

ENGAGING YOUTH IN CLIMATE MIGRATION

GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH WORK



Climate change and migration present two seemingly separate global challenges. But these global themes are inextricably linked. One of the world's most urgent issues indeed is the forced displacement and migration of people due to the consequences of human-induced climate change, or 'climate migration'.

Climate migration is therefore a topic that should also be addressed in youth work in order to prepare young people for the challenges of our time. But what is the best way to approach this complex topic? The following guidelines emerged from our focus group discussions with youth workers in 4 European countries (Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain and Austria).



✓ **EDUCATION STARTS WITH YOURSELF**

inform yourself about the causes, dynamics and consequences of the climate crisis as well as about the migration movements that are to be expected due to the climate crisis. Just as important as problem awareness, however, is solution awareness. What can be done individually and collectively to get to zero emissions as quickly as possible and to adapt as well as possible to the already existing climate crisis consequences? How can we counteract the forced migration due to the climate crisis and how can we manage the upcoming migration flows as well as possible? Familiarize yourself with methods and tools for working with young people on the topic.

✓ **MAKE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE TOPIC UNDERSTANDABLE**

this is best done with vivid concrete examples. Use case studies to show how people elsewhere in the world but also in the immediate environment are affected by the climate catastrophe and are forced to migrate as a result. Or point out the resources people have which help them to stay in affected areas.

✓ **MAKE CONNECTIONS VISIBLE**

and communicate in a way that is appropriate for the target group. Make sure to establish a link to the young people's life and connections to other socio-economic aspects which affect them in one way or another (job prospects, housing crisis, inflation, energy crisis etc.)

✓ **HELP WITH FINDING A PERSONAL APPROACH TO THE TOPIC**

no one can commit to tackling all the problems of this world at the same time. It is easiest to get involved where one feels personally affected and has the will to make a difference. For one person it is women's rights, for another the fight against hunger, for the third the preservation of biodiversity. All these issues and many more intersect with the issue of climate migration. Support young people in finding their own personal approach.

✓ **COLLABORATION AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

Work together in school with other teachers from other subjects to deal with the topic of climate migration in an interdisciplinary way. This not only saves time/resources in your own subject, it also guarantees that the topic is looked at from different angles. In youth work, other youth organizations, the public sector, innovative companies or various experts can also bring in new aspects.

✓ **ENCOURAGE**

Multiple crises (corona, war, climate catastrophe) demand a lot from young people. It is important to give young people courage and point out possibilities for action so that they can look positively into the future. Fear is not a good companion. It can lead from repression of the problem to depression or even (violent) extremism in the fight against the climate crisis.

✓ **NO BLAME**

Today's youth will have to play a decisive role in shaping the development in the coming decades and ensure that the planet remains habitable for themselves and for future generations. However, young people are neither responsible for the mistakes of the past nor for the current state. It is therefore important not to blame young people. It is also important not to see young people as saviors of the climate or other crises. Especially considering youth have way less political power compared to other groups.

✓ **INSPIRE RATHER THAN PROSELYTIZE**

Highlighting good behavior motivates more than simply pointing out mistakes. Setting an example of correct behavior is more inspiring than telling young people what to do and what not to do.

✓ **PERFECTIONISM IS THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD**

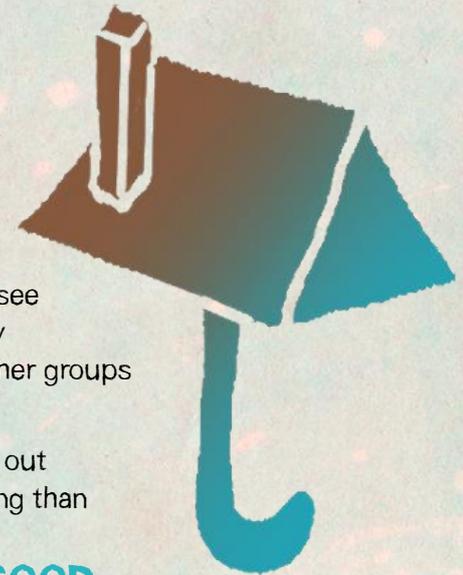
The demand for perfectionism can be paralyzing. To curb the climate crisis, we don't need a handful of people who live perfectly climate-neutral lives. We need millions of people who try to do it imperfectly.

✓ **A SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE IS ALSO POSSIBLE WITHOUT A LOT OF MONEY**

The sustainable choice does not have to be the more expensive one. Home-grown vegetables do not cost much to produce, second-hand is not only cheaper but also saves a lot of resources and emissions, going by bike is way cheaper than by moped or car.

✓ **MAKE INFLUENCE VISIBLE**

People want to see that they can actually make a difference - at least at the local level. Young people's influence needs to be visible and highlighted. Therefore, think about how the success of young people can be documented and celebrate the successes.



✓ **PROMOTE POLITICAL COMMITMENT**

Awareness raising goes beyond individual choices and we talk about more than fair consumption Show youngsters how to advocate for different framework conditions

✓ **AVOID POLITICAL DISENCHANTMENT**

Many important decisions are made at the political level If people experience that decisions are made at the political level against their own interests, they might be disappointed easily Highlighting success stories can help here, but also the realization that it often takes perseverance until things change

✓ **TALKING ABOUT POWER STRUCTURES**

Many young people feel powerless and as if they cannot do anything Address these power structures openly, show young people where they can actually make a difference themselves, but also what opportunities there are to work on breaking down and changing the prevailing power relations

✓ **TAKING YOUNG PEOPLE SERIOUSLY AND PROMOTING PARTICIPATION**

Nothing is more demotivating than not being heard with their concerns and problems but also with their suggestions and ideas Think about what measures you can take to give them a greater voice and opportunities for participation within your own organization but also in your own community Create opportunities for young people to experience self-efficacy in the local environment

✓ **LOOK FOR BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT**

Numerous youth groups have already campaigned for climate protection measures and for the rights and integration of migrants There is a lot to learn from and be inspired from existing or past successful projects

✓ **FORGE SOLUTIONS AND IDEAS TOGETHER**

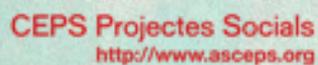
Once there is an awareness of the problem, it is important to get into action This works best in a group, where each individual can contribute his or her ideas and talents You can explore further three ways of activating: advocacy, mobilizing or organizing youth and communities



FURTHER MATERIALS

- **Beyond The Tales:** [Beyond the Tales |](#)
- **1 Toolkit 4 All:** [A GUIDE TO INSPIRING YOUTH TO TAKE CLIMATE ACTION](#)
- **1 Planet 4 All Plattfrom:**
- **Climate of Change Campaign:** <https://climateofchange.info/>
- **Platform Start The Change:** Teaching modules on global learning with a focus on SDGs and migration from the EU project Start The Change: https://www.startthechange.eu/#native_languages
- **Platform Worlds Largest Lesson:** educational materials on the 17 Global Sustainability Goals in English and other languages: <https://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>

The Guidelines were created as part of the Beyond The Tales Project. The project is co-financed by the EU Erasmus program. The contents and materials made during the project are a product of the authors. The commission is not responsible for use of this information.



Co-funded by
the European Union