

**Climate change:
Game Over or Game On?**
Game On! project Final Conference

 19-20 September 2023

 Novotel Brussels City Centre,
Bruxelles, Belgium

game on | DON'T LET CLIMATE CHANGE
END THE GAME!
This project is funded
by the European Union

DEAR
DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION
AND AWARENESS RAISING

Policy Roundtables

Showcase

Networking

Workshops

Exhibition

After a four-year run, the **Game On! project**, funded by the **Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme**, is reaching its end. During this sprint, over 200 Committed Young Climate Ambassadors from 8 countries have worked with us in wilderness camps, street actions, festivals and workshops; climate comedy shows have provoked plenty of laughs while leaving substantial food for thought; through our Terra Futura board game, discussions on the systemic consumption of resources around the globe have been vibrant and eye-opening.

And so much more.

Gamification has been at the project's operational core; our mission, clear: to raise awareness on the crucial urgency of tackling climate change. We reject the notion that the game is over. The game is still on, and we can overcome its challenges. This event will show glimpses as to how.

The **Game On! Final Conference "Climate Change: Game Over or Game On?"** will be a **2-day hybrid event held in Brussels, Belgium**, to showcase the activities, products and results of the *Game On!* project — implemented by 10 organisations from 8 countries — and the work of its Young Climate Ambassadors.

This international event will gather youth activists, representatives from youth organisations and youth led projects, decision makers, and media representatives aiming to discuss the role and potential of gamification as an awareness raising and educational approach, as well as the importance of the youth to help tackle the current triple planetary crisis.

To facilitate this, *Game On!* partners will share their experience on developing products and activities, such as the ClimateGame (a mobile app to help users move to more sustainable lifestyles), the ClimateQuest (an international geocaching challenge that guides outdoor explorers to *caches* hidden in locations where the effects of climate change on the ecosystem can be seen), the gamified intervention of museum exhibitions and zoos (with new layers of information related to the effects of climate change), EduQuest Yourself! (a collection of non-formal and informal educational approaches in the form of games), or the Climate Compact (an easy-to-follow — while scientifically sound — open online course about climate change), among several others.

Moreover, panel discussions with decision makers, *Game On!* Young Climate Ambassadors and relevant stakeholders will help shape each of the two days with discussions surrounding youth centric policies for the future and the inclusion of marginalised communities for adaptation to climate change impacts.

Parallel sessions throughout the event will be led by our Young Climate Ambassadors. Within them, they will display distinct approaches to raise awareness carried out in their own countries and beyond through presentations, workshops and interactive, gamified sessions.

Finally, presentations from representatives of youth-focused projects working in the theme of climate change will also bring an opportunity to further highlight youth initiatives and network with the international attendants.

Programme

Day 1

| Time | Sessions | Speakers |
|-------------|---|--|
| 8:00-9:00 | Registration | |
| 9:00-9:05 | Welcome words | Mr Péter Olajos (President of the Board, CEEweb for Biodiversity) |
| 9:05-9:40 | Game On! Don't let climate change end the game! What is 'Game On!'? Approach, context, work with the youth and the way forward. | Mr Thor Morante (Lead Project Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity) |
| 9:40-10:40 | Panel Discussion <i>Youth Centric Policies and Policies for the Future Generations</i> Climate policies, adaptation, inclusive and accessible decision making for the youth and its involvement, and Q&A. | Panellists: Mr Mikuláš Peksa (MEP, Czech Republic) Ms Svetlana Vylkova (Young Climate Ambassador, Bulgaria) Ms Béatrice Minh (Mindchangers project, Belgium) Mr Christophe Bruchansky (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Belgium) Moderator: Mr Péter Olajos (CEEweb for Biodiversity) |
| 10:40-11:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 11:00-13:00 | #GameOn! actions and achievements: <i>EduQuest Yourself! (non-formal education)</i> <i>Festival Greening Handbook</i> <i>ClimateQuest (geocaching)</i> <i>Climate Game (mobile app)</i> <i>Climate Compact (e-learning)</i> <i>Sub-granting</i> <i>Fact Finding Missions with journalists</i> | Ms Eszter Farkas (MTVSZ, Hungary) Ms Laura Zvingule (LDF, Latvia) Mr Patrik Gazo (BROZ, Slovakia) Mr András Sztaniszlav (PersonaR, Hungary) Mr Thor Morante (CEEweb, Hungary) Ms Katalin Balogh (Milvus, Romania) Mr Viktor Votruba (Hospodářské noviny, CZ) & Ms Rugilė Matusevičiūtė (Tvari Lietuva, LT) |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch | |

| Time | Sessions | Speakers |
|--|--|--|
| Young Ambassadors' Led Sessions | | |
| 14:00-16:00 | Room A <i>Terra Futura – Gamifying the learning process (120 mins)</i> | Room A Denisa Binderová & Lucie Uxová (CZ) |
| | Room B <i>Clothing upcycling and refurbishing workshop (60 mins)</i> | Room B Agnė Bitautaitė & Liza Cvetkova (LT) |
| | <i>Sustainable Gardening Workshop (60 mins)</i> | Justė Aleksaitė (LT) |
| | Room C <i>Strategies on how to Get People Excited About Your Climate Campaign (60 mins) – Hybrid</i> | Room C Dāniels Liecis (LV) |
| | <i>Events, Festivals and Climate: Strategies for Sustainable Event Management (60 mins) – Hybrid</i> | Rūdolfs Kivlenieks (LV) |
| 16:00-16:20 Coffee Break | | |
| Working with the Youth | | |
| 16:20-17:00 | <i>Mindchangers – Towards innovative solutions to engage youth in favour of sustainable development.</i> | Ms Béatrice Minh (Mindchangers project) |
| | <i>Spark! ClimACT – Mobilizing the youth across Europe to demand climate action and system change.</i> | Ms Leen Jansen (Spark! ClimACT project) |
| 17:00-17:10 | Wrap-up and closure of Day 1 | Thor Morante (Lead Project Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity) |

Day 2

| Time | Sessions | Speakers |
|-------------|---|---|
| 8:00-9:00 | Registration | |
| 9:00-9:05 | Welcome words | Thor Morante (Lead Project Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity) |
| 9:05-9:20 | Keynote speech Climate Justice – The role of the EU within our own borders and beyond | Mr Nicolae Ștefănuță (MEP, Romania) |
| 9:20-10:20 | Panel Discussion <i>No-one Left Behind – Adaptation for all in times of climate change</i> What is the plan of action on adaptation for marginalised communities? Roma, women and rural areas' citizens in the European Western-Eastern dual reality, and Q&A. | Panellists: Mr Nicolae Ștefănuță (MEP, Romania) Ms Mária Stark (Young Climate Ambassador, Hungary) Mr Kieran Pradeep (Climate & Energy Justice Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Europe) Moderator: Lisa Kirtz (Project Coordinator, CIR) |
| 10:20-11:20 | World Café How to get the most out of gamification to support a change for good? Group discussion and co-creation of ideas with 'world cafe' methodology. | Moderator: András Sztaniszláv (Lead Communications Coordinator, PersonaR) |
| 11:20-11:40 | Coffee Break | |
| 11:40-13:00 | Young Ambassadors' Led Sessions Room A <i>How the voice of the youth makes a change in COPs? – Short improv theatre (50 mins)</i> <i>Plastic, a history and its future. How plastic changed our day-to-day life? (30 mins) – <u>Hybrid</u></i> Room B <i>Climate Fresk Workshop (Part I – 80 mins)</i> Room C <i>Unlocking the Power of Eco-Conscious Podcasting – From Idea to Impact (60 mins) – <u>Hybrid</u></i> | Room A Svetlana Vylkova & Mario Shimbov (BG) Constantin-Teodor Iordache & Borbála Láng (RO) Room B Gintarė Klimienė (LT) Room C Juraj Lubik (SK) & Kateřina Mazancová (CZ) |

| Time | Sessions | Speakers |
|-------------|--|---|
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch | |
| | Young Ambassadors' Led Sessions | |
| | Plenary Room <i>Life-Affirming Bingo (45 mins)</i> | Plenary Room Dorka Farkas (HU) |
| | Room A <i>Systems Thinking and the Limits to Growth – Crash Course (45 mins)</i> | Room A Mária Stark (HU) |
| | <i>Wilderness and Volunteer Camps – A way to change and learn (60 mins) – <u>Hybrid</u></i> | Svetlana Vylkova, Mario Shimbov & Nia Toshkova (BG), and Markus Böhm (DE) |
| 14:00-16:00 | <i>A little bird told me – Climate research and awareness raising through bird ringing (15 mins) – <u>Hybrid</u></i> | Patricia Gara (HU) |
| | Room B <i>Climate Fresk Workshop (Part II – 100 mins)</i> | Room B Gintarė Klimienė (LT) |
| | Room C <i>Degrowth! But how? (45 mins) – <u>Hybrid</u></i> | Room C Theodor Marcella Meyer-Krämer & Markus Böhm (DE) |
| | <i>Museum escape rooms – A way to learn and play. (30 mins) – <u>Hybrid</u></i> | Nia Toshkova (BG) |
| | <i>Climate Unites Us (45 mins) – <u>Hybrid</u></i> | Alexandra Striešková and Patrícia Králová (SK) |
| 16:00-16:20 | Coffee Break | |
| 16:20-17:00 | Young Ambassadors Surprise Event | Svetlana Vylkova, Mario Shimbov, Nia Toshkova (BG) |
| 17:00-17:10 | Wrap-up and closure of the event | Thor Morante (Lead Project Coordinator, CEEweb for Biodiversity) |

Day 1 Panel Discussion

Youth Centric Policies and Policies for the Future Generations



Mr Mikuláš Peksa
Member of the European Parliament
Czech Republic

Mr Peksa is a Czech biophysicist, political activist, and an elected member of the European Parliament. His work falls under the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy, as well as Budgetary control, Economic and Monetary Affairs and Tax matters. He started his political career with the Czech Pirate Party where he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament. Mr Peksa also chairs the European Pirate Party and the Tibet Interest Group in the European Parliament, and co-chairs two informal groups — on legalization of cannabis and mental health.



Ms Svetlana Vylkova
Game On! Young Ambassador
Bulgaria

Svetlana is an active change maker with a zeal for climate action and youth leadership. She was selected as Youth Delegate to the COP26, COY17, and the EU Green Deal to represent the voices of youth. She was named SDG Voice and has been engaged in public speaking on the UN SDGs. Svetlana has taken the role of One Young World Coordinating Ambassador for 12 European countries, engaging the brightest young leaders. She has co-founded and led an organisation engaging communities towards sustainable development. Through her work, Svetlana promotes meaningful youth participation and leadership in decision-making processes at all levels.



Ms Béatrice Minh
Project Coordinator
Mindchangers Project

Béatrice has a degree in European, Intercultural and Language Studies. After starting out in teaching, she moved to Brussels and worked for several years in the cultural and non-profit sector, using her experience and expertise to promote access to culture and participation. In 2021, she joined the Ministry of Culture of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation to coordinate the DEAR-funded Mindchangers project at the local level, where she contributes to developing strategies for raising awareness about sustainable development and international solidarity in connection with youth engagement and global citizenship education.



Mr Christophe Bruchansky
International Relations Officer
Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles

Christophe has a master's degree in political science, an additional master's degree in human rights, and a teaching certificate. After his studies, he worked as a project manager in various fields such as culture (in Lyon), diplomacy (in Tel Aviv), and in the teaching and promotion of French (in Groningen). After that, he spent five years as a project manager at the University College Francisco Ferrer of the City of Brussels, working on cross-disciplinary and international projects. In 2021, he joined the Youth Department of the Ministry of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation as International Relations Officer.

Day 2 Panel Discussion

No-one Left Behind: Adaptation for all in times of climate change



Mr Nicolae Ștefănuță
Member of the European Parliament – Group of the Greens / European Free Alliance
Romania

Mr Ștefănuță is a full member of the Committee on Budgets, the Subcommittee on Public Health, and the Delegation for relations with the United States. He is also a Substitute member of the ENVI Committee and the Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee. He is dedicated to positive change in the lives of European citizens with multiple roles in the EP — including lead rapporteur on the budget of the European Union for 2023 — and actively involved in promoting health, protecting the environment, and fighting climate change. His studies in economics and international relations at Georgetown University and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, as well as over 16 years of experience in European institutions, help him meet the challenges of today's world.



Ms Mária Ilona Stark
Game On! Young Ambassador
Hungary

Mária is a student and activist with an interest in sustainability, systems thinking, and climate justice. She engages in the work of NSC-Friends of the Earth Hungary (MTvSz) and participates in the youth programme of Nyt Europa.

She currently works towards engaging the youth in topics of sustainability and climate justice by organizing and managing a series of student club meetings and seminars. She also works as a research assistant for climate and environmental policy for a think tank in Hungary.



Mr Kieran Pradeep
Climate & Energy Justice Campaigner
Friends of the Earth Europe

Parallel Sessions Led by Young Ambassadors



Title: Terra Futura – Gamifying the learning process
Young Ambassadors: Denisa Binderová and Lucie Uxová
Country: Czech Republic
Duration: 120 minutes
Type: Onsite

Terra Futura is a board game developed by *Game On!* partner Na Mysli: a fast yet strategic game with a focus on building your own territory with a self-sufficient economy. But be careful: a messy game can easily stop you!

An engine-building card game with the theme of climate change and its impact on Europe and the global South, Terra Futura aims to highlight that we all live on a planet with limited resources and, as such, we should try to make use of materials as efficiently as possible.



Title: Clothing Upcycling and Refurbishing Workshop
Young Ambassadors: Agnė Bitautaitė and Liza Cvetkova
Country: Lithuania
Duration: 60 minutes
Type: Onsite

The textile industry is responsible for almost 10 % of CO₂ emissions. We can all reduce that by saying 'no' to fast fashion and stop buying new clothes. We are sure you have more than enough in your wardrobes — they just might need a little pinch of creativity and a touch of your hands to be worn again.

With scissors and small patches, you can bring your old T-shirt or jacket back to life. Also, you can make homemade pins from bottle caps just there at our workshop.

IMPORTANT: Please bring a piece of clothing you do not like anymore. It would be best if the clothing would be a cotton or hosiery T-shirt. You can also bring up to 3 pieces that you would absolutely not wear — we will make a little swap during the workshop time.



Title: Sustainable Gardening Workshop
Young Ambassador: Justė Aleksaitė
Country: Lithuania
Duration: 60 minutes
Type: Onsite

Ever wanted to start gardening but you already get stressed when thinking about buying pots and seeds? Actually, seeds are just there — in the vegetables and fruits you eat. You might just need a little information on how to prepare them for sowing. As to pots, they can be made from any

cardboard that is left after unpacking a bigger purchase or even from toilet rolls (we all have that in-house from time to time).

So, sign up for this workshop and start your own small garden at home!



Title: Strategies on how to Get People Excited About Your Climate Campaign
Young Ambassador: Rūdolfs Kivlenieks
Country: Latvia
Duration: 60 minutes
Type: Hybrid

In times of urgent climate concerns, our collective focus is shifting towards sustainability in all aspects of our lives. The world of events and festivals, often regarded as vibrant celebrations of culture and art, is no exception to this global transformation. But what is a sustainable event and how can you measure the impact it

has on the environment around it? What are the steps we can take now — and in the future — to make them more eco-friendly? And, most importantly, what are the challenges in doing that?

Join us for an engaging lecture as we delve into the dynamic relationship between events and festivals and the imperative to achieve climate neutrality.



Title: Events, Festivals and Climate: Strategies for Sustainable Event Management

Young Ambassador: Dāniels Liecis

Country: Latvia

Duration: 60 minutes

Type: Hybrid

In an era where the urgency of addressing global warming has never been greater, the success of climate campaigns relies on reaching different audiences. This 20-minute lecture will delve into the strategies and science of attracting people to your climate campaign and ultimately drive meaningful action.



Title: How the voice of the youth makes a change in COPs? – Short improv theatre

Young Ambassadors: Svetlana Vylkova and Mario Shimbov

Country: Bulgaria

Duration: 50 minutes

Type: Onsite

During the climate Conferences of the Parties (COPs), youth delegations express their voice of change and participate in an important process: making a resolution to be accepted by all parties. In the improv theatre, the Bulgarian YAs will involve other participants with roles of different countries, representing the positions of developed economies, as well as Global South countries, to represent a real COP setting and let the participants experience the creation of solutions.

Young Ambassador Svetlana Vylkova will also share her personal experience from COP26 and COP27.



Title: Plastic, a history and its future. How plastic changed the day-to-day life?

Young Ambassadors: Constantin-Teodor Iordache and Borbála Láng

Country: Romania

Duration: 30 minutes

Type: Hybrid

Plastic: a revolutionary material that changed the way we live. It is lightweight, can be made in any shape, it is durable. But how this commodity changed our lives?

Now that we have a lot of plastic waste, what we can do about it? Some researchers are trying to transform plastic into new materials, such as by using mushrooms; others are trying to decompose it using bacteria and insects. How can these technologies be improved and what are the benefits and drawbacks?



Title: Climate Fresk Workshop

Young Ambassador: Gintarė Klimienė

Country: Lithuania

Duration: 180 minutes

Type: Onsite

In order to take action and build solutions, we first need to understand the problems. Climate Fresk is a powerful tool for providing quality climate education. It is accessible to anyone and can be scaled quickly within an organisation or community.

In just 3 hours, the collaborative Climate Fresk workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to act. The facts in Climate Fresk are sourced from the most respected scientific publications: the IPCC reports. These are the same reports that inform global political and economic decision-making at the highest level.

Climate Fresk is neutral and objective and presents only established scientific facts.



Title: Unlocking the Power of Eco-Conscious Podcasting – From Idea to Impact

Young Ambassadors: Juraj Lubik and Kateřina Mazancov

Country: Slovakia and Czech Republic

Duration: 60 minutes

Type: Hybrid

Join this session to explore the world of ecologically conscious podcasting. Get inspired by 'Honest View Podcast' (@honest_view_podcast) and learn to create your own podcast with a mission, while also check out podcast 'Všetci tu umrieme' ("We're all going to die here") and find out how you can create a podcast that is both interesting and generates interest!

Expect to deal with:

- Naming your child: How should you name your podcast?
- Captivating stories: How did 'Honest View Podcast' come to life? Discover the adventures, challenges, and successes that shaped their impactful content.
- How to choose a good theme?
- From Idea to Success: Gain insights for crafting and refining your podcast. Learn to create engaging content, choose intriguing guests, and leverage social media for greater reach.
- How to pick great speakers and guests?
- How to create a chain of episodes that are connected?
- Sounds that change the world: Delve into the technical aspects of production, from recording to editing and sound design. Learn how to make your voice audible and compelling.
- Do I need to spend hundreds of Euros on sound equipment and software?
- Editing sound and how to do it!
- Expand your influence: explore strategies for growing your listener base and engaging with an environmentally minded community.
- How to promote a podcast?
- Choosing good media to promote it!

Whether you are a budding podcaster, a nature enthusiast, or simply curious about the podcasting realm, this session is for you!



Title: Wilderness and Volunteer Camps – A way to change and learn

Young Ambassadors: Svetlana Vylkova, Mario Shimbov, Nia Toshkova and Markus Böhm

Country: Bulgaria and Germany

Duration: 60 minutes

Type: Hybrid

The Young Ambassadors will showcase how wilderness and volunteer camps can serve not only as an educational instrument, but also as a way to raise awareness, bring solutions, and empower community change.

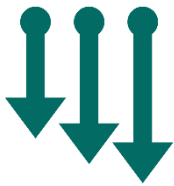
During the presentations, the participants will be able to get in touch with the magnificent Rila mountain lakes, participate in species monitoring in Sakar mountain, see the climate change problems through the eyes of local people from Salash village, and feel the fire of the Strandzha international wilderness camp.



Title: Systems Thinking and the Limits to Growth – Crash Course
Young Ambassador: Mária Stark
Country: Hungary
Duration: 45 minutes
Type: Onsite

Have you ever heard the concepts ‘overshoot’ or ‘planetary limits’? Are you tired of decision makers addressing the climate crisis as an isolated issue? System thinkers prove that the current climate and social crises are an interlinked web of events and variables impacting each other in a difficult system of feedback.

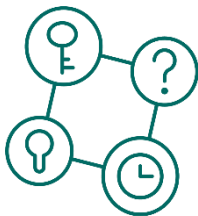
During this presentation, you will gain a basic knowledge of system thinking, the idea of limits to growth, resilience, and degrowth, as well as reading recommendations and a digital summary with the main ideas of the crash course.



Title: Degrowth! But how?
Young Ambassadors: Theodor Marcella Meyer-Krämer and Markus Böhm
Country: Germany
Duration: 45 minutes
Type: Hybrid

This session will deal with the political and economic theory of Degrowth, which is a valuable asset for fighting climate crises. Furthermore, we will have a closer look at mobility and consumption in daily life and how they fit this theory.

Once everyone is on a similar level of understanding on what ‘degrowth’ stands for, we will have an open discussion about ideas on how to help this movement progress. The aim of the workshop is to elaborate on a common action plan.



Title: Museum escape rooms – A way to learn and play
Young Ambassador: Nia Toshkova
Country: Bulgaria
Duration: 30 minutes
Type: Hybrid

In Bulgaria, Game On! partner Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation implemented the BioXcape escape room in partnership with the National Natural History Museum. Escape rooms are an innovative educational approach: team play, the urgency of the time limit, and the critical actions

which are needed — just as real life when we speak about climate change. In this presentation, we will share tricks and tips of the making process.



Title: Climate Unites Us
Young Ambassadors: Alexandra Striešková and Patrícia Kráľová
Country: Slovakia
Duration: 45 minutes
Type: Hybrid

Have you ever thought about making your own event? What does it take to plan it? How does your climate journey affect your life? And who are the people you meet during it? We would like to give you insights from the student-led event Climate Unites Us, followed by a workshop focused on

climate gratitude and the build-up of a stronger sense of the climate movement.



Title: A little bird told me – Climate research and awareness raising through bird ringing

Young Ambassador: Patricia Gara

Country: Hungary

Duration: 15 minutes

Type: Hybrid

When we usually talk about climate change, discussions tend to revolve around carbon emissions or increasing droughts. Relatively little is heard about changes in animal populations, especially birds, as a result of climate change. Although changes are well documented in some places, very few people have access to this information.

Climate plays a huge role in the lives of migratory birds. Bird populations have to cope with disruptions to these fine-tuned systems in different ways. For example, climate affects the distribution of birds, their breeding cycles, and the timing of migration. Therefore, it is particularly important to monitor changes in these populations. One of the best ways to do this is through bird surveys. This activity not only allows us to conduct research but also raises public awareness. Bird-ringing camps are attended by a large number of volunteers from all over Europe. These volunteers pass on the experience and knowledge they have gained and increase the number of people who are thinking responsibly about climate change.



Title: Life-Affirming Bingo

Young Ambassador: Dorka Farkas

Country: Hungary

Duration: 45 minutes

Type: Onsite

The Covid-19 epidemic has highlighted the unsustainability of our globalized lives. Moreover, the epidemic is just one of an increasing number of threats such as climate change, biodiversity loss, extreme social inequality or unprecedented high levels of debt. The causes of the problems are common: we have taken too many resources away from nature, subordinated our communities to an anti-life economy, focused on our comfort and material consumption.

Join us for the workshop and let's take a bingo game together to see how our life, society and economy is life-affirming!