

A close-up photograph of a fountain pen nib with a gold-colored tip, resting on a stack of papers. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the paper and the metallic sheen of the nib. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

ESDN

REPORT

ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP 2023

ESDN Youth Support Team



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

This Report is published as a work of the ESDN Office. The opinions expressed do not reflect the official views of ESDN Executive Committee nor the views of the ESDN Advisory Board.

Please cite this publication as:

Kopp, Ursula; Kostetckaia, Mariia (2023). "ESDN Youth Workshop 2023 – Report", ESDN Report, November 2023, ESDN Youth Support Team, Vienna.

© Pictures: front page: Stocklib/pinkomelet

CONTACT:

ESDN Youth Support Team c/o Institute for Managing Sustainability
Vienna University of Economics and Business
Welthandelsplatz 1, A-1020 Vienna, Austria
youth@esdn.eu
+43-1-31336-5453

Visit our website www.ESDN.eu

© 2023 EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (ESDN)

ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP, 25–28 OCTOBER 2023

Introduction

The ESDN Youth Workshop 2023 took place in Berlin on 25–28 October. Under the title **“How can Europe shape a sustainable world?”**, the event dealt with the topic of spillover effects, Europe’s responsibility for them and policies to address such effects.

An invitation to participate in the ESDN Youth Workshop was sent to more than 120 members of the ESDN Youth Network, as well as to other Youth Delegates (YD) that were not members of the network, for example, YD from Ukraine. 54 Youth Representatives from 23 countries expressed their interest in participating, but in the following months, 13 of them withdrew their applications. As a result, 41 Youth Representatives from 21 European countries attended the event (see p. 14 for the participants list).

The Youth Representatives’ sustainable travel (including CO₂ compensation in cases when train/bus journey was not possible) and their stay at a hotel with high sustainability standards in Berlin, as well as regional and sustainable (vegan) catering, were covered by the ESDN, which was made possible through extensive sponsoring by the German

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).

For the first time in 2023, it was decided to invite not only Youth Delegates but also the ESDN young civil servants. An invitation was sent to 31 young civil servants, and 14 of them expressed interest. 9 young civil servants from 6 countries attended the event (see p. 14 for the participants list). In addition, 4 senior ESDN members participated in the event.

In total, 63 people from 21 European countries participated in the Youth Workshop in Berlin, including Youth Representatives, senior ESDN members and young civil servants, as well as invited speakers and coordinators.

Consequently, the event was divided into two parts. The first part of the event (25–26 October) was dedicated only to the Youth Representatives. They had a chance to learn more about spillover effects from the invited experts and to work in small groups. Starting from the dinner on 26 October, everyone else was invited to take part, including ESDN young civil servants, as well as senior ESDN members.

The ESDN Youth Workshop was organised and coordinated by Ursula Kopp and Mariia Kostetckaia from the ESDN Youth Support Team, based in the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Managing Sustainability, with support from Katrin Kowalczyk and Frank Hönerbach from the BMUV.



This report provides an overview of all the activities that took place during the Youth Workshop in Berlin.

Dinner on 25 October

The event started on 25 October with a welcome dinner at the Ban-Vegan restaurant in Berlin, to which all Youth Representatives were invited. There they had a chance to get to know each other in an informal setting before an official start of the event.

European Sustainable Development Networ @ESDN_network - Oct 25 ...
ESDN youth event starts today with an informal dinner for the UN Youth Delegates at the Ban Vegan restaurant!



47

26 October, welcoming remarks

Next morning the official part of the event started with the welcoming words from the ESDN President **Daniel Dubas**, who highlighted how important it is for



the ESDN to have exchange with the young people. The ESDN Vice-President **László Borbély** in an inspiring video message said that the young people are

the future, and that they have the capacity to become change-makers. **Katrin Kowalczyk** from BMUV concluded the opening remarks by emphasizing the importance of youth in forming the world of tomorrow.

Getting to know each other

The official opening part was followed by several socializing and teambuilding activities, encouraging Youth Representatives and senior ESDN members to get to know each other better and to move around.

These activities included lining up according to the participants' experience, age, time, and distance



traveled to the event. Youth Representatives also recreated an imaginary map of Europe to indicate

where they were coming from. In addition, the participants had some time to discuss the spillover effects in small groups and to come up with examples of positive and negative spillovers.

Experts' inputs on spillovers

After socializing activities, Youth Representatives had a chance to listen to the experts' input on the topic of Europe's impacts and responsibility in the context of spillover effects and to ask them any questions.

Sven Kaumanns from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany talked

 **European Sustainable Development Networ** @ESDN_network | 26 okt. ...
Moving forward to input presentations! @Sven_Kaumanns from @destatis talked about spillover indicators and difficulties in measuring spillovers effects.



about spillover indicators and difficulties in measuring spillovers effects.

Dr. Marianne Beisheim from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) continued the conversation by putting spillovers into a global context of the SDGs.



Finally, **Tabea Waltenberg** from the Sustainable Development Solutions



Network (SDSN) Germany explained SDSN's SDG and Spillover indices. The inputs were followed by a lively discussion.

After a lunch break, BMUV's State Secretary **Dr. Christiane Rohleder** had a very open discussion with the young people about actions needed to address spillover effects of European consumption and about the importance of youth participation and action. Dr. Rohleder also shared the story of her career path and gave advice to the young people on how to build their careers.



Working groups

Having received input on spillover effects in Europe, Youth Representatives formed groups based on their interests

to discuss what they heard on that day and to exchange their opinions on it. The groups dealt with the following topics:

- The effects of the triple planetary crisis on physical and mental health and well-being
- Fast fashion
- Environmental migration
- Climate justice
- Transformative system change
- Capital justice.



Formal inclusion of Youth in the ESDN bodies

In the last hour of the event, the issues of the formal inclusion of youth in the ESDN bodies were discussed with the ESDN President Daniel Dubas.

The discussion also continued the following day, when Daniel Dubas and a small group of Youth Representatives discussed the future of youth in the ESDN. Daniel Dubas explained that in order to involve the ESDN Youth Network meaningfully in the work of the ESDN, the Executive Committee decided to offer two representatives of the ESDN Youth Network a seat in each Advisory Board meeting of the ESDN. This decision was met with great enthusiasm by the members of the ESDN Youth Network.

It was agreed that the members of the ESDN Youth Network will select Youth Representatives to the ESDN Bodies. The procedure and possible selection criteria were discussed during the workshop. In order to include the entire ESDN Youth Network (and not just the people present at the Workshop) voting of who would represent the Youth Network was postponed to November/December 2023.

Evening Reception at the Ministry

The first day of the ESDN Youth Workshop 2023 concluded with a reception at the BMUV. The reception was attended by

the ESDN Youth Representatives, as well as by the ESDN senior members and the young ESDN civil servants.

27 October. Welcoming words and “speed-dating”

The second day of the ESDN Youth Workshop was moderated by Dr. **Tanja Busse**, who is a sustainable development journalist and had moderated the previous youth workshops. On that day, Youth Representatives were joined by the young ESDN civil servants.

The ESDN President **Daniel Dubas** and the Vice President **Marguy Kohnen** gave their welcoming words, emphasizing the importance of challenging established ideas and ways of operating.



After that, a “speed-dating” session was organised, during which Youth Representatives and ESDN members had a chance to get to know each other better and to learn more about each other's work.



Recap of the previous day and examples of how countries are dealing with spillovers

The day continued with a recap of the first day, when all the working groups presented the results of their work. These presentations were accompanied by a lively discussion. These inputs from the working groups later formed a basis for

a presentation of the ESDN Youth Members at the ESDN Peer-learning platform on 9–10 November 2023 and for a policy brief that the ESDN Youth produced summarising their discussions during the Youth Workshop in Berlin.



The day continued with ESDN Young civil servants' presentations on how their countries are dealing with spillover effects. **Serafin Gröbner** from the Ministry of Climate Action and Energy presented how Austria is addressing the spillover

ESDN European Sustainable Development Networ @ESDN_networl · 27 okt. ...
 Serafin Gröbner from @BMKlimaschutz presented how Austria deals with spillover effects.



effects, while **Martyna Korotkiewicz** from the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology presented a Polish example.



After lunch, Dr. **Marc-Oliver Pahl** talked about how spillovers can be addressed better at the governmental level, sharing his experience from his work at the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE).



Youth Participation in Europe

The very full program of the event continued with presentations of **Ursula Kopp** from the Vienna University of



Economics and Business and **Dr. Peter Iwaniewicz** from the Austrian Ministry of Climate Change and Energy. They presented the results of two studies, one on youth participation in Europe and the other one on the youth participation in Austria.



Museum of Communication and dinner

After that, the Youth Representatives, as well as young civil servants and ESDN Members were invited for a short walking tour conducted by **Katrin Kowalczyk** and



Frank Hönerbach from BMUV. The participants had a chance to see some of the Berlin's attractions, including a part of the Berlin wall preserved in the BMUV building.

The walking tour led to the Museum of Communication where the participants enjoyed a very inspiring exhibition "Klima_X" that dealt with the ways of how climate crisis have been portrayed in the media over the past decades. The

exhibition also tried to answer the question of why we do not act on what we know.



The day ended with a vegetarian dinner at Kaffeehaus Dallmayr inside the Museum of Communication, where the participants could also enjoy playing a grand piano and singing together.

28 October. Finalising the event

The last day of the event was devoted to reflections on the previous days and discussions about the future events and inclusion of the ESDN Youth Network Representatives in the ESDN bodies.

The ESDN Youth Network members were offered an opportunity to attend the ESDN Peer-learning Platform in Bern on 9-10 November 2023 and to present the

results of the working groups' discussions that the youth had in Berlin. The participants of the Workshop selected three Youth Representatives to go to Bern to represent the ESDN Youth: Ellie Hutterli – United Nations Youth Delegate (UNYD) from Switzerland, Mohammad Naeem – UNYD from Ireland, and Lukas Kasica – UNYD from Poland.

After that, the event concluded with information about future steps and events, to which youth representatives would be invited in 2023 and 2024.



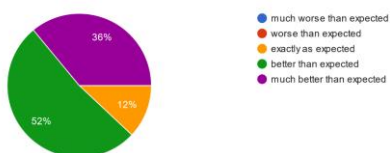
Event evaluation

After the event, the participants were sent a survey asking them to provide feedback on the ESDN Youth Workshop in Berlin.

Out of 41 participating Youth Representatives, 25 people (61%) have completed the feedback survey. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is "I did not like it at all" and 10 is "I really enjoyed it", **the participants have evaluated the event at 9.1 on average.**

88 % of YD said that the Workshop was better or much better than they expected.

To what extent did the event meet your expectations?
25 responses



The following aspects of the event were evaluated particularly highly: work of the organising team (Ursula and Mariia), opportunities to network and discussions with other participants.

In general, the feedback on the Workshop was very positive. In the open-

ended feedback, the participants mentioned the following things that they enjoyed the most:

- Opportunities to network with other YD, as well as with the experts and young civil servants.
- A very good input on the spillover effects that allowed the young people to understand the issue better.
- Group discussions.
- A good balance between input, group work and capacity building activities.
- A great inspiration from meeting like-minded peers.
- A feeling of being taken seriously.
- A very good planning and organisation.
- The fact that all the costs were covered.

We also asked the participants for their suggestions for improvement. The following aspects were mentioned the most:

- More time for group work and networking.
- The input should have been a bit more basic – several people said the presenters assumed that the

audience already knew a lot about the topic, which was not the case.

- More guidance during the group session would have been appreciated.
- Lack of interactivity during the presentations.

Conclusion from the feedback. The workshop was a big success, and Youth Representatives would like to have such workshops in the future. However, there is a room for potential improvements that we can consider for the future workshops, such as having more interactive inputs, inviting successful young people as speakers and giving more room for group work.

ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP, PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Number of Participants
Youth Representatives	
Albania	3
Austria	1
Belgium	4
Bulgaria	2
Croatia	2
Czechia	2
Finland	3
France	2
Germany	1
Ireland	1
Italy	1
Luxembourg	1
Netherlands	1
North Macedonia	1
Poland	2
Romania	4
Serbia	1
Slovakia	2
Slovenia	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	5
	Total: 41
ESDN Young Civil Servants	
Austria	3
Germany	2
Luxembourg	1
Poland	1
Romania	1

Switzerland	1
	Total: 9
ESDN Members and Speakers	
Austria	1
Germany	7
Luxembourg	1
Romania	1
Switzerland	1
	Total: 11