



ESDN REPORT

ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP 2024

ESDN Youth Support Team



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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

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ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP, 4-7 SEPTEMBER 2024

Introduction

The ESDN Youth Workshop 2024 took place in Berlin from 4-7 September. Under the title **“Europe’s sustainability and climate-neutrality in 2050”**, the event explored topics such as scenario development, sustainability transitions, climate neutrality and the policies needed to achieve these goals.

An invitation to participate in the ESDN Youth Workshop was sent to more than 160 members of the ESDN Youth Network. 61 current and former Youth Delegates (YD) from 21 countries expressed their interest in participating. Since the ESDN Youth Network could only accommodate participation of around 30 YD, we had to implement a selection process. The transparent selection procedure considered the following criteria in descending order: diversity of countries, giving priority to current YD over the former YD, giving priority to those who have not participated in the Workshop in the previous years and first-come-first-served basis. After the initial selection of 30 candidates, some applicants withdrew their applications, which allowed us to invite people on the waiting list. As a result, 33 Youth Delegates from 19 European countries

attended the event (see annex for the participants list) due to the fact that many participants stayed below the limit for travel costs.

The Youth Delegate’s 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).

In addition to the Youth Delegates, 10 ESDN Members were invited to attend the ESDN Youth Workshop and provide input to the YD. In total, eight ESDN Members participated, with two last cancelations due to health issues.

In total, 50 people from 19 European countries participated in the Youth Workshop in Berlin, including Youth Delegates, senior ESDN members, BMUV members, as well as invited speakers and coordinators (see also annex).

The ESDN Youth Workshop was organised and coordinated by Ursula Kopp and Mariia Kostetckaia from the ESDN Youth Support Team, based at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Managing Sustainability. They were supported by Eric Mulholland, ESDN Executive Coordinator, as well as Franziska Wolff and Frank Hönerbach from the BMUV.



Mariia Kostetckaia (left), Ursula Kopp (right)

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

Dinner on 4 September

The event started on 4 September with an informal get-together at the Little&Big Hotel Lindemann's, where the participants were staying, and some get-to-know each other activities. These were followed by a welcome dinner at the Prometeo Authentic Pizza restaurant in Berlin, to which all YD were invited. The participants had a chance to get to know each other in an informal setting before an official start of the event.



5 September, opening

The following morning, the official part of the event began with welcoming remarks from **Dr. Franziska Wolff** and **Frank Hönerbach**, both BMUV and ESDN Advisory Board Members. ESDN President **László Borbély** then welcomed participants to the 4th ESDN Youth

Workshop. Ursula Kopp and Mariia Kostetckaia from the ESDN Youth Support Office concluded the opening remarks.



László Borbély, ESDN President,
Prime Minister's Office, Romania

Keynotes on Foresight Work & SD Scenarios

To prepare the young participants for the scenario-building workshop, two keynote speakers were invited: Sylvia Veenhoff and Dr. Miranda Böttcher.

Sylvia Veenhoff, from the German Environment Agency, gave a presentation titled "What is Strategic Foresight? Why Scenarios?" in which she

explained how strategic foresight supports the transition towards sustainability and why it is essential.



Sylvia Veenhoff

Dr. Miranda Böttcher, from the Research Cluster Climate Policy at the German



Dr. Miranda Böttcher

Institute for International and Security Affairs, delivered a presentation titled “Navigating Multi-level Challenges in Europe’s Climate Policy Futures.” Her presentation focused on how foresight can help address the complexities of future EU climate policies.

Both presentations were followed by a Q&A session, allowing participants to clarify any questions they had.

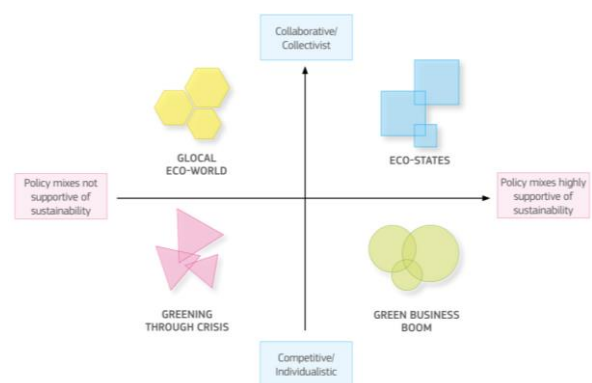
Scenarios Workshop – Part 1

After receiving input on scenarios and foresight work, the participants were invited to the scenario-building workshop titled “Towards a Sustainable, Just, and Climate Neutral Europe by 2050.” The workshop was led by Yannick Dujardin from the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC), EU Policy Lab: Foresight, Design, and Behavioural Insights. The four scenarios explored during the workshop were based on the JRC foresight study by by Matti, C.; Jensen, K.; Bontoux, L.; Goran, P.; Pistocchi A. & Salvi, M. (2023). [Towards a Fair and Sustainable Europe 2050: Social and Economic Choices in Sustainability Transitions](#). The scenarios are Glocal Eco-World, Eco-States, Green

Business Boom, and Greening through Crisis.

The workshop began with Yannick Dujardin explaining its structure, goals, and the key baselines to keep in mind during the scenario-building process.

The first part of the workshop focused on familiarizing participants with the 2050 scenarios. The participants were divided into four groups, with each group assigned one scenario. Moderators Ursula Kopp, Mariia Kostetckaia, Eric Mulholland, and Yannick Dujardin—each responsible for one scenario—explained the scenarios interactively, encouraging participants to engage and ask questions.



After the lunch break, the workshop continued with the “Incasting” stage, where the four groups were tasked with imagining the future well-being of their generation in 2050 under each scenario.



Each group then presented their vision of future well-being in a plenary session.

Meeting State Secretary Christiane Rohleder

After the coffee break, BMUV's State Secretary, **Dr. Christiane Rohleder**, engaged in a discussion with the young participants about the ministry's work in environmental policy, with a specific focus on existing challenges and their significance for the younger generation.



Ursula Kopp, Dr. Christiane Rohleder, Dr. Franziska Wolff (from left to right)

Scenarios Workshop – Part 2

After presenting their visions of future well-being for their generation under four different scenarios, participants were asked to work in their groups to create an ideal scenario that combined elements from each of the previously discussed scenarios. Next, the four ideal visions were “reconciled” in a plenary session, where participants from all groups worked together to agree on the elements of a single, unified scenario for the future. The official part of Day 1 concluded with a short debriefing session.



Photo challenge & Dinner

Participants were invited to take part in a photo challenge. Small groups received a list of photo tasks to complete and

send to the event organizers. The challenge gave participants a fun way to network while exploring parts of Berlin.

The first day of the ESDN Youth Workshop 2024 concluded with a dinner at the Weiland's restaurant. The dinner was attended by the ESDN Youth Delegates, as well as by the ESDN senior members, the ESDN Youth Support team and some speakers.

6 September

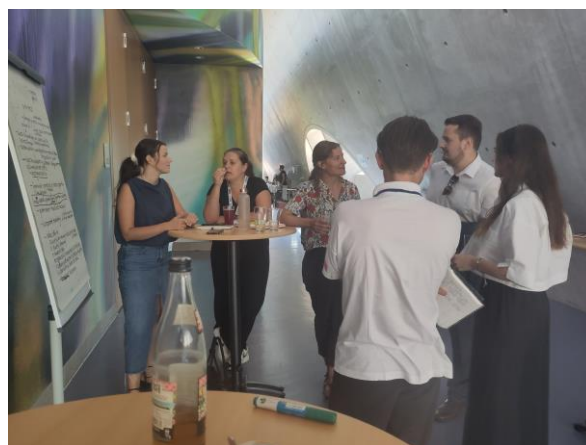
The second day of the ESDN Youth Workshop was primarily moderated by **Dr. Tanja Busse**, a German sustainable development journalist who had previously moderated at earlier ESDN Youth Workshops.

ESDN member **Serafin Groebner** from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology joined the workshop and provided feedback and insights throughout the day.

The day began with a recap of Day 1 and a request from the participants to add additional important topics and aspects to the chart developed on Day 1. After intense discussions, it became clear that

four main topics were of particular interest and importance to the young participants:

- Mindset Shift & Cultural Behaviour
- Power and Trust
- Strong Institutions
- Financing a Sustainable Future



The four topics were discussed and developed further in working groups and will form the basis for a Youth paper (policy brief).



In the afternoon, there was time to reflect on how youth is represented within the ESDN. Ursula Kopp briefed participants on the history and current status of the **Memorandum of Understanding on the Participation of Youth within the ESDN**. All participants were encouraged to provide feedback on the Memorandum via email. The final round of discussions will take place at the online debriefing meeting in October, and the collected feedback will be passed on to the ESDN Executive Committee via the ESDN Executive Coordinator.

The upcoming selection of new ESDN Youth Network Representatives to the ESDN Advisory Board was also announced, along with the next ESDN events, including the Peer Learning Platform in Bucharest and the cooperation with the EESC on the EESC Youth Test, which had just begun. This will provide an excellent opportunity for Youth Delegates to engage in highly relevant policy-related processes at the EU level.

The day concluded with reflections and hopes for the future by the hosts Dr. Franziska Wolff and Frank Hönerbach, ESDN Advisory Board Member at BMUV.

Networking was encouraged afterward at a "Networking Café" with snacks at BMUV.

7 September

Ursula Kopp and Eric Mulholland met with the participants again the following day at their hotel, Lindemann's.

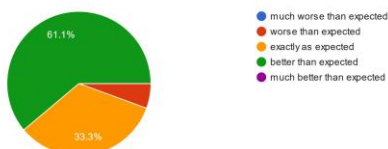


This provided another opportunity to support the youth in developing their joint paper and to collect personal feedback on the workshop.

Event evaluation

After the event, participants were sent a survey to provide feedback on the ESDN Youth Workshop in Berlin. Out of 33 participants, 18 (55%) completed the 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," **participants rated the event an average of 8.8**. Additionally, 61% of respondents indicated that the workshop exceeded their expectations.

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



The following aspects of the event received particularly high ratings: the work of the organizing team (Ursula, Mariia, and Eric), networking opportunities, staying together at the hotel, and the food provided.

Overall, feedback on the workshop was very positive. In the open-ended responses, participants highlighted the following aspects they enjoyed most:

- Opportunities to network with other youth delegates and the sense of community.
- The scenario-building workshop.
- Strong communication between YD and the organizing team.
- Insightful presentations from speakers that provided valuable input on the topic.
- Well-executed planning and organization.
- All costs being covered.

When asked for suggestions for improvement YD most frequently mentioned:

- A need for more organized discussions on Day 2 with clear topics and focus points.
- Additional facilitated group discussions.
- A clearer structure and objectives for the WS, provided from the outset.

Conclusion: The WS was a success, with YD expressing interest in similar future events, which offer a unique networking opportunity. However, there is room for improvement, particularly in establishing a clearer structure for discussions and objectives in future workshops.

ANNEX

ESDN YOUTH WORKSHOP, PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Number of Participants
Youth Representatives	
Austria	1
Belgium	2
Bulgaria	1
Croatia	1
Czechia	1
Georgia	1
Germany	2
Ireland	3
Italy	2
Lithuania	1
Luxembourg	3
Netherlands	2
North Macedonia	1
Poland	1
Romania	3
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	2
Switzerland	4
Ukraine	1
	Total: 33
ESDN Members, Speakers, and Moderators	
Austria	4
Belgium	1
Germany	10
Romania	2
	Total: 17