



Engaging Youth in Sustainable Energy Planning (EYES)

Recommendations Report

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Project No.	Project N° 604545-EPP-1-2018-1-ES-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN
Work Package	3.
Task	03.2
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Date	20/10/2019
Version	1



Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction 4
 - 1.1 Background..... 4
 - 1.2 Objectives 4
 - 1.3 Approach..... 5
- 2 Guiding principles for improving youth engagement 5
- 3 Focus Areas 6
- 4 Permanent structure.....8
- 5 Conclusions.....10



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The main objective of **EYES** project (*Engaging Youth in Sustainable Energy Planning*) financed under European educational program Erasmus +, is **to engage young people** for implementing and evaluating an innovative method based **on youth participation on the energy and climate local planning**. Climate change is a global challenge that will especially affect young generations. However, young generations don't usually have a voice on energy and climate planning. In addition, **vulnerable communities** are more likely to suffer climate change effects while they usually have more difficulty having their voice represented. As such, young people from vulnerable communities represent a sector of society that is both hard to reach and especially disempowered on that topic.

The first step was the involvement of youngsters aged **18-29 years old** coming from different backgrounds and contexts within the Metropolitan Area of Naples, including those belonging to **socially vulnerable public** (in particular unemployed).

This output includes the recommendations elaborated by the YIT, with the support of AB and ANEA representatives, after the research and validation period, on the topics and key issues identified during the process. As such, this document reflects on the youth views, including the vulnerable groups.

The Recommendations report was worked during **meetings and workshops with the YIT members**, as result of discussion on main topics identified and addressed from the beginning of the project (energy efficiency in buildings, water management and sustainable mobility and tourism), and has been finalized during the validation sessions, focusing also on survey, with the help of AB representatives and ANEA staff.

In particular, during the last validation session held on last 29th September 2020, the final document was elaborated by YIT members and completed and validated by the AB members and ANEA staff.

1.2 Objectives

The main objective was to gather the opinion and point-of-view of young people participating in the project activities, in order to provide some suggestions and recommendation to local policy makers about concrete actions that meet their needs and that can be implemented and put in place to address and manage climate change issue at local level.



This documents reflects the young opinions about some topics identified by them and discussed during the project activities, in particular:

- energy efficiency in buildings;
- water management;
- sustainable mobility and tourism;

1.3 Approach

The working sessions were based on a bottom up approach, focus group and Learning by doing methodology during the activities. From the debate emerged three topics that the YIT would have liked to know better: water management, energy efficiency in buildings, sustainable mobility and tourism. For this reason, the sessions were characterized by studying data literature research provided by AB members and ANEA staff: Deliberation “ **Oxygen as Common goods** ” (Metropolitan City of Naples – 2019), Deliberation “ **Water as Common goods** ” (Municipality of Naples – 2011), **Sustainable Energy action Plan (SEAP)** of the Municipality of Naples (with a dedicated focus on sustainable mobility and tourism). Initially, the YIT realized the difficulty of finding such kind of information, which despite being public news and published by local entities, would have been difficult to find even online (probably because of lack of efficient communication) without the support of AB members and the supervision of ANEA staff.

This recommendation report will be delivered both in an online and off-line mode to the local public authorities of the Metropolitan Area of Naples in the next months. The recommendations are listed in 3 different topic groups (energy efficiency in buildings, water management and sustainable mobility), described below in the section 3 (Focus Area).

2 Guiding principles for improving youth engagement

From the work carried out together with AB members and YIT during the last months, in particular the informal meeting, validation sessions and the survey, two elements emerged as barriers perceived by young people: the lack of communication between institutions and youth people and a lack of appropriate educational path on environmental issues

To smooth out this gap of youth engagement, hereunder some guiding principles that can help to improve communication and let the school active partner in the process of knowledge acquisition on the environmental topics:



- **introducing Environmental education** as subject in all school cycles, stressing on an inclusive and interactive teaching;
- **on-the-road events** such as little fairs or bike tours, in order to raise awareness among citizens about the environmental sustainability giving to the young people **an active role to influence their peers**;
- use a **communication more appropriate to the young people**, talking their language, that means some young people must be involved in the information campaign creating a direct channel with their peers ;
- make **tailored events** (on line and face to face) in which their idols can talk about environmental topics such as influencers, football players, singers, actors and so on;
- make a **virtuous circle to engage young people**: all young volunteers can be rewarded with a certificate at the end of a training path and after this they can engage other young people who in turn will be involved in certificated training path.

3 Focus Areas

According to the results of the project hereunder it possible find a list of main recommendations for the policy making divided in the project's three topics:

Energy efficiency in buildings

- Promote the use of **LED lighting** in the public Buildings (such as Universities)
- promote the use **photo-voltaic panels** solution in the historical buildings;
- to solicit local political representatives to meet regularly and with more frequency the *Cultural Heritage Superintendency* to find **alternative and faster solutions** for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in historical buildings;
- to invite the *Cultural Heritage Superintendence* to be more flexible and adopt **standards solution** for the main and common issues. This is one of the main problem, being a bureaucratic issue, since the majority of buildings in the city center of Naples (both public and residential) are protected under the UNESCO Cultural Heritage label and therefore each interventions or measures to be implemented, need to be accepted and authorized by *Cultural Heritage Superintendence*, the local office of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage. It means to find the right compromise between the need to improve the energy performance of the buildings and the need to preserve a building that constitutes the world cultural heritage of humanity



Water management

- Spread on the city territory more **public drinking water points**, since many public water points have been eliminated over the years;
- organization of **dedicated communication campaign** addressed to citizens for:
 - discouraging the use of bottled water, in particular those in plastic package;
 - privilege the use of water through metal and glass bottles;
 - stimulate the adoption of sustainable behaviors among citizenship (turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, hands or shaving; use appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers only when fully loaded);
- organization of a **dedicated event** on 22th March of each year in which **World Water Day** is celebrated, in order to raising awareness about the importance of the rational use of the water
- implementation of **rainwater collection systems** for irrigation of public green areas (gardens, parks);
- ensure **proper maintenance of the water pipes**, since in many points of the city there are water leaks that come out from the subsoil
- provide **incentives** (for example tax deductions) for citizens and households who are able to consume less water

Sustainable mobility

- **Promote electric system** for sustainable transport (car sharing, bike and scooter sharing)
- expand the **electric vehicle charging infrastructure** in all areas of the city, since, to date, there are very few “charging points”;
- incentivize other sustainable transport, such as **push scooter**;
- provide **local incentives** (in addition to the national) for the purchase of electric vehicles;
- **widen bike lanes** in order to involve all the city limits;
- organization of a **dedicated communication campaign** for stimulating and promote the use of local public transport;
- organization of dedicated event during the **European Sustainable Mobility Week**;
- open more **pedestrian area and LTA** (Limited Traffic Areas)



4 Permanent structure proposed

According with the aim of the project, ANEA (after discussing with the AB members and YIT) thought of resuming a permanent structure of the Metropolitan City of Naples to ensure the **engagement of youth**. The aim is **to stimulate active citizenship** as instruments to develop an active citizenship among young people that can learn more about policy process and, in the same time, to stimulate the institution in **listening of the youth's thinking**. Furthermore the youth can bring in the permanent structure their experiences about climate and energy, conditioning the policy making and encouraging a climate of interchange.

The following presentation should be considered as a proposal, an idea for the future

The permanent structure will be proposed to the Metropolitan City of Naples that gather 92 Municipalities, since ANEA is a consortium whose main stake is owned by the Metropolitan City of Naples. In addition, as scheduled by the **Italian law n. 56 of 7th April 2015** establishing the 13 Metropolitan Cities in Italy, replacing the old Provinces, the Mayor of the Metropolitan City of Naples is the Mayor of the Municipality of Naples, thus allowing to have an important reference political representative.

The Permanent structure is called **Young Forum – Youth Council of Naples**. The Youth Council is a permanent board with the aim to support youth activities in the city.

The Board's task is to produce documents and proposal to be submitted to the relevant municipal administration bodies on youth issues, to promote research and meetings on youth topics such as **environmental and social issues**. Furthermore the Board aims to fostering the **connection between youth groups and local institutions**.

The main aim is **to stimulate active citizenship** as instruments to develop an active citizenship among young people that can learn more about policy process and, in the same time, to stimulate the institution in listening of the youth's thinking.

The permanent structure is composed by **minimum 15 maximum 25 members**, aged between **16 to 30 years**. The eligible representatives are:

- 1) young residents in one of the 92 Municipalities of Naples's area - with or without the requirement of Italian citizenship
- 2) legal representative of youth associations



Every council groups of one of the 92 Municipalities of Naples's area can elect its own representative **youth-commissions** on specific topics:

- *Sustainability and climate change*
- *Culture and sport*
- *Jobs, Training, Social Policies*
- *Gender Policies, Active Citizenship, Civil Service*
- *Foreign Affairs, European and International Mobility Integration*

The permanent structure can be hosted in one of the rooms in the headquarter of Metropolitan City of Naples. It is in charge for **4 years** (as the majority of the other Italian experiences) and the board of structure **meets every 3 months** to discuss topics for them relevant such as sustainability, youth involvement in the environmental policy of the local government.

Procedures for the summons

In the permanent structure, the commitment is on **voluntary base** and the young people can ask to participate it **filling a form** that will be issued on the main web sites.

The young people that participate in it will be summoned by e-mail, with the agenda indicated, one week before of the session.

But the session on particular topic can be **freely open** to the young people to disseminate the idea of the youth thought's importance in the political decisions.

Strategy and procedures suggested

Hereunder some tips to make the structure "alive" and working:

The engagement process will be done through an **increase of communication by the policy makers**, that could be done by:

- social media channels (ANEA, EYES project, Municipality and Metropolitan City of Naples);
- dedicated page on the websites of Municipality of Naples, Metropolitan City of Naples and all the interested Municipalities belonging to the Metropolitan City of Naples, in which the young can find all the useful information about the permanent structure and its possibility for them
- on-the-road events (*GREEN DAYS, EnergyMed*) organized usually by ANEA in order to raise awareness among citizens about the energy efficiency and environmental sustainability



Furthermore, the permanent structure can be connected with different **National and International Events** related on the main topics of youth-commissions. In the case of Sustainability and climate change the main events are:

International events

European Sustainable Mobility Week, European Sustainable Energy week, European Waste Reduction Week

International networks

Fridays for Future, European Youth Forum, Youth Assembly, International Youth Day

National events

Earth Hour, Mi Illumino di meno, Festival dello sviluppo sostenibile

National Network

Fridays for future Italy, WWF, Legambiente

5 Conclusions

ANEA, through the participation in EYES project, would to stimulate the interest of the Local board, raising the awareness among the young generation about the opportunity to be involved in the local policies. ANEA suggests to make a **lobbying action** on the policy makers to **restore the permanent structure** as way to give a voice to the young citizens. The first step would be to write and communicate to the main institutions (such as youth policy councilor and the Mayor of Metropolitan City of Naples) about the possibility and the need to create a structure able to host young people. After this, it could be necessary face-to-face meetings with the interested institutions, to explain the results of the project and the importance of the creation of the permanent structure to build up the future citizenship.