

December 2024



# YOUTH

**“Ready, Set, Go... The Green Future”**

# MANIFESTO

**This Youth Manifesto serves as the basis of FYEG's next work plan activities.**

**It was created by the participants of the event “Ready, Set, Go... - The Green Future” in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024. The participants presented policies regarding six topics they worked on during the event: greenwashing, climate migration, decolonisation, climate justice (inclusive policies), food production and lifestyle and activism.**

**These policies were discussed, amended and voted on in plenary.**

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# Summary

## We call on the EU and the Council of Europe to

- Enforce circular economies within companies and require them to have obvious labelling on advertisements and environmentally sustainable stocks. Educate children in mandatory schools about sustainability.
- Recognise the legal status of climate refugees and facilitate their reception and assistance while upholding human rights. Make concrete proposals to increase the representation and impact of MAPA countries in the COP negotiations and convince other countries to adopt them.
- Recognise, apologise and take responsibility for colonial and neo-colonial practices. Reflect in education, language, cultural and political institutions as well as the just transition and trade agreements, the colonial past and continuing global injustices.
- Establish a Social Green Fund and make public transportation more efficient and affordable.
- Establish citizens' climate councils and dedicate a fund to MAPAs in Europe and worldwide.
- Promote plant-based and whole food by education and incentivise it for all, also low-income families. Reduce food waste and tax and limit the influences of the meat and dairy industry. Implement mandatory food labelling systems.
- Introduce mandatory civic education in school and protect the right to assembly and association. Dedicate more public funding to youth projects and make coalition negotiations more transparent.



1. Enforce circular economies within the companies and their products by taxing inputs to production at 10%. Use this tax revenue as a subsidy for waste management to incentivise firms to be responsible. Introduce higher payments for recycling, and lower payments for landfill, and aim to ensure that all waste remains within the country of origin, ending waste colonialism.

2. Initiate mandatory school courses with the purpose of educating future generations regularly on sustainability to influence their actions from the moment they begin to actively participate in consumption and give them the opportunity to critically reflect on their eco-impact.

3. Require companies to have obvious labelling on advertisements, and fully ban advertising of resource-intensive, high-carbon products, to incentivise the development of sustainable alternatives.

4. Introduce government certification of environmentally sustainable stocks with standards set by an independent committee of industry experts and scientists with regular random audits to ensure compliance with them.

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# Greenwashing

# Climate migration

**1-Recognise internationally the legal status of climate refugees.**

**2. Revise the Common European Asylum System to fully comply with existing human rights treaties, especially the European Charter on Human Rights (ECHR) and obligate the admittance of all refugees, including climate refugees.**

**3. Increase the financial support to non-governmental organizations providing legal assistance to climate refugees.**

**4. Safeguard and strengthen the right to legal assistance during the asylum procedure, with no limitations. The asylum-seeking interview must not be conducted by the police or the military forces.**

**5. Produce and fund infrastructure plans by 2028, through the loss and damages fund, to ensure systems can enable the safe passage of climate migrants along current legal routes while establishing a framework to introduce new legal routes.**

**6- Increase the Loss and Damages Fund (FRLD) to USD 10 trillion.**

**7. Obligate disproportionate polluters and emitters, like the oil and gas industry, to contribute at least 10% of profit to the Loss and Damages Fund.**

**8. Increase the European Solidarity Fund, which directs funds towards damages caused by the climate crisis within Europe.**

**9. Make concrete proposals to increase the impact and representation of MAPA countries in COP negotiations and convince other countries to adopt them.**



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JOY!**



# Decolonisation

1. Recognise, apologize and take responsibility for continuing to benefit from colonial and neo-colonial practices. This includes the lasting impact of economic exploitation, cultural destruction and racial hierarchies.

2. Include in the official language of FYEG, CDN and EGP the terminology from the glossary created by the Racial Justice Task Force. That shifts the Eurocentric, racist and xenophobic perspective towards a narrative that takes into account the material reality of the MAPAs.

3. Introduce decolonial education in FYEG, CDN, EGP, and European institutions to address colonial legacies and global inequalities. Establish a specialised body to monitor and ensure accountability in implementing decolonial policies across European institutions.

4. Revise trade agreements to ensure fairness by taking into account social and environmental impacts, and prioritise equitable partnerships with countries impacted by colonialism and neocolonialism.

5. Facilitate a fair transition from colonial exploitation to independence and self-determination by ensuring policies and initiatives reflect local realities empowering communities impacted by colonial legacies to shape sustainable and just solutions.

6. Mandate cultural and educational institutions to actively dismantle Eurocentric narratives by integrating diverse global perspectives and practices, amplifying marginalized voices and addressing colonial legacies through education and repatriation efforts across Europe.

1. Reallocate a substantial amount of fossil fuel subsidies to establish a dedicated Public Transportation Sustainability Development Fund. This initiative aims to make public transportation more accessible and affordable across the European Union.

2. Increase the European Union's top tax rate to 70% for individuals earning over €500k annually including their revenue in capital gains. Revenues generated will be directed toward climate mitigation and adaptation programs in vulnerable communities, particularly in overexploited countries on a global level.

3. Create national-level European climate citizen councils to ensure inclusivity in policy design and implementation. These councils will include members directly impacted by the costs of climate action, enabling participatory governance.

4. Increase funding allocations under the JTF (Just Transition Fund) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to European states most affected by the economic impacts of the green transition, ensuring fair support for communities undergoing structural changes.

5. Expand the Erasmus+ program and similar programs to provide additional funding for educational initiatives focused on preparing individuals and communities for the challenges posed by climate change.

6. Allocate additional resources from the European Social Fund to train social workers in managing and responding to extreme events caused by climate change, fostering community resilience.

7. Divest funds currently dedicated to fossil fuel subsidies within Europe to establish a Social Green Fund. The fund will invest in socially responsible climate infrastructure projects, such as energy-efficient housing insulation and renewable energy deployment.



# Food production & lifestyle

1. Promote the benefits of whole food, and plant-based diets through educational campaigns targeting schools, workplaces, and communities. Introduce plant-based options as the default in public catering services.

2. Impose higher taxes on ultra-processed foods and high-emission animal products. Lower taxes on fresh products and other plant-based foods, making them more affordable for consumers. Counter price speculation on vegan products.

3. Set binding national targets to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030, in alignment with the EU Circular Economy Action Plan.

We aim to reduce food waste by 90% in 2040. Amend relevant laws to allow and require supermarkets and restaurants to donate unsold food to food banks or community organisations.

4. Enforce stricter regulations on live animal transport, and ban redundant practices such as fur farming, the use of endangered animals as food sources, and exploitative uses of animals in entertainment. Mandate clear labelling for cosmetics and products tested on animals to promote transparency and empower consumers to make cruelty-free choices.

5. Reduce the disproportionate influence of industrial meat, egg and dairy corporations by regulating their lobbying activities and increasing transparency in food supply chains, requiring mandatory disclosure of environmental and social impacts. Support equitable power redistribution by providing subsidies, training, and market access to cooperatives and environmentally friendly small-scale producers.

6. Implement mandatory, comprehensive food labelling systems, on environmental, health, and animal welfare indicators.

7. Implement subsidies for low-income households to purchase fruits, vegetables, and plant-based proteins.

8. Expand infrastructure for farmers' markets and agro-ecological and community-based agriculture.

# Activism

1. Increase the hours of civic education in high schools on how to participate in society shape our democratic institutions and introduce debates before the elections. Incentivise young people to engage in school associations by giving benefits to them. Reserve a space of the school as headquarters for associations.

2. Increase public funding for youth projects to provide young people with places to meet, speakers to learn from, and resources to campaign with.

3. Reestablish public funding for political parties where it is missing to contrast funding by private lobbies and contrast the current imbalances in wealth.

4. Make all coalition negotiations transparent, with live-streamed meetings and publicly available agendas and proposals. Before the final vote to approve the European Commission, there must be open consultations with citizens, youth assemblies in every member state, and clear commitments on climate, social justice, and democracy.

5. Implement stricter EU and Europe-wide legislation that guarantees the right to peaceful assembly and prohibits undue restrictions, or violent responses by authorities or private agents. This includes also the surveillance, intimidation, or harassment of protesters.

6. Impose as the European Council targeted sanctions on states that suppress the freedom of peaceful assembly and association with others or that otherwise persecute civil society organisations.

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JOY**

