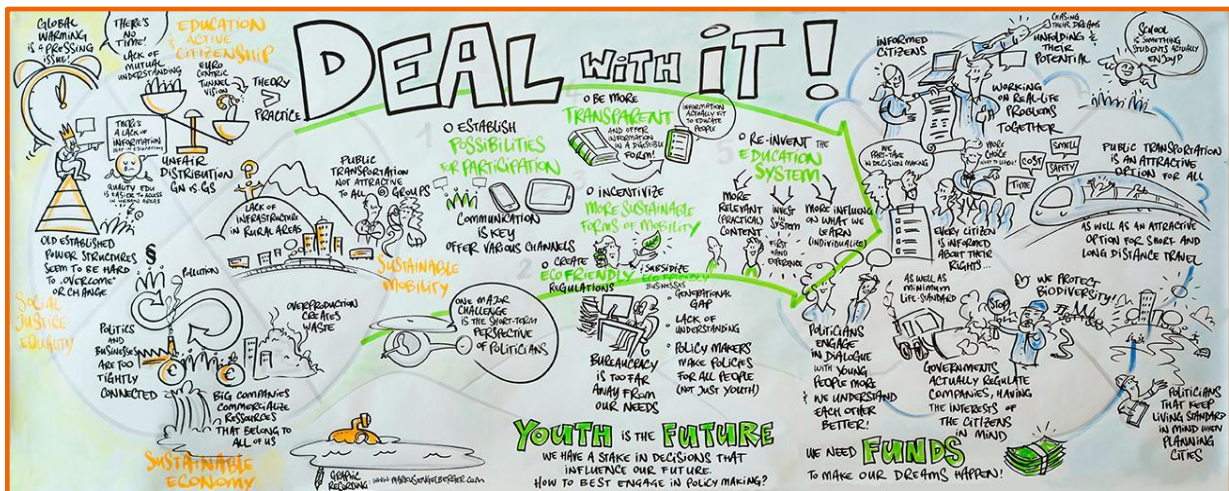




DEAL with it!

Youth Declaration for a sustainable and inclusive Europe!



Content:

I. Who we are

II. How our declaration works

III. Our demands

1. Sustainability through social justice: *Establish a fair distribution of resources, rights and possibilities!*
2. Sustainability in mobility: *Incentivize more sustainable forms of mobility!*
3. Sustainability in economy: *Create eco-friendly regulations and protect human rights!*
4. Sustainability in education: *Re-invent the education system!*
5. Transformation of policy making: *Establish better possibilities to participate and be more transparent!*

IIII. The project



I. Who we are

Brno, 14.10.2022

We don't just give you this declaration today to express our concern over our future individually and collectively as a generation, but also to contribute in the fight against the multiple crisis we face. With our observations, demands and visions regarding our planet and the world's societies we want to ask and inspire you to further transform the path of crisis towards a sustainable and inclusive world for all people.

We are 40 students from four member states of the European Union: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany and Hungary. We are between 16-22 years old, we come from very different backgrounds: Some of us live in big cities, some of us live in rural areas, we go to different school types, speak various languages and have different beliefs, interests and life goals.

In all our diversity though we do have one issue in common: the concern over the climate and system crisis that threatens Europe and the world and therefore our very own future.

This is why we decided to take action in the project "Deal with it! European Youth engages for a green future". We wanted to educate and engage ourselves while connecting with other young people over the Green Deal of the European Union and the goal of a sustainable and inclusive future for all according to the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.

We strongly believe in the importance of the involvement of the youth in shaping the European Union's and the world's future. As elected representatives of the European Union we hope you believe the same. We kindly ask you to take our work into consideration. We would be happy to discuss our declaration further with you.

Thank you for your time.



II. How our declaration works

Over the course of 11 months and within different formats such as living libraries, workshops and a youth conference we worked on the climate and social crisis in all its complexities and on possible solutions such as the Green Deal of the EU. It was key to gather knowledge, to shape our perspectives, to get involved with each other, with experts and with you, the representatives of the European Union, and also, ultimately, to share our learning process as well as our work results with the public. Throughout the project we were continuously accompanied and supported by experts who work in the field of politics, science and activism. In dialogue and discussion with them we could gather the knowledge and the inspiration we needed to elaborate our own declaration we today proudly present. **We understand that a sustainable transformation must take place on a social, environmental and economic level.** The following four interdependent key topics represent the output of our work:

- 1. Sustainability through social justice:** *Establish a fair distribution of resources, rights and possibilities!*
- 2. Sustainability in mobility:** *Incentivize more sustainable forms of mobility!*
- 3. Sustainability in economy:** *Create eco-friendly regulations and protect human rights!*
- 4. Sustainability in education:** *Re-invent the education system!*
- 5. Transformation of policy making:** *Establish better possibilities to participate and be more transparent!*

Why Graphic Recording?

To make the complex contents understandable, memorable and easily accessible we worked with a graphic recorder who facilitated our discussion, decision making and co-creation process. The method of graphic recording also symbolizes the possibility and the need of creative and interdisciplinary strategies in fighting the climate and social crisis. Key messages of this creative output are included on the following pages. We accompany them with our thoughts we collected during the process. The formats are multiple, illustrating our dynamic reflections and one going engagement for a sustainable and inclusive future for all.



III. Our demands

1. Sustainability through social justice: Establish a fair distribution of resources, rights and possibilities!



We observe:

- Everyone needs individualised support to equal distribution of resources, rights and possibilities between people and regions.

We demand:

- Develop interaction between political, economic, cultural and social institutions from the Global South and the Global North that leads to equality.
- Implement appropriate compensation for people and regions affected by the climate crisis.
- Strengthen the rights of marginalised groups and facilitate the access to legal information.
- Fighting against the cause of poverty, discrimination and violence and support the people who suffer from those.
- Ensure a decent and ethical standard of life, health and work conditions for everyone.

We envision:

- a world with the goal of equal distribution of resources, rights and possibilities for all regions and people, so that everyone can lead a healthy, safe and prosperous life.



2. Sustainability in mobility: Incentivize more sustainable forms of mobility!



We observe:

- a mobility system based on individual (car) traffic and exclusive public transportation.

We demand:

- Cooperate with employers to encourage their employees to use public transportation within reasonable limits.
- Develop public transport in rural areas too. Ensuring social equality and cohesion. (Lesson from Yellow vest movement in France)
- Plan and shape cities and areas eco-friendly, safe and inclusive to ensure the safety and attractiveness of means of transport such as walking and bicycling for all people.

We propose the following steps in this order to realise this demand:

1. Improve public transportation systems regarding price, speed of transportation, frequency (according to the needs of the area and its people), comfort, accessibility and safety
2. Taxation of excessive use of cars. For people (households) who own more cars than needed there is an additional tax.
3. Big cars (SUV) with strong engines get taxed more. We still keep the social awareness - people with older cars should not be punished for driving them occasionally, (if needed).
4. Ban cars from city centres.



- Minimise freight carried by trucks. This goes hand in hand with regional development and economic localisation - more stuff made in the region, less transportation (both goods and people travelling for work). If transport is needed, try to move it on a railroad.
- Listen to experts' advice and inform the public. We suggest using a public platform - there should be an environmental city planning strategy.
- Encourage people to share their vehicles. There is no need to own it.
- Speak to people about your plans and discuss their needs!

We envision:

- an eco-friendly mobility system that is affordable, safe and accessible for all connecting people and regions, a transport system centred on pedestrians, bikes and reliable as well as sustainable public transportation.
- Society where individual usage of cars is a rarity.



3. Sustainability in economy: make humane, balanced, conscious changes in the economic system



We observe:

- an economic system that is based on global inequality, environmental destruction, the prioritisation of big companies interests, harmful greenwashing of their products and the encouragement of endless consumption.

We demand:

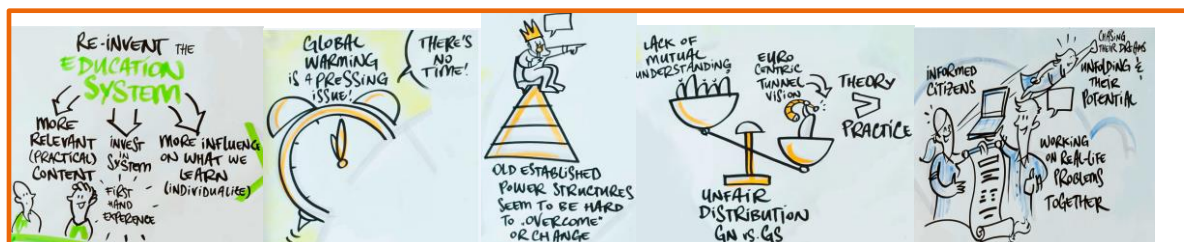
- the prioritization of policies supporting circular economy and degrowth.
- the enforcement of sustainable standards and practices to ensure the protection of the planet's biodiversity and natural resources.
- the implementation and enforcement of laws:
 - in support of sustainable supply chains,
 - in protection of public resources,
 - concerning accessibility to renewable energy production,
 - against greenwashing,
 - against corruption.
- the securing of labour rights and livable wages for a balanced economy.
- the separation of political interests from business with enforced transparency by consistent consequences.



We envision:

- a globally fair, transparent and regulated economic system which allows all members of society to earn a living in order to meet essential needs and live a healthy life, in which sustainability is more than a marketing term and corruption is properly dealt with.

4. Sustainability in education: Re-invent the education system!



We observe:

- an old, conservative, theory-based and Eurocentric education system where the space for creativity, critical thinking and individual coaching is missing and which focuses more on bureaucracy instead of the students' wellbeing. There is a massive gap between teachers and students.

We demand:

- Implement teaching content that is practice-oriented and relevant for our daily life.
- Install teaching content on environmental and social sustainability.
- Ensure the possibility to choose teaching subjects and methods based on individual interests and skills.
- Create more space for creativity and diversity.
- Improve cooperation between students and teachers.
- Develop feedback-based grading systems including yearly written formative feedback.
- Make mental health a topic in schools and part of the curricula.
- Implement perspectives from the Global South in curricula.

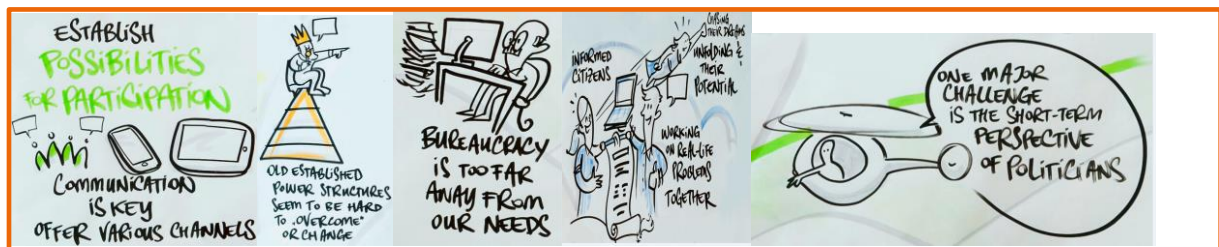


- Offer exchange programmes with students in the Global South so that students can get knowledge on the Global South/North first hand.

We envision:

- a horizontal, fair and inclusive education system that provides young people the space and the resources to thrive towards responsible, competent and engaged global citizens, in which **all** young people find the space and the contents they need for a prosperous future individually and collectively.
- a world where the teachers have better social positions, get the respect they deserve and get properly paid,

5. Transformation of policy making: Establish better possibilities to participate and be more transparent!



We observe:

- a political system lacking possibilities of participation, especially for young people and marginalised groups, and in which people often feel excluded from genuine information and disregarded in the elaboration and implementation of policies.

We demand:

- Provide funds for young and marginalised people to support them implementing their project ideas.



- Establish regular dialogue and discussion formats between politicians and young and marginalised people: be open to our critique!
- Lower the voting age to 16: we want to have a saying in our future!
- Make information on and participation in policy making accessible and understandable for all people and provide truthful and genuine information.
- Install transparency regulations to fight corruption and its severe consequences on societies and democracies.

We envision:

- a political system built on trust, dialogue and inclusion that provides citizens the resources to participate in policy making, with accountable political institutions and politicians who recognize the necessity, the eligibility and the importance of fully informed and therefore responsible and critical citizens and the value of trust in societies.

The Deal! Youth Declaration is signed by:

Agapox Anita	Gulichová Kateřina	Kapetanovic Daniel	Rüffler Annika
Bergler Leo	Hackl Jana Anita	Kelemen Kata	Ruszó Norbert
Bognár Soma	Hartnagel Jonathan	Kostrakiewicz Thalia	Šedivá Barbora
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Gotsch Celina	Juhász Julia	Pop Ana-Maria	
Grivas-Bueno Penelope	Kaienburg Sophia	Ritter Marvin	



IV. The project

🔗 Project description:

The project „DEAL with it!“ is funded by the European Union and offers young people a platform to engage in climate policy. The goal is to strengthen our knowledge and experience on climate change, sustainability and climate policy, in an exchange with climate policy experts from the fields of politics, science and civil society. Together, we critically reflected political processes and learned about the European Green Deal. Building on this foundation, our delegation from the four project countries elaborated a joint “Youth Declaration for a sustainable and inclusive Europe“. The project timeline lasts from December 2021 to January 2023.

🔗 Project partners:

The project consortium is composed of ÖFSE from Austria, Artemisszió from Hungary, NaZemi from Czech Republic and EPiZ from Germany.

🔗 Contact:

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🔗 Project website:

<https://www.oefse.at/en/education-awareness/educational-projects/deal-with-it/>

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