times a week...that should count.
- D. What is compost?

10. How often do you use a car?

- A. do not have a car. Everywhere I need to get, I reach either walking or on my bicycle.
- B. I do not have a car. I either use a public transport or a car share.
- C. 3-5 times per week.
- D. Every day. I love driving!

11. How often do you buy new clothes?

- A. I buy only underwear. The rest I either buy second-hand or make myself.
- B. Rarely. I re-use many things and I can sew.
- C. About once in three months.
- D. Every week.

12. What do you do with clothes/ items you no longer want/need?

- A. I reuse, recycle and re-purpose most everything. I donate items as well, nothing goes to waste, and nothing ends up in a landfill!
- B. I reuse as much as I can, I donate the rest to charity.
- C. I sell some stuff on the internet, I donate some of it to charity.
- D. I throw them in the trash bin with all the other trash. I throw some away.

13. What do you do with your old mobile phones?

- A. I either donate them to charity, or take them to a place to be recycled / properly disposed of.
- B. I have all of them in a box in the closet. I know you aren't supposed to throw them away, but not sure what to do with them.
- C. I give them to family members who need them.
- D. Out the car window, or in the trash can! Out with the old, in with the new!

14. You need a new notepad for writing your diary. What do you do?

- A. Most of the time I re-use office paper for my notes.
- B. I choose recycled paper notebook and pay a small supplement because the cost to the environment is more important.
- C. I look for a recycled paper, but choose the regular one on the basis of price.
- D. I choose a smart and glossy looking paper with a nice picture on the cover.

15. Your walking down a country road and you notice a good bit of trash on the side of the road. What do you do?

- A. I stop and grab the handy garbage bag I keep with me! I pick up the trash and take it to the nearest waste can!
- B. I notice the trash and wish I could pick it up, but I have nothing to put it in so I keep going.
- C. I notice the trash and think it's shame people still throw things out/down like that.
- D. I don't notice these things...

16. Do you tell your friends and family about greener lifestyle?

- A. Non only friends and family – I am a part of organisation promoting greener lifestyle!
- B. I always tell them, how to apply recycling, energy saving and eco-friendly approaches to life.
- C. I am trying to be a good example and always explain my activities if I am asked.
- D. There is no point in telling them anything...

If you have:

12-16 'A's: you have a profound knowledge of what is "green" and you put it in practice very well. Furthermore, you always have the capacity and will to promote "greener thinking". You need share your commitment and good practice with others even more!

8-12 'A's: You have some good knowledge and in general are on the right track for a "greener" lifestyle, but you still lack the commitment to put environmental ideals into action.

4-8 'A's: Saving the planet isn't on your agenda yet, therefore you should think about some of your answers and improve your daily practices.

0-4 'A's: Unfortunately you still lack a lot of knowledge about environment. Start educating yourself!

tread gently – go green!

Appendix 3

Climate Justice Now! Final statement

We, the participants of the study session "Climate Justice Now!" organised by the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE) and the World Student Christian Federation Europe region (WSCF-E), discussed climate justice on practical and theoretical levels.

As young Christians we acknowledge that we should be agents of change, living examples and multipliers of a sustainable way of life. Solidarity and social justice on local, national and global levels should be manifested through education, prayer, lobbying and sharing our expertise.

We have agreed that addressing the following issues is crucial for a just, and sustainable future.

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

According to Scriptures and our Christian roots, we understand that human beings are part of creation and depend on it. At the same time, we have a responsibility to act as ministers of creation, tending and protecting it as the Good Shepherd tends and protects the sheep (John 10:1-30, Romans 8:18-22).

Creation is more than the natural world. Creation encompasses social, political and economic structures. Human beings are co-creators with God.

We call on Christian leaders to promote eco-theology, and to be actively involved in education and political campaigns on climate justice. We recognise the need to raise awareness about the environment and remind humankind that God calls upon us to care for creation. (Genesis 2:15)

CONSUMERISM

Excessive consumption and unlimited growth are dominant features of many societies. A prevalent belief is that there are no viable alternatives to this way of life, which is based on unsustainable technology and development.

Yet, as Christians, we are called to live politically active and socially responsible lives. Moreover, we demand that our churches join together in the effort to promote responsible consumption and sufficiency. We must question the *status quo*, and lead by example, demonstrating that a sustainable, yet progressive way of life is indeed possible.

EDUCATION

Present realities in different countries indicate that there is a lack of holistic, realistic and fact-based education. This can lead to ineffective responses to climate challenges.

Education is one of the crucial tools in combating climate challenges and must embody the ideas that follow.

Firstly, holistic climate education must include aspects of awareness raising through formal, non-formal and informal education. We must also encourage research and development of technology for sustainable ways of life.

Secondly, inter-generational and inter-religious dialogue should be secured in order to achieve stronger cooperation in society, transmitting information, experiences and best practice.

Finally, the cooperation of various sectors in society (e.g. private sector, government, media and civil society) is essential to provide sufficient access to climate education on all levels and to secure the financial basis for this. We need the whole society to contribute.

CLIMATE REFUGEES

'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me' (Matthew 25:40)

We acknowledge that the ever increasing number of climate refugees is impossible to ignore. People who need refuge due to detrimental effects of climate change must be recognised as climate refugees and thus benefit from the same rights as all other categories of refugees. Lobbying and awareness raising among society and stakeholders is needed in order to achieve this recognition.

Appendix 4

Outcomes of the study session

Eco-Quiz: take a step forward - a method developed by the participants

To start with all the participants form a line across the room. They are being asked questions about their way of life with regards to ecological matters. Depending on their answers they need to perform a certain action. Eventually participants of the activity get a good overview of how their daily habits affect climate.

1) Do you eat meat?

- Everyday. – two steps back and kneel
- Weekly. – stay and stand on one leg
- Rarely. – one step forward and give yourself a hug
- Never. – two steps forward and celebrate

2) How often do you change your mobile phone?

- When a new trend comes on the market. – two steps back and kneel
- Yearly. – stay and stand on one leg
- Every two years. – one step forward and give yourself a hug
- When the old one does not work any more. – two steps forward and celebrate

3) How often do you use public transport?

- I prefer to drive. – two steps back and kneel
- Only when driving is too difficult. – stay and stand on one leg
- When I remember climate change. – one step forward and give yourself a hug
- Whenever it is possible. – two steps forward and celebrate

4) What materials do you recycle?

- What's recycling? – two steps back and kneel
- If I'm paid. – stay and stand on one leg
- Only glass, aluminium and paper. – one step forward and give yourself a hug
- As much as I possibly can. – two steps forward and celebrate

5) What do you do with your left-over food?

- Cold food sucks! It goes in the bin. – two steps back and kneel
- It's good only for animals, I give it to my pets. – stay and stand on one leg
- I only keep it one day. – one step forward and give yourself a hug
- I don't throw anything away, especially mum's food. – two steps forward and celebrate

6) How often do you buy clothes?

- My wardrobe is full, but I have nothing to wear! All the time. – three steps back and stand on one leg and lean forward
- When I'm depressed. – two steps back and kneel
- I'm going to a party and I need something new. – stay and stand on one leg
- When it's necessary. – one step forward and give yourself a hug
- Never, I wear leaves like Adam and Eve. – two steps forward and celebrate

Climate Hunt Game - a method developed by the participants

This method is foreseen for the outdoor use. It is based on the idea of a *treasure hunt* and reveals different aspects of ecological way of life.

The participants should start at a special point and then move from station to station by solving various tasks and answering various questions. The task needs to be solved in order to get the directions to the next station.

The possible stations and tasks:

- **General knowledge** about climate change and green way of life.

Task: Answer *true or false* questions.

- **Green energy**

Task: to produce energy by spinning bicycle.

- **Global aspects of climate change**

Task: *Where on earth...?* Answer questions about geography and climate situation globally.

- **Waste management**

Task: *Find and sort out!* To collect waste in the area and sort it into the right recycling bins.

- **Water and fishery**

Task: *Fishy questions.* To answer questions about water/ oceans/ fishery.

- **Food**

Task: *Guess what you eat?* To explain effects of our menu on the climate change. To promote less meat consumption. To taste various foods (delicious vegetarian meals) while blindfolded.

- **Alternative resources**

Task: *How much do you know?* Questions about alternative energy.

More stations can be added or the current ones alternated.

Re-claim Christmas - ideas for greener Christmas

- Advent calender of good practises: each day reveals a good initiative or tip for greener way of life.
- Christmas presents – charity: instead of buying presents, give to charity!
- Alternative decorations: no trees, no plastic. Or artificial Christmas tree (only if you already have one! or second hand!) Do self-made decorations!
- Hand made gifts: with recycled materials and love. More meaningful, more educational! No necessarily material!
- To get back to the initial idea of Christmas: celebrate birth of Jesus!
- Alternative gift wrappings, e.g. old newspapers or don't wrap them at all.
- Eat less: less sweets, less meat, less quantity, cook less, buy less!
- No Christmas lights to save energy! Use self-made candles!
- No TV on Christmas! Be together and share the community instead!
- Take care of proper waste management and/or compost!
- Involve your family, friends, youth group in alternative Christmas!
- Give a gift to nature: plant a tree!
- Celebrate Christmas in the forest, around real tree!
- Come together with as many people and families as possible - it will save energy used in each household! Create community!
- Use those tips every day! Not only for Christmas :-)

Evaluation

“Trash bin, sweets, suitcase” evaluation method was one of the methods used to evaluate the study session: participants each received 3 pieces of paper. On one they wrote, what they want to take home and the paper was put in the suitcase, on other - what they want to throw away and the paper was thrown into the trash bin and finally on the last one they wrote down the sweetest moment of the week and received a candy in return.

What I want to take home (suitcase):

- friends, experience ... knowledge
- to become protector of the creation
- I found a very good culture, the form like you work in group – working in group, hope and I want to work for the migrants in my country (motivation), I want to keep all these friends
- I take home new knowledge (climate refugees, eco-diploma ... which I have never heard of before), new friendships and nice memories
- new knowledge, friends, great memories
- the concept of climate refugees and the brief insight into international law – this is something I will explore further
- statement, knowledge, relationships, how much it takes to change climate, different traditions, Council of Europe – possibilities
- feeling that all problems are solvable
- knowledge about climate and refugee problem, interesting workshops which I hope to use in my country and great friendships :-D
- share of ideas in terms of diverse culture and religion values, didactic methods (writing the statement, role game), motivation/reflection of myself to change, my way of life and to become more active politically
- the feeling that we are many, who struggle for a good cause
- deeper understanding of our differences, confidence, commitment to justice work (politically and personally)
- friends, good impressions, new knowledge, courage for change
- yoga, more awareness of differences
- hope
- many shared good moments, met some really nice people who I am going to keep in touch with, the memory of one night out :-), experience and knowledge
- the definition and recognition of climate refugees
- the necessity to work further in order to understand the deeper theological and political aspects of the issue, the raising involvement of eastern European countries
- A lot of new knowledge that I hopefully can use for my work. A lot of new connections with people.
- Knowledge about climate changes, new ideas for promoting climate justice in my organisation, inspiration to take action, new friends and contacts, knowledge about other countries, a lot of fun moments
- idea of other denominations, Christian foundation of taking care for creation (Bible verses), nice idea for the costume party, idea of eco-theology
- I have already taken: a lot of friends, good experience, knowledge related to climate change, environmental issues and religion, best memories of my life
- ideas for our new two-years plan in the Norwegian SCM – refugees - “green organisation”, stress Sunday as a resting day
- all the enthusiasm and energy
- various games, methods and ideas, friendship, learned other things

Appendix 5

List of resources

Films

- **About Water (People and Yellow Cans)**

Über Wasser (Menschen und Gelbe Kanister), Austria, 2007, 82 min, 35 mm, Udo Maurer

- **Live after people**

TV documentary series, scientists and other experts speculate about what the Earth might be like if humanity no longer existed, as well as the impact humanity's disappearance might have on the environment and the artificial aspects of civilization

- **The Green Patriarch**

This documentary "The Green Patriarch" on the environmental activities and ecological symposiums organized by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I (who has the title "Green Patriarch") in sensitive areas of our planet.

Internet resources

- www.eyce.org
- www.wscf-europe.org
- www.coe.int
- www.unfccc.int
- www.climaterefugees.com
- www.patriarchate.org/multimedia/video/green-patriarch
- www.ecen.org
- www.ecocongregation.org

Council of Europe Resources

- COMPASS – Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People (Council of Europe, 2002)
- DOMINO – Peer group education (Council of Europe 2005)
- Education Pack “all different – all equal” (Council of Europe, 1995/2004)
- Tool Kit on Intercultural Learning – T-Kit n. 4 (Council of Europe, 2000)

See: www.coe.int/compass
www.youth-partnership.net

Appendix 6 **List of Participants**

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GREEN!

