

# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

Geneva & online | 17-18 March 2021



**Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and action and delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region**

## SIDE-EVENT ESD AS A KEY DRIVER FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR CONFRONTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

**10 March 2021**

**12:15 - 13:45 (CET)**

**Organizer: UNECE Steering Committee on ESD**

### NOTE ABOUT THE SIDE-EVENT

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had an impact on every aspect of our lives. In this era of uncertainty, the impact of the pandemic on young people could prove to be one of its most damaging legacies. However, this could be the right moment for youth to take the lead in creating more sustainable and resilient societies by delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Education is a prerequisite for youth empowerment, serving as the key driver for providing young people with the competences, tools and processes that will enable them to be the main actors in the creation of prosperous, just and sustainable societies in which no one is left behind. UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), as the mechanism for integrating ESD in the region, is organizing this side-event as a platform of communication and interaction amongst the stakeholders for exchanging ideas and enhancing the dialogue on ESD and Youth.

### BACKGROUND

This side event is focused on the role of ESD in empowering youth to participate in mitigating the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, as well as engaging youth in actions for creating more resilient societies in UNECE Region. It gives the emphasis to the future framework of UNECE Strategy for ESD and participation of youth in the policy and decision making. It aspires to give a voice to youth representatives of UNECE Steering Committee on ESD to share, discuss and reflect, with other stakeholders, on issues related to education, sustainable development and the role of youth as pillars for the pandemic recovery and intrinsic components for confronting challenges in the post-COVID-19 era.

### OUTCOME

Bring together youth representatives from UNECE Member States, governments, regional and international organizations and civil society to share knowledge and exchange ideas and good practices on how to accelerate ESD for empowering youth for confronting and mitigating the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

**Participants:** Representatives of government entities, relevant UN entities, the international and regional Organizations, non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations of the UNECE Region.

**Note for attention:** Those participants who wish to attend our online side-event should register at the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/34866/> (before 5 March 2021).



# AGENDA

Time	Activity
<b>OPENING SEGMENT</b>	
Aravella Zachariou, Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD Zaal Lomtadze, UNECE Secretariat, Chief of Section	
Segment one: Innovative examples on the role of ESD in empowering youth to become change agents for sustainability and to participate in mitigating the impact of post-pandemic crisis	
<b>12:25-12:50</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Moderator: Simon Herteleer</b>, Coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Network</li><li>• <b>Clara Lauer</b>, “youpaN”, Germany: <i>Innovative ideas for youth participation in ESD policy processes</i></li><li>• <b>Jasna Maric Krajacic</b>, European Commission: <i>The European Commission at the forefront of supporting youth empowerment in times of Covid-19</i></li><li>• <b>Valentyna Kyrychenko</b>, Partnership Network “Education for Sustainable Development in Ukraine”: <i>Methodological and psychological support to the teachers and educators with youth engagement as key agents in adaptation to new educational environment in the pandemic and mitigation of post-pandemic crisis in resilient and sustainable way</i></li><li>• <b>Michel Ricard</b>, NGO Planet’ERE, France: <i>The “Juniors for Sustainable development” in Bordeaux schools</i></li><li>• <b>Tatyana Shakirova</b>, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia: <i>The role of the Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALP) in empowering youth to become change agents for sustainable development in Central Asia</i></li></ul>
<b>12:50-12:55 Questions</b>	
Segment two: Identify and reflect on the challenges of ESD in empowering governments to design inclusive and fair recovery measures that no-one is left behind and to provide that young people are engaged in actions for creating more resilient societies in UNECE Region	
<b>12:45-13:05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Moderator: Monica Reti</b>, National Focal Point of Hungary to UNECE Steering Committee on ESD</li><li>• <b>Radu Georgescu</b>, Romania: <i>Reflecting on approaches related to ESD challenges and governmental mechanisms focused on youth empowerment</i></li><li>• <b>Cathal Swan</b>, United Nations Environment Programme Major Group for Children and Youth (UNEP MGCY): <i>Action on both Education and Sustainable Development Itself</i></li><li>• <b>Tammy Randall and Daniella Tilbury</b>, UK: <i>Futures Forward: Youth empowerment for a sustainable future</i></li><li>• <b>Stelios Yiatros</b>, Cyprus: <i>The EIT Climate-KIC Young Innovators programme in Cyprus</i></li></ul>
<b>13:15-13:20 Questions</b>	
Segment three: Identify and reflect on the role of ESD in empowering a wide range of the national and international stakeholders to support governments in accelerating youth actions for creating more sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies in post COVID-19 era	
<b>13:20-13:40</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Moderator: Daniel Burgos</b>, Vice-rector, Universidad Internacional de La Rioja (UNIR) UNESCO Chair on eLearning</li><li>• <b>Ulrike Pisiotis</b>, European Commission: <i>Education for a Green Future – what’s in it for the young</i></li><li>• <b>Bernard Combes</b>, UNESCO: <i>Empowering and mobilizing youth in favour of ESD for 2030</i></li><li>• <b>Liam Wegimont and Ditta Dolejsiova</b>, Global Education Network Europe (GENE): <i>Synergies with National and European ESD initiatives with young people and their organisations,</i></li><li>• <b>Michael Scoullou</b>, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE): <i>International Cooperation Schemes and their role in empowering youth for creating more just and resilient societies</i></li></ul>
<b>13:40-13:45 Questions</b>	
<b>13:45 Discussion-Concluding Remarks:</b> Aravella Zachariou, Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD	