



FINAL Y.M.C.A. MANIFESTO

Youth Municipal Climate Action



TOGETHER FOR DEMOCRATIC CLIMATE ACTION

Signatory Consortium

Municipality of Alba Iulia (Romania)
Associazione Amici Per Sandra /
Castelnuovo del Garda (Italy)
Moții Țara de Piatră Association / Zlatna
(Romania)
Municipality of Prague-Kolovraty (Czech
Republic)
Asociacion Building Bridges / Soto del Real
(Spain)
Asociacija Mano Europa / Kaišiadorys and
Jonava (Lithuania)



Funded by
the European Union



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **INSTITUTIONAL PREAMBLE**
- **MUNICIPAL CLIMATE POLICIES**
- **PROTECTION OF ACTIVISTS & LEGAL RIGHTS**
- **GENDER EQUALITY IN CLIMATE ACTION**
- **INTERGENERATIONAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE**
- **URBAN RESILIENCE & BIODIVERSITY**



**Funded by
the European Union**



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action

INSTITUTIONAL PREAMBLE

This Manifesto is the official outcome of the 18-month co-design process carried out within the YMCA European network. The document integrates the conclusions of climate analyses and transnational exchanges of best practices conducted by youth delegations and public authority representatives in Italy, Spain, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, and Romania.



The guiding principles of this text are rooted in ensuring gender equality, non-discrimination, respecting the fundamental rights of young people to free expression, and promoting administrative policies based on sustainability and scientific evidence.



**Funded by
the European Union**



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action

Youth Municipal Climate Action

TOPIC: MUNICIPAL CLIMATE POLICIES (Energy, Transport, Waste)

MOTTO: Breathing Cities, Living Communities

OUR VISION

Our cities must be the beating heart of climate solutions.

We want urban centers where the air is **clean**, energy is **green**, and resources are **valued**, not wasted.

A systemic green transition to transform our cities into healthy, self-sustaining ecosystems that ensure long-term climate resilience and human well-being.



OUR ACTIONS

1

Solar energy on every public building.

We demand that municipalities transform schools and hospitals into "prosumers". We want our local authorities to become energy independent through renewables, replicating the successful models seen within the YMCA network.

2

Transport for people, not just cars.

We call for the expansion of safe bike lanes and electric public transport. We advocate for "15-minute cities," where essential services are accessible without polluting the environment.

3

Real circular economy.

We demand a ban on single-use plastics within public administration and the creation of local recycling and composting hubs, turning waste back into resources for the community.

4

Sustainable culture and events.

We demand that municipalities lead by example by enforcing strict sustainability criteria for all public and cultural events, drastically reducing waste, and promoting eco-friendly practices in the creative sector.

5

Europe-wide affordable mobility.

We call for the creation of an affordable, synchronized public transport pass system across European cities. Public transit must become the most financially attractive and accessible choice for every citizen.



Funded by
the European Union



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action

Youth Municipal Climate Action

TOPIC: Protection of Activists & Legal Rights

MOTTO: Safe Spaces, Brave Voices

OUR VISION

We believe in a Europe where young people can **speak freely** about the planet's future without fear. We want **our voices** to be seen as a resource for progress, not a source of conflict. **Our safety** in public spaces is the foundation of democracy.



OUR ACTIONS

1

Partnership for transparency.

We call on local authorities to create clear and user-friendly guides on how to safely organize climate events and marches. We want easy-to-understand rules that encourage civic participation rather than blocking it through bureaucracy.

2

Direct dialogue with law enforcement.

We propose training sessions and open discussions between young activists and representatives of the police or gendarmerie. The goal is to mutually understand our roles and prevent escalation, ensuring that peaceful protests remain a safe space for all participants.

3

Digital recognition and support.

We demand that municipalities protect our right to organize online and combat hate speech or disinformation targeting youth environmental advocates. Our online voice must be as respected as our voice in the public square.

4

Youth advisory councils for climate.

We demand the creation of official youth advisory councils at the local level, allowing young people to be delegated directly into municipal structures. This ensures our voices are formally integrated into local decision-making and that we can present our climate solutions directly to the mayor and local politicians.



Funded by
the European Union



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action

Youth Municipal Climate Action

TOPIC: Gender Equality in Climate Action

MOTTO: “*No one left behind*” in the green transition

OUR VISION

The climate crisis affects us all, but not **equally**. We envision a world where environmental solutions are built through **everyone's** eyes, regardless of gender, background, or abilities. We believe that girls and women are not just bystanders but essential **leaders** in transforming our communities.



OUR ACTIONS

1

Female leadership in green projects.

We call on municipalities to support and fund environmental initiatives led by young women. We want mentorship programs that encourage girls to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and climate policy to balance the decision-making table.

2

Inclusive urban policies.

We request that city planning (public lighting, transport, park safety) takes into account the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups. A city that is safe and accessible for a young girl is a better city for the entire community.

3

Education for equity.

We demand the introduction of workshops in schools and youth centers that explain the link between human rights and environmental protection. We want to learn how to recognize and combat inequalities so that the green transition is truly fair for everyone.

4

Visibility for female climate leaders.

We call on local authorities to celebrate and give visibility to women from our towns who are pioneers and leaders in their respective fields of climate action and history. By placing their stories and photographs in important public spaces and historical narratives, we create much-needed role models for future generations.



Funded by
the European Union



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action

Youth Municipal Climate Action

TOPIC: Intergenerational Political Dialogue

MOTTO: Experience Meets Energy

OUR VISION

We don't want to just be "the future"; we want to be part of **the present**. We believe the best climate decisions happen when the experience of policymakers meets the **vision** and **energy** of youth. Dialogue should not be a one-time event, but a continuous and honest collaboration.



OUR ACTIONS

1

Joint Climate Councils.

We call for the establishment of permanent working groups within city halls, composed of young people and local councilors. These groups should play an active role in reviewing projects that impact the environment, ensuring the Gen Z voice is integrated into local budgets.

2

Accessible language and information.

We request that authorities translate technical and bureaucratic projects into accessible and visual formats. Transparency is the key to participation; youth can only contribute if they understand how decisions are made and where they can get involved.

3

Two-Way Mentorship.

We propose a "reverse mentoring" program: youth learn about administration from policymakers, while policymakers learn from youth about new sustainability trends and using technology for the environment. Only by learning from each other can we accelerate the green transition.

4

Intergenerational inclusion through family bonds.

We advocate for the active inclusion of the elderly in climate actions by leveraging the connection with their grandchildren. We propose initiatives like community recycling games to expand recycling rates, alongside storytelling sessions where seniors compare past sustainable habits with today's environmental improvements to co-create better local solutions.



Funded by
the European Union



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action

OUR VISION

Our cities shouldn't just be "concrete jungles" that overheat in the summer. We dream of communities that **breathe**, where nature is integrated into every neighborhood. We want to protect what remains **green** and bring biodiversity back to our streets for a healthier, cooler **life**.



OUR ACTIONS

1

Urban forests and micro-gardens.

We call on city halls to transform abandoned or grey lots into mini urban forests and community gardens. Inspired by the visits to dendrological parks during the project, we want more trees to protect us from heatwaves and become the "lungs" of our city.

2

Protecting local biodiversity.

We demand an end to the cutting of healthy trees and the protection of local plant and animal species by creating "green corridors." Every infrastructure project must include a mandatory nature restoration component, not just compensation.

3

Smart water management.

We demand nature-based solutions to prevent urban flooding: more surfaces that absorb rainwater (rain gardens) instead of asphalt. Water is a precious resource, and we must keep it in the city's soil, not flush it into the sewers.

4

Green roofs and vertical ecosystems.

We call for the integration of nature into the built environment by incentivizing the installation of green roofs and vertical gardens on all new and renovated municipal buildings. These living structures will act as natural insulation to reduce energy consumption, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and provide vital nesting spaces for birds and pollinators within our cities, ensuring that even the most densely built areas contribute to local biodiversity.



Funded by
the European Union



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action



CLOSING THOUGHTS

- **From Voice to Action:** This document is our collective promise to the future. We don't just ask for change; we offer the energy, innovation, and partnership of the younger generation to co-create it.
- **A Framework for Accountability:** Let this manifesto serve as a benchmark for local policies, a tool for continuous dialogue with decision-makers, and a guiding light for every green initiative we launch next.
- **The Power of Community:** Our strength lies in our diversity—bridging the wisdom of older generations with the determination of youth, and turning local administrative goals into a vibrant, European-wide movement.



Funded by
the European Union



Y.M.C.A.
Youth Municipal Climate Action



Driving Systemic Change Together.

This manifesto represents more than a collection of isolated demands; it is a unified, holistic vision for the future of our communities. By connecting sustainable municipal policies with the protection of young activists, embedding gender equality into climate actions, and fostering meaningful intergenerational dialogue, we lay the foundation for truly resilient cities. Climate justice cannot be achieved without social justice, and public administration must work hand in hand with civil society to turn these principles into structural reality. Through the shared commitment of local authorities, youth networks like YMCA, and the wider community, we can transform our urban centers into healthy, inclusive, and thriving ecosystems where no one is left behind.

CONSORTIUM:



Our Website
<https://ymca-cerv.eu>



**Funded by
the European Union**

