

Equipping Youth with Skills for Climate Action: Youth Engagement and Effective Information Sharing

Seminar Report

European Youth Centre Strasbourg
11-13 November 2025

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Executive summary

Seminar Purpose & Context

Held 11–13 November 2025 at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. Co-organised by **ERYICA** and the **Council of Europe (CoE)**. Focus: youth skills for climate action, effective information sharing, and implementing the new **CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)6** on young people and climate action.

Core Objectives

- Present and disseminate **CM/Rec(2024)6** as a pioneering human-rights-based framework linking youth and climate action.
- Strengthen ERYICA's role in supporting youth information services to combat mis/disinformation.
- Exchange and connect good practices in youth-led climate initiatives across Europe..

Highlights from Workshops & Panels

- **Effective Information Sharing:**
 - Identified communication “traps” (parrot, chameleon, passiveness, negativity).
 - Risks of **youth washing** and importance of meaningful participation.
 - Need for tailored, jargon-free, empowering climate information for youth.
- **Countering Mis/Disinformation:**
 - Importance of distinguishing misinformation vs. disinformation.
 - Strategies: fact-checking, media literacy, ethical AI use, collaboration with independent journalism.
 - Balancing freedom of expression with combating harmful falsehoods.
- **Good Practices Presented:**
 - Climate Cymru (Wales) – Youth Climate Ambassadors.
 - Climate Youth Delegate (Luxembourg).
 - EcoSense Initiative & EU Climate Pact (Romania).
 - Rincon Joven Torres de la Alameda (Spain).

- Inspira! Environmental Militias (Portugal).

Closing Messages

- CoE emphasised the Recommendation as a tool for **accountability** and youth empowerment.
- Encouragement to use the network formed during the seminar to strengthen future climate action initiatives.

1. The Seminar

1.1 The Why? Context and Scope

The seminar “Equipping Youth with Skills for Climate Action: Youth Engagement and Effective Information Sharing”, organized by the **European Youth Information and Counselling Agency** (ERYICA hereafter) together with the **Council of Europe** (CoE hereafter) took place between 11-13 November in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

The event brought together 18 participants across Europe to discuss the role of youth and youth work for climate action, particularly given the framing of the **Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people and climate action**¹.

The seminar had three fundamental objectives:

- 1) To present and disseminate CM/Rec(2024)6 as a groundbreaking piece of legislation that can support, empower and legitimate young people and youth work working in this field;
- 2) To discuss the role of ERYICA, and its members, in translating and implementing the recommendations of the CoE using innovative information strategies and fighting mis and disinformation;
- 3) To share best practices on youth work in climate action and connect projects and people for future endeavours.

1.2 The How and who? Program and people

The seminar brought together **18** participants from **14** EU countries, representing **17** organizations. Important contributions and addresses were also made by CoE representatives, such as Tobias Flessenkemper, Elena Brodeala and Clementina Barbaro.

Participants list can be consulted in Annex 1.

The programme, facilitated by Imre Simon (ERYICA) and Jutte Dessen (freelance facilitator from Belgium) included a mix of sessions including keynote speakers, expert panels, participants presentations of best practices, debates and participatory workshops.

The seminar’s rapporteur was Filipe Moreira Alves.

Full programme can be consulted in Annex 2.

¹ <https://rm.coe.int/cm-rec-2024-6-young-people-and-climate-action/1680b21a0e>

2. CM/Rec(2024)6

Adopted on 23 October 2024, this recommendation by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe addresses the challenges faced by young people, particularly young environmental defenders, in advocating for a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. It emphasizes safeguarding their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, promoting their participation in climate-related decision-making, and providing tailored resources for education, health, and advocacy.

Key Recommendations:

1. **Protecting Rights:** Member States should ensure young people's access to rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter, including the right to life, health, safe working conditions, freedom of expression, and protection from discrimination.
2. **Youth Participation:** Governments should remove barriers to youth participation in climate-related decision-making, engage in dialogue with young people, and establish inclusive consultation mechanisms. Support for youth organizations and climate movements is encouraged.
3. **Green Jobs and Education:** States should invest in green jobs, education for sustainable development, and green skills training. Funding should be allocated to youth organizations and young green entrepreneurs to promote social inclusion and autonomy.
4. **Youth Workers:** Recognize and support youth workers in mobilizing and training young people for climate advocacy. Provide resources, training, and climate-resilient infrastructure for youth activities.
5. **Healthcare and Eco-Anxiety:** Address the physical and mental health impacts of the climate crisis on youth, including eco-anxiety. Develop accessible, youth-friendly health services and raise awareness among professionals and families.
6. **Access to Information:** Ensure young people have access to reliable, youth-friendly, and accessible climate-related information, while combating misinformation and disinformation.
7. **Tackling Discrimination and Promoting Equity:** Address discrimination, promote intergenerational equity, and involve marginalized and disadvantaged youth in climate resilience and adaptation frameworks.

Implementation:

Member States are urged to widely disseminate the recommendation, engage local and regional authorities, and review its implementation every five years. The recommendation highlights the importance of intergenerational solidarity, climate justice, and the recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a fundamental human right.

3. Detailed report from each session

S1 – Opening



Welcome address by **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

Tobias Flessenkemper² welcomed the group to the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg highlighting the coincidence of its timing – while UNFCCC COP 30³ is taking place in Belém, Brazil – and the critical role played by young people across the globe in bringing the climate justice agenda to the forefront of political debate.

Mr. Flessenkemper also reminded that the Council of Europe, although having a much smaller budget and a different political and legal power when compared with the EU, *“is not a fun club. It is a bigger part of a political process that carries the ambitions for the future.”*

As we face the challenges of a triple planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss and unstoppable pollution – we need to collectively envision new possible futures and embrace new narratives and new social spaces, particularly in the information battle.

“Our job is more to look into ideas. Where do we stand regarding certain topics and where would we like to go. We [Council of Europe] are more like a laboratory for ideas.”

Mr. Flessenkemper stressed that *“it remains one planet, one biosphere, one lithosphere”*, and that we must work together, through international cooperation and multiply our ideas and our impact

² <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tobias-flessenkemper-46a9091/>

³ <https://unfccc.int/cop30/about-cop30>



Welcome address by **Anja Frohner**, Director of ERYICA (*online*)

Anja Frohner⁴ addressed the group by briefly presenting ERYICA and the important ties with the CoE in these matters. In her opening remarks, Ms Frohner stressed the importance of non-biased information as a critical piece for young people to be able to make informed decisions. Moreover, the pivotal role of information youth centres in the great challenge of fighting misinformation and actively contributing to reduce climate anxiety and mental health challenges faced by young people.

Imre Simon

Development Manager, ERYICA



Imre Simon⁵, provided the group with an overview of the context and the reason behind this seminar. Climate action and its connection to youth information provision were the main focus of the event, in light of the new [Council of Europe Recommendation on Young People and Climate Action](#). The topic is a pressing challenge of our time, and it is at the same time an important factor affecting young people's mental health. He presented the programme and its main objectives, namely strengthening the ties between the CoE and ERYICA on the topic of climate action and empowering young people to take initiative in this area.

⁴ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anja-frohner/>

⁵ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/imre-simon-a4b056b3/>



Jutte Dessen

OXFAM & Universiteit Gent, Facilitator

Jutte Dessen⁶ kicked off the seminar with a get-to-know-each-other energizer around three questions – 1) “Where are you from, and what is one thing you love about it?”; 2) “Who or what inspired you to care about climate change?”; 3) “What is one way you or your organization share information with young people?”.

Afterwards and before our first keynote address, Ms Dessen introduced the group to our working hand signals for this seminar,

S2 – Keynote speech by Pegah Moulana, Secretary General, Youth and Environment Europe



Understanding the new Council of Europe Recommendation on Young People and Climate Action

In her keynote speech Ms Moulana highlighted the importance of this recommendation as a pioneering legislation, which has an equal footing to a UN resolution. Although it is still a “soft law”, i.e. non-binding document, it is the first international formal agreement among nations clearly making the link between young people, human rights and environmental and climate issues. CM/Rec(2024)6 signals a clear political commitment of the 46 members of the CoE, aiming to harmonize standards and taxonomy in this matter across member states.

In her presentation, Ms Moulana presented the roadmap since 2021 to bring about this recommendation – see figure 1 below – stressing that this recommendation is a pivotal milestone as it “1. Sets the tone and direction for the next 5 years; 2) Human rights and the environment are interconnected; 3) Young people are at the forefront of this demand - but

⁶ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jutte-dessen-02b452230/>

also, in danger; 4) Environmental advocacy is a big web of topics/issues; 5) For the solutions proposed to work, they depend on successful implementation of one another”.



Figure 1 - Roadmap to CM REC (2024)⁶

Making the connection with ERYICA and information centres, Ms Moulana told the group that “If we are better at information than young people can become better militants, at the forefront of climate action”. Adding **“It’s a rich document but not youth friendly. How to make it useful and relatable for youth and youth organizations? What would you like to work on as an information centre?”**.

Replying to a question from Imre Simon on her perspective for the youth information sector, Ms Moulana stressed the importance of ERYICA’s member organizations finding the critical points in the recommendation that they would like to work with and partnering with new sets of stakeholders for implementing those particular recommendations. In this aspect Ms Moulana highlight ERYICA’s member organizations role to:

“provide quality, reliable and youth-friendly information about environmental matters, based on reputable research and studies, mainly and preferably in digital formats, to young people, youth associations and relevant authorities as access to information is a prerequisite to participation and inclusion”.

S3 - Workshop 1: Effective information sharing for climate action

Objective: In this workshop, participants explored efficient and innovative methods and tools for effective information provision, to promote further engagement of young people in climate action. Participants considered how these methods enhance outreach and mainstreaming of the topic.

Ms Dessein started this workshop by presenting critical data on eco anxiety in young people⁷ as well as underlining that these recent emotional trends are often culturally formed and western 'privileges'. Nevertheless, it is of outmost importance that we turn this tide⁸ and **effective communication is key**.

Focusing on the most common communication traps, Jutte brought to the group:



The Parrot trap, underscoring the importance of not repeating the message from the opponent and using your own words to tell your own story.

The Chameleon trap and the importance of avoiding jargon or coded language as much as learning how to adapt to your audience.



Among many other examples of common traps Ms Dessein also mentioned the passiveness trap, the misdirection trap and the negativity trap, all of which need to be consciously addressed, particularly by youth information centres.

In the second part of her presentation, Jutte turned to the point of Youth washing and the tokenization of young people to meet certain quotas or check a certain checkbox without fundamentally addressing their concerns⁹. As a recent article¹⁰ highlighted:

“Young people are being shown but not heard. At least in the decisions that matter.”

Commenting on the current “obsession” with ‘youth advisory board’ across some European institutions” Ms Dessein invited participants to be aware of youth washing and to be critical

⁷ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(21\)00278-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00278-3/fulltext)

⁸ <https://us.jkp.com/products/turn-the-tide-on-climate-anxiety>

⁹ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/09075682251384437>

¹⁰ <https://www.climatealityproject.org/blog/youve-heard-greenwashing-what-youthwashing>

about initiatives to engage with young people. Moreover, it is also the role of such institutions and networks, such as ERYICA, to safeguard young people from youth washing.

“Youthwashing is just about having young people there for good PR and good marketing. But as with any marketing, it's often just for show and their own benefit and not actually for making things better and more inclusive.”¹¹

The debate also focused on the biases of mainstream media and the need to work with journalists to improve their practices, language, titles and biases in constructive ways. Mainstream media titles around climate change often show biases like geographic skew - focusing on Global North -, sensationalism - exaggerating catastrophic outcomes -, negativity bias, political framing - culture wars/partisanship -, underreporting key causes - like animal agriculture -, and corporate influence, all shaping public perception. This overexposure to unbalanced and biased information about climate change can deepen the effects of eco-anxiety and the general mental health on the young, especially those with pre-existing conditions¹².

Within the workshop several tools and methods were mentioned by Ms Dessein that can be used by young people to improve the communication, the action and the governance on climate change and climate action:

- 1) The triangle of inaction^{13 14}:
- 2) Consensus decision-making¹⁵
- 3) Youth referendum / Climate Assemblies¹⁶

¹¹ Source: <https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/12/23/what-is-youthwashing-and-is-it-dangerous-for-the-climate-movement>

¹² <https://lens.monash.edu/@climate-change-rising-to-the-real-urgent-and-globa/2023/11/24/1386202/scrolling-into-stress-how-climate-fears-hit-youth>

¹³ <https://en.surveco.be/post/comment-depasser-le-triangle-de-linaction>

¹⁴ <https://www.tapio.eco/blog/knowledge-as-an-incentive-to-climate-action/>

¹⁵ <https://www.consensusdecisionmaking.org/>

¹⁶ <https://www.knoca.eu/climate-assemblies>



S4 – Panel discussion: Countering misinformation in climate action



Elena Brodeala,

Legal Advisor Council of Europe Directorate for Democracy
Works at the Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division



Filipe Moreira Alves

Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes
Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon



Petr Pavel Banda

Member of the Advisory Council on Youth
Council of Europe

This session was moderated by Imre Simon, who made four key questions to the panelists before opening the floor to all participants.

Question 1: What kind of misinformation do you meet in relation to climate issues? What is their scale and impact in general? And concerning specifically youth engagement in this area?

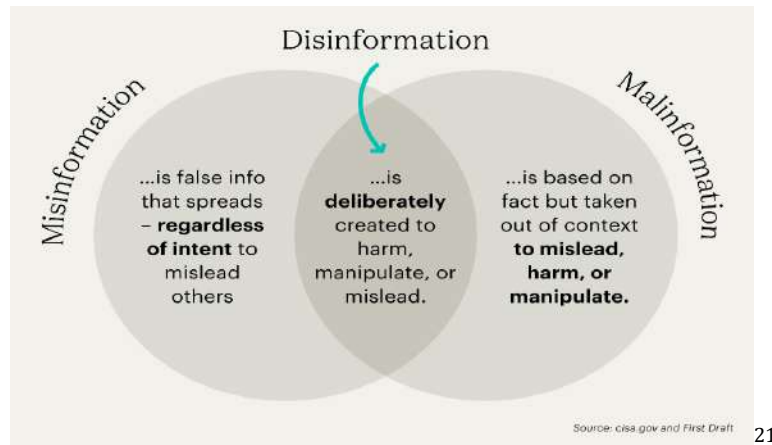
- ❖ Elena: It is critical before and foremost to differentiate between misinformation and disinformation and understand that it implies different strategies and solutions; Often the intent behind disinformation goes beyond denial. It can also be about casting doubt, pushing for the delay of action, or to deliberately confuse and/or trick people through greenwashing and similar practices; For the CoE fighting disinformation is a key priority¹⁷ and there are important initiatives taking place, such as the RESIST project¹⁸ and the CDMSI¹⁹.
- ❖ Petr: there is increased political sensitivity to climate change which requires a very different approach, namely from a media perspective; youth needs to be able to better communicate their goals and their reasons for climate action so that they are not wrongly labelled as eco-terrorists or hostile to the wider society.
- ❖ Filipe: Social media, particularly Instagram and Tik tok are spaces where the vast majority of the climate change information is in some manner false or misleading. If we consider that these are the sources of information for most youth, we undoubtedly have a major problem in our hands; Media and information literacy is fundamental to fight misinformation and disinformation²⁰.

¹⁷ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/-/council-of-europe-strengthens-efforts-against-disinformation>

¹⁸ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/resist-strengthening-societal-resilience-to-disinformation-in-europe>

¹⁹ <https://www.coe.int/pt/web/freedom-expression/cdmsi-and-expert-committees>

²⁰ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-disinformation_en



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Q2: What core strategies should youth information services adopt to counter misinformation concerning climate action?

- ❖ Elena: Using AI tools, such as 'Ask vera', for fact checking is becoming a critical need. More and better fact checking projects and standards²² at the EU level could help to level the playing field. The rise of AI in the 'information battle' raises many ethical and socio-economic uses that cannot be overseen (big opportunity and big threat).
- ❖ Filipe: The quality of information is key, e.g. the value of peer-reviewed scientific literature, independent media (e.g. The Guardian) and/or systems of fact checking your news and news sources. Programs such as the Euro Climate Check²³ that empower organizations and networks to fight climate misinformation are vital
- ❖ Petr: A big question of today, and particularly regarding young people is: How can we fight the game of disinformation? We should take it as a baseline that whatever we find online regarding climate change should be treated with the same critical thinking as we have on April's fool's day, i.e., assume everything is a lie and start questioning from there²⁴

²¹ <https://library.wit.edu/medialiteracy/misinformation-disinformation>

²² <https://efcsn.com/>

²³ <https://euroclimatecheck.com/>

²⁴ https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/learning-materials/staying-vigilant-online-can-you-spot-information-manipulation_en

Q3: How can international and collaboration (policy, education, civil society, youth networks) contribute to effective counter-misinformation efforts?

- ❖ Elena: the above-mentioned examples from the CoE are only possible through international cooperation and these are global issues that need global governance solutions. Very hard to tackle such big issues at the local level or even at the national level. A good international example is the Platform for the safety of journalists²⁵ or the Global forum for democracy²⁶.
- ❖ Filipe: The role of the educational system in fostering critical thinking and awareness around misinformation is of pivotal importance and needs intranational coherence and coordination. Moreover, international networks of climate action and evidence-based information play an important role in fighting disinformation (e.g. ECOLISE²⁷ or ICLEI²⁸)
- ❖ Petr: It is important to discuss the role of independent journalism²⁹ and media ownership as that plays a fundamental role on the editorial choices and the focus given to certain subjects over others.

Q4: From a policy perspective, how can the CDMSI balance safeguarding freedom of expression with reducing climate misinformation among/targeting young people?

- ❖ Elena: What is freedom of expression and freedom of speech? Where to draw the line between our rights and responsibilities when it comes to information and communication? These are critical questions that have multiple answers. Remember article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights: “provides the right to freedom of expression and information. A fundamental aspect of this right is the freedom to hold opinions and receive and impart information and ideas, even if the receiver of such information does not share the same opinions or views as the provider”. Can (should) climate deniers use the right of free speech to defend their positions and disinformation campaigns?³⁰

²⁵ <https://fom.coe.int/en/accueil>

²⁶ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy>

²⁷ <https://ecolise.eu/>

²⁸ <https://iclei.org/>

²⁹ <https://www.iaij.org/read.htm>

³⁰ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/22/climate/oil-industry-anti-slapp-climate-lawsuits.html>

- ❖ Filipe: These are timely debates that need more civic engagement and overall participation so that we can move forward and find the right balances between the rights and responsibilities that can with and through such ‘freedoms’. The EU will most probably become the forerunner in this topic globally and many changes will necessarily come in the future with respect to what our youth can and should or not be exposed to through social media. The Digital Services Act will most likely see enhanced powers and strengthened its grip on social media platforms, particularly concerning young people.

S5 – Workshop 2: Mapping good practices

The workshop will offer space for youth information providers to share and discuss successful initiatives and approaches to mobilise young people in climate action.

Bio and background of presenters is provided in Annex 3.

Good Practice 1: Climate Cymru

Link/webpage: <https://climate.cymru/>

Presenter: Sali Moses Nichols, Wales (UK)

Climate Cymru is an active movement made up of over 400 diverse organisations from across Welsh society, including business, innovation, education, third sector, community groups and thousands of supporters from across Wales. They share a desire for urgent, fair action to address the climate and nature emergencies.



Climate Change Conference (COP).

GP2: Climate Youth Delegate (Luxembourg)

Link/webpage: <https://www.jugendrot.lu/cyd/>

Presenter: Natasha Lepage, Luxembourg,

The Youth Climate Delegates (CYD) are young people who officially represent the interests of Luxembourgish youth on climate protection at the annual United Nations

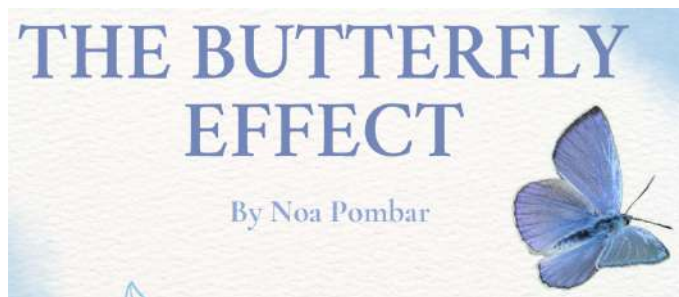
GP3: EcoSense Initiative & EU Climate Pact

Link/webpage:

<https://www.instagram.com/ecosense.iniciativa/>

Presenter: David Alexandru Popescu, Romania

Ecosense Iniativa is a Romanian youth initiative that mobilizes young people from Bucharest's high schools for climate actions and green week events.



GP4: Rincon Joven Torres de la Alameda

Presenter: Noa Pombar, Spain

A local youth initiative in Torres de la Alameda, Madrid, Spain. A project that started on the need to protect a local butterflies species and evolved to a mural, gardens and a research project on

the impact of butterflies in the local ecosystem.

GP5: Inspira!

Link/webpage:

<https://www.instagram.com/inspirajuventude/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Inspiraj/>

Presenter: Esther Garrido Gago, Portugal



inspirajuventude

Inspira! is a non-profit, interventionist youth association whose objective is the social and ecological development of the Chaves region. Environmental education and youth empowerment are their main causes.

S6 - Reflections on the day: key takeaways and potential collaborations

- ❖ Generally speaking, participants gave very positive feedback to this first intense day of working together, highlighting the high level of the projects and ideas shared;

- ❖ In two of the groups there were important reflections about the need to find better channels of communication with the youth, particularly around such complex themes: “Everybody wants to sell things for the youth. We need a different approach”
- ❖ One reflection group focused on the question of “How can these institutions work better to integrate these flows of information and resources?”;
- ❖ Many participants agreed that there were plenty of new ideas for new projects to be designed within their organizations and communities;
- ❖ *“Enjoyed today. Good exchanges. A lot of great insights for my work”;*



S7 – Workshop 3: Empowering youth for local action:

Focusing on practical strategies for implementing the Council of Europe Recommendation on Young People and Climate Action, this workshop aimed to empower participants to initiate and co-ordinate local climate initiatives. Attendees examined the development of community-specific action plans, involving local resources and partnerships. The approach focused on promoting youth leadership, advocating for policy changes and sustaining engagement, ensuring that young people's voices and efforts are integral to local climate actions.

S8 – Final reflections of the seminar

Gathered in small reflection groups, who came together through a feedback tool offered by the facilitator, participants discussed among themselves and then shared in plenary their main feedback from the seminar:

Group 1:

- ❖ Empowering seminar. Use the network we already have. Best practices were useful, and we could have had more of those in the programme.
- ❖ Not aware of the recommendation and its content. Would have gone deeper and longer into the topic of mis and disinformation.
- ❖ The seminar was too short and could have benefitted from being half a day longer
- ❖ Having an informal session at the initial evening to get to know each other would have been a great starting point.

Group 2:

- ❖ Overall feeling empowered and inspired to take action.
- ❖ Beginning of a great challenge. So much work to be done. Still daunted by the increased polarization of information and politics on this issues.
- ❖ Great and valuable learning. Very interesting to discuss Youth washing.
- ❖ Mapping and sharing of good practices was a highlight.
- ❖ Would have liked for more practical activities and direct exchanges (More conversations, discussions and interactions between participants).

Group 3:

- ❖ Good intro to the CoE recommendation, which is still unknown to many.
- ❖ Very inspiring presentation on workshop 1 on communication traps.
- ❖ Some presentations were a bit long.

Group 4:

- ❖ Best practices brought inspiration and hopefulness
- ❖ Mis- and disinformation were very good, however we would like to have gone deeper into the subject
- ❖ A great start, although some things remain unclear for the future.

Closing words: *Clementina Barbaro*, Head of the Youth Policy Division, CoE



Being a dear subject, and one in which Ms. Barbaro was closely involved [CM/Rec(2024)6], the very encouraging aspect of feeling that the process moves forward and takes on new steps and new stages was underscored. Despite the sincere recognition of the not so user-friendly and youth-friendly texts, Ms. Barbaro, underlined the fact that this recommendation *“is the first international standard on this topic and something that the countries have committed to. You can use the REC to make countries accountable”*.

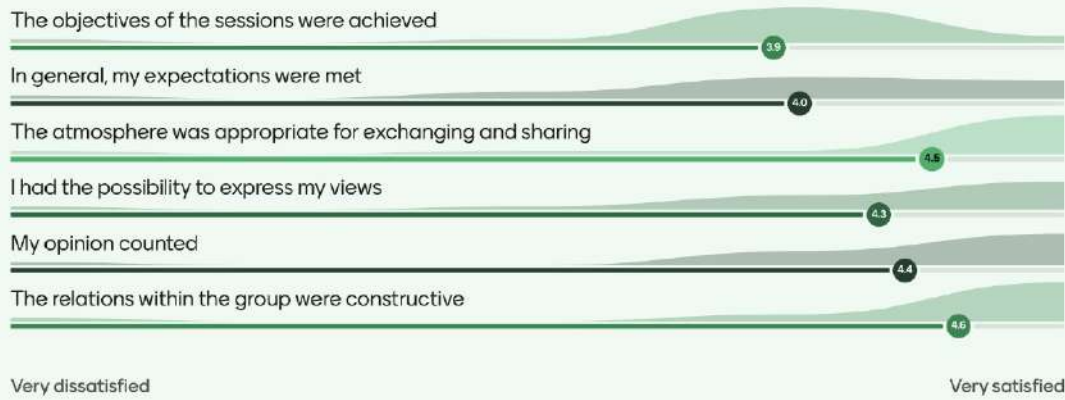
Ms. Barbaro reminded the participants that the conversations and discussions among members states leading to the adoption were not easy neither light-hearted, particularly around the critical topic of rights e.g. recognizing rights to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right. Nevertheless, and at least for the next 5 years the recommendation is there and should be used, particularly by young people at the forefront of climate action who are often needing institutional support when it comes safeguard their rights to free speech and association. As mentioned in the recommendation members states should:

“respect, protect and fulfil the rights of young people to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 9 of the Convention), freedom of expression (Article 10), freedom of assembly and association (Article 11) and the right to a fair trial (Article 6), by authorising peaceful public gatherings and demonstrations by young people, eliminating reprisal, punishment or detention, and by deterring unlawful and unjustified threats, including from third parties.”

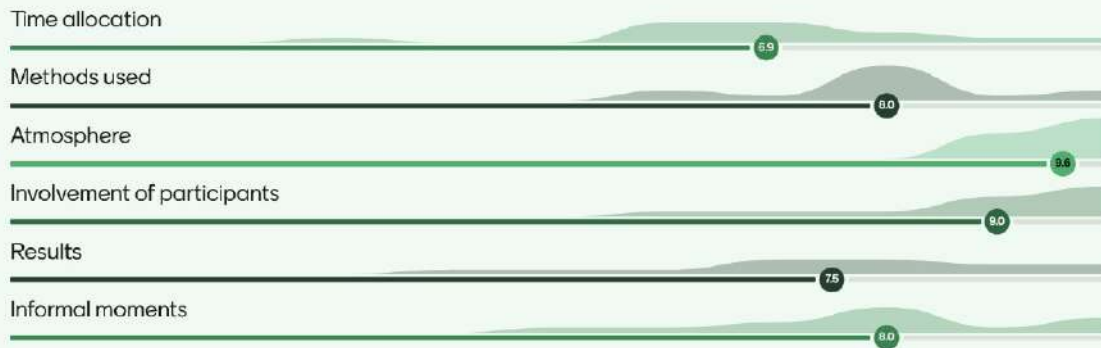
Thank you for coming and for creating links between yourselves. Thanks to ERYICA!

Mentimeter evaluation

Let us know your views on the Seminar, rating the statements from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest)



Please, rate the following:



My commitment to move forward

Include effective communication in the work I do.

Inspire others and share information

To spread more information about how can social organizations use the recommendation in their working

Energy to explore the topic and see what I can do with my organisation

Share the practises in Estonia and inaping other youth with youth across Europe

One more time I have been confirmed that there are still people around the globe that do amazing things. It empowers me. I know I am not alone in this fight.

Do in depth research into everything that was said the last few days.

To help young people spot misinformation and get involved in democracy

Annexes

1. List of participants

First name	Surname	Country	Organisation
Pegah	Moulana	Belgium	Keynote speaker
Jorren	Almey	Belgium	EYCA Youth Panel
Gazmir	Kadriu	Croatia	Impress
Petr Pavel	Banda	Czechia	Advisory Council on Youth
Helena	Aavistu-Mandjoukova	Estonia	EMÜ KÜS
Dylan	Verdin-Pol	France	Council of Europe
Florine	Büchner	Germany	Jugendstiftung BW
Lydia	Thielemann	Germany	Jugendstiftung Baden-Württemberg
Jannis	Gustke	Germany	International Young Naturefriends/ CoE Advisory Council on Youth
Natasha	Lepage	Luxembourg	De Jugendrot, Climate Youth Delegate
Marie-Ange	Neu	Luxembourg	ANIJ
Matej	Micevski	North Macedonia	Poraka Nova
Esther	Garrido Gago	Portugal	Inspira
Rafaela	Nunes	Portugal	Movy
Gabriela	Maciel	Portugal	Aliados Consulting, GREEN GEN Sustainability School
David Alexandru	Popescu	Romania	EcoSense Initiative & EU Climate Pact

Noa	Pombar	Spain	Rincon Joven Torres de la Alameda
Fatjana	Kazani	Spain	EYCA Young Creators Panel
Lennart	Schiffers	Switzerland	Jugendstiftung Baden-Württemberg
Sali Moses	Nichols	Wales (United Kingdom)	Climate Cymru
Council of Europe:			
Tobias	Flessenkemper	Head of the Youth Department	Council of Europe
Clementina	Barbaro	Head of the Youth Policy Division	Council of Europe
Natalja	Turenne	Responsible for the Partnership between the Council of Europe and ERYICA	Council of Europe
Elena	Brodeala	Steering Committee on Media and Information Society	Council of Europe
ERYICA and team:			
Anja	Frohner	Director	ERYICA (online)
Imre	Simon	Development Manager	ERYICA
Jutte	Dessein	Facilitator	
Filipe	Alves	Rapporteur	

2. Programme

12 November: The Recommendation and current good practice

9:00 **Opening**

- Welcome Address
 - **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe
 - **Anja Frohner**, Director of ERYICA (*video*)
- Overview of the Seminar programme and objectives
- Get to know each other

10:00 **Understanding the new Council of Europe Recommendation on Young People and Climate Action** - Keynote speech by **Pegah Moulana**, Secretary General, Youth and Environment Europe

- Introduction to the Recommendation and its significance for youth engagement in climate action
- Links to role of youth information and counselling
- Q&A

10:45 Break

11:15 **Workshop 1: Effective information sharing for climate action**

- In this workshop, participants shall explore efficient and innovative methods and tools for effective information provision, in order to promote further engagement of young people in climate action. Participants will also consider how these methods would enhance outreach and mainstreaming of the topic. The focus will be on empowering young people to take active roles in climate initiatives within their communities.

12:45 Lunch

13:45 **Countering misinformation in climate action** – panel discussion

- **Elena Brodeala**, Council of Europe, Steering Committee on Media and Information Society
 - **Petr Pavel Banda**, Member of the Advisory Council on Youth Council of Europe
 - **Filipe Moreira Alves**, Faculty of Sciences - University of Lisbon
-
- Discuss the impact of misinformation and strategies to combat it through youth information services
 - Q&A

15:00 Break

15:30 **Workshop 2: Mapping good practices**

- The workshop will offer space for youth information providers to share and discuss successful initiatives and approaches to mobilise young people in climate action. The presented practices will provide participants with a collection of existing projects and activities that can inspire them to take action. Youth information providers will gather ideas and insights that can be adapted and implemented in their own work. The workshop will also allow for networking.

17:00 **Reflections on the day** – key takeaways and potential collaborations

19:00 Dinner @EYCS

13 November: Call for action

9:00 **Workshop 3: Empowering youth for local action**

- Focusing on practical strategies for implementing the Council of Europe Recommendation on Young People and Climate Action, this workshop will aim to empower participants to initiate and co-ordinate local climate initiatives. Attendees will examine the development of community-specific action plans, involving local resources and partnerships. The approach will focus on promoting youth leadership, advocating for policy changes and sustaining engagement, ensuring that young people's voices and efforts are integral to local climate actions.

10:30 Break

11:00 **Sharing experiences from the seminar - Closing remarks and reflections**

- Summary of the seminar insights
- Reflection on key learnings; commitments for moving forward
- Evaluation and feedback
- Closing words: ***Clementina Barbaro***, Head of the Youth Policy Division, CoE

12:30 Lunch & Departure of participants

3. Workshop 2 presenters' biographies

❖ Sali Moses Nichols, Wales (United Kingdom)

I currently work as Volunteer and Schools Coordinator with Climate Cymru, a Wales-wide climate action network with over 400+ partner organisations. My role centres on developing and delivering our Climate Action Link (CAL) schools programme, which includes running assemblies, workshops, lessons and youth-led activities across Wales. Through CAL, we aim to inspire young people to see climate action as positive, practical, and achievable, while giving them clear pathways to continue their engagement.

Through CAL, I guide schools towards further opportunities, including the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales (YCA), so that students who want to go further can connect to a national youth-led network. Schools that have participated in CAL have also joined the Wales-wide Act Now, Change Forever mass lobby, where young people engaged directly with their elected representatives to express concerns and call for stronger climate action.

In my current role, I run Climate Cymru's school outreach program, which aims to reduce the barriers to youth climate volunteering, and empower young people to become climate leaders. We are actively working towards building a Wales-wide network, along with the Youth Climate Ambassadors. The Youth Climate Ambassadors (YCA's) are a democratically-run youth network that champions climate action, by organising petitions, events and participating in conferences. They are independently run and all decisions are made by the members.

❖ Natasha Lepage (Luxembourg)

I was part of Fridays for Future in Luxembourg since 2019. I am currently climate youth delegate, where as part of the mandate we have done consultation throughout Luxembourg on climate action and youth. I participated in the Climate Youth Negotiators Program last year from the Young Negotiator Academy.

I also attended COP29 and SB62 to represent the voices of young people.

I have been involved in many youth organisations since 2019. In 2023, I was selected as Luxembourg's UN Youth Delegate to the 78th Session of the UNGA. In 2024, I was selected as Climate Youth Delegate for Luxembourg (currently in this role). I have also been a young advisor for the Ombudsman for Children and Youth in Luxembourg since 2023.

ACE (7 dimensions): <https://unfccc.int/topics/education-and-youth/big-picture/ACE>

❖ **David Alexandru Popescu (Romania)**

Getting started with opinion polls about various topics, we shortly found out that a way our climate education “lessons” would be attractive to students was to connect them with their passions. Some would prefer to be around greenery, so we made nature walks, tree plantings or river clean-ups; some would dream to express themselves, so we organised open debates on numerous actual topics relevant to youth, like fast fashion or food carbon footprint; some others would choose to write, so we published a magazine addressed to students; others would even want to prove their knowledge through competitions that might have given them proudness. This is how EcoSense Initiative was born. Our goal was to make education fun for everyone and I may proudly say that it worked.

So, are there any visible results? Of course! Out of all, I think the most important thing we managed to do through our actions is giving hope to people and encouraging them to trust their feelings. The truth is that there are many persons having similar ambitions, but decide not to take a public stand on them just because of viral stereotypes like “the others won’t feel the same”. Once realising they are not alone, a movement is born.

One other visible result is the recognition gained over time. We participated in Climate Change Summits and even got prized, we had opportunities to interact with authorities and NGOs in the view of building up the first curriculum based on the 17 UN’s SDGs for students in secondary school. We also worked on LCOY Romania youth declaration, proposed improvements on legislation affecting youngsters on climate matters and engaged ourselves in major projects. Once becoming an EU Climate Pact Ambassador this year I successfully promoted my progress so far and my membership of the Pact when I was on television and discussed about youth implication in environmental issues.

❖ **Esther Garrido Gago (Portugal)**

At Inspira!, I have coordinated and facilitated projects where young people actively take part in climate action. One of our most impactful initiatives are the Environmental Militias, which for the past eight years have mobilized dozens of local youth every summer to clean forests, remove invasive species, collect trash, and raise awareness in our community. So far, the militias have recovered natural areas, collected more than 25 tons of waste, and shown that protecting the environment can also be fun and empowering.

For me, climate action and youth engagement are inseparable: by combining scientific expertise with participatory approaches, I support young people in transforming concern into concrete civic and environmental action.

Within the Erasmus+ project ECHOES, I co-developed the [CADPRO toolkit](#), a practical guide that helps youth workers train and mobilize young people for climate action and democratic engagement.

For me, youth information is not only a means of transmitting knowledge, but also, and most importantly, a tool for empowering youth, ensuring they feel informed, capable, and motivated to take action in their communities and beyond.

❖ **Noa Pombar (Spain)**

I have been participating in a youth climate action initiative through a school STEAM project, in which we use an artificial intelligence camera to identify different butterfly species. This project has made me more aware of how technology can help protect the environment. It is exciting to be part of something that combines science and nature, and it made me very motivated to learn more and contribute to youth climate action efforts.

I am 16 years old and participate in the Torres de la Alameda Town Council's municipal youth service through a biodiversity protection project. I take advantage of my studies to help with the awareness-raising work organised by my municipality's youth information service, participating in the protection of biodiversity.