

OPEN CALL for participants

ESU is proud to announce a call for participants in a series of activities within **'YOU(TH) ACT FOR FUTURE: Enhancing Youth Engagement towards Climate Action and Sustainable Communities**

This call is a unique opportunity for **18 to 29-year-olds** to build up their general and specific knowledge of a different set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), more concretely, on SDG 11 "Sustainable communities and cities", SDG 13 "Climate Action", and SDG 17 "Partnership for the goals", by having non-formal education sessions. It will allow you to gain theoretical and practical skills that will serve as the base for developing your capacity-building skills on climate action and sustainable communities.

The activities are being organised by the European Students Union (ESU) supported by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and are dedicated to representatives or active students from national students unions or representatives of youth organisations with a focus on very different topics (inclusion, civic engagement, activism, etc..)

The participation of this Annual Work Plan will expect a participation commitment of the three phases of the project. Therefore, the first registration form is now open to Phase I in Almeria (Spain).

Are you motivated, eager to learn and ready to travel to Almeria? [Apply now!](#)

Eligibility Criteria

The activity should be concluded by Friday the **4th of January 2024** the latest.

Profile of the participants:

- 18-29 years old.
- National of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe and parties to the European Cultural Convention
- A good level of English language knowledge (B2 or more)
- To be actively involved in workshops and activities for the entire duration of the session.
- With an experience of youth/student representation and civic participation.
- Participants should be willing to share what they have learned in their member organisation or communities following the study session.
- **Participating in the whole Cycle, or/and implementing an activity.**
- Must be open to participating in a group of culturally and gender diverse individuals that may have various backgrounds (refugees/Roma/LGBT+/youths with disabilities).

Practical information: 100% of the expenses relevant to participation (program, international travel, accommodation, food and transportation within the city during the event) are covered by the host organization. For this reason, Participants must save all receipts for items they wish to have reimbursed. Participants need to be present for the whole duration of the study session to be reimbursed.

Special needs: Upon the request of participants, special assistance will be provided, ensuring accessibility of the study session. Please indicate any special assistance needed in your application form.

What is the Annual Work Plan programme?

Phase I: Climate action and sustainable communities for all!

The theoretical sessions aim to educate participants on a different set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), more concretely, on SDG 11 “Sustainable Communities and Cities”, SDG 13 “Climate Action”, and SDG 17 “Partnership for the Goals”. Moreover, this activity will lay out the foundation for the upcoming activities and local actions by developing specific awareness and action on these topics at their local level. The activity will also address students’ learning and the importance of emotional and community support as an introduction to the second activity.

The practical sessions will focus on imparting practical and effective tools and skills to the participants, in order to learn how to form, prepare and implement a local action that promotes sustainable communities and cities. For this part of the training, the training team will guide participants through every step of the project cycle, with a special focus on sustainability campaigns on a local level. It will equip them effectively for their future actions. The main aspects that will be covered are needs assessment, project proposal writing, contacting local stakeholders, budgeting, preparation, implementation tips and tricks, ideas and advice on how to successfully lead a sustainable activity etc. We will also look into how this overlaps with student movement structures and the engagement ‘archetype’.

At the end of the first international activity, participants will be informed about the possibility of applying for a mini-grant in order to materialise their ideas.

Location: Almeria (Spain) [closer airport: Almeria or Málaga] **Dates:** 18th to 24th of February 2024

Phase II: DECENTRALISED ACTIONS - Taking action for local impact!

The second phase will be initiated shortly after the completion of the first international activity. This phase will give the opportunity to participants to work independently on a local project, which will allow them “to learn by doing” and utilise the knowledge they acquired in the first training.

- Participants who are interested in a mini-grant will be informed about the application process and what is expected from them in order to write a good project proposal.
- ESU’s team and one external member will form a committee that will select the best proposals and will decide on funding up to 10 proposals.
- After the selection, there will be an online seminar on how to build their own sustainability campaign. This online seminar will be mandatory for all future grantees, as it will equip them with all the necessary information and tips to effectively implement their local initiatives. Only after the completion of the online seminar will we proceed to the signing of the grant agreement.
- After the granting process, the local actions implementation phase will start.

Location: Different locations **Dates:** TBC

Phase III: Show me what you made and let’s partner up!

It will focus on partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs, and more precisely, for the magnification of the local campaigns. Participants will gather and present their local actions. They will reflect on what went well, where there is room for improvement, what their impressions are, what are the most valuable lessons they learned and what was their impact on their community.

Afterwards, they will be informed about possibilities to fund their ideas and projects by the Council of Europe, about events and happenings that are taking place and will be a good opportunity for them to join and connect with more young people with whom they share this cause. What is more, there will be several networking and brainstorming ideas on how they can collaborate and work together on transnational projects that will bring their communities together, so that they can support and enhance each other.

Finally, the third activity will invest in some more capacity building, by using simulations and models to demonstrate the processes followed by international institutions, such as the UN and the EU on matters of sustainability and how they translate into local impact.

Location: Crete (Greece) **Dates:** TBC