



Children and Young People’s Call for a Fair, Green and Just Future Youth Recommendations for Stronger Participation and Policy Change

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

This letter brings together the shared messages and priorities of more than 100 children and young people from 12- to 22-year-old, who took part in the online International Youth Summit, in the frame of EU funded project “Imagining a climate just future”, with contributors from Albania, Romania, Kosovo, Spain and Ireland.

Drawing on their lived experiences and collective discussions, young people highlight the urgent need for meaningful child and youth participation in decisions that shape their lives, especially in relation to climate action, social justice, and intergenerational fairness.

Through this letter, children and young people call on Members of the European Parliament to advance concrete policy changes that ensure their voices are heard early, taken seriously, and reflected in EU policies that affect current and future generations across Europe and beyond.

Because decisions made today will shape young people’s lives and futures, this call to action becomes a priority.

Children and young people are calling for:

1. Make Child and Youth Participation a Legal Requirement

EU and national governments should:

- Introduce binding rules requiring child and youth participation in all climate, social, and future-oriented policies that affect them.
- Ensure participation happens early and throughout the policy process not only at consultation stage.
- Require decision-makers to show how youth input influenced final outcomes.

Policies on climate, housing, education, and social protection have long-term impacts on young generations. Without youth voices, policies risk being ineffective and partial.



2. Give Youth participation bodies Real Power at EU and Country Level

EU and Member States should:

- Formally link youth participation and advisory bodies to parliaments, ministries, and EU institutions.
- Establish a European Youth Climate Council with a formal, institutional role in EU decision-making processes, including climate and environmental policies
- Include young people as part of official EU and national delegations to international processes, including UN climate negotiations (COP), to ensure youth perspectives are represented globally.

Young people want to move from symbolic participation to real influence, especially on policies shaping their future.

3. Guarantee Feedback and Accountability

EU institutions and governments should:

- Provide clear public feedback explaining how children's and young people's ideas were used.
- Explain decisions in simple language, including when proposals are not taken forward and why.
- Treat feedback as a minimum quality standard of participation.

Transparency builds trust and shows young people that engagement leads to real change.

4. Fund Youth-Led Climate and Social Justice Action

EU and national governments should:

- Create dedicated funding for youth-led initiatives on climate action, social inclusion, and fair transition, including specific "Youth Green Budgets" at EU and national level.
- Simplify funding rules so youth groups can apply without heavy administrative barriers.
- Prioritize funding for young people from disadvantaged and marginalized communities.
- Provide long-term financial and institutional support for grassroots, youth-led climate initiatives and community-based action.

Young people are already driving change in their communities but lack resources and support to scale their impact.



5. Use Youth-Friendly and Digital Participation Tools

EU and national authorities should:

- Use digital platforms, online consultations, and social media to reach young people across regions and countries.
- Support youth-led storytelling, media, and digital advocacy (e.g. video and creative formats) as tools to amplify youth voices and influence policy debates.
- Communicate policies in clear, simple language that young people can understand and share.
- Combine digital tools with safe, in-person spaces for dialogue.

Youth participation must be accessible, inclusive, and adapted to the ways young people communicate and engage today.

6. Build Skills for Climate and Social Policy Engagement

EU programmes and national systems should:

- Invest in training for young people on policy processes, advocacy, and climate and social justice issues.
- Strengthen civic education so children and young people understand how decisions are made locally, nationally, and at EU level.
- Recognize participation as a right and a learning process, not voluntary extra work.

Empowered, informed young people are essential for strong democracies and fair transitions.

Children and Young people are calling for EU policies that support concrete actions:

- Phase out fossil fuel and accelerate investment in clean public transport, walking, and cycling infrastructure.
- Ensure real-time air quality monitoring is accessible, transparent, and easy to understand for children and communities.
- Set EU standards for healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable schools, including clean air and green environments.

Young people are not only asking to be heard, but they are also calling for concrete actions that directly improve their health, environment, and future.



In conclusion, children and young people want to be active partners in building a fair, green, and inclusive future. They are ready to contribute with ideas, energy, and solutions to address climate change and social inequality at local, national, and European levels.

What they ask from EU and national decision makers is simple and reasonable:

“Take our voices seriously, include us early, invest in our solutions, and act decisively on the climate crisis that shapes our future”.

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