

# EUROPEAN Youth Conference

19th-23rd  
May 2015

Brussels



## The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Conference

FINAL REPORT



*Organized from 19 to 23 May at the Committee of the  
Regions and European Economic and Social Committee  
headquarters*



This report traces the history, process and activities of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Let's Take Care of the Planet (LTCP) European Youth Conference.**

Held from 19 to 23 May 2015 in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions headquarters, **it was attended by more than 150 participants, including 69 delegates 13 to 16 years old from 14 European countries and 15 facilitators 18 to 30 years old of 11 different nationalities.**

This 2nd European Conference was focused on climate change in view of the major global event, COP21, at which international climate negotiations will be held and will be hosted in Paris in December 2015.

The Let's Take Care of the Planet project is in line with the goals of Sustainable Development and International Citizenship Education. It provides youngsters with the means of taking into account the global nature of a situation in its intercultural dimension, which prepares them to debate on critical social issues so they can give an informed opinion and implement carefully considered actions at their level of action.

The Let's Take Care of the Planet project in its European dimension aims to support dialogue among young Europeans on the issues involved in sustainable development and to strengthen their action and their ability to commit to moving towards sustainable societies.

The Conference was organized by the French organization **Monde Pluriel**, which since 2009 has coordinated the European dynamics of the Let's Take Care of the Planet project. [www.mondepluriel.org](http://www.mondepluriel.org)



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# I – History and Context



## 1. Brasilia 2010

In 2009, the Brazilian Ministries of Education and of the Environment – in partnership with the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation – invited all UN Member States to take part in a large-scale international cooperation process: **the Let's Take Care of the Planet International Conference of Children and Youth for the Environment**, which was held in Brasilia in June 2010. It was anchored to the United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Decade, a UN and UNESCO initiative. The Conference set **global socio-environmental change** as the common central theme to be debated by all the participants.



*Brazilian Parliament*

In 2009-2010, the organization Monde Pluriel, based in Grenoble (France), coordinated the French delegation's participation in this international conference as well as that of a network of partners in Europe. Wishing to give birth at the same time to a European dynamics around this project, the network set up an e-forum for exchanges previous to the international conference. This Internet-based seminar went on for six days in May 2010 and was facilitated by a team made up of members of the European coordination and of experts specializing in sustainable development and climate change. The educational goal was to build young Europeans' knowledge on climate change in their regional context and to strengthen collaboration among the young participants. The seminar led to the drafting of a **European Let's Take Care of the Planet Manifesto** featuring the commitments and actions that the youngsters wished to assume at the European level.

## 2. From Brasilia to the 1st European Let's Take Care of the Planet Conference

Back from the international conference in Brasilia, Monde Pluriel organized the submission to the European institutions of the international Let's Take Care of the Planet Charter. **In November 2010, a delegation of five young Europeans went to Brussels and handed the charter over to the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy.** They also presented it to a former cabinet member of Connie Hedegaard, then European Commissioner for Climate Action, and to Gerhard Stahl, Secretary-General of the Committee of the Regions at the time.

This event was a unique opportunity to **value the voice of youth on sustainable-development issues** at the highest level of the European authorities. It was also a chance to bring the Let's Take Care of the Planet project to the knowledge of a number of European leaders, who showed great interest in it. These interactions were decisive for the continuity of the European process and the prospects under consideration with the European institutions. It was thus with the Committee of the Regions that a partnership was gradually set up with Monde Pluriel, which led to the

organization of the European Conference in May 2012, hosted on their premises. It was both symbolic and coherent to hold this conference in Brussels, capital of the European Union, and at the headquarters of the Committee of the Regions, the authority representing the regions of Europe implementing sustainable-development policies.

Under the coordination of Monde Pluriel, a joint European dynamics has been in effect since 2010, the educational goal of which is to bolster collaboration among the young European citizens involved in these socio-environmental issues. In May 2012, following local, regional and national conferences organized in several European countries, Monde Pluriel organized the 1st European Let's Take Care of Planet Youth Conference at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 14, 15 and 16 May 2012, gathering 60 delegates (13 to 16 years old) and 10 facilitators (18 to 30 years old) from 14 European countries. The delegates,



*From Brasilia to Brussels*

representing thousands of young people in Europe, jointly wrote an **Open Letter to Decision Makers**, and produced **posters and a video message** to communicate their commitments. These collective productions were taken to the Rio+20 Summit by three facilitators in June 2012.

### 1st European Conference (2012) in a few numbers

- ❖ **60 delegates** 13 to 16 years old from **14 European countries**: Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, Sweden and Turkey.
- ❖ **23 adult chaperones**, mostly professors.
- ❖ **10 facilitators** from 9 countries, selected upstream by the national coordination committees.
- ❖ **5 volunteer technical facilitators**, in charge of on-site logistics.
- ❖ **15 content managers/facilitators**, in charge of facilitating the production workshops, the adult workshops and press relations.
- ❖ **5 media-coverage operators** (video and photos)
- ❖ **6 guests** (opening and closing sessions), 3 of which were delegates who had taken part in the 2010 International Conference in Brazil: Pierre Calame (Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation) and Edith Sizoo of the Ethics and Responsibility network, and Nathalie Broux, Professor of Literature.
- ❖ **15 volunteer interpreters** from the Institut Marie Happs (Brussels) and the EEI translation and interpretation school (Mons)

*Monde Pluriel decided to repeat this encounter, which the young had experienced as transformative, and, in agreement with its European partners, scheduled the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Let's Take Care of the Planet Conference in the framework of its 2013-2015 European project.*

### 3. European coordination of the project

Monde Pluriel has coordinated the network of participating countries since 2010, and it organized the European Youth Conferences. It supports the participating countries in their implementation of a national process. It defines the framework of the project with the coordinators of the European participating countries and has produced a number of tools to maintain good progress: a methodological handbook, “Step by Step”, communication tools, a Web site (<http://careplanet-europe.org/>). Monde Pluriel also secured the funding to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference and was in charge of institutional relationships with the European authorities supporting the project (Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee).

Monde Pluriel wishes, in the long run, to support co-construction with its European partners of the Let’s Take Care of the Planet project and their active participation in it. This is why, when organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference, Monde Pluriel extended the conference organizing team to a few longstanding European partners. These included **Cristina Gonzalez Torrents (Sant Oficina de Serveis Ambientals de Feliu de Llobregat - Spain)** and **Florina Potirniche (APDD-Agenda 21 – Romania)**, who took an active part in training the facilitators and in designing the youth workshops in partnership with Monde Pluriel. This was an opportunity to involve two former facilitators in designing the pedagogy and methodology of the meeting.



# II – Let’s Take Care of the Planet 2013-2015



## 1. Let’s Take Care of the Planet project goals

The European process leading to the European Conference aimed to:

- Raise awareness on socio-environmental issues
- Provide understanding of how the local and global issues are linked by comparing the realities of the different countries (cross-cultural dialogue)
- Reflect on individual and collective responsibilities in view of committing to sustainable societies, in the present and/or the future
- Strengthen the youngsters’ action capacities
- Bring about understanding on how public institutions work, and their complexity, through dialogue with local, national and European elected representatives
- Strengthen European citizenship

## 2. Methodology

The methodology of the Let’s Take Care of the Planet project, designed and tested in Brazil, with the Ministry of National Education, restates the goals of education in sustainable development and international solidarity, in terms of values, know-how and behaviour. To achieve these goals, such education is based on continuous training processes allowing for respect of the diversity of living beings and, among these, of human cultural diversity. It also aims to reinforce social resistance against the devastating relations that humans can establish with their environment and other human beings.

It is thus only with critical, participatory educational actions, which tackle cross-cutting and interdisciplinary subjects, that we will be able to achieve a responsible attitude with regard to the global socio-environmental challenges that we must face, in order to be able to reconsider our development patterns and our models of society and move towards sustainability.

To understand the complexity of our world, we must use all the tools we have: science, emotion, knowledge, curiosity, history, solidarity, ecology, etc. All these tools are essential to education and to the construction of a fair and sustainable world.

### The overall educational process rests on four fundamental pillars:

**The concept of “responsibility”**– Acknowledging each person’s individual and collective responsibilities is at the core of our projects: we consider that the youngsters are actors in society and that they have their role to play today and now.

**“A youngster is elected by a youngster”**– The delegates are elected by their peers according to the principles of representative democracy.

**“A youngster is educated by a youngster”**– Awareness of the issues involved in sustainable development and the education of each comes through dialogue and debate. With the help of facilitators (aged 18 to 25), each participant builds, by confronting his views with others’, his or her own sensitivity and sense of responsibility.

**“One generation learns from another”**– Even though youngsters are the protagonists of the project, the bonds and the dialogue between the generations involved, as well as meetings with representatives of the institutions, are fundamental.

The Let's Take Care of the Planet project puts all these dimensions into practice. It is a democratic process in several phases, which takes root at the local level in schools, during which the young participants meet, hold discussions, make proposals, make commitments and elect delegates who will represent them at the following stage.

### 3. 2013-2014 Process



## 4. Tools developed for the network

Taking inspiration from the Brazilian method and adapting it to the French then European context, Monde Pluriel has issued every year since 2009 a methodological and teaching handbook, "Step by Step", intended to guide national coordinators and professors in implementing the project at the local and national levels. The handbook aims to:

- provide the background and history of the project, lay out its goals and methodology along with the main stages to be completed at the local and national levels en route to the European Conference;
- propose educational elements providing leads to reflection and action in order to implement education for sustainable development projects;
- identify educational tools to support debates among the young;
- network the European partners with a list of the participating organizations' contacts.

Monde Pluriel also disseminates information to the participants through the Web site dedicated to the project: <http://careplanet-europe.org/>

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let's take care of the planet

EUROPE

"If not us, then who?"

LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE PLANET 2013 - 2015

Activities

Participating countries

TWIN SCHOOLS!

ENQUIRING, DISCUSSING, COMMITTING ONESELF... FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES.

This project aims at encouraging dialogue between young Europeans, reinforcing their knowledge and commitment on the issues of sustainable development. It gives continuity to the international process launched by the Brazilian Ministry of Education in 2009, which culminated with the international conference *Let's take Care of the Planet* in June 2010 in Brasilia, gathering youth from 47 countries that jointly wrote the 'Let's take Care of the Planet' Youth International Charter, a reference document for the whole process.

EUROPEAN Youth Conference

in live

HIGHLIGHTS

Get the Step by step guide 2014-2015

Complete version

Summarized version

# III – National processes 2014-2015



## 1. Description of the 2014-2015 national processes

The number of countries taking part in the Let's Take Care of the Planet project in Europe doubled between 2009 and 2015: from 7 countries, we went to 14. It is interesting to note that several of the countries that were present in Brasilia in 2010 (Spain, France, Georgia, Italy and Russia) continued the project with Monde Pluriel at the European level in the following years and were represented in Brussels in 2012 and 2015.

The national processes upstream of the European Conference were very heterogeneous from one country to another, whether in terms of activities, the organizational structure or the budget available to set up the activities. The LTCP dynamics can therefore vary a lot from one country to the next.

In the countries, the project can be overseen by civil-society structures (NGOs, organizations), by national education ministries or directly by the schools. The participating countries located around the Baltic area come from the network of "Baltic Sea Project" schools (an educational project focused on safeguarding the Baltic area). Lastly, the number of schools involved from one country to another varied considerably: one-third of the countries had only one or two participating schools, the other two-thirds had between 8 and 250 schools.

Country	Coordination	Number of participating schools	Number of youngsters directly involved	Number of youngsters indirectly involved
Belgium	Civil society, NGO and school	1	2	5
Denmark	Network of schools	9	100	2500
Spain	Local authorities and National Education	250	3000	20000
France	Civil society and professors	27	900	2000
Georgia	NGO and National Education	15	350	800
Italy	Civil society and National Research Centre	4	80	185
Lithuania	Network of schools	5	42	700
Netherlands	NGO	1	5	30
Poland	Network of schools	3	60	300
Portugal	NGO	8	300	5000
Romania	NGO	15	200	4000
Russia	University	7	50	450
Sweden	Network of schools	1	20	60
Turkey	Civil society	35	200	1000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>380</b>	<b>5316</b>	<b>34600</b>

\* Belgium took part as a "guest" because the Let's Take Care of the Planet process has not been started in this country. The two young participants took part, however, in the same programme as everyone else so as to be fully integrated into the network of young Europeans.



# BELGIUM

1 SCHOOL - 5 YOUNGSTERS

## National coordination

- **Referring entities:** GoodPlanet Belgium and the European School of Brussels
- **Status of the entity:** civil society (NGO) and school

## Description of the coordinating entity

- Since 1997, Good Planet Belgium teaches youth and adults to live sustainably. Fifty collaborators and dozens of volunteers are committed to transmitting their know-how in the field of sustainable development. <http://www.goodplanet.be>
- The European School of Brussels provides primary- and secondary-school education to youngsters of all nationalities for bilingual courses. <http://www.eeb2.eu/site>

## Collaboration with school networks

- GoodPlanet works with other schools within the framework of their project, the Brussels Youth Environmental Parliament.

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 1 school – 1 city (Brussels) – 1 region (Bruxelles Capitale)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 2
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 5
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 2 (+ 1 chaperone)

## Description of activities

- Involvement of 5 first-year lycée students in the Brussels Youth Environmental Parliament, a GoodPlanet Belgium project.
- This school participated in the project for the Let's Take Care of the Planet European Conference, to which two young delegates came as observers and took part in all the activities.

### *The Brussels Youth Eco-Parliament*



A group has taken part in the Brussels Youth Environmental Parliament, a simulation of the Parliament of Brussels, organized by GoodPlanet Belgium: Brussels youth gather to find solutions to environmental problems. This year's theme was "sustainable consumption for a sustainable city". Participants explored ways of avoiding destructive consumption during the preparation period for the parliamentary session. They were able to discuss, debate, listen to experts, practice creative activities and visit several places in Brussels that promote sustainable consumption. Then the youngsters developed their ideas into eight proposals to be presented to policy makers. During the Parliament simulation, the proposals were voted on. One of the goals of this action was to develop youth's commitment vis-à-vis the policy makers and to encourage the latter to take their proposals into account through acts in favour of a more sustainable.



# DENMARK

## 9 SCHOOLS - 100 YOUNGSTERS

### National coordination

- **Referring entity:** Baltic Sea Project Denmark [www.b-s-p.org](http://www.b-s-p.org)
- **Status of the entity:** International network of schools in the Baltic Sea area

### Description of the coordinating entity

- The Denmark Baltic Sea Project (BSP) is a network of schools that is part of an international BSP network working for a better environment in the Baltic Sea area. The latter is a member of the UNESCO Associated Schools network. It includes public schools from the nine participating countries from the Baltic area. BSP is officially accredited by the Danish Ministry of Education. BSP Denmark's experience expanded through the establishment of several European ESD projects, the production of a teaching guide for natural-science professors, the organization of activities such as camps for students and professors working on environment-related themes, professor training courses and by setting up a network of students and professors..

### Collaboration with school networks

- BSP network schools (9 schools in Denmark, 200 schools in the Baltic area)
- UNESCO Associated Schools network

### Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 9 schools – 3 cities – 3 regions (Jutland, Zealand Island, Amager Island)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 100
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 2500
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 4(+ 1 facilitator and 1 professor)

### Description of activities

- Local activities within the framework of class projects on the following themes: "biodiversity, deforestation and climate change", "waste management and recycling". Organization of an ecological week with various activities for all the schools' students.
- For two schools, exchanges with a school in France within the Twin Schools framework.
- Links established between the BSP project and the Let's Take Care of the Planet project (appropriation of part of the methods and activities, in both directions).

## Focus on...

### *The National Conference in Denmark: Roskilde Gymnasium, 15 January 2015*



Four professors gathered 62 students from three schools during the national conference.

**They undertook the following activities:** presentation of the students' projects, lecture by an expert on atmospheric chemistry and climate change, and organization of two interactive workshops, "Food and food waste" and "Extreme climate conditions and urban planning: how to adapt cities to local climate changes".

Flashmob performed at the Roskilde town hall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuCZrrRlx9Y&feature=youtu.be>



# SPAIN 250 SCHOOLS – 10 000 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** Ingurugela <http://www.ingurumena.ejgv.euskadi.eus/r49-home/es>
- **Status of the entity:** Regional Department of Education of the Basque Government

## Description of the coordinating entity

- Ingurugela is a public network covering the teaching body and coordinates environmental education projects and programmes in the non-university education system. It was created and operates thanks to collaboration among the Ministries of Urban and Regional Planning, Housing, of the Environment and Education, the universities and research bureaus of the Basque Government. Its work is based on a cross-cutting methodology and on a sustainable-development goal.

## Collaboration with school networks

- Escuelas Verdes network (Basque Country, 77 schools)
- Agenda 21 escolar (Catalonia)
- Centros Educativos Hacia la Sostenibilidad CEHS (Rioja)
- The ESenRed network (national network of school networks in an environmental education and a sustainable development approach) – <http://confint-esp.blogspot.com/es/>

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 250 schools – 11 autonomous communities (Catalonia, Basque Country, Community of Madrid, Castille and León, Castille la Mancha, Galicia, Navarra, the Canaries, Rioja, Murcia, Melilla)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 10,000
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 20,000
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 12 (+ 1 facilitator and 4 chaperones)

## Description of activities

- In Spain, the International Conference of Brasilia (June 2010), nicknamed "Confint", served as a catalyst for the schools committed to an eco-responsible approach. To date, there are 11 autonomous communities taking part in the process and 120 schools have organized local conferences. Approximately 910 youngsters from 110 schools took part in one of the 10 regional conferences held in the country during the year (e.g.: Confint Rioja, 13 May, 20 schools, 84 students, 40 professors).
- In parallel, ESenRED was constituted, which is a network of networks at the national level supported by the Ministry of National Education, gathering networks from 13 autonomous communities acting, each in their own way, in favour of the development of green schools. It functions as a Ceneam (Central Nacional de Educación Ambiental) workgroup. A national conference was organized in November 2014.

## Focus on...



### *The National Conference – 12-14 November 2014, Barcelona*

Ten autonomous communities were represented at this second Let's Take Care of the Planet National Youth Conference. The meeting, gathering 120 youngsters (12-17 years old) from 72 schools and 60 adults, was organized by the Catalan network including the autonomous community of Catalonia and its Green School programme (XESC) as well as a number of city governments including that of Barcelona. Each delegation, in addition to the youngsters and their chaperones, consisted of "technicians" from the regions; this was an interesting configuration because it led to two parallel and complementary dynamics: the youth meeting and the reinforcement of an environmental education network.

This event was organized in parallel to the 13th International Congress of Educational Cities that was held in Barcelona, which was an opportunity for a small youth delegation to hand over to Jordi Marti, the congress organizer, the manifesto intended for decision makers.



# FRANCE

27 ÉCOLES – 900 JEUNES

## National coordination

- Referring entity: Association Monde Pluriel
- Status of the entity: not-for-profit organization NGO.

## Description of the coordinating entity

- The organization Association Monde Pluriel develops cross-cultural projects in the field of education for sustainable development (ESD) and contributes to the emergence of global and active citizenship among young people.
- Monde Pluriel has coordinated the European Let's Take Care of the Planet network since 2009.
- More at: [www.mondepluriel.org](http://www.mondepluriel.org)

## Collaboration with school networks

- Collaboration with the network of eco-responsible lycées, National Education institutions, and vocational training schools.

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 27 schools - 4 regions (Ile-de-France, French Guiana, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Rhône-Alpes)
- **Number of persons directly involved:** 900
- **Number of persons indirectly involved:** 2,000
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 12 (+ 1 facilitator and 3 chaperones)

## Description of activities

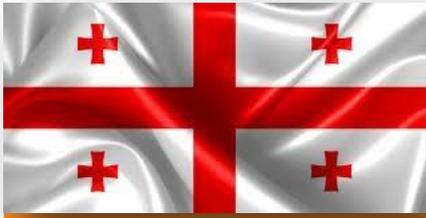
- In Ile-de-France, where coordination is under the responsibility of Bruno Descroix, a professor in Ile-de-France, two schools took part in a project of simulation of international climate negotiations with 13 other lycées of the region. Each school represented a country and prepared its role throughout the year. On 6 May a large meeting was organized to simulate a COP.
- In French Guiana, in PACA and in Rhône-Alpes, the participating schools dealt with various topics: recycling, water, renewable energy, deforestation, gold washing, medicinal plants, international solidarity, biodiversity, air quality, food, sustainable cities, etc.
- In Guiana, PACA and Rhône-Alpes, Regional Conferences were organized between February and March 2015. The programme of these conferences included: debates, meetings between the young and elected officials and between the young and experts, collective creation of posters to communicate on these commitments and a text (e.g.: Call for Co-responsibility).

### *"Today is our day": The Rhône-Alpes Regional Conference of 2 March 2015*

## Focus on...



On Monday, 2 March 2015, the Regional Youth Conference was held at the Lyons Hôtel de Région. Fifty youngsters and six facilitators met for discussions. The tone was set when the delegations arrived. After a quick presentation of the day, one youth said to the professor, *"Ma'am, today you're not giving us a grade; today is our day!"*. During the morning debates, the youngsters discussed their individual and collective responsibilities with regard to society's challenges. They then imagined possible actions in their schools, cities or regions, and even at the European level. During the afternoon workshops, several youngsters took part in Young Elected Official Dialogues with Veronique Moreira, Vice-President of "Coopération Solidaire", and Benoit Leclair, Vice-President of "Énergie et Climat" of the Rhône-Alpes Region. The youngsters got a better understanding of how elected officials and citizens are connected. Other youngsters took part in "production workshops" in which they made posters and performed a reading of the "Call for co-responsibility" text accompanied by body percussions.



# GEORGIA 15 SCHOOLS – 350 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** Women for Country's Future
- **Status of the entity:** not-for-profit organization

## Description of the coordinating entity

- Women for Country's Future is an environmental and citizenship education organization. It undertakes awareness-raising activities and action projects targeted to youth, at the level of local communities and schools (open conferences, workshops, visits, games, etc.).

## Collaboration with school networks

- Scouts of Georgia are partners of the project. The group of Scouts in the Adjara Region includes 15 schools.

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 15 schools – 13 cities – 5 regions (Kharagauli, Mtskhre-Mtianeti, Tbilissi, Republic of Adjara, Guria)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 350
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 800
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 6 (+ 1 facilitator and 2 chaperones)

## Description of activities

- The youngsters worked this year on the following topics: consumption, biodiversity, recycling, energy, ethics and solidarity. A lovely dynamics based on awareness-raising and on implementing actions at the local community level has been ongoing since 2011 in Georgia. Two regional meetings were organized in 2014:
- On 15 July, in Tsodniskari, where the youngsters presented local projects, created productions (an open letter, posters, slogans spread throughout the streets of the city) and organized debates with the mayor and a few members of parliament.
- On 28 July, in Kharagauli, where 32 youngsters from 12 schools took part in workshops (posters, open letter) and debates with elected officials.

## Focus on...

### *The regional project, "Life without Dioxin", Kharagauli*



Youngsters and adults from 25 schools of the Kharagauli Region, with the collaboration of the NGO Women for Country's Future and local authorities, became involved in this project aimed at raising awareness within the local community and organizing a collective clean-up of the surrounding area with the residents

The youngsters organized meetings with the residents of their villages in order to raise awareness about the noxious effect plastic bags and bottles on the environment, especially when they are burned. They went door to door, distributed leaflets and shared with the population. They also organized a collection and sorting out of plastic objects with the residents. They then met with the regional Minister of the Environment and UNDP representatives to present the Let's Take Care of the Planet project and the Brussels posters.



# ITALIA

15 SCHOOLS – 350 YOUNGSTERS

## National coordination

- **Referring entities:** Viração (national coordination) and NRC (support to coordination and scientific reference)
- **Status of the entities:** Viração - Environmental Education NGO; NRC – National Research Centre

## Description of the coordinating entity

- **Viração Educomunicação** is an organization specialized in social communication, social education and mobilization among youngsters and professors. Its mission is to promote and diffuse media education processes and practices and mobilization among youngsters and professors to put into practice the right to communication and social transformation.
- **The National Research Centre (NRC)** is a public organization whose role is to conduct, promote, diffuse, transfer and improve research activities for an improvement of knowledge and of its applications for the scientific, technological, economic and social development of the country. <http://www.cnr.it/sitocnr/home.html>

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 4 schools – 4 cities – 4 regions (Trentino, Trentino Alto Adige, Lazio, Puglia)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 80
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 185
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 2 (+ 1 facilitator and 1 chaperone)

## Description of activities

- The middle-school students did some research and created teaching materials, then they organized an awareness-raising session among primary-school children to inform them on the issues involved in environmental pollution problems. They also set up a laboratory to recycle paper and plastic, organized local conferences and a national conference (with the support of Paulo Lima of Viração, Francesca Alvisi of the NRC and the teaching staff of the Rome and Trentino middle-schools) with three schools. During this national meeting, the youngsters exchanged information on the local activities carried out at the level of each school and the concrete actions taken in favour of the environment.

## Focus on...

### *Commitments made by the schools as a result of the National Conference*



“We have committed to reducing the production of waste in schools and to raising awareness among our cities’ populations in order to inform them on soil pollution through a communication campaign targeted to students and citizens on waste production stations, soil pollution and recycling, with the support of our mayors, principals and parents. (June-August)

We commit to reducing water wasting at school and at home by contributing to change the plumbing systems, by submitting a project to reform the hydraulic system of the toilets in our schools, with the support of our parents, principals and mayors. (May-September 2015)

We commit to reducing energy consumption in our homes and at school, to making a diagnosis of electricity consumption at home and at school, with the help of science professors, and to establishing a reduction plan and presenting it to our school principals. (April-May)”



# LITHUANIA 5 SCHOOLS – 42 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** Vilniaus Žemynos Gymnasium
- **Status of the entity:** school.

## Description of the coordinating entity

## Collaboration with school networks

- Network with four other schools of the region.
- Baltic Sea Project network (29 schools in Lithuania, 200 schools in the international BSP project)

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 5 schools - 1 city (Vilnius) - 1 region (Vilnius)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 42
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** about 700
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 4 (+ 1 facilitator and 1 chaperone)

## Description of activities

- During the year, the students carried out scientific research, made posters and set up actions at the school level, sometimes in partnership with the community.
- A national conference, "Environmental Development", was held on 24 March 2015 within the framework of the natural-science week organized by one of the schools. The youngsters presented the results of their research and their activities, and set up a show.
- All the students from the Vilniaus Žemynos Gymnasium performed a flashmob (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQ1rdFgGLUc>).
- A Twin Schools project was started with a school in France.

## Focus on...

### National Conference "Environmental Development"

On March 24, 2015, the students involved in LTCP organised one-day Conference with numerous activities: project presentations, making posters on waste, energy saving, or compost, discussions and debates as well as scientific workshops (Science Week)





# THE NETHERLANDS

## 1 SCHOOL – 5 YOUNGSTERS

### National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** IVN, Instituut voor natuureducatie in duurzaamheid (institute for environmental education)
- **Status of the entity:** NGO

### Description of the coordinating entity

- Mission carried out jointly by professionals and volunteers to contribute to a sustainable society by involving people with their nature and their environment. IVN expertise included counselling, training and environmental education tools, education for sustainable development, awareness-raising, participation and programme development. The youngsters took part in IVN school programmes for sustainable development.

### Collaboration with school networks

- Partnership with several schools within the framework of the organization's different projects.

### Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 1 school - 1 city - 1 region (Fryslan)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 5
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 30
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** the delegation had to cancel its participation at the Conference, it was represented by a facilitator, member of the IVN team.

### Description of activities

- The youngsters worked on the energy theme: research, discussion and debates on the youngsters' responsibilities and actions. They prepared the European Conference in Brussels but in the end were not able to be there; only the facilitator was able to participate, with three goals: to represent the young Dutch delegates, to facilitate workshops and to be an observer to be better informed on the Let's Take Care of the Planet project from the point of view of its development next year.

## Focus on...



### Responsibilities of Dutch youth, March 2015

*We commit* to wasting as little energy as possible by always dressing warmly and leaving the heating on low at home. At the regional, national or international levels, we propose to attach the greatest value to those who use little heating.

*We commit to* reducing fossil-fuel consumption by taking the bus or riding a bike and to raising people's awareness by devoting one day to promoting the use of public transport, once a year, among all the citizens.

At the regional, national or international levels, we propose higher taxes on petrol at the global level.

*We commit to* reducing electricity consumption by using our electrical equipment less so we need to charge it as little as possible, at home and at school.

At the regional, national or international levels, we propose to take part in the International Earth Hour (see WWF).



# POLAND

## 2 SCHOOLS – 100 YOUNGSTERS

### National Coordination

- Referring entity: Zespol Szkol
- Status of the entity: school

### Description of the coordinating entity

### Collaboration with school networks

- Baltic Sea Project network (34 schools in Poland, 200 schools in the Baltic area)

### Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 2 schools – 2 cities – 1 region: Upper Silesia)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 10
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 300
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 2 (+ 1 facilitator and 1 chaperone)

### Description of activities

- • With their professors, the youngsters launched eco-projects in their schools, set up actions for healthy food at school (making and selling salads at school to replace unhealthy snacks, awareness-raising campaigns, collection of plastic plugs in favour of an organization for handicapped persons, etc.). The students also prepared the participation of a delegation at the Brussels Conference (organization of communication material on their projects). After the Conference, they organized a Mobilization Day, notably with the performance of a flashmob.

## Focus on...



### *Mobilization Day*

The youngsters organized a Mobilization Day by conducting an information campaign for the school's students on waste recycling in the form of a flashmob performed around this theme. They all threw their plastic bottles around the school instead of throwing them in the bins – then they danced with the bottles and with all the participants drew a giant figure spelling out the word "planet" – then they danced with bottles and recycled them into special bins for plastic so everyone could make a difference by sorting and recycling.

At the regional, national or international levels, they proposed to take part in the International Earth Hour (see WWF).



# PORTUGAL 8 SCHOOLS – 300 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** ASPEA (Associação Portuguesa de Educação Ambiental)
- **Status of the entity:** civil society (NGO)

## Description of the coordinating entity

- Founded in 1990, the main goal of this organization is to develop environmental education through formal and non-formal education. To do so, ASPEA implements various strategies and actions, in particular: an annual conference for professors and EESD experts; seminars and continued training courses for professors and EESD experts; facilitation of school networks, promotion of national and international cooperation; development of teaching resources; organization of summer programmes for children and teenagers; cooperation with local authorities; publications.

## Collaboration with school networks

- ASPEA national network of schools.

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 8 schools – 7 cities – 5 regions (Lisbon, Aveiro, Monção, Porto, Viseu)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 300
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 5,000
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 5 (+ 1 facilitator and 2 chaperones)

## Description of activities

- All the schools worked on varied sets of themes: energy efficiency (school audit and survey), nuclear energy (research on extraction and radioactivity), protection of the oceans, waste management (creation of a game among the awareness-raising tools produced), protection of biodiversity (fight against invasive species), industrial pollution.
- After stages of research on the selected problems, they organized their local conference with debates and the launch of local actions.
- A regional conference was organized on 16 March 2015, and a cross-border conference (Galicia, Spain-Portugal) on 11 April 2015.

## Focus on...

### **Responsibilities and actions launched in the Viseu region (Regional Conference: three schools)**

The Let's Take Care of the Planet project is represented in the Viseu Region by three schools: the vocational school of Tondela and the two secondary schools of Mangualde and Nelas.

Together, we committed to the following responsibilities at the regional conference:

To raise awareness and inform the general public on 'Quinta da Cerca' and the best way of making this place accessible and functional for everyone. / To form ecological groups with the communities so they will protect, preserve and develop biodiversity by taking care of the ecosystems. / To inform and raise awareness on an efficient and responsible use of water, energy, and biological and mineral resources in order to improve our consumption patterns and those of all the population. / To assume these responsibilities concretely, we implemented the following actions: in Nelas, cleaning of the river Quinta da Cerca; promotion of the project; sustainable agriculture (vocational teaching at the school) / in Mangualde, visit of the eco quinta "Moinhos Do Dão"; conference with Dr Nuno Ribeiro da Silva; reforestation project, "Planta Bosques"; raising environmental awareness with the support of documentary films ("Home" by Yann Arthus-Bertrand and "An Inconvenient Truth" by Davis Guggenheim); an ecological walking trail. / in Tondela: <http://greenprinteptondela.blogspot.pt/>





# ROMANIA 15 SCHOOLS – 200 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** APDD – Agenda 21 (Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21)
- **Status of the entity:** NGO (officially recognized by the Ministry of Education)

## Description of the coordinating entity

- Constituted in 2003, APSD – Agenda 21 works on sustainable development with youth. The projects deal with the civic education of children and teenagers and with their participation in the democratic-transformation process in Romania. <http://www.agenda21.org.ro/en/news.html>

## Collaboration with school networks

- Partnership with 14 schools (Bucharest, Buzau, Constanta, Prahova).

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 15 schools – 6 cities – 4 regions (Arges, Bucharest, Buzau, Ilfov)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 200
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 4000
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 6 (+ 1 facilitator and 1 chaperone)

## Description of activities

- 50 professors are involved in the 15 participating schools. They have developed and tested three lessons a year on various sustainable-development themes such as migration, global citizenship, climate change, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, transport and consumption.
- Each school followed the methodology suggested by Let's take Care of the Planet (research, debates, setting up an action, local conference).
- A national meeting was held between 23 and 25 October 2014 to share these experiences in Poiana Pinului in the area of Buzau. Assembled for three days, the 27 participants (professors, academic inspectors, and content and technical facilitators) shared their experiences and projects, planned exchanges between classes and worked on the plan to extend the project to 10 other schools in each region of the country. The goals of this national meeting were to link up the schools and professors of the four regions involved, to facilitate discussions on the ideas, methods and approaches used in classroom sessions and to identify tools to launch Internet-based discussions among schools in Romania.

## Focus on...



### ***"We protect nature for our lives" project***

The goal of the project "We protect nature for our lives" is to organize educational activities with the young not only to raise their awareness of environmental problems but also to bring them know-how and skills in the spirit of an efficient management of natural sources. The students set up several activities, including planting trees, making spaces greener by redesigning the spaces they use and debating on the question of water in the world and in Romania.



# RUSSIA

3 SCHOOLS – 50 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** Baltic Sea Project Russia
- **Status of the entity:** international network of schools in the Baltic Sea area. National coordination by the University of Economics in Saint Petersburg.

## Description of the coordinating entity

- The Baltic Sea Project-Russia is a network of schools that is part of the international BSP network for the improvement of the environment in the area of the Baltic Sea, itself a member of the UNESCO Associated Schools network. The BSP has public schools from nine countries of the Baltic area. More at: [www.b-s-p.org](http://www.b-s-p.org)

## Collaboration with school networks

- BSP schools (7 schools in Russia, 200 schools in the Baltic area)
- UNESCO Associated Schools network

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 3 schools – 3 cities – 1 region (Baltic region)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 50
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 450
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 4 (+ 1 chaperone)

## Description of activities

- The students worked on water pollution, air pollution, biodiversity and waste. They did some research and conducted scientific experiments around these problems and presented their results to their classmates. They also went on field trips on nature trails. Activities related to water quality were also part of the Baltic Sea Project. On 22 March, they took part in the Day of Celebration of the Baltic Sea. They also performed some activities and presented the results of their project and of the European Conference during the natural-science week.

## Focus on...



### *The Baltic Sea Project (BSP)*

This international network includes schools involved with environmental issues related to the Baltic area. The countries located in the Baltic area share many environmental issues, starting with the pollution of the Baltic Sea. These problems can only be solved through cooperation among the countries, which have different languages, cultures, practices, traditions and technical standards. Any attempt to deal with these stakes requires education as one of the key factors based on a scientific approach.

The Baltic Sea Project (BSP) thus started a school-cooperation plan in all the countries bordering the Baltic Sea. Today, more than 200 schools are part of the BSP. Most are secondary schools located on the Baltic coast, but the number of schools located inland is on the rise.

Concrete measures: setting up a network of schools; creating and developing teaching approaches and international environmental education programmes; organizing joint events and activities; publishing a BSP newsletter including relevant information.



# SWEDEN

1 SCHOOL – 20 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** Myrsjöskolan High School
- **Status of the entity:** school

## Description of the coordinating entity

## Collaboration with school networks

- BSP schools (10 schools in Sweden, 200 schools in the Baltic area)

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 1 school – 1 city – 1 region (Stockholm)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 20
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 60
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 2 (+ 2 chaperones)

## Description of activities

- The school project was related to consumption and changes in behaviour. The youngsters completed a research task, then set up a public-awareness campaign on recycling. .
- They also prepared the Brussels European Conference (communication tools on the local project, cultural presentation).
- A Twin Schools exchange is ongoing this year with a school in France.

## Focus on...





# TURKEY

35 SCHOOLS – 200 YOUNGSTERS

## National Coordination

- **Referring entity:** TÜRÇEV (Foundation for Environmental Education Turkey)
- **Status of the entity:** NGO

## Description of the coordinating entity

- The Foundation for Environmental Education in Turkey, TÜRÇEV, works on ESD and on practices for a quality education. TÜRÇEV conducts three different school programmes: Eco Schools and Forest Study in primary schools, Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) in secondary schools.
- More at: <http://www.turcev.org.tr>

## Collaboration with school networks

- Young Reporters for the Environment, LEAF programmes (700 schools), UNESCO Associated Schools network.

## Involvement in "Let's Take Care of the Planet" in 2014-2015

- **Number of schools involved:** 35 schools – 6 cities – 4 regions (Marmara, Central Anatolia, Aegean Region, Mediterranean Region)
- **Number of youngsters directly involved:** 200
- **Number of youngsters indirectly involved:** 1,000
- **Number of delegates at the European Conference:** 9 (+ 1 facilitator and 3 chaperones)

## Description of activities

- All the schools implementing the YRE project and the UNESCO Associated Schools were invited to take part in the Let's Take Care of the Planet project.
- The participating schools followed the key stages of the project. Among the local projects, three flagship projects were highlighted during the national exchanges on the youngsters' commitments:
- **Waste-related project:** reduce, recycle, reuse (research, then production of a video on the recovery of isolated oils, public-awareness campaign based on this tool; development of a waste-management model and its implementation in the school).
- **Energy-related project:** reduction of consumption and development of renewable energy (raising awareness of students, families and the local authorities to adopt measures to lower energy consumption; production of communication tools for a public-awareness campaign).
- **Water-related project:** water consumption and pollution (research and production of a public-awareness campaign targeted to students and city technicians called "water pollution, water recovery, climate change"; production of communication tools, dissemination and facilitation of a local conference).

## Focus on...

### *National Declaration of Responsibilities, Turkey, 2015 (excerpts)*

#### **Responsibility 1**

We are concerned about the increasing inclination of the government towards energy-production methods that are non-ecological and dangerous, such as nuclear energy, instead of making efforts for the transition towards greener energy. This is why we feel responsible for raising public awareness on this issue.

#### **Responsibility 2**

We are concerned by the non-reduction of the level of air pollution in the large cities of Turkey. We therefore feel responsible for locating the sources of air pollution and – if possible – taking measures for their elimination.

#### **Responsibility 3**

We are very worried about wastewater treatment systems and the waste from processing plants in many small Turkish cities, including in tourist and natural areas. We feel responsible for raising the awareness of the local government and the state on this issue and we ask them for urgent solutions.



## **2. Analysis of national contributions**

Based on the projects implemented locally, the youngsters were asked to agree on a number of commitments made at the Local Conferences. These were summarized at the national level. The European coordination received, upstream of the conference, 31 responsibilities (associated with actions) from 7 countries. These responsibilities illustrate the collective commitments made by the youngsters at the national levels. The themes defined upstream of the conference made it possible to categorize the national contributions, highlight the major issues and prepare the thematic workshops.

### **❖ Consumption and production (Contributions: Italy, Lithuania, Romania and Turkey)**

The theme of consumption and production brought out the following issues: waste reduction (paper, packaging), as well as recycling and waste management (including edible oils).

### **❖ Biodiversity and natural resources (Contributions: Georgia, Italy, Romania, Turkey and Portugal)**

The pollution issue was the one most mentioned (river, water, and soil pollution). Responsibilities were also related to the need of saving water and of protecting the environment through the protection of the natural areas subject to pollution or threatened by climate warming, and safeguarding biodiversity as a whole: limiting the overexploitation of nature, the use of pesticides and the destruction of endemic plant species by imported species.

### **❖ Energy and renewable energies (Contributions: Spain, Italy, Lithuania and Turkey)**

Energy-related responsibilities were mostly about saving energy (electric and based on non-renewable energy sources) including in shared use of transport. Promoting renewable energies came up several times.

### **❖ Solidarity and citizenship (Contributions: Spain, Romania)**

The theme of solidarity includes the challenges of cooperation and exchanges with other countries (cross-cultural exchanges) and that of global imbalances (related to health, education, food and poverty, but also to migration, demography, etc.). Solidarity is also the promotion of active citizenship through youngsters' commitments, the organization of environmental events, international meetings and information, often mentioned through the resolve to launch public-awareness campaigns on all the themes.

### **❖ Health and wellbeing (Contributions: Georgia and Italy)**

The impacts of the bad management of plastic waste (burned or discarded in nature) on health were mentioned in the local projects in addition to the impacts on health of water and air pollution.

# IV – 2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference

## 19-23 May 2015 - Brussels



The European Conference was hosted on the premises of the **Committee of the Regions** and the **European Economic and Social Committee**.

### 1. European Conference participants

Fourteen countries took part in the European Youth Conference and almost all, except for the Netherlands, were able to send a youth delegation. The delegations consisted of 2 to 12 students at the most, aged 13 to 16, accompanied by 1 to 4 adult chaperones and 1 facilitator, aged 18 to 30. The number of persons per delegation was proportional to the number of youngsters involved in the LTCP dynamics by country.

In addition to the delegations, other participants took part in the conference (elected officials, guests, experts, facilitators, etc.) and in total 161 persons were part of this event.

#### ❖ Composition of the delegations: 109 persons

Country	Delegates	Methodological facilitators	Adults
Belgium	2	-	1
Denmark	4	1	1
Spain	11	1	4
France	12	1	4
Georgia	6	1	2
Italy	2	1	1
Lithuania	4	1	1
Netherlands	-	1	-
Poland	2	1	1
Portugal	5	1	2
Romania	6	1	2
Russia	4	-	1
Sweden	2	-	2
Turkey	9	1	3
	<b>69</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>

#### ❖ The “other” participants: 52 persons

Workshop facilitators	13
Art facilitators	2
Communication coverage	3
Interpreters	12
Facilitator trainers	1
Guests	5
Elected officials and members of European institutions	7
Technical Facilitators	4
European organizing team	9

## 2. Training of facilitators

In reference to the term used by the coordinators of the 2010 International Conference of Brasilia, “facilitators are the heart of the Conferences”. It is they who set the pace and support the delegates step by step in all the activities. They also have a central role in the reception of the national delegations and in liaising with them.

Two types of facilitators were used during the European Conference: **methodological facilitators**, who are mainly in charge of facilitating the contents of the Conference, and **technical facilitators**, who support the organizing team in the organizational and logistic aspects.

The 11 methodological facilitators, of 11 different nationalities, were selected upstream by the national coordination committees according to various criteria: motivation, commitment to local LTCP dynamics, knowledge of the socio-environmental issues, fluency in English, etc. The four technical facilitators were also selected for their motivation and their resourcefulness: three of them were French and helped Monde Pluriel upstream of the Conference, the fourth was Spanish. It is interesting to note that this latter, as well as the Danish methodological facilitator, also played the role of witness because they had taken part in the 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference held in Brussels in 2012. **All the facilitators took a two-day training course, on 18 and 19 May, in Brussels, upstream of the European Conference.**

The facilitator training programme was entrusted for its design and implementation to two partners of the LTCP network: **Cristina Gonzalez Torrents (Oficina de Serveis Ambientals de Sant Feliu de Llobregat - Spain)** and **Florina Potirniche (APDD-Agenda 21 – Romania)**, both of them facilitators at the 1<sup>st</sup> European Youth Conference. Following a first meeting between Delphine Astier and Cécile Massé of Monde Pluriel, Cristina Gonzalez Torrents and Florina Potirniche organized in Barcelona from 10 to 13 February 2015, regular Internet-based exchanges were set up. This collaborative work was an opportunity to involve two important longstanding partners in designing the workshops, hence strengthening the bonds between the structures of the network.

The training made it possible to train the facilitators in various aspects: content and methodological principles of the LTCP project, Conference programme and participatory and inclusive facilitation techniques. The training was also an opportunity for the facilitators to discover the different workshops they were to facilitate by giving them practical experience. This simulation made it possible for them to understand the framework in which the delegates would find themselves, to reflect and become aware of their own role. Their training was supplemented by a talk



by Edith Sizoo on the concept of responsibility and a preliminary visit to the Committee of the Regions.



*The methodological facilitators, Cristina Gonzalez Torrents and Florina Potirniche*



*The technical facilitators and Guillemette Donnier-Valentine (Monde Pluriel)*

## What do the facilitators say?

### A testimonial by Tsothe, a Georgian facilitator

*“When I arrived in Belgium, I was a bit nervous because I didn’t know what to expect. What difficulties would I encounter as a facilitator?”*

*I was motivated by the training because I realized that it would not only be about responsibility, but that it would also be lots of fun, even as a facilitator.*

*During the workshops, our role is very important for the following reasons:*

*We were to explain to the youngsters how the workshop would unfold and how we were going to proceed.*

*But we were also there to help bring about a consensual idea from among all the ideas that were expressed. Or to explain to them the difference between “responsibility” and “action”.*

*Thanks to the facilitator training before the Conference, we had general principles to comply with, but with so many different languages, it was sometimes hard to do that.*

*During the Conference, I sometimes felt stressed out and tired but that was nothing compared with all the good “vibrations” I was feeling.*

*There was a lot of mutual help among the facilitators and that helped us to solve problems more easily. We were also able to relax during the event, the atmosphere was great! Everything was done for us to be able to fulfil our missions to the best of our ability.*

*This is one of most beautiful experiences of my life and I will value it.*

*I am very grateful for having been part of the second European Conference as a facilitator!”*



### 3. Conference approach and methodology

To achieve the Conference goals, and in particular the production of communication tools representing the voice of the youngsters attending it and the proposals on which consensus had been reached during the debates and to which the delegates wished to commit collectively, the course of the Conference was designed in several successive stages:

- 1) Facilitation of thematic workshops on the five following themes: **biodiversity and natural resources; solidarity and citizenship; energy and renewable energy; production and consumption; wellbeing and health.**

*Goal: share representations, discuss the issues involved in a given theme.*

- 2) Formulation of “responsibility”/ commitment on a given theme.

*Goal: work out leads for proposals and commitment, agree on what affects us.*

#### What is meant by "responsibility »?

Responsibilities are general principles/commitments made by the young.

They can be formulated as follows: “*We are concerned by /we feel responsible for... Our response is to commit to....*”

*To take on a responsibility* is to become aware of the complexity of a situation after having been informed, in order to understand the issues involved in it. To feel responsible, to become aware that I necessarily weigh in on these issues through **my attitude, my action and my inaction**. I then have the means of making a decision, of choosing what I want to do. I can commit or not commit to an action.

- 3) Organizing a meeting between the young and elected officials and one between the young and experts.

*Goal: to feed reflection.*

- 4) Pooling the “responsibilities” and the action proposals that emerged for each theme

*Goal: to define consensus-based responsibilities.*

- 5) Workshops for the collective production of so-called “educommunication”

*Goal: to engender group cohesion and a “doing-together” feeling when producing these and to provide the youngsters with communication tools to develop their commitment.*

Given the great disparity of languages in Europe and in order to facilitate the discussions, the Conference proceeded in two official languages: English and French. A team of volunteer interpreters also helped the delegates to express their ideas and understand each other better. They were notably solicited for discussions in French, English and Spanish, but some also helped in Russian and German, in simultaneous interpretation (in booths), consecutive interpretation (note taking and restitution), and liaison interpretation (whispered).

#### 4. Theme and sub-themes: approaching climate change in its complexity

Marked by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP21) planned in Paris in December, 2015 has been “the climate year”. Although this year there was no prevalent theme for the national processes, at the European Conference the stakes involved in climate change were given primary importance.

The workshops were built in such a way as to help the youngsters own a set of themes in order to make their knowledge emerge, and for them to propose responsibilities and actions to be taken at their scale but also by their entourage and decision makers.

The youngsters were able to explore the interdependences of climate-related problems and establish links among the themes dealt with in the thematic workshops. The themes made it possible to ensure the transdisciplinary nature of the project and to provide an overview of a certain number of aspects related to sustainable development and climate change.

In the “youngster-experts” or “youngster-elected officials” debates, the youngsters also had an opportunity to approach the stakes involved in climate and in COP21. A group of about twenty youngsters as well as the professors **simulated climate negotiations** with support from the organization CliMates.



#### COP21

The 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP21, will be held from 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris. It will be attended by 40,000 participants – delegates from every country, observers, civil-society members. The goal is to reach a globally binding agreement making it possible to fight against climate deregulation effectively and to accelerate the transition towards resilient and low-carbon societies and economies.

[www.cop21.gouvernement.fr/en](http://www.cop21.gouvernement.fr/en)

Within the framework of the workshops designed for the adults, theoretical training on climate change and COP21 was offered, so the latter would have better knowledge of the stakes involved, better apprehend their students' questions and adapt their position with regard to critical social issues.

Lastly, the productions of the “educommunication” workshops reflect the climate stakes and could be further developed during COP21 and COY11 as well as at all other scales, from the local to the global.

## 5. Highlights of the Youth programme

The Youth programme was thus paced by moments of debate, production, and field trips, as well as more festive moments.

**EUROPEAN Youth Conference**

May 19-23, 2015

Brussels

let's take care of the planet

EUROPE

Munde pluriel / Mouge bilingue

Staged in partnership with the Committee of the Regions together with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

### PROGRAMME

#### MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

- 15:00 - 18:00 > Relaxing and Meeting
- 18:00 - 19:30 > Diner
- 20:00 > Cultural Evening

#### MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

- 9:30 -10:00 > Reception at the Committee of the Regions
- 10:00 -12:00 > Opening ceremony and panel discussions
- 12:00 -13:45 > Lunch
- 13:45 -15:30
  - > **YOUNGSTERS**
    - Thematic Workshop on environmental issues: National and local realities, exchange on thematic problems, Environmental Map
  - > **ADULTS**
    - Presentation of the Conference programme,
    - Experiences exchange on environmental education and sustainable development
- 15:30-15:45 > Break
- 15:45-17:30
  - > **YOUNGSTERS**
    - Workshop on Responsibilities: Visualization of European environmental issues and emergence of responsibilities
  - > **ADULTS**
    - Debate 1: How to evaluate and enhance project about Environmental and Sustainable Development Education?
    - Debate 2: How to spark commitment to teenagers?
- 18:30-20:00 > Diner
- 21:00-22:30 > Body Percussion evening (at the Youth Hostel)

#### MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

- > **YOUNGSTERS**
  - 1 GROUP**
    - 09:30 - 12:45 > Simulation of climate negotiations (part 1)
  - 4 GROUPS**
    - 9:30-11:00 > Debates with an expert and an elected official
- > **ADULTS**
  - 09:30-11:00 > Work on the future of Let's Take Care of the Planet project (part 1)
  - 11:00 -11:30 > Break and transportation to the visits
  - 11:30-13:00 > Parliament and Parliamentary visits
  - 13:00 -14:00 > Lunch
  - 14:00 -15:30
    - > **YOUNGSTERS**
      - 1 GROUP**
        - 14:00-15:30 > Simulation of climate negotiations (part 2)
      - 5 GROUPS**
        - 14:00-15:30 > Workshops on actions
    - > **ADULTS**
      - 14:00-15:30 > Climate negotiations: COP21 and the role of local authorities
  - 15:30-16:00 > Break
  - 16:00 -18:00
    - > **YOUNGSTERS**
      - Production and Scientific workshops
    - > **ADULTS**
      - Pedagogical documentary on climate change in Middle East Region
      - The youngsters and the COP21
  - 18:00-22:00 > Free time to visit Brussels (no dinner at the Youth Hostel)

# PROGRAMME

## MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

9:30 - 11:00

> **YOUNGSTERS**

• Production and Scientific workshops

> **ADULTS**

• Simulation of climate negotiations (part 1)

11:00-11:15 > Break

11:15-12:30

> **YOUNGSTERS**

• Production and Scientific workshops

> **ADULTS**

• Simulation of climate negotiations (part 2)

12:30-13:30 > Lunch

13:30-15:30

> **YOUNGSTERS**

• **5 GROUPS**

• Finalization of the production workshops

• **1 GROUP**

• Body Percussion Rehearsal

> **ADULTS**

• Work on the future of Let's Take Care  
of the Planet project (part 2)

15:30-16:00 > Break

16:00-17:30 > Closing Ceremony and Flash Mob

18:30-19:00 > Time for feedback

19:30-22:00 > Farewell Party

## MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

7:30-9:30 > Common breakfast and  
departure of the delegations



Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer  
pour le Progrès de l'Homme



Hosted by

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



European Economic and Social Committee

Rhône-Alpes 

Avec le patronage  
de la Commission  
nationale pour  
l'UNESCO



Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture



avec le patronage  
de la Commission  
nationale française  
pour l'UNESCO

## ❖ OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was hosted by Delphine Astier and Lydia Nicollet from the organization Monde Pluriel. Several distinguished speakers were invited for the occasion:

- **Boris ESSENDER**, Member of the Cabinet of the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions.
- **Dilyana SLAVOVA**, President of the NAT section (*Natural Resources*) in 2013-2015 of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).
- **Edith SIZOO**, Coordinator of the international Ethics and Responsibility network.
- **Bruno DESCROIX**, Professor of Mathematics at the Lycée Louise Michel in Bobigny (France) and Ile-de-France coordinator of the Let's Take Care of the Planet network.



**Manuel Ignacio SANCHEZ VALDIVIA (Nacho)** and **Laercke VEJSNAES**, former delegate and former facilitator, respectively, at the 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference in 2012, were invited to tell of their experience in a speech previously thought out and rehearsed together. They called on the youngsters to consider their power to act collectively.

The floor was then given to the youngsters and the delegations rose to introduce themselves in turn.

### Excerpt from the speech by Laercke, Danish facilitator “You need to take care of the things you want changed”

*“My name is Laercke (...)*

*I was given the opportunity to help youngsters like yourselves to express their concerns about the planet, which is suffering.*

*I was surprised by everyone’s passion when they put their heads together and joined their efforts.*

*I know that all you youngsters have a lot to say and that you are concerned about your country’s environmental problems but also about those of the whole world.*

*You are given the opportunity here to share your knowledge with other youngsters who also think another world is possible. Don’t be shy, let your heart and spirit express themselves and seize the chance to be here, all together!*

*(...) When I was younger, my grandfather sat down next to me and said to me: If you want to make things change, don’t wait until somebody does it for you. You have to do things yourself, you must need to take care of the things you want change.*

*But when I was little, I was too young to understand that.*

*(...) When I became your age, I suddenly remembered what my grandfather used to say.*

*. . . At your age, I started to become aware of the environment surrounding me but also of the damage that men do to nature. Sometimes I am ashamed of myself and of humans in general. Men never stop consuming, one day there may be nothing left . . .*

*We need to take care of what surrounds us and it is up to US to do it, because no one else will.”*



## ❖ THEMATICS WORKSHOPS

Initially, the delegates drew a participatory map of the environmental problems in Europe, categorized by sets of themes based on the information shared by everyone and completed by the facilitators, in order to become aware of the common or different challenges among the countries.

The delegates were then divided into five thematic groups (*themes mentioned previously*). Taking up the previously identified problems, the delegates discussed their roles, the problems that affected them more, or less, and of those for which they really felt they could act.

In each workshop, the discussions led to the definition of 1 to 3 responsibilities, responsibilities that the youngsters felt capable of taking on individually and/or collectively.



### Reminder: the 3 stakes involved in a responsibility

The selected responsibility must meet three goals:

- respond to a priority challenge identified by the group,
- be easy to implement within the school, whatever the countries' national context,
- to be within the youngsters' range and action capacity.



In order to allow the youngsters to express themselves as freely as possible, the facilitators used participatory and inclusive debating methods. Interpreters were also used in these workshops to allow the youngsters to share their points of view more easily.

During the second part of the thematic workshops, the delegates defined actions to be taken individually or collectively from the local level to the global level. Thinking about these actions allowed them to become aware of possibilities of acting within their range. Moreover, the fact that each action was collectively discussed and defined by consensus reinforced group cohesion and motivation to act.

## ❖ DIALOGUES OF YOUNSTERS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS/ WITH EXPERTS

The goal of these meetings was to allow the young delegates to dialogue with resource persons, experts, elected officials, technicians, etc., who take part in implementing or designing policies, and who make Europe “from the inside”.

More precisely, this part of the process had several purposes:

- get a better understanding of institutional Europe
- understand how territorial authorities work and how they are linked to the European Union and to environmental issues, as well as public-institution issues in general; as well as understand the role of an elected official, his or her life day-to-day, etc.
- get a better understanding of the stakes involved in climate change and in COP21, and of the role that local authorities can play at the local level
- become aware of the collective dimension of environmental and climate issues
- strengthen the youngsters’ action capacity by allowing them to know of the initiatives of the European institutions (European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, European Parliament, etc.), and of public policies in general.

### Persons met:

- **Boris ESSENDER**, Member of the Cabinet of the General Secretariat of the Committee of the Regions.
- **Audrey PARIZEL**, Commission for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change (ENVE) of the Committee of the Regions.
- **Isabelle DURANT**, Member of Parliament of the Brussels Region, Municipal Councilwoman at Schaarbeek, former Vice-President of the European Parliament.
- **Antonio POLICA**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, Italy.
- **Manthos MAVROMMATIS**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, Cyprus.
- **José Manuel ROCHE RAMO**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, Spain.
- **Henry TIDY**, Professor of English at Sciences Politiques Grenoble (France), expert on the theme of “Climate change and conflicts” in the Middle East.

In terms of methodology, the delegates had **some upstream preparation time with the workshop facilitators** so the latter could take note of the role and the career path of the person they would be meeting, and collectively prepare and validate the questions they would ask.

These workshops were very rich, the interviewees’ accounts very interesting, and the delegates’ questions relevant, intelligent and complex. A full account of these sessions would be too long to report, but it can be said they were all highly and thoroughly appreciated. Following is a summary.



## Feedback on the dialogues of youngsters with elected representatives/experts « *Why not set up bilateral agreements between certain European countries?* »

**Henry Tidy** admits that the questions that were asked him following his talk on the mechanism of climate change and the dependence of our economies on fossil energies, were not easy. Here are some examples: *“How much time do we have left?” “How can we fight against planned obsolescence?”* None of these questions have an easy answer but they all show the depth of the discussions.

**Isabelle Durant** introduced herself as *“a Belgian, European and world citizen”*.

Complex questions were raised, notably about lobbies, the weight of the economy and that of the role of science (*“How can science be put made to serve renewable energies?”* asked a French delegate); the problem, according to Isabelle Durant, is that *“money is invested in the old forms of energy”*; on renewable energies, a suggestion was offered by a Turkish delegate: *“Why not set up bilateral agreements between certain European countries? Turkey could sell solar energy to Poland, which would then lower its production of coal”*.

Following a Turkish delegate’s question, *“What role can school play?”* the themes of education and awareness raising were broached; according to Isabelle Durant, school is not only a place of learning, it is a place of emancipation: *“citizenship is not learned in a class, it is experienced”*.

The discussion ended on COP21: because of the economic crisis, we should not expect too much from this meeting, which will undoubtedly lead to a minimalist agreement. The essential question cutting across all the debates is that of solidarity, whether local or global (North-South): one can oppose the interest of other countries to the interests of one’s own country; but sooner or later, if there is no solidarity, *“others’ problems will come home to you”*, *“if at a given moment, solidarity is not there, this catches up with you later,”* concluded Isabelle Durant.

**Audrey Parizel** and **Boris Essender** had youngsters in their group who wondered about *“Europe, its identity and its place in the world”*. Boris and Audrey admit that they *“don’t know what role Europe will play in 10 years. But what we do know is that each country taken separately, even the ‘large ones’, has no power on the international scene. And the pursuit of freedom as a fundamental value, the goal that was given to the European Union, is still current!”*

According to Audrey and Boris, *“it is at the local level that environmental problems are most obvious; it is therefore also at this level that solutions must be found.”*

*“Diversity is huge within Europe, in terms of opinions, interests, among institutions, among regions and states, etc. Decisions are tenaciously negotiated before being made. It is therefore important that decision makers at the local level have their word to say because the problems are often at their level. And it is also at this scale that decisions and policies are set up,”* concluded Boris and Audrey.



## More feedback on the dialogues of youngsters with elected representatives / experts

Two debates were also organized with the members of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC): a debate with **Manthos MAVROMMATIS**, a member representing the “employers” group, from Cyprus, and **Antonio POLICA**, a member of the “workers” group, from Italy. The second debate took place with **Jose Manuel ROCHE RAMO**, a member of the “miscellaneous activities” group, from Spain.

**On the institution and its role:** The youngsters showed great interest in the role of the EESC and this helped them to acquire better understanding of this institution, which is a consultative body whose opinions are conveyed to the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. It thus has a key role to play in the decision-making process of the Union, by making it possible for civil-society organizations to express themselves at the European level. The existence of three different groups represented within the EESC (employers, workers, miscellaneous activities) makes it possible to collect the different opinions arising from a diversity of social and professional milieus. On their daily work and themes, the members of the EESC are consulted for more than 200 opinions each year, distributed among the different groups, of course.

The youngsters also wanted to know how to enter the EESC to play this part, a question that especially interested the facilitators, who could project themselves more easily into such a function because of their age. To be a member it is enough to submit an application to one’s government, as a representative of a specific organization. The youngsters appreciated hearing the personal history of the EESC members, as well as what led them to play this role, because ultimately, these paths seemed accessible to them.

One youngster asked about the “real power of the EESC”. The answer he was given was that the EESC had the power of “Consultant, adviser, influence, but not to impose anything”.

**On the situation of polluting energies,** the members of the EESC insisted on the fact that to find compromises at the international level is a real challenge given the complexity of situations and interests. An interesting discussion started with the Spanish delegates on the national reality of Spain.

**Then advice was given to the youngsters** to strengthen their own capacities and involvement, such as:

- *“put pressure on politicians as lobbyists, because the more pressure they get, the more they are forced to take measures;*
- *political representatives are not the only decision makers, and many other stakeholders can be also approached*
- *do not underestimate your role as members of civil society!*
- *always remain practical, ask precise questions, make concrete requests, when you speak with an elected official!”*



***“I didn’t know that our voice could count”***

**Nathan, French delegate from the Ile-de-France Region**

## ❖ TWO SIMULATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

Two simulations of international climate negotiations were carried out during the Conference. The first simulation involved the students, and the second their professors.

They were jointly facilitated by **Clément Métivier**, member of the organization **CliMates** and coordinator of the COP in MyCity project for France and North America, and **Cécile Massé** for the youth workshop and **Bruno Descroix** for the adult workshop.

### ▪ **Course of the negotiations:**

For these simulations, six delegations were formed (United States, European Union, other developed countries, China, India, other developing countries) and the participants were given information on the country or group of countries that they represented on a fact sheet that was distributed to them the day before the simulation.

The rules of the negotiations and the points that the delegates were to negotiate were presented at the beginning of meeting: green finance, reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions, deforestation and reforestation. Once everyone knew their role, the negotiations could begin.

After an introductory speech by the Secretary General of the United Nations (role played by Clément Métivier), each delegation sent up a representative to give a short speech at the pulpit. After that, a first phase of negotiations began where the delegates interacted to agree on ambitious commitments. At the end of this phase, there was a debriefing session to see whether the commitments that had been made were sufficient to limit climate warming. Thanks to C-ROADS software, it is indeed possible to visualize the commitments in real time, and their consequences in terms of the rise in temperature and in the sea level in particular. Two other negotiation phases then took place. The delegations continued their discussions and fine-tuned their commitments, which they expressed on the stage at the end of each round of negotiations.

### ▪ **Results of the youth negotiations** (for the results of the adult simulation see the section on the adults programme)

The delegates took their roles seriously, and understood the negotiation rules well. Some were very diligent, and played the part of leaders for their mates. At each round, groups were formed spontaneously to have informal discussions. The commitments made to fight against climate warming at the end

of the negotiations turned out quite ambitious, with in particular more than 130 billion dollars promised to the Green Fund, intended to contribute to finance projects for the attenuation and adaptation of “developing” countries, who will be parties to the Convention as of 2020.

### What is the purpose of a simulation?

*The goals of a simulation are to raise awareness about the stakes involved in climate negotiations and to understand and own the terms negotiated at the international level, as well as the difficulty of reaching an agreement.*



## ❖ SCIENCE WORKSHOP

A workshop facilitated by **Fransceca Alvisi**, a scientist at the **Italian National Research Centre CNR-ISMAR**, was proposed for the Conference. The workshop, “**Climate changes, impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, attenuation... Threats or new opportunities?**”, allowed the youngsters to understand the links between climate change, the geosphere, the biosphere and the society in which one lives and this, at different scales.

The knowledge acquired during the workshop was transliterated into posters, which were presented at the closing ceremony.



## ❖ EDUCOMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS

### Educommunication?

*Educommunication is a way of connecting education with communication and of supporting the right of individuals to produce information themselves by using various media: posters, newspapers, radio, video, etc. This pedagogy of collective production strengthens the youngsters' desire to act by generating group cohesion and the feeling of "doing things together".*

The results of the thematic workshops constituted a basis for the educommunication workshops, which aimed to disseminate and value the commitments made by the young. These workshops gave the delegates the possibility of learning how to communicate on their commitments in different forms of language, to create different communication media to spread and develop the results of the Conference once they were back in their country, and to learn how to handle tools that they would be able to use again later.

The delegates were allowed to choose, previous to the Conference, an educommunication workshop from among the four offered: *Call for co-responsibility* workshop, *Youth Reporter Agency* workshop, *Collective Poster Creation* workshop and “*Mosaic of portraits*” Video workshop. These workshops were

facilitated by different French and European organization partners.

The various productions were presented at the closing ceremony to the attending distinguished persons. The tools that were produced are invaluable media for the Conference follow-up because they make it possible to value the voice of the youngsters and to share their experience. The Call for co-responsibility, the posters and the video were made in view of COP21

## Call for co-responsibility Workshop

*“Let’s join forces, let’s assume our responsibilities” Atelier Vidéo « Mosaïque de portraits »*

This workshop was facilitated by the organization *Monde Pluriel* and two other facilitators. **The Call for co-responsibility constituted one of the most expected results of the European Conference.** The goal of this workshop was to write a text in two parts: the youngsters’ commitments and calls to decision makers.

On the one hand, the youngsters pooled and laid out the responsibilities and actions on which they had decided collectively during the thematic workshops.

On the other hand, decision makers were to be called upon to share these responsibilities with concrete requests and suggestions based on the elements turned out by the debates with experts and elected officials organized during the Conference. A short role-play was also performed to define the type of actors whom the youngsters would be able to mobilize. They targeted six types of key decision makers: school principals, mayors, representatives of international institutions, company executives, journalists and artists. Indeed, the call also constitutes a tool to challenge school principals and local elected officials. They then prepared the reading of the Call at the closing session.

The attention paid by decision makers to this text has a symbolic reach and strengthens the youngsters’ action capacity, as testified by the feedback at the end of the event of a youngster from Ile-de-France: *“I didn’t know that our voice could count”*.



## "Mosaic of portraits » video workshop

*« 11 young voices on Climate Change »*

This workshop was facilitated by the French organization *Ex-Pression* and two facilitators. It aimed to give voice to 11 young Europeans on the theme of climate change in order to show how the young picture this set of themes, that the stakes are different depending on the country and that there are common solutions!

During the workshop, the youngsters learned the methods for shooting a film. The message, **showing the commitments of these young Europeans, will be presented at a stand during COP 21 and COY21.** It also constitutes a communication tool for the schools.



Watch the video at: <https://vimeo.com/131074261>

## Collective poster creation workshop

« *Keep moving, protect well-being!* »

This workshop was facilitated by the French organization **Et Pourquoi Pas?** and two facilitators. During the workshop, the delegates created six posters intended to convey a message by playing on words and images. The idea was also to translate into images the commitments made by the youngsters. Using the photomontage technique, **the youngsters themselves designed the poster visuals and slogans** with the help of the *Et Pourquoi Pas ?* team, who did the graphics and finalized the posters.

These posters will be displayed at the schools as well as at COP 21 and COY21.



See the posters at:

[http://careplaneteurope.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=42&Itemid=256&lang=en](http://careplaneteurope.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=42&Itemid=256&lang=en)

## Youth Reporter Agency workshop

« *Our planet needs you!* »

The Youth Reporter Agency workshop was facilitated by **Paulo Lima and Isabella Bruni** of the organization **Viração** and two facilitators. The young participants were charged with producing media coverage of the event by and for the young (by writing articles, doing photo reportages and interviewing the resource persons and the delegates...). The resulting material was published on a blog started for the occasion, Facebook and Twitter. The goal was to provide widespread coverage of the activities and the results of the conference, to allow the youngsters who did not go to Brussels to follow the progress of the conference in real time, as well as to leave a record of the Conference.



The blog containing the youngsters' articles can be read at:

<http://takecareoftheplaneteu.blogspot.fr/>

## ❖ CLOSING CEREMONY

In the afternoon of 22 May, the youngsters had the honour of presenting the results of their discussions and the commitments they had made collectively, as well as their productions throughout the Conference, to distinguished guests who had accepted the invitation to come and listen and react to the voices of youth:

- **Isabelle DURANT**, Member of Parliament of the Brussels Region, Municipal Councilwoman at Schaarbeek, former Vice- President of the European Parliament.
- **Boris ESSENDER**, Member of the Cabinet of the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions.
- **Pierre CALAME**, Honorary President of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation.
- **Annick DELHAYE**, Member of the Association of French Regions and Vice-President for Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate and Energy of the PACA Region, France.



The floor was first given to the youngsters, who reported on what had been accomplished in the different workshops and the results of their collective reflection. The six posters were presented to the attendees, and the rapporteurs of the Video, Youth Reporter Agency and Science workshops explained the contents of the workshops and the media that had been produced. The Call for co-responsibility was then read in English by four delegates – a Belgian, a Dane, a Turk and a Romanian – to the attending political figures.



## ❖ CULTURAL AND ART ACTIVITIES

### Cultural evening

#### *Gastronomy and folk-dancing*

On the evening of 19 May, the day of the delegations' arrival, the participants were invited to lay out a table with their country's cuisine specialities. They were then invited to enjoy an evening to share and discover the cultural diversity of Europe. The evening included listening to a performance of the Georgia national anthem, taking part in a Romanian folk dance, watching traditional dances of Georgia and Italy, taking a lesson in Russian dancing, listening to presentations by youngsters dressed in traditional costumes of Spain and Guyana, etc. Others preferred to present the "essentials" of their country (geography, symbols, flag, sweets, etc.). The atmosphere of the evening, devoted to discovering others, was both warm and moving. It was an ice-breaker for the youngsters and embraced them in a friendly ambiance of sharing and solidarity.



### Flash Mob

#### *"GoGoGo"*

Learning how to produce a flashmob performance was proposed to the youngsters at two moments of the Conference: on 20 May in the evening and on 23 May in the afternoon. The flashmob was an occasion for the youngsters to have a good time to the sound of music and to practise a fun activity together, thus strengthening their bonds. In an intercultural context like that of the European Youth Conference, music in general is a way of overcoming language barriers, communicating and understanding one another through a universal language. The idea was also to take the European Conference jingle created for the event and give it an identity in which the participants could see themselves.

The flashmob was also an opportunity for the youngsters to experiment with a new way of challenging the public. It was in fact performed, after the closing ceremony, on the Luxembourg plaza, about a hundred yards away from the European Parliament.

Its production came under the art direction of **Annie Deltour**, who is a reference in body percussion in Belgium. She proposed a choreography with as percussion instruments used plastic bottles, which had been collected and recovered by the staff of the Generation Europe Youth Hostel.



## 6. Highlights of the Adults programme

The 25 adult chaperones followed a programme intended to support experience sharing on educational practices and to look deeper into the stakes and challenges of education for sustainable development. During the different workshops, the **wealth of the exchanges** among the participants once again underscored **the interest of the LTCP programmes for those implementing EESD projects**.

### ❖ Experience sharing

At the first workshop, the participants, in pairs, produced posters presenting their respective projects. This allowed them to compare the institutional and educational frameworks for ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) in different European countries. It also allowed them to get to know their colleagues better, as well as their actions.

### ❖ COP21 – the stakes and educational proposals

Half the training time was devoted to COP21. Henry Tidy began by presenting the stakes involved in the COP. Boris Essender and Audrey Parizel, representing the Committee of the Regions, then explained the place and positioning of the European territorial communities in the negotiations. Lastly, a simulation of the COP made it possible for the participants to put themselves in the negotiators' shoes, to approach the complexity of these negotiations and to consider some ideas for an educational implementation with their students.

### ❖ Water in the Middle-East, an ESD subject for broaching the world's complexity

Henry Tidy showed the participants his documentary on water in the Middle East and presented a few ideas on how to use it for educational purposes. The point was to show that through an ESD subject, other stakes – geopolitical, cultural, etc. – could be worked on with students.

The documentary can be watched at: <https://vimeo.com/100333076>

### ❖ LTCP project follow-up and collaborative work

All these exchanges underscored the interest of working collectively. This is why two workshops were devoted to follow-up on the LTCP project. Hereunder are the proposals made by the different working groups:

- **continue and encourage Twin Schools exchanges**
- **participate in a yearly LTCP mobilisation day called “Mob Day”.**
  - It should take place around Earth Day, namely **around 22 April**. Each school should put a video on line reporting on the event.
  - There should also be communication on the day in the local media, which would be achieved by inviting local elected officials. Proposal for sponsorship of the event featuring a distinguished local or national figure to make it more visible.
  - To give the day greater impact, an event could be organized involving a larger spectrum of the actors of the educational community (not only the students taking part in the school's ESD projects).

- **improve the intra-network LTCP partners' communication tools:** importance of **setting up platforms for Internet-based exchanges** to compensate the fact that it is financially impossible to meet every year. There is already the [www.careplanet-europe.org](http://www.careplanet-europe.org) Web site, but other tools and media can be used to exchange on our projects and our practices, as well as to share teaching contents:
  - Google Drive, Facebook, Issuu, Skype, among professors or even among students
  
- **extend the network**
  - **train the professors** participating in the network
  - **mobilize within the schools** through “Mob Day” (contests, flashmobs, concerts, etc.), at the scale of the city and in other schools...
  - extend the network to **new partners** by making the project more visible and, for example, working with **Paulo Lima and his Youth Reporter Agency** for the coming COP21. Many participants showed their willingness to take part in this project.

At the end of the adult workshop, the participants filled out a table displaying a summary of the “projects and prospects”, which was combined with the posters produced at the start of the training.

#### ❖ **Workshop on the simulation of international climate negotiations**

Despite consecutive interruptions due to fire drills, the professors were able to achieve three rounds of negotiations, and there was enough time for the exercise to be done properly.

It was somewhat more difficult for the professors to play the role of negotiators than for the youngsters. Unlike the youngsters, for whom it was easier to communicate in English, the professors were made a little uncomfortable by the language barriers and had to negotiate through the interpreters, which in the final analysis was rather similar to the reality of climate negotiations. In the end, the agreement reached by the professors was comparable to that of the youngsters. In both cases an agreement was reached to limit the rise in global temperature to 2.5 degrees by 2100 compared to preindustrial levels, which is quite positive considering the current circumstances!



## 7. Communication: Following the Conference in real time

Several communication tools were set up by the European project coordination team to spread news of the European Conference on a broad scale, as well as to support follow-up of the Conference for all the youngsters who were participating in the LTCP process in their countries but had not been able to go to Brussels personally.

Press releases and press kits were widely distributed to French, Belgian and European media contacts, but the most outstanding tool this year was the online platform making it possible to follow the European Conference in real time.

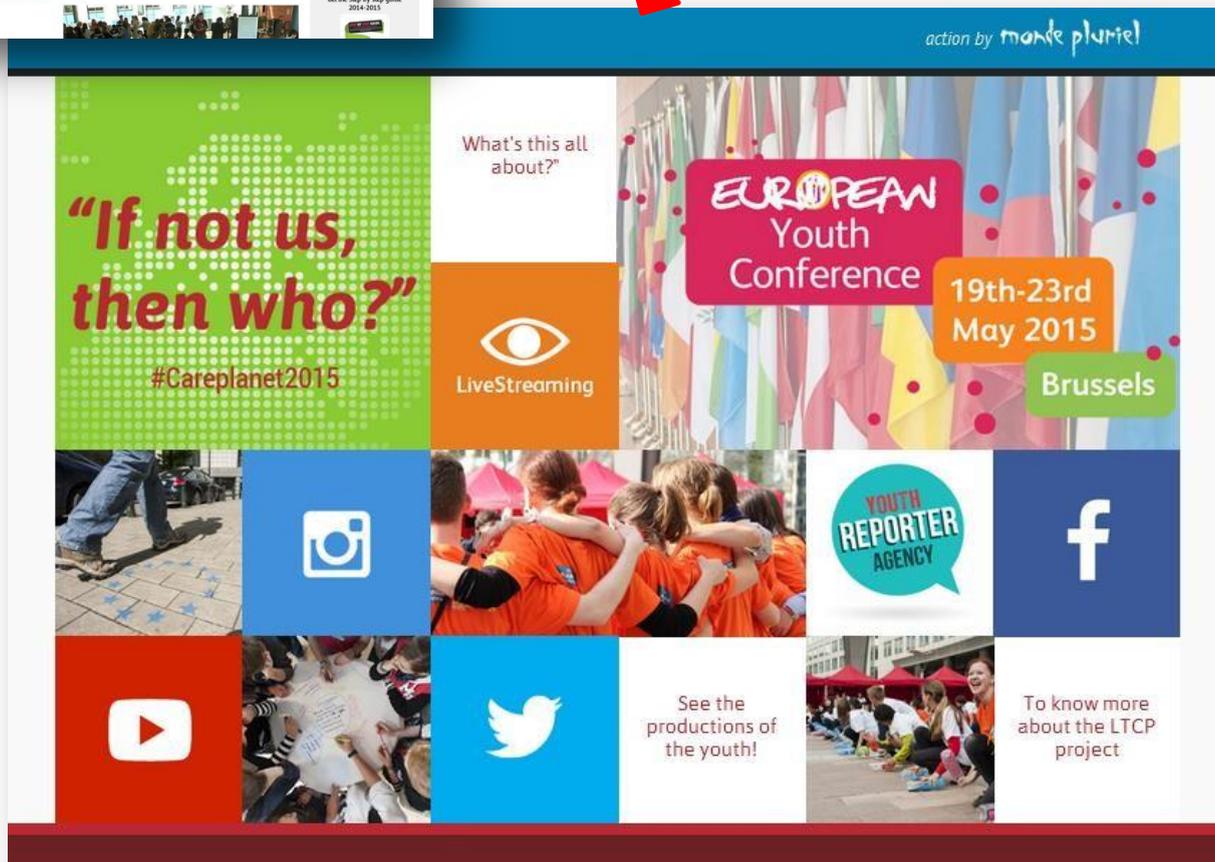
This mosaic, which can be accessed from the Monde Pluriel Web site and the European LTCP Web site, made it possible to follow all the activities at the European Conference: articles written by the Youth Reporter Agency, photographs and videos, news posted on the social networks, livestreaming of the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as for the simulation of international negotiations made possible thanks to the support of the technical team of the Committee of the Regions.

This communication strategy was highly effective: on the one hand it made communication possible “by the young” and “for the young”. On the other hand, the youngsters following the European Conference through the Internet were reactive and we received messages of encouragement and requests from young project participants in their countries, but also from youngsters completely foreign to the project.



Website <https://careplanet-europe.org>

Mosaic



# V – Event evaluation



## 1. Post-event evaluation

At the end of the conference, the participants – delegates, facilitators and chaperones – were asked to fill out two evaluation sheets: the first on the overall organization of the Conference (infrastructure, meals, transport, punctuality, equipment, etc.), the second on the contents of the Conference (activities of the Conference with a part for free expression).

- ❖ 60 of the 69 delegates filled out the evaluation form at the end of the conference

Key:

+ : Good or above my expectations

OK: equal to my expectations

– Disappointing or below my expectations



The heart symbolizes extra kudos for aspects of the Conference that the participants really appreciated

	+	OK	-	♥
<b>Accommodation</b>	42	19		
<b>Meals at youth hostel</b>	39	22		
<b>Meals at Committee of the Regions</b>	14	21	26	
<b>Transport</b>	38	22	1	
<b>Punctuality</b>	43	18		
<b>Equipment</b>	40	11	2	
<b>Overall organization</b>	48	12		
<b>Atmosphere</b>	51	10		
<b>Cultural evening</b>	48	13		10
<b>Delegation moment</b>	52	9		
<b>Opening ceremony</b>	40	19	2	3
<b>Thematic workshops</b>	33	23	5	
<b>Educommunication workshops</b>	13	17	1	
Mosaic of portraits	7	2		3
Science	1	2	3	
Youth Reporter Agency	3			
Posters	6			4
Call for co-responsibility	2			1
<b>Dialogue with an expert</b>	21	12	2	3
<b>Parliament and Parleментарium visits</b>	27	13	2	1
<b>Simulation</b>	23	8	2	7
<b>Body percussions and flashmob</b>	40	16	4	16
<b>Closing ceremony</b>	30	22	4	
<b>Farewell evening</b>	34	11	3	

- 21 of the 26 adults filled out the evaluation form at the end of the conference

	+	OK	-	♥
Accommodation	13	9		
Meals at youth hostel	17	5		
Meals at Committee of the Regions	10	6	6	
Transport	15	7		
Punctuality	21	1		1
Equipment	19	3		
Overall organization	19	3		3
Atmosphere	19	3		
Cultural evening	16	4		3
Delegation moment	17	4		
Opening ceremony	20	2		1
Experience sharing	16	6		1
COP21 workshop	15	5		1
Parliament and Parliamentarium visits	16	2		4
Simulation	16	4	1	5
Closing ceremony	9	7	1	1
Farewell evening	10	1		

The participants were overall very satisfied with the organization surrounding the Conference. The participants were strongly impressed by the opening **ceremony**, the cultural evening, the flashmob.

## 2. Youngsters' evaluation of the goals

The youngsters were also able to evaluate the Conference goals and measure its impact when back in their countries.

**1)** One evaluation was related to the understanding of the concepts conveyed by the project, which are **European citizenship, climate change and the concept of responsibility, as well as to knowledge of the European countries**. This evaluation was made at the beginning and at the end of the conference so as to measure any evolution based on the delegates' experience in Brussels.

We collected 66% of the questionnaires "at the start" and 89% of those "at the end". Following is an analysis of these questionnaires.

The participants considered at the start of the Conference that they knew at least the basic data of the other countries and **were delighted to have been able to learn a lot about the cultures** (so diverse) of the other countries and their environmental problems.

Answers to the question "Do you think that the other countries have the same environmental problems as yours?" vary among "yes, because we have the same geographical constraints", "the countries of the south of Europe do not have the same problems as the countries of the North" and "some countries feel the consequences more than others". Very fair observations, all in all, which were repeated in the questionnaire at the end.

## Understanding « responsibility »

### BEFORE

Having to do something but coming from the heart

An inner obligation

**Thinking of the consequences when acting**

An obligation for everyone in order to preserve a common good

### AFTER

**Thinking of the consequences when acting**

An inner feeling that makes you want to act

Freedom

At the beginning of the Conference, many of the youngsters confused global **climate change** and climate warming with weather variations. Many mentioned air pollution as the main factor of concern.

The workshops brought about a **better understanding of the phenomenon and its urgency**. Some do not feel they are up to the task of fixing it whereas others think that it is a critical issue on which they can have an impact.

It is noted overall that the youngsters had, from the start, a very good opinion of **Europe** as a pioneer on environmental issues and of European values (freedom of expression, union, peace). The Conference allowed them to learn more about the European institutions and environmental problems.

2) A second group evaluation per delegation was made by the professors on returning from the Conference to measure the impact of the Conference on the youngsters. Only six countries have answered this questionnaire to date.

All the delegates find that **their team spirit has become stronger** and are delighted to have also been able to make friends with youngsters of other countries. The delegations are unanimous in stating that their **knowledge of the other countries has improved and that they have a better feeling of belonging in Europe**, but are divided as to whether as a consequence of their activities at the Conference they have a better grasp of the role of the European institutions and the role of policies.

The majority of the delegations underscore that they not so much learned about environmental problems they had not known about earlier, as **deepened their knowledge, particularly on climate change**.

The youngsters **feel that they were heard and could give their opinion**, and appreciated the presence of interpreters. Some regret not having been able to exchange with everyone at the same time or not having been able to dialogue in English in the absence of interpreters because of the insufficient English level of some of the participants.

The delegations certainly intend to use the productions of the Conference, whether the posters (France, Turkey) or the Call for co-responsibility (Denmark) and are motivated to continue or begin new projects at the local level.



Youngsters' answers to the question  
"One word to describe the Conference?"

## What do the youngsters say?

### A testimonial by Ana Sofia Henriques, portuguese delegate

*“ The main goal of the European Conference was: change the world! But where do you start?*

*The first stage is awareness-raising. We need to share the results of the conference workshops and activities in order to inform those who did not attend it of the highlights of the meeting. This way, everyone can be informed of the environmental problems affecting the planet.*

*The second stage for change is to offer ideas to try to solve the environmental problems. After having identified the different solutions, we must choose the most appropriate.*

*The third stage is action! The only way to make things move is to be active and also to influence the people around us in order to set off a dynamics.*

*After the Conference, as delegates, we must continue to make our voices and opinions heard about the environment.*

*The conference is only a small bit of the road we now need to follow so we can have a healthy planet and good health.”*



*“The Conference changed my way of seeing things”*

*“Now I have goals, missions, knowledge, and most of all motivation to make things move”*

*“The first thing I’m going to share with my classmates is the difference between responsibilities and actions”*



## What do the youngsters say? A testimonial by Mehmet Can Aksu, Turkish delegate

*“For me the Conference was an amazing experience and every moment is engraved in my memory. A few weeks ago, I had a dream, that I took part once again in the European Conference. If you asked me what the best moment was that I experienced at the Conference, I would say without any hesitation that it was the ‘mosaic of portraits’ workshop. The fact that the video will be shown at COP21 gives me the impression that I have my say in this world.*

*I learned many things at the conference, like the difference between responsibilities and actions, the reasons and effects of climate change, the environmental problems in different countries... these are just a few examples.*

*Also, I had the opportunity of discovering new cultures and of making new friends. But what struck me the most in what I learned was that languages, races, religions, countries are not that important. If someone asks me where I’m from, my answer will be “I’m from the world”.*

*The conference gave me a lot of motivation. I can say that there is a before and an after thanks to this conference. It was a new departure.*

*I feel responsible for raising awareness and doing what I can to take care of the planet, at the scale of my family, of my school and of my city...*

*After the Conference, we did not have enough time to reach many people. As soon as school is back, we are thinking of starting new organizations. However, we had one mobilization day (see mobilization day in Turkey). This event was very cool and I believe that even with small things we will make the world progress.*

*The Conference helped me to become closer to people with whom I share similar ideas and I’ve found my philosophy. ‘If not me, who? If not now, when?’ These words are posted in my room and will affect my decisions and the ‘who’ I want to be later.”*



*“Our future is in danger and I feel I have to do something”*



*“You know, today’s youngsters are those who will make tomorrow’s world go forward and you have understood this perfectly”*

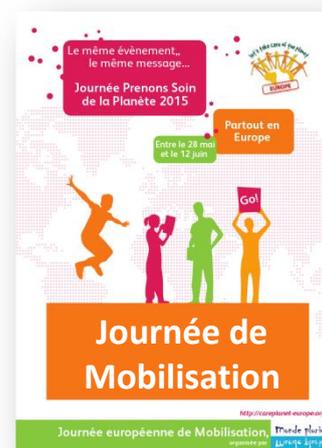
# VI – Prospects and follow-up



Follow-up to the European Conference takes various forms: from local reporting on the conference to a Let's Take Care of the Planet Mobilization Day, not to mention disseminating the Conference productions at COP21.

## 1. Back from Brussels

Back from Brussels, several of the participating countries organized events to convey the results of the Conference. Depending on the country, these were very different: in certain cases, it was just classroom presentations of the results of Brussels, in other places a regular Let's Take Care of the Planet Mobilization Day was organized. Each country adapts according to its constraints. What is important is that the students who participated upstream in the Let's Take Care of the Planet process but could not be in Brussels, can get feedback on the event. Here is a summary of several examples of mobilization that took place in various countries:



### ❖ DENMARK

- Publication of an article in the local newspaper *Roskilde* to highlight the project and the productions of the conference.

### ❖ SPAIN

#### At the national level:

- Production of a 3-minute video for each of the 80 participating schools on the theme of an action for social change. The ESenRED network collected the videos to make a feature film with them. See the blog at: <http://confint-esp.blogspot.com.es/>
- Translation and circulation of the youngsters' productions at the European Conference in all the participating schools.
- Presentation to about 20 schools not participating in the project, and at several local conferences to local authorities and the autonomous governments.
- Diffusion in the media (radio, press, social networks, etc.).
- Screening of the video "*11 Young Voices on Climate Change*" as soon as the school year started in 2015 to support Let's Take Care of the Planet activities.

#### Province of La Rioja (20 participating schools):

- Flashmob performance by the students to communicate on the project [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3LiCnI\\_eMY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3LiCnI_eMY)
- Reading of the Manifesto for Sustainable Development written by the youngsters of La Rioja <http://centrosostenible.blogspot.com.es/2015/06/recopilacion-acciones-5-de-junio.html>

### Province of Galicia (Climantica):

- Presentation of the Brussels experience to a local community
- Presentation of the Call for co-responsibility to the teaching community, the local authorities, representatives of the estuary production sector and to the head of the Campus do Mar (international Spanish-Portuguese campus)
- Two of the campus scientists organized a scientific symposium on responses to the challenges of climate change for education actors

<http://www.climantica.org/climanticaFront/es/entry/201506041>

<http://www.climantica.org/climanticaFront/es/entry/201506111>

## ❖ FRANCE

### French Guiana:

- PowerPoint presentation to their class by each delegate who had attended the European conference
- Posters displayed at the school
- Exhibition of the annual productions and presentation of a photo exhibit on the European Conference to the students' parents

### Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur:

- Organization in all the participating schools of a global half-day on the environment: report on the school project by the youngsters, participation of the youngsters at the Regional and European LTCP conferences, presentation of the productions, poster stand, Brussels jingle sung by the youngsters ...
- Participation of the two PACA delegates to Brussels in MedCOP21 (*See further, "Towards COP21"*)
- **Collège Yves Klein:** Invitation of two primary-school classes by the middle-schoolers: poster show, workshop facilitation by the youngsters on their own: kitchen garden, waste and games...

### Rhône-Alpes:

- Organization of reports at the schools.
- Organization of a meeting with elected officials of the City of Grenoble on 24 September 2015 to present the Brussels experience and to read the Call for co-responsibility to the parents and the local elected officials

## ❖ GEORGIA (8 schools)

- Presentation of the local actions and productions of the European Conference
- Photo show
- Play and drawing workshops (nature-inspire)
- Marathon



*Mobilization Day in Georgia*

## ❖ ITALY

- Circulation of the European Conference productions in all the participating schools
- Communication on the project to the students not present in Brussels

## ❖ LITHUANIA

- Flashmob performance prepared by the youngsters (March)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQ1rdFgGLUc>



*Flash Mob in Lithuania*

## ❖ POLAND

- Flashmob performance by the youngsters

## ❖ PORTUGAL

- Organization from 28 June to 4 July of the 29<sup>th</sup> CEI (Caretakers of the Environment International) Conference, gathering 300 youngsters aged 13 to 18 from 24 different countries. Reading of the Call for co-responsibility at the opening of the event.  
<http://cei2015portugal.wix.com/cei2015portugal>

## ❖ ROMANIA

- Mobilization Day pushed back to the week of 6-10 July because of exams
- General meeting of the Let's Take Care of the Planet coordinating organization – Romania: participation of all the partner schools and several youngsters
- Non-Governmental Organization Show at the Town House. A show of the productions of the European Conference is planned.
- Presentation of the European Conference with many photos at a meeting and circulation of the conference productions.

## ❖ TURKEY

### **Ankara Atatürk Lisesi:**

- Presentation of the European Conference, Reading of the Call for co-responsibility, clean-up of the school grounds, show of the posters and panels

### **Antalya Anatolian High School:**

- Flashmob performance by the youngsters at the port of Antalya.

### **Izmir Saint Joseph School:**

- Youth delegation at the WEEC (World Environmental Education Congress) in the framework of Young Reporters for the Environment project highlighting the Let's Take Care of the Planet European Conference, launch of a campaign on recycling.

### **Izmir – (6 schools):**

- Presentation of videos on the environment
- Posting of panels produced by the youngsters
- Field trips



*Poster show in Turkey*

## 2. Towards COP21

The Call for co-responsibility, the posters and the video “11 Young Voices on Climate Change” produced during the workshops will be used at COP21 and COY11 (*Conference of Youth, upstream of COP21*) as well as at other territorial scales, from local to global, where particular attention will be paid to this type of production in this year of international negotiations in Paris.



It is planned that a delegation of 15 Europeans (youngsters, facilitators and chaperones) will assist and take part in COY11 on 27 and 28 November. Monde Pluriel plans to organize a workshop there that will highlight the actions already carried out in all their diversity and wealth, underscoring the capacity of each youngster to act and contribute to the positive agenda and to galvanize the territories around the issues of climate change.

This is one more opportunity for the youngsters to build projects with others, to get inspiration from one another through experience sharing and to learn from their elders.

In the first days of COP21 (30 November, 1 December), the delegates will become fully aware of the place of youngsters during the negotiations. For them, but also for the young LTCP Europeans who will not be there, COP21 is an awakening to the reality of their actions. Climate change and commitment for the future of the planet are not only an educational project but a real concern for decision makers, citizens and the whole of the international community.

### Two young PACA delegates attend the MedCOP 1<sup>st</sup> official and international diffusion of the Call

A delegation of seven youngsters who took part in the PACA Let's Take Care of the Planet project (two of which were at the European Conference of May 2015) took part in the MEDCOP21 (Mediterranean forum on the Climate) on 4 June 2015 at the Mediterranean Villa, in Marseilles, on the initiative of the PACA Region. In addition to the official event, they also took part in the Village of Solutions organized in parallel (civil-society forum). This event was an opportunity for them to read the Call for co-responsibility written in Brussels at a plenary session and to give it to **Laurent Fabius**, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and **Michel Vauzelle**, President of the Regional Council of the PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur) Region, as well as to take part in a television show, and to share with youngsters from countries of the South-Mediterranean Region.



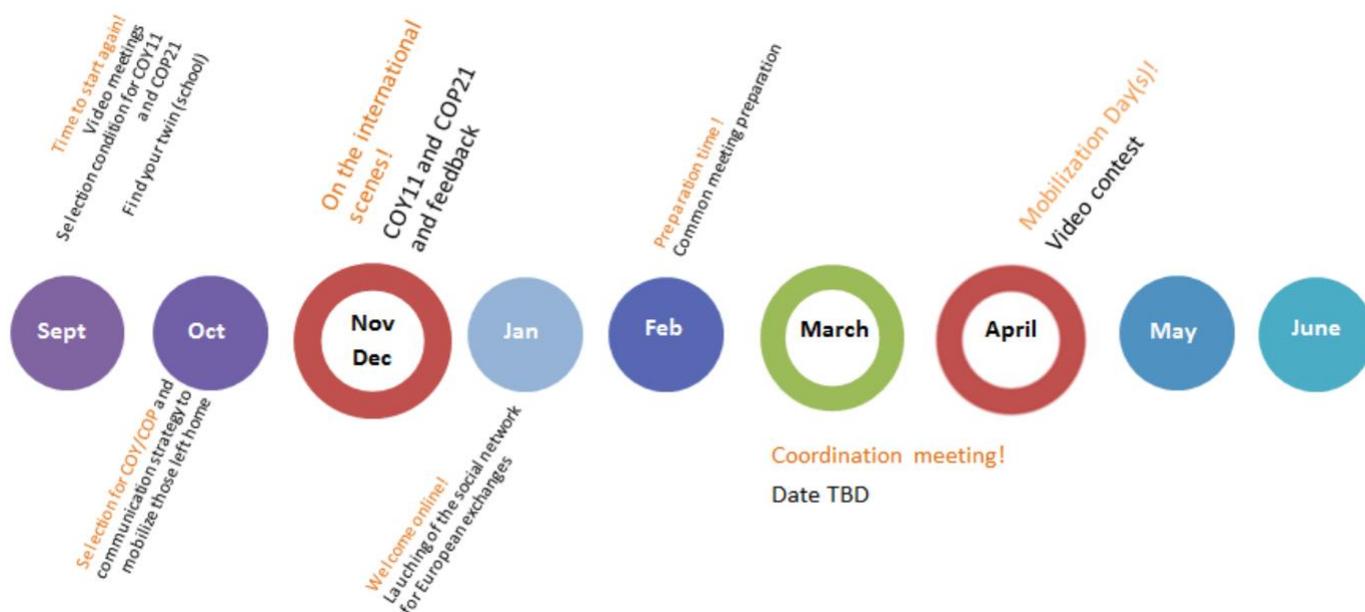
### 3. Follow-up and prospects

A seminar on prospects for the Let's Take Care of the Planet Europe project will be organized in the spring of 2016. It will be possible to:

- collectively imagine possible follow-ups to this dynamics for the three coming years, with the professors and national coordinators.
- take stock of the European Conference and the Let's Take Care of Planet actions implemented these past few years.

The seminar will also have as its basis the proposals for prospects made by the professors during the Conference. Indeed, the adult workshops of the Conference made it possible to approach collectively part of the goals for the coming years. What has come out of this in particular is the desire to collaborate more on a day-to-day basis, to strengthen the network for the long run, the wish to reorganize a European Conference in the coming years, but especially to promote exchanges between countries (through the Twin Schools project), to invite one another to the national Conferences, as well as to create and maintain a "virtual community", a "social network" to provide new impetus to the energy and motivation shown by the participants in Brussels.

The prospects for LTCP Europe network in 2015-2016 include a number of high points as complements to the meeting planned for fall, in particular the participation of a delegation of young Europeans at COY and COP21. Following is the estimated calendar for the facilitation of the LTCP Europe network in 2015-2016:



A large majority of the countries that took part in the European Conference wish to be involved in the project in 2015-2016. The new partnerships, with Belgium and the Netherlands in particular, will need to be strengthened and countries like Spain, Georgia, Portugal and Turkey will organize, in continuity with the previous years, Regional and National Conferences. Denmark will continue Twin-School exchanges (as Sweden will) and will be present at COP21 within the framework of the *UNESCO Associated Schools network*. Italy, Lithuania and Poland will devote themselves this year to strengthening the LTCP dynamics in the schools. A discussion is currently underway on the project Web site, <http://careplanet-europe.org>, to develop the best ways to add value to the country-based activities.

# VI – Team, Partners and Support



## 1. Funding and support

The European Conference, including the preparatory process and the final event, was supported and financed by several actors and funding sources, public and private, national and international.

The preparatory process includes Monde Pluriel's coordination team work as well as work with an extended team. The training of facilitators was jointly designed in partnership with **Florina Potirniche, from APDD-Agenda 21** in Romania, and **Cristina Gonzalez Torrents from the Sant Oficina de Serveis Ambientals de Feliu de Llobregat network** in Spain. The adult programme was designed in collaboration with Bruno Descroix and Guillaume Saliège, both of them professors in a Parisian school.

The Monde Pluriel team's upstream organization of the European Conference was for the most part financed by the **Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind**, which has supported Monde Pluriel since 2006.



The local or national processes of the 14 participating countries as well as the travel expenses for Brussels were covered directly by the national coordination teams. A few countries were granted financial assistance by Monde Pluriel when the travel expenses for Brussels were an obstacle to the participation of the youngsters at the Conference. Once on site, the whole of the expenses (accommodation, transport, food, activities, etc.) were covered by Monde Pluriel.

In addition, Monde Pluriel being the coordinating entity for France, the organization covered all expenses connected to the national process.

A large part of the event (logistics and facilitation) was financed by the **Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind (FPH)** and the **Hippocrene Foundation**. Monde Pluriel had applied for financing from the Council of Europe, which was not granted. This means that the organization's project did not fall under the criteria of the Erasmus+ programme.



The **Committee of the Regions** as well as the **European Economic and Social Committee**, on their part, supported the European Conference very strongly and are convinced partners of the project. Their support allowed exceptional working conditions.

*Aerial view of the Committee of the Regions  
(Source: Global View)*



The **Committee of the Regions** supported Monde Pluriel with volunteer contributions in kind by making available **interpretation for the closing ceremony in three languages**, French, English and Spanish, as well as nine plenary halls and workshop rooms, and invaluable help from the logistics and technical staff. The financial support in kind for the interpretation is estimated at €5,300.



The **European Economic and Social Committee** also supported Monde Pluriel with volunteer contributions in kind by making available interpretation for the opening ceremony in five languages, French, English, Spanish, Romanian and Turkish, as well as six plenary halls and workshop rooms. The EESC's financial support is also estimated at €5,300 (not including the rooms, which cannot be estimated).



The **Rhône-Alpes Region**, through their SPPA (*Soutien Pluriannuel aux Projets Associatifs*) scheme, supports the salary of one of Monde Pluriel employee, as well as a number of expenses related to Let's Take Care of the Planet Rhône-Alpes (travel expenses of the Rhône-Alpes delegation to Brussels, local developments of the European event, etc.). This longstanding support of the Rhône-Alpes Region makes it possible in particular to develop links between the different territorial scales.



The work and involvement of volunteers were also very important for the event and in particular that of the **volunteer interpreters** who covered most of the translations during the three days at the Committee of the Regions. Two volunteer interpreters were from the Monde Pluriel network and nine others were student interns at the Brussels-based interpretation school **Institut libre Marie Haps**, which is part of the **Haute École Léonard de Vinci**, with which Monde Pluriel drew up an agreement for the event.



**Overall, the budget for the Let's Take Care of the Planet 2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference, amounted to approximately €70,000.**

Lastly, the Let's Take Care of the Planet European project also falls under the **UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development**.



## 2. Main on-site providers

Out of concern for consistency between the values promoted by the organization Monde Pluriel and defended to the youngsters at the European Conference, Monde Pluriel was particularly careful in its selection of on-site providers.

The **Generation Europe Youth Hostel** accommodated most of the participants from 19 to 23 May 2015. It was selected on criteria previously set by the Monde Pluriel team: location close to the Brussels town centre, easily accessible by the underground, availability of rooms, collective



areas and a garden, a Youth Hostel Network member, and above all, eco-responsible in their everyday practices. *Generation Europe* has in fact the Green Key label, which rewards tourist accommodations that apply high ecological and sustainable-development standards in their management. Lastly, the hostel is distinguished by its team of responsive, qualified professionals. *Many thanks to the Generation Europe team for its friendly reception!*

For the meals taken at the Committee of the Regions, Monde Pluriel worked well upstream to find a suitable provider and decided to entrust the service to **Sodexo**. Sodexo, a large mass-catering group, informed us of their wish to modify their menu proposals. Monde Pluriel thus submitted to them a number of specifications that would make the meals consistent with its principles: meals consisting mostly of food from organic farming, locally produced, or marketed through fair trade, limited meat consumption, etc.



**Catherine Van Ranst, of the EU EMAS** (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme for European organizations and institutions), also supported Monde Pluriel by advising it on the composition of the menus and the Sodexo proposals.

Monde Pluriel, which took its time in selecting a catering service for the meals, hopes to have contributed by its choice to the evolution of behaviour in large groups such as Sodexo, towards more sustainable practices.

### 3. Teams and partners involved in the European LTCP project

The general coordination of the Let's Take Care of the Planet project was covered by the organization Monde Pluriel, which in 2009-2010 had taken the initiative of engendering a European dynamics around the International Conference of Brasilia.

#### ❖ General Coordination Europe

##### **Delphine Astier**

*Role in LTCP Europe: General coordination, institutional relations, methodology, referent person for the adult programme*

##### **Lydia Nicolle**

*Role in LTCP Europe: Management and facilitation of the European network, methodology and communications support*

##### **Marine Piolat**

*Role in LTCP Europe: Referent person for Let's take Care of the Planet Rhône-Alpes, methodology, logistics and communications*

##### **Cécile Massé**

*Role in LTCP Europe: Referent person for the methodological facilitators, methodology, administrative and legal aspects*

##### **Guillemette Donnier-Valentine**

*Role in LTCP Europe: coordination of the technical facilitators, general support to the organization of the event*



❖ **National coordination entities**

Belgium, **GOODPLANET**



Lithuania, **LYCEE VILNIAUS ZEMYNOS GYMNASIUM**



Denmark, **BALTIC SEA PROJECT**



The Netherlands, **INSTITUUT VOOR NATUUREDUCATIE EN DUURZAAMHEID**



Spain, **INGURUGELA**



Poland, **ZESPOL SZKOL**

Portugal, **ASPEA**

France, **MONDE PLURIEL**



Romania, **ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – AGENDA 21**



Georgia, **WOMEN FOR COUNTRY'S FUTURE NGO**

Italy, **NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE – ISMAR and VIRACAO**



Sweden, **MYRSJÖSKOLAN HIGH SCHOOL**



Turkey, **TÜRÇEV NGO**



❖ Partners and stakeholders highly involved in the European Conference

<p><b>Training of facilitators</b></p>	<p><b>Florina Potirniche</b>, APDD-Agenda 21- Romania  <b>Cristina Gonzalez</b>, Sant Oficina de Serveis Ambientals de Feliu de Llobregat - Spain  <b>Edith Sizoo</b>, coordinator of the Ethics and Responsibility network</p>	  <b>Ajuntament de Sant Feliu de Llobregat</b>  <b>Ethica-respons.net</b>
<p><b>Collective Posters workshop</b></p>	<p><b>Et Pourquoi Pas ?<sup>1</sup> (France):</b>  Nicolas Moiroux  Sylvain Brau  Coralie Hasser  Mathieu Vallet</p>	
<p><b>Youth Reporter Agency workshop</b></p>	<p><b>Viração<sup>2</sup> (Italy):</b>  Isabella Bruni  Paulo Lima</p>	
<p><b>Science workshop</b></p>	<p><b>National Research Centre, Italy:</b>  Francesca Alvisi</p>	 <b>Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche</b>
<p><b>Percussions and Flashmob</b></p>	<p><b>Les Bouteilles Percutées<sup>3</sup> (Belgium):</b>  Annie Deltour  Monique Laleeuwe</p>	
<p><b>International Climate Negotiations Simulation</b></p>	<p><b>Climates<sup>4</sup> (France):</b>  Clément Métivier</p>	

<sup>1</sup> French not-for-profit organization that offers image creation workshops in an awareness-raising approach:  
<http://eppasso.fr/>

<sup>2</sup> Italian not-for-profit organization specialized in media and communications education:  
<http://www.mediaeducationmed.it/>

<sup>3</sup> Belgian body-percussions artistic company:  
<http://bouteillespercutees.wix.com/lesbouteillespercutees>

<sup>4</sup> French not-for-profit organization committed to finding and promoting innovative solutions to climate change  
<http://www.studentclimates.org/#>

<b>workshop</b>		
<b>Adult Programme facilitation</b>	<b>Bruno Descroix</b> , Professor of Mathematics <b>Guillaume Saliège</b> , Professor of History and Geography	
<b>Production of the official film of the Conference and Mosaic of Portraits video workshop</b>	<b>Ex-Pression<sup>5</sup> (France):</b> Fanny Peyrin Mylène Routin Sébastien Ciaravino Cédric Plisnier	
<b>Photography</b>	<b>Alexandre Barbuto<sup>6</sup></b> , Dazone Production (France) <b>Simon Schmitt<sup>7</sup></b> , Global View (Belgium)	 
<b>Illustrator</b>	Fanny Garrone	
<b>Adult workshop on the documentary “Water, a Chance for Peace”</b>	<b>Modus Operandi (France):</b> Henry Tidy	
<b>Speakers Opening/Closing</b>	<b>Boris Essender</b> , Member of the Cabinet of the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions <b>Dilyana SLAVOVA</b> , EESC - NAT Section President, Bulgaria <b>Edith Sizoo</b> , Coordinator of the Ethics and Responsibility network <b>Bruno Descroix</b> , Professor of Mathematics at the Lycée Louise Michel de Bobigny (France) <b>Isabelle Durant</b> – Member of Parliament, Brussels Region	 Committee of the Regions   

<sup>5</sup> French body percussions artistic company: <http://www.soleo-info.com/>

<sup>6</sup> Dazone Production: <http://dazoneproduction.com/>

<sup>7</sup> Global view: <http://www.globalview.be/>

<p><b>Speakers</b> <b>Opening/Closing</b> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>Pierre CALAME</b>, Honorary President of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation  <b>Annick Delay</b>, Member of the ARF and Vice-President for Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate and Energy of the PACA region, France  <b>Guillaume Salliège</b>, Professor of History and Geography at Boulloche Livry-Gargan (France)</p>	 
<p><b>Volunteer interpreters</b></p>	<p>Amandine Borlon  Antoine Cordrie  Célie Quidoz  Céline Glorieux  Clémence Amat  Fenja Behrmann  Marie-Pierre Mayar  Marion Brunel  Mathieu Baudoin  Nicolas Giberot  Silja Scholtes  Thomas Rondeaux</p>	



The Monde Pluriel team conveys its warmest gratitude to all the persons who contributed to making this project a success.



Conférence  
**EUROPÉENNE**  
des jeunes

19 au 23  
Mai 2015

Bruxelles



# APPENDICES

# Conférence EUROPÉENNE des jeunes

19 au 23  
Mai 2015

Bruxelles



## Call for co-responsibility

We, the young people, the world citizens, are gathered here in Brussels, in the European “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” Youth Conference in order to reflect on our future, stimulate the decision-makers and make people act on climate change as we do today.

Do you see what we see? Do you feel what we feel? If yes, then show us!

As for us,

- We commit ourselves to create a sense of solidarity regarding environment.
- We feel responsible for the development of renewable energies and to stabilize global warming.
- For a better living, we feel responsible to raise awareness in our community concerning the causes and effects of pollution on biodiversity.
- We feel responsible for the quality of our health and well-being respecting our surroundings.
- We engage ourselves to face waste management problems.

*To meet these responsibilities, we will take the following actions:*

- We would like to arrange a big free conference on “How to protect our environment for the future generation?”
- We plan to arrange special thematic weeks in schools to educate young people about ecology and climate change.
- We will organize « clean days » with volunteers to clean the territory of our schools and our neighbourhood.
- In order to decrease our greenhouse gas emissions, we commit to use alternative transport whenever it is possible.
- We will organize campaigns to promote energy saving, renewable energies and non-polluting transport and to inform on the risks of using nuclear energy to raise awareness for the stakeholders and local authorities on climate change issues and possible solutions.
- We want to make fundraising events to collect money with which we will grow plants in available places so we can help the future breathe.

Reçu  
UNION EUROPEENNE  
  
Comité des Régions

  
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Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture  
sous le patronage  
de la Commission  
nationale française  
pour l'UNESCO

*To reduce the effects of climate change, we need your help!*

**Journalists**, we request you to take into account the impact of your messages on the public. We challenge you to write articles on environmental issues which are a concern for the society.

**Artists**, we request you to be our messengers.

We require you to be examples and to use your art to turn words into actions.

**Headmasters**, we urge you to organise school conferences to which you will invite mayors and journalists to make them realise how big the environmental issues are.

Assist us in making a call for factories and local authorities to properly separate trash and recycle.

**Representatives of international authorities**, we require you to vote binding laws against companies and factories that pollute.

We request you to be in closer contact with the people in order to integrate them in the decision-making process.

We urge you to allow cooperation at all level of power.

**Companies and company leaders**, we need you to recycle more and pollute less.

We urge you to stop using the programmed obsolescence system.

**Representatives of local authorities**, we suggest you to finance and organise projects with stakeholders on climate change such as annual conference, cleaning days and campaigns.

We urge you to cooperate with other local authorities and local governments to put pressure on national governments in order to solve environmental issues.

We urge you to inspect industries more actively in order to reduce pollution.

*There is something more powerful than us: Mother Nature! So let's unite our forces and assume our responsibilities and be more sensitive for our present life and future generations.*

**If not with you, then with whom? If not now, then when?**

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 in Brussels,  
Youngsters from 14 European countries,

*This call was written by young Europeans during the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Conference LTCP in Brussels in May 2015.  
Participating countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.*

Reçu

UNION EUROPEENNE



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EUROPEAN  
Youth  
Conference

19th-23rd  
May 2015

Brussels

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# Today is destroying Tomorrow



For a better future we have to stop pollution and preserve biodiversity.  
Use your brain and act.  
Alone we go faster, but together we go further...



This poster was created collectively by young Europeans during the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Conference LTCP in Brussels in May 2015.  
Participating countries : Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Georgia, Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Sweden.

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# We are ONE



We believe we can do anything with our determination and unwavering faith. It's not just you, not just us. This world is all of us. We must create a sense of solidarity. We must make it there!

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We want to study the **CLIMATE**  
like we study **MATHS.**



We need education to make change !  
We need to understand the planet to take care of it.

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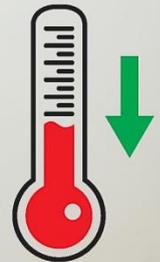
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EUROPEAN Youth Conference

19th-23rd May 2015

Brussels



# Keep moving, protect well-being!

We have to decrease our energy consumption all year. Because it's hard to achieve, we will just start with a week. This «eco-week» will be like a game at school which goal is to use as little energy as possible. Less energy means less pollution and it's the way to well being.

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**Think right**  
**Act great**  
**Live green**

We feel bad that each of us is polluting our planet.  
We feel confident that it is possible to promote  
renewable energies, we know concrete solutions  
exist. Our voices need to be heard.  
**SO LET'S ACT**

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Stop talking and get moving! Let's get together to take care of our climate.

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## The Conference is over. And now what?



Ana Sofia Henriques

The conference "[Let's Take Care of the Planet](#)" has one big objective: to change the world. But how can we do that?

The first step to change is awareness. We must share the results of the workshops and activities of this European conference in order to inform other people about the ideas and principals of the meeting. In that way, everyone can be informed of the environmental issues concerning the planet.

The second step towards change is to set the options so that we may solve the environmental problems we already identified. After having identified the multiple solutions we must choose the most appropriate ones.

Next step: action!

The only way we can really make a difference in the world is by being active and by influencing the people next to us to act in order to create a cycle of participation. Therefore, after the conference, as delegates we need to continue to have an active voice and attitude when it comes to the environment.

This conference is only a small part of the path we must follow to have a healthy and sane planet, it is an important part since in this conference the delegates wrote a chart of responsibilities that will be presented in the COP 21([Conference of Parties 21](#)) that will be held in Paris, 7 and 8 of December.

The COP 21, also known as 2015 Paris Climate Conference has a great impact in the environmental decisions made by the different governments, since last year's conference attracted over 15000 official delegates.

Another very important conference is the [International Conference of Youth](#) or COY, where more than 110 countries will address climate change sustainable lifestyles and that it is specifically for young people who want to make a difference in the world.

Publicato da [Take Care of the Planet](#) a [08:16](#) Nessun commento:

## Report tracing the European Conference organized in Brussels in May 2015



### Organized with the support of:



### More on the Let's Take Care of the Planet project:

<http://careplanet-europe.org>



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