



**ESDN** REPORT

# ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP 2021

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Constanze Fetting



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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

The ESDN Youth Workshop 2021 took place on November 13th 2021. It was the second of its kind, after the first European Youth Camp that happened back-to-back with the ESDN Conference 2020 in October 2020. The German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), unit G III 3, Sustainable Development Policy, Citizen Participation initiated and sponsored both workshops. Frank Hönerbach and Katrin Kowalczyk represented the Ministry.

This report contains information on the following:

- Preparation Phase and Getting to know each other
- The Youth Workshop – November 13<sup>th</sup>
- Manifesto and Presentation at the ESDN Conference 2021.

In the annex, you will find the participant list and the finalised Youth Manifesto.



## CHAPTER 2

# PREPARATION PHASE AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

### Preparation phase

The BMU provided a first list of potential participants, all current UN Youth Delegates. In addition, the ESDN Office sent out an email to all National Focal Points asking for suggestions for candidates. Finally, the ESDN Office researched Youth Delegates and National Youth Councils in the countries that were still missing and invited representatives. Most of the youth participants are their country's delegates for the HLPF, for sustainable development or for the UN in general.

To prepare for the workshop and the study about Networks of Youth Delegates and youth working on Sustainable Development, the ESDN Office conducted interviews with 12 youth representatives before the workshop. Participants were asked about their background, their experience of networking and collaborating with other UN Youth Delegates and about their interactions with policymakers. The Office summarized these inputs for ESDN members before the workshop (Discussion Paper). In preparation of the workshop, the participants were also asked about the topics that are very important to them at

the moment and what they might want to discuss during the workshop.

### Getting to know each other

At this first session, which took place online on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 16 young people from 13 European countries participated: 13 UN Youth Delegates<sup>1</sup>, a member of the Spanish Youth Council, a member of ReGeneration 2030 and a member of the Finnish 2030 Youth Group. From the ESDN were present: Frank Hönerbach, Katrin Kowalczyk, Berivan Kilic from the German Environment Ministry and Christian Kaul from the German Chancellery, Marguy Kohnen and Sébastien Kieffer from the Ministry of the Environment in Luxembourg, Luminita Balalau from the Prime Minister's Office in Romania, Annika Lindblom from the Finnish Environment Ministry and Sami Pirkkala from the Finnish Prime Minister's Office. Tanja Busse, a professional moderator, lead the workshop discussions. She had already moderated the first Youth Camp in 2020.

The session started by a round of introductions of the participants and the ESDN Advisory Board. In order to create an

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<sup>1</sup> AT, BE, DE, EE, LU, NO, RO, SE, SL

atmosphere of trust and cooperation at eye-level, everybody was invited to share an object and/or a personal story that they connected with sustainable development. After the introduction round, ESDN President Annika Lindblom presented the ESDN and its work. The Youth Representatives and the policymakers from the ESDN exchanged their perspectives about youth involvement in policy-making.

Both, the policymakers and the Youth Representatives agreed that it is crucial to involve youth in policy-making. However, at the moment, the level of involvement is not sufficient, which is due to a lack of structures. Civil servants can get too caught up in their short-term and more urgent tasks to see the bigger picture. Nevertheless, they appreciate that Youth Representatives remind them of what they are working for. However, youth participation needs to be more supported and better structured to allow representatives to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes. ESDN Members expressed their support for more youth inclusion in the ESDN.

Sami Pirkkala explained the goal of the workshop to the participants. He started by explaining that one should always be aware of your 'circle of influence' and put

most of the energy there. We should all be aware that our circle of concern is often not the same as our circle of influence. By being aware of what these circles are, we can put most of our energy where it has the most impact. In addition, it is important to be interested in the topics that you work on, because that way it is more enjoyable. Participants should write a manifesto with their demands to policymakers in the EU. The Manifesto would be distributed among ESDN members and throughout the ESDN network. In addition, participants could present it to the EU Commission and other places. The ESDN could help open the doors to other decision-makers. In the end, Sami encouraged all participants to be as concrete as possible in their proposals.

Afterwards, youth participants discussed the topics that they wanted to work on during the workshop on November 13<sup>th</sup>. During the discussion of an hour and a half, it became clear that the topics that are important to all of the participants could be summarised under the following three topics: **responsible consumption and production, climate justice, and youth participation in sustainable development policy-making**. The participants already started to discuss the details of each of the topics.

The topic of **responsible consumption and production** is underpinned by an awareness of resource depletion and the strong connection to environmental protection and climate action. A big concern of participants was greenwashing by companies, so they discussed the topic of labelling products according to their environmental and social impact. This topic is highly discussed on a European level and in different areas, and there are working groups already dealing with this topic (e.g. the Green Finance Taxonomy). It is important to keep this fact in mind when discussing the topic of labels, and participants agreed that it would make sense to keep their demands more general and develop a framework for responsible consumer choices. Another aspect that was included in the discussion is the need to change our general perception of the economy and our consumption mind-set and consider ideas of de-growth. This is closely connected to principles of circularity.

The [World's Youth for Climate Justice](#) is a global campaign to take climate change and human rights to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to seek an Advisory Opinion. One of the aims of the campaign is to amplify voices of marginalised youth from countries threatened by climate

change (e.g. small islands threatened by rising sea levels). The discussions in the group on **climate justice** included questions of global inequalities and the strong responsibility of the EU and other rich countries to take action. Including this campaign in the manifesto should help to make this campaign more widely known on the European level and already start gathering momentum for the UN General Assembly in 2022.

On a more general level, the participants also decided to discuss the topic of **youth participation in policy-making for sustainable development**. In the discussion with policymakers during the first meeting, they had exchanged opinions about what meaningful inclusion of youth could look like and what the role of young people or Youth Representatives should be. They agreed that even in countries where there is a lot of youth participation that could be considered 'best-in-class', it is still not good enough. During their discussions, the workshop participants gathered a list of good practices and demanded to structure and institutionalise youth involvement in policymaking.

## CHAPTER 3

### YOUTH WORKSHOP NOV 13<sup>th</sup>

The Youth workshop 2021 was attended by 17 Youth Representatives and eight ESDN members (Please find a complete participant list in Annex II at the end of this document.) Like the first workshop, it was moderated by Tanja Busse. The workshop was hosted from the Medialab at the German BMU in Berlin, where Frank Hönerbach, Katrin Kowalczyk and Berivan Kilic from the BMU, the moderator Tanja Busse, and Constanze Fetting from the ESDN Office were present. Participants, ESDN Members and Ursula Kopp from the ESDN Office joined virtually.

This workshop started with a debate with **Florian Pronold**, managing Parliamentary Secretary of State in the German Ministry of the Environment. He reported about his years of engagement, starting at the Anti-Nuclear Energy Protests in Wackersdorf in Bavaria. He showed understanding as to why young people demand a lot, but for him it is motivating to see how much has been achieved in Germany and in the environmental movement, in general, in his lifetime. Even though there is still a lot to be done, and it is urgent, it helps to look back and celebrate past achievements. He encouraged the Youth Representatives to keep fighting and to make their voices heard. It is important to always stay open-minded and open to dialogue.

For the majority of the workshop, the participants split up into three working groups to develop their Manifesto. Each of the working groups (sustainable consumption and production, climate justice, youth participation) was supported by an ESDN member who acted as a mentor. In the afternoon, each group presented their results. The full Manifesto can be found at the end of this report and on the [ESDN Website](#).

To achieve **climate justice**, it is important for Youth Representatives to highlight the responsibility of rich countries in causing the climate crisis. Therefore, rich countries should also account and pay for a majority of the activities in mitigating and combatting climate change. The World Youth for Climate Justice Campaign is seeking an Advisory Opinion on Climate Justice from the International Court of Justice. This initiative is led by youth from Most Affected Peoples and Areas (MAPA). In their Manifesto, the participants demand that the ESDN takes climate justice into account in all of their activities. In addition, the youth representatives are asking all members of the ESDN to support the World Youth for Climate Justice Campaign.

For a more just and **sustainable consumption and production** system,

participants are observing that a system that has economic growth as the ultimate goal is not only detrimental to the environment and climate, but also negatively affects people's lives and (mental) health. Therefore, there needs to be a change in mentality towards the economic system and towards the environment. This could be achieved by introducing the SDGs into education and by awareness raising campaigns by national governments and other institutions. There needs to be a higher focus on wellbeing. In addition, participants developed concrete demands, including a better European-wide rail network and eco-labelling to enable better consumer choices.

The third group addressed demands for **youth involvement in policy-making**. Youth do not only want to be heard, but they also want their voices to be considered and their demands to be implemented. This is only possible with more concrete structures for permanent involvement. The Youth Representatives demand an ESDN youth network, but also efforts by the ESDN to lower language and other barriers for participating. A major concern is tokenism, where Youth are only involved to tick a box and not because policymakers are genuinely interested in their concerns. This should be avoided.

After the presentation, several ESDN members offered their opinion and thoughts on each of the working groups and encouraged participants to refine their statements. This was followed by another discussion about youth participation in the ESDN and the potential of an ESDN Youth network. The concern was raised, that most of the Youth Representatives are already involved in many different activities and that there is a danger that another network just means another task that they have to do or another meeting that they are obliged to attend. However, several youth participants emphasised that they do not have a big support network that facilitates connecting to each other or to policymakers, especially those delegates who are the only representative for their country would appreciate a network that helps them cooperate with other youth delegates. Here, an ESDN Youth Network should not be the one and only network, but another way of supporting the work of UN Youth Delegates and other youth representatives. In addition, the opportunities to meet decision-makers and to be involved in political processes varies strongly from country to country. Several participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to talk on such an equal level with policymakers .



## CHAPTER 4

# MANIFESTO AND PRESENTATION AT THE ESDN CONFERENCE 2021

The workshop participants finalized the Manifesto in the following weeks. It is a 9-page document with an introduction, one chapter for each of the three topics, and a conclusion. The workshop participants received feedback, proof-reading and layout through the ESDN Office (Ursula Kopp, Constanze Fetting, and Eric Mulholland).

Two youth representatives, Lara Schummer from Luxembourg and Daniel Samuelsson from Sweden, presented the Manifesto at the ESDN Conference 2021, on November 30. In preparation of their presentation, they met with the Conference moderator, Gerald Berger, and the ESDN Office. The slides of their presentation can be found on the ESDN website for the [Conference](#).

After the Conference, the Manifesto was distributed through the ESDN Email List and via its social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)). It can also be found on the [ESDN website](#).



# ANNEX I

## PARTICIPANT LIST OF THE ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP ON NOV 13TH

### Youth Delegates

Name	Country	Position
Balazs Kelemen	Hungary	UN Youth Delegate
Daniel Samuelsson	Sweden	UN Youth Delegate to the High Level Political Forum
Dorotea Strelec	Croatia	National Youth Council Representative
Dumitrița Rogojînaru	Romania	UN Youth Delegate
Ema Mehic	Luxembourg	UN Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development
Emma Merikanto	Finland	Member of the 2030 Youth Group
Fabian Gacon	Germany	UN Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development
Freja Ellefsen	Norway	Un Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development
Gabriel Zvîncă	Romania	UN Youth Delegate
Georgiana Teslaru	Ireland	ECO-UNESCO
Johanna Ekebom	Finland	Board Member, ReGeneration 2030
Jóna Þórey Pétursdóttir	Iceland	UN Youth Delegate for Human Rights
Lara Schummer	Luxembourg	UN Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development
Linda Luts	Estonia	UN Youth Delegate
Miriam Egger	Austria	Un Youth Delegate
Simon Babjak	Slovakia	UN Youth Delegate
Yasemin Amorim-Esenli	Switzerland	UN Youth Delegate

## ESDN Mentors

Name	Country	Position	Group
Sébastien Kieffer	Luxembourg	Attaché at Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development	Sustainable Consumption
Luminita Balalau	Romania	Prime Minister's Office – Department of Sustainable Development	Youth Participation
Serafin Groebner	Austria	Sustainable Development Officer at Federal Ministry for Climate Action	Climate Justice

## ESDN Members

Name	Country	Position
Sami Pirkkala	Finland	Prime Minister's Office, President of the National Commission on Sustainable Development
Pia Nagl	Austria	Policy Officer, Federal Ministry for Climate Action
Annika Lindblom	Finland	Ministry for Environment

## ESDN Office, BMU, Organisation

Name	Country	Position
Tanja Busse	Germany	Moderator
Constanze Fetting	Austria	ESDN Office, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Managing Sustainability
Ursula Kopp	Austria	ESDN Office, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Managing Sustainability
Katrin Kowalczyk	Germany	Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Protection, Department for Sustainable Development and Citizen Engagement
Frank Hönerbach	Germany	Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Protection, Department for Sustainable Development and Citizen Engagement
Berivan Kilic	Germany	Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Protection, Department for Sustainable Development and Citizen Engagement

## ANNEX II

# YOUTH MANIFESTO

### Vision

Dear stakeholders, policymakers, representatives, and everyone else willing to listen to young people,

We are 17 youth representatives from various European countries, speaking on behalf of hundreds of millions of young people living in Europe and around the world. We are concerned about our future (and that of future generations), considering the enormous threat climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss pose to our planet and people's quality of life. The current state of affairs is worrying, yet no appropriate action is being taken on a political level. At this point, the question is no longer about if something needs to happen or even what needs to happen, it is about when we will finally put the necessary changes into action. We need systemic change based on sustainable and circular practices, taking into account intergenerational equity and the well-being of everyone.

Our vision follows the following overarching themes:

- I. Climate Justice
- II. Responsible Production and Consumption
- III. Youth Participation in Policy-Making Processes

For us, responsible consumption and production are inextricably linked to climate justice. The production and consumption patterns of developed countries heavily influence climate change and planetary health in general through environmental pollution and through our considerable energy use. When it comes to implementing the systemic changes that are needed to achieve the sustainability of our societies, it is crucial to include the voices of young people in the process, as we will live both with the consequences of current inaction, as well as within the new system that is bound to emerge.

We are worried about our future, and we can imagine that you are, too. Therefore, we urge you to read this manifesto, listen to what we have to say, and help us put our vision into action.

### I. Climate Justice

*General Remarks: The Link between sustainability and future generations/ human rights and climate justice*

The rights of future generations are a cornerstone of sustainability. Decisions need to account for those who come after us, and the concept of infinite growth or infinite resources must be revised to a circular system. That way, we ensure that

ecological and economic capacity will still be there for future generations. Science is telling us what we need to do to have a future for humanity, essentially requiring sustainability. However, in order to achieve sustainability, we need to protect our planet and counteract the negative effects of the climate crisis. The negative consequences from climate change are unjustly and disproportionately centred on those who have contributed the least to climate change, yet will suffer the most. Their human rights are being violated at this very moment and therefore we need climate justice to ensure that people, especially the most vulnerable to a changing climate, are protected and their human rights are safeguarded.

Bringing the world's biggest problem to the world's highest court: the World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ) is seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice to contribute to the progressive development of international law on human rights and the climate crisis. The WYCJ is seeking the support of state and non-state actors in a bid to break the deadlock on climate justice and to secure the rights of present and future generations.

### ***Need for Climate Justice***

Climate injustice has been in the making for centuries. Whereas developed and mostly western countries have started to emit greenhouse gases since the Industrial

Revolution, the rest of the world has only recently joined the club. Today, richer countries are accountable for almost 50% of greenhouse gas emissions, despite only accommodating 12% of the world population. Thus, small islands and developing states that have been historically low polluters and continue to pollute at a decreasing level compared to more developed countries, are going to be impacted the most. Yet, developing countries are less resourceful, compared to their richer counterparts when it comes to investing into mitigation and adaptation strategies. This will further amplify inequalities, economic setbacks and eventual casualties in said countries. Climate justice cannot happen without the recognition of the historical responsibility of emissions.<sup>2</sup>

We need that every member of the ESDN and the ESDN as a whole to reflect this in their work, in solidarity with first-hand climate change witnesses.

### ***World's Youth for Climate Justice – the ICJAO Campaign and ESDN's support***

The demand for an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice about the impact of climate change on human rights was initiated by students from the Pacific Islands, one of the regions most affected by the climate catastrophe. This morally justified initiative has received the backing of 139 civil society organizations and Pacific states. It has inspired young people around

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<sup>2</sup> The world, since 1751, has emitted over 1.5 trillion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere- to reach the climate goal to reduce the limiting temperature to rise to 2 degrees Celsius, we require change. The countries that have been the greatest contributors to this issue, should take the greatest

responsibility, as their actions have been a burden on the environment, the natural world and society. While the Western part of the globe supplements its economy with the capitalism system, the developing world is on the receiving end of the story, suffering in silence.

the world to join efforts and push for global cooperation to achieve climate justice for current and future generations. The WYCJ are mobilizing international support for the advisory opinion and will need a majority of UN member states to support the initiative at the next UNGA.

We are asking the ESDN to promote the initiative launched by the WYCJ and to help bringing them into political conversations, thanks to the ESDN's vast network. We need to show solidarity not only with first-hand climate change witnesses, but also with young people from around the world. We need to demand the International Court of Justice to clarify and reiterate the rights of present and future generations. Therefore, this campaign needs to receive support on national and international level. We are thankful to the ESDN for giving a strong message by showing its support for youth-led initiatives.

### ***Connection to human rights***

We cannot achieve sustainability without taking human rights into account. The UN Human Rights Council recently declared that the human right to a clean, sustainable and healthy environment should ensure a push for transformative economic, social and environmental policies that will protect people and nature. The ESDN must give the right to a clean, sustainable and healthy environment a central role within its own work, as well as demand that states acknowledge, respect, protect and promote this human right. In light of a recent decision of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the ESDN should convey the necessity for states to take responsibility for their adverse impacts on

children and future generations. The decision of the Committee is clear on the fact that children today are already the victims of the consequences of climate change.

## **2. Sustainable Consumption and Production**

When it comes to sustainability, production and consumption patterns play a major role in our transition towards a better and greener future. Unsustainable practices do not only negatively impact our natural environment, but also people's health and their lives, in general. Therefore, transitioning to sustainable consumption and production patterns is crucial in regards to climate action and environmental protection, but also the physical and psychological well-being of everyone.

### ***General Points***

1. We observe that the current economic system, which puts economic growth as its ultimate goal, does not act in the interest of people's well-being, nor in respect of the planet's finite resources. Therefore, we see the necessity of changing our economic system so that the objective of economic activity becomes the well-being of people and the planet. The transition towards a more sustainable economic system must be underpinned through awareness raising and a general re-education of society by explaining the negative impacts of a linear economic system on the environment, society, in general, as well as on individual people.

In this matter we demand that the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are introduced into school curricula, especially regarding responsible consumption and production, to facilitate the transition towards a more sustainable and inclusive economic system.

2. We urge European countries to implement post-Covid-19 recovery plans that are respectful of the environment and use the historic opportunity of the coronavirus pandemic to change the path we have been on until now. We expect European policymakers to support a transition towards a circular economic system through systematic product life-cycle assessments and the promotion of circular economic practices such as “re-use, reduce, recycle” or encouraging local production and consumption over imports.
3. We see the need to further raise awareness on how the transition to sustainability in our every-day lives is not only beneficial to the natural environment, but also to society in general and draw attention to the aspects where this positively impacts people’s personal lives. A better understanding of the need of sustainable consumption and production patterns will be conducive to the actual transition.
4. We have to redefine the objective of our consumerism and discuss how we can measure well-being in a more sustainable manner. Can we justify the satisfaction of our personal pleasures

through consumption if there is harm done to others in the manufacturing process of the products we consume?

5. We want to highlight the power of national governments in the promotion of a societal mentality change through awareness raising campaigns on responsible production and consumption, as well as environment related problems on a national or regional level. To promote sustainable behaviour on an individual level, it needs to be clear for people to see how they are personally affected by these global challenges and highlight their individual power. We see the need to distinguish between producer and consumer responsibility in the promotion of sustainable practices, both equally important when it comes to sustainable development.
6. Lastly, we demand that the wealthiest people of the world take responsibility for their, in comparison to the average person, enormous environmental footprint and we encourage them to opt for sustainable choices and simultaneously decrease their consumption. This could be achieved through higher taxation of luxury goods.

### *Concrete Proposals*

1. **Transportation:** We call for the expansion of improved EU-wide railway systems connecting all European capitals and major cities with high-speed rail as well as night trains in order to make traveling by train easier and more reliable. An expanded railway network will encourage EU citizens to opt

for trains instead of airplanes for intra-continental travel, which, in return, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Europe.

## 2. Production standards and eco-labels:

We urge the European Union to set environmental restrictions to industries, followed by the introduction of a mandatory EU-wide eco-labelling system.

In order to sell a product on the EU market, certain sustainability requirements, environmental and social standards, are to be met in production processes (for example the amount of chemicals used in production processes is to be minimized, excessive waste production should be penalized, decent working conditions of employees are to be guaranteed).

Transparent and verifiable information on the operation mode is to be provided by producers and to be thoroughly investigated by an independent institution. In return for meeting said standards, products shall be awarded an eco-label designed with traffic light type of scale and a QR code to enable the consumer to get further information on a product's environmental impact. This labelling process must be mandatory for all companies wishing to sell their products on the EU market in order for EU citizens to be able to make informed choices on the environmental impact of their desired product, making the transition towards a sustainable consumption easier.

If the labelling system is to remain on a voluntary basis, we encourage the EU to incentivize businesses to adhere to the sustainability standards by financially rewarding sustainable production practices through tax reliefs and penalizing environmentally unfriendly production through higher taxation rates.

## 3. Youth Participation and Empowerment

### *General points:*

We demand that youth should be actively included in the creation and drafting of policies and decisions. Young people may act as main stakeholders and can provide valuable information and solutions to the problems we are facing. Youth inclusion and participation is a democratic and fundamental right. We recognise that there are great inequalities locally, nationally and internationally with regards to youth participation. On the three levels identified, there are significant gaps in how youth can raise their voices. In all cases, the ones most affected by inequalities are often the ones who are not being heard.

### *Concrete ideas and points:*

#### Consultation and collaboration

- Systems should be created in order to ensure that information sharing, consultation and decision-making include a diversity of youth perspectives. A first step would be the creation of an ESDN Youth Network. Through this network, youth would be



able to have a dialogue with European policymakers.

- Governments should provide means that ensure that information sharing, consultations and decision-making increases over time and include youth from all parts of society.
- Decision makers need to listen, value, and take into account the views from young people. The views being expressed by the youth shall be reflected in policies. Youth should also be justly compensated for their work.
- ESDN states should create an institutional framework for youth participation in working and solution-oriented groups, and be integrated in policy-making processes, acting as advisors for politicians when it comes to the topics related to youth.
- Each ESDN state should have youth delegates and the ESDN should promote the participation of youth delegates outside of the region. Each youth delegate should be able to participate meaningfully. Countries that have YD should revise and improve their current structures.
- Political parties should include youth topics and issues in their political programmes and to increase collaboration with the young civil society.
- Decision-makers should learn how to communicate with youth. This could be done through workshops and trainings.

## Empowerment

- Following the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 2250 (2015) 'Youth, Peace & Security Agenda', the youth must have a seat at the table of negotiations and be included in 'decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including institutions and mechanisms to counter violent extremism [...] to consider establishing integrated mechanisms for meaningful participation of youth in peace processes and dispute-resolution'.
- The ESDN should work against language barriers, economic barriers and digital gaps. The ESDN and member states should ensure a diversity of youth who can meaningfully participate.
- The ESDN should create meaningful inclusion and avoid youth tokenism. In order to avoid youth tokenism, the ESDN and member states should work for more stable and direct influence, systematic platforms of influence binding. ESDN states who have not done so yet, should lower the voting age to 16.
- The ESDN should work in attracting more young people to participate in sustainability.
- The ESDN should ensure that youth from diverse backgrounds are systematically included in information sharing, consultation and decision-making processes.

- The ESDN should, together with the ESDN Youth Network, create a list of best practices, which can be used as inspiration for improvement locally, nationally and internationally.

## Conclusion

Everything we –young people– have learned, we have learned from you, our previous generations, and we are grateful for all you have taught us. Nevertheless, as we are becoming adults, we recognize that the way older generations have built our system is no longer viable. We are facing serious challenges, and our life depends on whether we will be able to overcome them and adapt. We are in a state of emergency and since young people only have limited power; we need your help.

All the previously mentioned points are of great importance to us. We hope that you, too, recognize the urgency of the situation and see the necessity of implementing systemic change. So, please prove to us that we can put our trust in you, that previous generations are not abandoning us, but that you are ready to fight on our side for a future on a livable planet.

## Participants of the ESDN Youth Workshop

- Balazs Kelemen, UN Youth Delegate from Hungary
- Daniel Samuelsson, UN Youth Delegate to the High Level Political Forum from Sweden
- Dorotea Strelec, Croatian Youth Council
- Dumitrița Rogoșinaru, UN youth Delegate from Romania
- Gabriel Zvîncă, UN Youth Delegate from Romania
- Ema Mehic, UN Youth Delegate from Luxembourg
- Lara Schummer, UN Youth Delegate from Luxembourg
- Emma Merikanto, Member of the Finnish 2030 Youth Group
- Fabian Gacon, UN Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development from Germany
- Freja Ellefsen, UN Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development from Norway
- Georgiana Teslaru, ECO-UNESCO, Ireland
- Johanna Ekebom, Member of the Board of Regeneration2030, Finland
- Jóna Þórey Pétursdóttir, UN Youth Delegate for Human Rights from Iceland
- Linda Luts, UN Youth Delegate from Estonia
- Miriam Egger, UN Youth Delegate from Austria
- Simon Babjak, UN Youth Delegate from Slovakia
- Yasemin Amorim-Esenli, UN Youth Delegate from Switzerland

