

Youth Knowledge book #31: Young people and democracy in the climate crisis



Young people and democracy in the climate crisis

- **93% of EU citizens believe climate change is a serious problem (2023)**
- **78% say that environmental issues have direct effect on on their daily life & health**
- **Disproportionate effect of climate crisis on young people**
- **Young people engage through environmental movements, climate protests, adaptation of personal choices and legal action, claiming the right to a healthy environment - not rejecting democracy but rejuvenating civic space**
- **The book explores young people's experiences in the age of climate crisis, their environmental activism through political structures and on the margins, and youth sector responses to the eco-crisis**

The scope of the book	Individual responses to climate crisis	Collective responses to climate crisis
Young people as actors	Consumer activism; Recycling; Encouraging others to be more environmentally friendly	Question 1. How are young people doing environmental politics?
Young people and adults working together	Changing family behaviour; Therapy	Question 1. How are young people doing environmental politics together with adults? Questions 2. The role of the youth sector in the response to the climate crisis

1. FROM GEZI TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: EXPLORING TURKISH GRASS-ROOTS YOUTH CLIMATE ACTIVISM

Carlos Ortega Sánchez, Burcu Dolanbay and Anna Montraveta Riu

4. YOUTH AT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS: PROFILES, MOTIVATIONS AND IMPACTS

Yi hyun Kang, Riham Helmy and Amandine Orsini

7. GLOBAL YOUTH WORK IS GOOD YOUTH WORK – THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH SECTOR IN IRELAND IN RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Eimear Manning and Valerie Duffy

2. THE CHALLENGES OF THE GREEN TRANSITION FOR YOUTH IN RURAL FRANCE: ADDRESSING DISCONTENT, BUILDING A JUST TRANSITION

Théodore Tallent

5. YOUTH WORK AND CLIMATE EMOTIONS

Panu Pihkala

CHAPTER 8. CONCLUSION – EMERGING THEMES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET

Lana Pasic and Esther Vallado

3. CO-RESEARCH THROUGH ART-BASED ACTION ENHANCING YOUNG PEOPLE'S CLIMATE CITIZENSHIP

Jarmo Rinne, Timo Jokela, Mirja Hiltunen, Korinna Korsström-Magga and Aki Lintumäki

6. REDEFINE AND RE-ENGAGE: THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH SECTOR IN EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ADVANCE JUST CLIMATE ACTION

Neringa Tumėnaitė, Isabelle Eberz, Richard Francis Apeh, Manal Benani, Amrita DasGupta and Nilendra Nair

Chapter 1. From Gezi to the climate emergency: exploring Turkish grass-roots youth climate activism

Carlos Ortega Sánchez, Burcu Dolanbay and Anna Montraveta Riu

Take home message: The common thread that runs through all the interviews is the longing for the Gezi spirit and the need to continue the struggle, despite the current political climate in Türkiye

Food for thought: Although the climate movement of the young has global character, the national context shapes how youth activism is able to evolve.

Key challenge: need for democratic structures, increased civil society involvement and international support for sustaining youth environmental activism.

Chapter 2. The challenges of the green transition for youth in rural France: addressing discontent, building a just transition

by Theodore Tallent

Taking home messages: Survey and interviews present the experiences of young people in rural areas of France with green transformation and adapting to climate change

Food for thought: Young people's experiences and attitudes regarding environmental issues are shaped by social and cultural backgrounds. The transition we need must take everyone on board.

Key challenge: Young people are experiencing a tension between rural scepticism towards green transition and youth environmental action

Chapter 3. Co-research through art-based action enhancing young people's climate citizenship

Jarmo Rinne, Timo Jokela, Mirja Hiltunen, Korinna Korsström-Magga and Aki Lintumäki

Take home message: dealing with climate-related emotions in a concrete way through art is interesting, anxiety-relieving and, at best, even empowering.

Food for thought: The great empathy and dedication for their cause and activism, as well as a burning desire to commit to activism for nature, can have fatal consequences for the activists themselves. Very often, they face adversity not only from adults but also from people their age.

Key challenge: if making things happen through the arts amplify the active involvement and participation of young people as and legitimate partners in building a sustainable future, how can this be connected to decision-making?

Chapter 4. Youth at international climate negotiations: profiles, motivations and impacts

by Yi hyun Kang, Rihan Helmy and Amandine Orsini

Take home messages: Although there is often a criticism that environmental activism should be more inclusive, there is a diversity of young people taking part in international climate negotiations.

Food for thought: More support is needed for meaningful youth participation of young people from Global South. OR more visibility in international spaces?

Key challenge: Young people from Global South have a strong presence at international climate conferences, their participation received little attention in the media and decision-making process.

Chapter 5. Youth work and climate emotions

Panu Pihkala

Take home message: climate emotions range from hope to anxiety. Non-formal methods of youth work are useful in dealing with different emotions

Food for thought: it is important that youth workers have the skills to engage with climate emotions. Proactively, youthworkers can provide information about climate emotions and at the same time create atmospheres where these topics are valid, which helps youth to talk about climate emotions when they need to. Reactively, youth workers need skills to respond to climate change-related events. and news which touch the young people they work with.

Key challenge: Providing resources for youth to:

- a. learn to recognise and name climate emotions;
- b. analyse how contextual factors affect climate emotions;
- c. cope with difficult climate emotions such as anxiety and grief;
- d. think about a wide array of methods for climate action.

Chapter 6. Redefine and re-engage: the role of the youth sector in empowering young people to advance just climate action

by Neringa Tumėnaitė, Isabelle Eberz, Richard Francis Apeh,
Manal Benani, Amrita DasGupta and Nilendra Nair

Take home messages: Need to advocate for systemic shifts in the approach to climate crisis, due to interconnected nature of global economies and environmental degradation

Food for thought: how can youth sector empower young people to advance just climate action? Interviews and survey are used to understand the challenges and barriers young people face in environmental activism

Key challenge: young people face variety of obstacles in activism, such as lack of funding, intergenerational conflict, adultism and shrinking civic space.

Chapter 7. Global youth work is good youth work – The role of the youth sector in Ireland in responding to the climate emergency

Eimear Manning and Valerie Duffy

Take home message: global youth work underpins all the values of youth work, – yet it also adds more structure and confidence to young people critically assessing global issues and their place within a globalised world.

Food for thought: One of the key emerging issues affecting young people today, , the youth sector and the world is the unfolding climate emergency. As this area of work grows in the coming years, a greater focus on the impacts of climate change will feature for the youth sector and for broader society.

Key challenge: Once you have broken apart your own views of the world and reconstructed them from a global youth work context, you can then begin to support young people to explore their own place in the world and encourage them to seek solutions and change for a better world.

Chapter 8. Conclusion - Emerging themes for the future of the planet

Evolving nature of youth engagement with environmental politics

Emerging issues is youth climate action

- intersection of inequality and climate injustice
- intergenerational solidarity and climate crisis
- climate change and populism
- climate emotions
- planetary health and beyond human dichotomy
- the inevitability of hope and future generations

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