

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	ACTIONAID HELLAS ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIRIA (AAH)
PIC number:	931941954
Project name and acronym:	YOULEAD - Youth Leaders advocates for Greener Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP18
Event name:	European preparatory online exchange meeting for school students
Type:	Meeting
In situ/online:	Online
Location:	Austria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia
Date(s):	25.09.2023
Website(s) (if any):	ActionAid Hellas Website
Participants	
Female:	66
Male:	42
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Greece]:	26
From country 2 [Austria]:	27
From country 3 [Italy]:	33
From country 4 [Slovenia]:	11
From country 5 [Hungary]:	11
Total number of participants:	108
From total number of countries:	5
Description	
<p>On September 25, 2023, the European preparatory online exchange meeting for school students was convened in a virtual setting, with the participation of a total of 108 attendees. This meeting was meticulously organized and executed by ActionAid Hellas, with strong collaboration and support from all project partners.</p> <p>The meeting began with opening remarks by AAH. These introductory words set the tone for the session, paving the way for a comprehensive presentation that intricately explored the YOULEAD</p>	

project's objectives, achievements, ongoing initiatives, and future plans.

Participants received an in-depth understanding of how the project seamlessly integrates civic involvement, democratic discourse, and environmental challenges. Focused on young individuals from five EU countries - Italy, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, and Austria - the project actively encourages advocacy for climate change solutions at both national and EU levels through democratic participation. This highlights the crucial role that attendees, particularly those aged 15 to 19, play in driving positive change.

Moreover, attendees gained insights into the upcoming phase of the YOULEAD project, where the project aims to establish a dynamic EU youth group through meticulously designed preparatory training sessions. Students were informed of the scope of these sessions, that will move a step further from skill-building exercises into serving as platforms for students to contribute their unique ideas and proposals. Students were also informed that their collaborative efforts will culminate in the creation of a comprehensive Manifesto, representing their collective vision. This Manifesto will take center stage as a delegation of young representatives convenes in Brussels to present it to EU officials during the Youth Conference. This critical event will provide a platform for their voices to be heard at the highest levels of decision-making within the EU. Moreover, the outcomes and insights generated during the Youth Conference will extend beyond its immediate audience. A multi-stakeholder gathering will be convened, ensuring that the lessons learned, proposals made, and perspectives shared resonate across diverse sectors. This initiative will foster a collective understanding and commitment to addressing the critical issues highlighted in the YOULEAD Manifesto.

Furthermore, participants received information on the EU Institutions and the EU decision making process as well as an update regarding the ongoing climate policy discussion process in the EU.

Following this enlightening session, the meeting transitioned to an introduction to experience exchange, underscoring the importance of collective learning. Participants were then divided into country-specific break-out rooms to facilitate focused discussions.

To foster a friendly atmosphere and ease initial interactions, facilitators allocated 15 minutes for a light-hearted introduction session in the break-out rooms. This set the stage for subsequent activities.

Subsequently, partner-facilitators guided students through a structured procedure, involving individual reflection for 10 minutes, responding to questions in their native language. This was followed by a 15-minute group discussion, exploring similarities and contrasts between responses.

The discussion topics covered expectations for the final debates, identification of strengths and challenges during the procedure, reflection on specific challenges faced, strategies employed to overcome them, and lessons learned with applications for the future.

Regarding the common criteria for the selection of national delegates to attend the EU Institutions meeting in Brussels (WP21) we decided, during the PM meetings together with the rest of the consortium, to not involve young people in this procedure, which instead it will be made by the partners, in order to standardize the decision and avoid creating conflict between the students.

Following the local-level discussions, participants reconvened to share experiences on a transnational level, identifying common themes and cross-border opportunities.

The event culminated in a wrap-up and closing session, where organizers summarized key takeaways, highlighted insights, and expressed gratitude for participants' valuable contributions. The emphasis on sharing experiences played a pivotal role in fostering a vibrant atmosphere of collective learning and collaboration among participants. The structured agenda successfully facilitated information exchange, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of the YOULEAD project's impact.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	25.10.2022	Initial version (new MFF).