

**EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET**

*(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)*

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	1– ALBA IULIA MUNICIPALITY (AIM) - COORDINATOR
PIC number:	952991536
Project name and acronym:	Youth Municipal Climate Action — YMCA

EVENT DESCRIPTION		
Event number:	Work Package 5	
Event name:	Youth networks on Climate Change	
Type:	Visit and workshop	
In situ/online:	in-situ	
Location:	Romania, Alba Iulia	
Date(s):	21/05/2025	
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://ymca-cerv.eu/about/reports/">https://ymca-cerv.eu/about/reports/</a>	
Participants		
Female:	58	
Male:	49	
Non-binary:	0	
From country 1 [Romania]:	99	
From country 2 [Czech Republic]:	2	
From country 3 [Italy]:	2	
From country 4 [Spain]:	2	
From country 5 [Lithuania]:	2	
Total number of participants:	107	From total number of countries: 5
Description		
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>		

**Preparation phase:**

*The Municipality of Alba Iulia, as the partner responsible for this work package, coordinated the organization of the local event in May 2025, in cooperation with partners from Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic and Lithuania.*

The main actions carried out in this preparation phase, prior to the May 2025 event:

- The detailed agenda of the event was developed and all aspects of logistics, safety and inclusion were managed.
- Personalized invitations were sent to local partners and stakeholders in a timely manner.
- The event was promoted locally and internationally, in accordance with the project's communication guidelines.
- An online questionnaire on young people's perceptions of climate change has been developed in collaboration with local youth organizations. The final form was validated by the partners.

The preparation of the activity began in March, with the development and dissemination of the questionnaire on young people's perception of climate change, as well as with the establishment of a draft agenda for May 21. In April, the necessary contacts were made for the on-site visits established on the activity sheet, as well as with the logistical preparation of the travel of the invited partners. Also, during this period, the questionnaire on young people's perception of climate change was submitted for approval. This questionnaire was validated by the partners and was sent to the young people in order to collect as many answers as possible for the analysis.

The Municipality of Alba Iulia, responsible for this work package, has finalized at this stage the detailed agenda of the event. It also took care of all the organizational details, logistics, safety of all participants and the inclusion of the events themselves. Invitations were sent to all participants in a timely manner.

**Conduct of the event and activities:**

The event included interactive workshops, educational visits, outdoor debates and storytelling activities, with the aim of understanding young people's perceptions of climate change and encouraging conscious action in the community. **The event and activities on May 21, 2025 were attended by 107 people from the 5 partner countries: Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Spain, Italy. On behalf of the international partners and guests, 8 people participated (2 participants for each partner), and on behalf of the coordinator, 99 people participated (58 women and 49 men).**

**Activities carried out:****Activity 1: Education starts at the youngest ages**

The day of May 21<sup>st</sup> began with a visit to one of the kindergartens in the city, Kindergarten no. 16, recognized for the environmental awareness and responsibility activities it carries out. Here there was a discussion with several representatives of the local community, educators and parents, from which a clear conclusion was drawn: caring for the environment must start from the little ones, and the community has a very important role in this.

To mark this meeting and create a bridge between this project and those present, each partner was asked to bring the seeds of plants representative of the area they come from and to plant them together with the children. This activity was accompanied by discussions and explanations related to plants, the benefit of caring for the environment and activities that can be understood in order to increase the community's involvement in the fight against climate change.

The children showed their care and appreciation for the environment, every gesture counting to change the world we live in. It was a symbolic moment – not only plants were planted, but also values: care, collaboration and respect for nature. The working visit to Kindergarten No. 16 was publicized and disseminated on the kindergarten's Facebook page.

Also, information about the entire event on May 21, 2025 and about all working visits was also posted on the facebook page of the Municipality of Alba Iulia – Administration with added value.

### **Activity 2: Young people as agents of change**

The agenda continued with the collective analysis of the questionnaire submitted, which took place at the "Alexandru Domșa" Technological High School, with the participation of local young people and partners present at the event. The discussion with the young people was extremely good because it demonstrated once again the importance of their voice in the context of climate change.

The results collected because of the application of the questionnaire and debated with high school students from the "Alexandru Domșa" Technological High School showed a number of 31 answers for young people aged 16-18 years, of which 21 male, 5 female, and 1 respondent opted not to specify the gender. To the question "What do you think are the main causes of climate change?" there were 3 approximately equal answers, namely: "greenhouse gas emissions", with a percentage of 26% in the responses of the survey participants, deforestation – with a percentage of 24% in the answers received from young people, "industrial activities" with a percentage of 21% in the opinion of those surveyed. The following places are mentioned: natural phenomena (13%), transport (12%).

A very interesting question followed in the questionnaire: "To what extent do you think the media's rhetoric affects the perception of the causes of climate change?" The young people provided surprising answers, proving both interest in what is happening in the media space and showing that they are informed about the impact of the media on the main issues that concern the 21st century society and communities at international level. A percentage of 78% of those who responded identify an important influence of the media on the rhetoric of climate change and the way in which these changes are perceived by the population. 44% of respondents see an overwhelming influence of the media in this approach, and 34% consider that the impact produced by the media on the perception and way of thinking of those who go through the media is moderate.

Among the most serious effects of climate change, young respondents consider extreme weather phenomena (floods, hail, hurricanes, strong winds in a proportion of 65%), then sea level rise (13%), impact on human health (13%), droughts (10%). What worries young people the most are: drought, pollution, storms, hail, strong winds, floods, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, climate change, deforestation. Unfortunately, however, there are enough young people who answered the questionnaire and have a neutral position or do not feel directly responsible for environmental protection, although the share of those who are aware of the need for their involvement in environmental protection is higher. As a measure and action of responsibility towards the environment in the view of young people, the reduction of plastic consumption is in first place, which is of course complementary with another measure, namely plastic recycling. In second place is participation in environmental events. The third measure to combat climate change, considered useful by young people, is volunteering in environmental activities.

Unfortunately, however, as the next question in the questionnaire shows, young people believe that their voice is not taken into account as it should be when it comes to environmental issues. 31% of them believe that they are not listened to and taken into account at all, 45% of them believe that their voice is very little heard and listened to and only 14% believe that in a moderate way they become an important factor and a voice heard in environmental issues. In fact, the opinion of young people on the measures and actions taken by governments and various international organizations to combat climate change is not a positive one either. Most

consider that these measures are not effective or not at all effective, at best they would be moderately effective. Too few of them believe that the measures are effective.

However, from the questionnaire, to the open question "What solutions do you think should be implemented to combat the effects of climate change?", some of the measures considered useful by young people in this regard emerge: planting trees, recycling, using plastic as little as possible, reducing consumption, reducing emissions and pollution of cars, reducing pollution, banning diesel, using alternative energies, and even greater involvement of people.

To the question "how do we know that global warming is mainly caused by human activities?" the answers were fewer and some wrong, which denotes a lack of information among young people on this aspect. We recall some answers, namely: respiratory diseases, higher pollution and the greenhouse effect in more polluted cities. The main effects of climate change on human health are considered primarily diseases, especially respiratory diseases, increased deaths, low immunity, increased fatigue, colds and the multiplication of viruses, cancers, childhood diseases.

Next in the questionnaire is a surprise question and one that has aroused even more the attention and participation of young people: "If you were mayor or minister of the environment, what would be your first measure?", leaving the opportunity for young people to offer solutions. Among these, the first places are: planting trees, plants and shrubs; prohibition of deforestation; increasing green spaces; a ban on diesel cars; stopping massive pollution; higher taxes for polluters; the use of green and renewable energies;

Towards the end of the questionnaire, the measures taken by the EU to become carbon neutral by 2050 (measures that are part of the European Green Deal) were reviewed:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions especially in industry, transport and energy;
- investing in green energy, such as wind, solar, thermal and other clean sources
- supporting green transport: trains, buses, electric vehicles
- planting forests and protecting nature to absorb carbon dioxide
- educating and involving citizens, especially young people, to actively contribute to protecting the environment.

After the questionnaire, a short contest followed to see to what extent the young people know how to give the correct answers to the questions on environmental issues. To the question "What is the main cause of climate change?", the correct answer was given by 19 young people out of a total of 31 respondents, namely "greenhouse gas emissions from human activity".

The next question in the quiz was "Which gas contributes the most to global warming?". Surprisingly, only 18 young people out of all those who participated answered correctly, namely that this gas is carbon dioxide.

In the continuation of the quiz, young people are asked "what simple gesture (small actions) contributes to reducing emissions?" and only half of them give the correct answer: "replacing light bulbs with LED ones".

At the end of the quiz presented, only 14 young people remembered that the EU's goal for 2050 is to become the first climate-neutral continent, the rest wrongly answering that the goal would be to plant a certain number of trees. As a result, **there is a need for trainings and workshops, study visits and activities** that are all related to the environment, environmental protection and practical learning on how young people can and should get involved in protecting the environment and reducing pollution and negative effects on climate change.

### Activity 3 : Nature as a space for learning and inspiration

Unfortunately, the on-site visit to the city's Dendrological Park was hampered by bad weather, so the discussion about it took place indoors, but audio-visual material was used to discuss the proposed aspects. With the support of a local specialist, **the topics related to the retention of the carbon footprint** by using some species that we find in this park were deepened, as well as ways to reduce the carbon footprint through daily actions that can be carried out by each of us. The discussion was extremely good for answering the questions of the young people, but also for extracting new ways of communicating the subject to the young audience. The local specialist presented necessary information to deepen ways of replicating this type of park in other areas, respectively the discussion also focused on the exchange of good practices in the field of combating climate change, from recycling methods, to methods of reducing pollution and raising awareness at community level and beyond.

We continued the activities with a picnic in nature (inside the dendrological park, as the weather improved during the day), together with the participating partners, a picnic that took advantage of the benefits of local food and was an opportunity to discuss **reducing the carbon footprint by capitalizing on diets based on foods that are as close** as possible and that do not involve long-distance transport and - implicitly, increasing pollution

### Activity 4 : Digital activation and awareness in social networks

Following the event, we made a final evaluation with qualitative and quantitative information that was published on municipal channels.

The young people were encouraged to post creative content (images, videos, messages) with the project's hashtags, encouraging sustainable behaviors and promoting the lessons learned in their online community.

#YouthForClimate #YMCAproject #AlbaluliaVerde

#### Results and impact:

- ✓ 1 online questionnaire developed, distributed and analyzed
- ✓ the planned activities were implemented and even expanded
- ✓ 107 direct participants
- ✓ Increased local and international visibility through online communication
- ✓ Active involvement of two educational institutions - key partners for sustainability
- ✓ 5 countries

#### Follow-up phase:

● The final assessment was carried out with qualitative and quantitative data, including gender and age breakdowns.

● The bilingual informative materials (RO/EN) are being drafted and will be published on the official channels of the Municipality of Alba Iulia and its partners.

#### HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	12.06.2025	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft version