



MY HEART IS BLUE 4 YOUTH

NEWSLETTER 02

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Highlights from Our Local Youth Participation Events

We are proud to share exciting outcomes from the Blue4Youth local youth participation events held in Greece, Spain, and Cyprus.

These events have created powerful opportunities for young people to engage with critical themes related to environmental protection, the blue economy, and EU youth policy.

Through dialogue, creativity, and collaboration, young participants explored the role they play in shaping Europe's sustainable and inclusive future.

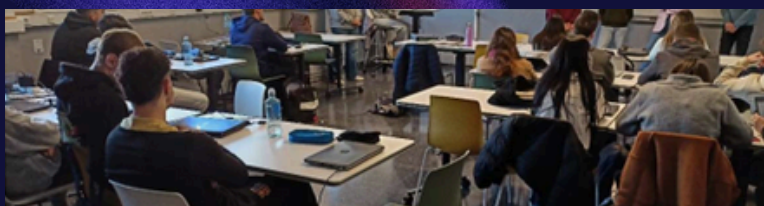
Local Event: Greece – Youth Forum: Shaping the European Vision for a Blue Economy

Location: Greece | October 2024

This youth forum gathered coastal and marginalized youth to discuss and co-create visions for a sustainable blue economy in Europe. The event combined interactive presentations on EU ocean policy, environmental justice, and the European Green Deal with small-group sessions focused on youth mentorship and local action planning.

Young participants examined their role in climate advocacy, learned about the EU Youth Goals #9 and #10,

and engaged in mock consultations to simulate policymaking processes. The forum concluded with a joint manifesto drafted by the participants, outlining their key priorities for ocean protection and youth engagement in marine governance.



Local Event: Spain – Youth Podcast Series: “The Blue Challenge”

Location: Spain | December 2024

Hosted by Blue Beehive, this creative event launched the “Blue Challenge” podcast series, where youth voices take center stage. The event included podcast training workshops, guest sessions with ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) experts, and live recording segments with young hosts discussing EU climate policy, marine sustainability, and ethical investment practices.

The series highlights the value of youth-led communication and digital storytelling in promoting ocean awareness and civic dialogue. Youth participants also created a social media campaign to accompany the episodes and extend their reach into their schools and communities.



Local Event: Greece – Local Talk: Youth Co-Creating Environmental Policy

Location: Greece | October 2024

This public “Local Talk” explored how youth can participate in shaping international frameworks for environmental and marine protection. Through a town hall-style event, participants proposed concrete actions for making youth voices more central in biodiversity and sustainability governance.

Facilitators used interactive methods, including digital whiteboards and role-play, to simulate how laws are made and how youth can influence them. The session concluded with action proposals shared with municipal officials, emphasizing the importance of local-global connections in climate policy.



Youth Mobility Preparation: Cyprus – Youth Laboratory and Roundtable

Location: Cyprus | October 2024

Preparations are underway for our exciting mobility event in Cyprus, where young participants will take part in a Youth Lab and Policy Roundtable with businesses and decision-makers. The event will train youth in policy-making processes, simulate real-world decision-making scenarios, and encourage young people to propose sustainable solutions within the blue economy.

This event is designed to boost youth understanding of policy dynamics while fostering the development of leadership and entrepreneurship skills.



Reflections and Next Steps

The Blue4Youth events so far have revealed the depth of youth commitment to ocean sustainability, climate justice, and civic engagement. These gatherings have served as platforms for learning, co-creation, and activism, preparing participants to become stronger advocates at both local and European levels.

As we look ahead, the reflections, ideas, and proposals collected will directly inform the Youth Policy Toolkit and the upcoming Debatable Hackathon with Politicians, where youth will represent their ideas as Blue Economy Ambassadors.

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