



Generation SDG

Deciphering the SDGs for the everyday lives of Youth

Case Studies

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Introduction

Case study 1

Case Study Title	Nigeria Youth Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Network
Overview	Established in April 2017, the Nigeria Youth SDGs Network is a coalition of youth-led and youth-focused civil society organisations dedicated to localising the United Nations SDGs in Nigeria. The network aims to mobilise young Nigerians to actively participate in sustainable development efforts, ensuring that youth perspectives and innovations contribute to national and global SDG agendas.
Implementation	The network operates through a multifaceted approach: Advocacy and Policy Engagement: The network engages with policymakers to integrate youth priorities into national development plans, ensuring that youth voices are represented in decision-making processes related to the SDGs. Capacity Building: Through workshops, training sessions, and seminars, the network enhances the skills and knowledge of young people, empowering them to contribute effectively to sustainable development initiatives. Community Outreach: The network organises campaigns and projects at the grassroots level, addressing various SDGs such as quality education, gender equality, and climate action, thereby fostering community involvement and awareness. Partnerships and Collaborations: By partnering with international organisations, government agencies, and the private sector, the network uses resources and expertise to extend the impact of youth-led SDG initiatives.



Impact	The Nigeria Youth SDGs Network has significantly increased youth participation in sustainable development processes across the country. Its initiatives have led to the inclusion of youth perspectives in national SDG strategies, enhanced the capacities of young individuals and organisations to implement SDG-related projects, and raised awareness about the importance of sustainable development among Nigerian youth.
Learning Points	• With support from Youth Champions and local partners, NG Youth SDGs are advocating for meaningful youth engagement in policies and programmes for youth to lead and thrive. • Partnerships between youth organisations, government, and other stakeholders enhance the effectiveness and reach of SDG initiatives.
Link	• https://nigerianyouthsdgs.org/ • <i>Example:</i> Youth Activators Lab (YAL) • YAL is a one-year programme for young people between the ages of 18 and 29 who will work with the NG Youth SDGs to advocate for meaningful youth engagement in policies and programmes for young people to lead and thrive in Nigeria. https://nigerianyouthsdgs.org/programmes/#yal

Case study 2

Case Study Title	European Youth Goals
Overview	The European Youth Goals represent a collective vision of young Europeans, addressing various aspects of their lives and aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Developed during the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue in 2017-2018, these eleven goals reflect the aspirations and concerns of European youth, aiming to influence the EU Youth Strategy for 2019-2027.
Implementation	The European Youth Goals were formulated through extensive consultations with young people across Europe. This participatory process ensured that the goals genuinely represent the diverse perspectives of European youth. 1. Connecting EU with Youth 2. Equality of All Genders 3. Inclusive Societies 4. Information & Constructive Dialogue 5. Mental Health & Wellbeing 6. Moving Rural Youth Forward 7. Quality Employment for All 8. Quality Learning 9. Space and Participation for All 10. Sustainable Green Europe 11. Youth Organisations & European Programmes The goals serve as a framework for the EU Youth Strategy, guiding policies and actions at the EU, national, regional, and local levels. They aim to mobilise various stakeholders, including policymakers, youth organisations, and young individuals, to work collaboratively towards achieving these objectives.
Impact	The adoption of the European Youth Goals has led to increased recognition of youth issues within EU policymaking. They have provided a structured approach to addressing challenges faced by young people and have influenced the development of programmes and initiatives aimed at youth empowerment and participation. By

	aligning with the SDGs, the Youth Goals contribute to broader sustainable development efforts within Europe.
Learning Points	• Engaging young people in the policymaking process ensures that their needs and aspirations are accurately represented. • Holistic Approach by addressing a wide range of issues—from education and employment to mental health and environmental sustainability—requires coordinated efforts across multiple sectors. • Integrating the Youth Goals with the SDGs extends their impact and fosters global solidarity.
Link	• https://youth-goals.eu/youthgoals • <i>Example: #1 Connecting EU with Youth</i> • An increasing number of young people lack trust in the EU and encounter difficulties in understanding its principles, values, and functioning. Youth goal #1 Foster the sense of youth belonging to the European project and build a bridge between the EU and young people to regain trust and increase participation. https://youth-goals.eu/yg1

SDG 1. No Poverty

Case study 1

Goal 1	No Poverty
Case Study Title	Youth Empowerment in Social Entrepreneurship (Germany)
Overview	In Germany, a youth-led initiative called "StartHope@Home" provides opportunities for young refugees and locals to develop social entrepreneurship skills. This programme focuses on using entrepreneurship as a tool to address social issues, including poverty, by fostering economic integration and empowerment.
Implementation	Participants take part in hands-on entrepreneurial training that supports them with practical skills for business development, with a particular emphasis on creating ventures that drive social impact. Throughout the programme, experienced entrepreneurs serve as mentors, offering personalised guidance and valuable advice to help participants refine their business ideas and overcome challenges. Additionally, regular networking events provide a platform for young entrepreneurs to connect with potential investors and key players in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem, fostering collaboration and opportunities for growth.
Impact	Participants have successfully launched a range of social enterprises that not only address pressing social issues but also contribute to the economic development of their local communities. This initiative has significantly enhanced their employability, training them with the skills and confidence needed to secure meaningful opportunities. Furthermore, it has strengthened their integration into the community, positioning them as proactive contributors to social and economic well-being.



Learning Points	• Entrepreneurship can be a powerful tool for social change and economic empowerment. • Engaging young people in social entrepreneurship can help tackle poverty by creating job opportunities and fostering inclusive communities.
Link	• https://socialimpact.eu/starthope

Case study 2

Goal 1	No Poverty
Case Study Title	Youth Engagement in Policy Advocacy (Sweden)
Overview	In Sweden, the "Youth for Sustainable Development" programme engages young people in advocacy efforts to influence policies related to poverty reduction and sustainability. This initiative empowers youths to participate in political processes and contribute to shaping policies that impact their communities.
Implementation	Youth participants actively engage in policy workshops designed to educate them about the intricacies of policymaking and provide them with the skills to advocate for meaningful change. Through close collaboration with local and national policymakers, they contribute valuable youth perspectives to strategies aimed at reducing poverty. Additionally, participants take the lead in organising public campaigns and raising awareness about the importance of sustainable development and the collective effort required to combat poverty effectively.
Impact	The programme has effectively influenced various local and national policies, driving progress in areas such as social justice and economic equality. It has also played a key role in raising awareness among policymakers about the importance of integrating youth perspectives into the policy-making process, ensuring that their voices contribute to shaping a more inclusive and equitable society.
Learning Points	Engaging young people in policy advocacy promotes inclusivity and ensures that policies reflect the diverse needs of the community.



	Youth-led advocacy can lead to significant policy changes that contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development.
Link	https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-04/Sweden_2021.pdf

SDG 2. Zero Hunger

Case study 1

Goal 2	Zero Hunger
Case Study Title	Youth Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme (Netherlands)
Overview	In the Netherlands, the "Youth Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme" empowers young people to lead the way in creating sustainable agricultural enterprises. This initiative aims to address food security and combat hunger by providing youth with the tools and knowledge to innovate in the agricultural sector. Through focusing on sustainability, the programme ensures that its impact extends beyond short-term solutions to address long-term food security challenges.
Implementation	Participants engage in intensive, hands-on training covering sustainable agricultural practices, innovative technologies, and business management strategies. They learn about climate-smart solutions such as drip irrigation, crop diversification, and the use of digital tools like IoT for precision farming. Mentorship forms a core component of the programme, with seasoned agricultural experts providing personalised guidance. These mentors help participants refine their business ideas, identify potential markets, and overcome practical challenges. Networking events organised by the programme serve as a bridge, connecting young entrepreneurs with investors, agricultural suppliers, and policymakers. Additionally, participants are encouraged to collaborate, sharing knowledge and resources to create community-driven solutions that address hunger more effectively.



Impact	The programme has facilitated the launch of several successful agricultural start-ups, which now contribute to local food production and reduce dependency on imported goods. These ventures have not only addressed food insecurity but have also boosted the local economy by creating job opportunities and promoting sustainable practices. The programme has also significantly improved the employability of young participants, supporting them with skills that are highly valued in the agricultural and sustainability sectors. Moreover, these efforts have strengthened rural communities, fostering resilience and innovation.
Learning Points	• Empowering youth in agriculture can address hunger and ensure the sustainability of food systems. • A combination of training, mentorship, and networking opportunities fosters long-term innovation and impact in the agricultural sector. • Youth-led agricultural ventures create ripple effects, strengthening community ties and economic stability.
Link	• https://www.wur.nl/en/show/Youth-entrepreneurship-in-agriculture-and-food-systems-1.htm

Case study 2

Goal 2	Zero Hunger
Case Study Title	Saving Food (Belgium, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom)
Overview	The "Saving Food" initiative is a European project implemented in Belgium, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom. It actively engages young people in educational activities centred on food security and food waste reduction. The project empowers youth and develops key skills among youth workers, supporting disadvantaged young individuals at risk of exclusion. By promoting intersectoral cooperation across youth work, environmental, and sustainable economy sectors, the project addresses important issues like food security and zero waste.
Implementation	The project provides training for youth workers, supporting them with practical tools and competencies to support young people. Activities include workshops, educational resources, and awareness campaigns that focus on the importance of food security and actionable steps to combat food waste. Participants collaborate with local communities and organisations to implement food recovery strategies and redistribution networks, ensuring surplus food is used effectively.
Impact	"Saving Food" has enhanced the capacities of youth workers while fostering stronger synergies among key educational and social actors. The initiative has raised awareness among young people about food security and waste reduction, helping to build more sustainable and resilient communities. The project's direct impact includes reducing food waste, improving food redistribution systems, and empowering youth to lead change in their local contexts.



Learning Points	• Educating young people on food security and waste reduction has a significant impact on community sustainability. • Cooperation across sectors is essential for effectively addressing food security challenges. • Youth involvement fosters innovation and long-term engagement in tackling hunger and sustainability issues.
Link	• https://savingproject.eu/

SDG 3. Good Health and Well-being

Case study 1

Goal 3	Good Health and Well-being
Case Study Title	Healthier Together – EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative
Overview	Launched by the European Commission in December 2021, the "Healthier Together" initiative aims to support EU countries in identifying and implementing effective policies to reduce the burden of major NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health, and neurological disorders. The initiative emphasises addressing health determinants and reducing inequalities, with a focus on gender disparities in NCD prevalence and outcomes.
Implementation	The initiative involves collaboration among EU Member States, stakeholders, and experts to develop best practices and guidelines. It includes five strands: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and neurological disorders, and health determinants. Gender perspectives are integrated into each strand to ensure that interventions address specific needs of different genders.
Impact	Through incorporating gender-sensitive approaches, the initiative aims to reduce NCD-related mortality and morbidity among both men and women.



	It seeks to improve health outcomes by tailoring prevention and management strategies to address gender-specific risk factors and barriers to healthcare access.
Learning Points	• Integrating gender perspectives into health initiatives ensures that interventions are equitable and effective. • Collaboration among countries and stakeholders enhances the development and implementation of best practices. • Addressing health determinants and inequalities is key to reducing the burden of NCDs.
Link	• https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en

Case study 2

Goal 3	Good Health and Well-being
Case Study Title	WHO - Europe's Support in Addressing Gender Inequalities in Health
Overview	The World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) assists countries in addressing gender inequalities in health by developing and adapting tools and guidelines, integrating gender analysis into information systems, and disseminating evidence and data. This support aims to reduce gender disparities in healthcare access and outcomes, particularly concerning NCDs
Implementation	WHO/Europe provides capacity building and training for healthcare providers and policymakers to implement gender-sensitive health interventions. It also supports gender-specific projects and interventions that address the unique health needs of different genders, focusing on reducing risk factors and improving access to healthcare services for NCDs.
Impact	Countries receiving support have developed and implemented gender-sensitive health policies and programmes, leading to improved healthcare access and outcomes for both men and women. These efforts contribute to reducing the prevalence and impact of NCDs by addressing gender-specific risk factors and barriers to care.
Learning Points	• Capacity building and training are key for implementing gender-sensitive health interventions. • Developing and adapting tools and guidelines facilitate the integration of gender perspectives into health policies and programmes.



	Addressing gender inequalities requires a comprehensive approach, including data analysis, policy development, and community engagement.
Link	https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/gender/supporting-countries-in-addressing-gender-inequalities#tab=tab_1

SDG 4. Quality Education

Case study 1

Goal 4	Quality Education
Case Study Title	Inspira STEAM – Encouraging Girls in Science and Technology in Spain
Overview	Inspira STEAM is a pioneering project in Spain aimed at increasing the participation of girls in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). The initiative addresses the gender gap in these fields by providing mentorship and promoting female role models to inspire young girls to pursue STEAM careers.
Implementation	The project engages female professionals from STEAM sectors to volunteer as mentors for young girls. These mentors conduct sessions in schools, sharing their experiences and providing guidance. The programme also includes workshops and activities designed to spark interest in STEAM subjects among girls aged 10 to 14.
Impact	Inspira STEAM has reached over 3,000 girls across different regions in Spain, significantly increasing their interest in STEAM subjects. The programme has also raised awareness about the importance of female representation in these fields, contributing to a gradual shift in cultural perceptions regarding women in science and technology.
Learning Points	• Mentorship from female professionals provides relatable role models, encouraging girls to envision themselves in STEAM careers. • Early engagement in STEAM activities helps to sustain girls' interest in these subjects throughout their education.



	Community involvement and support are key for challenging and changing gender stereotypes in education and career choices.
Link	https://www.euromedwomen.foundation/pg/en/sharedpractices/view/8763/inspira-steam-pioneer-project-from-spain-for-more-girls-in-science-and-tech https://inspirasteam.net/

Case study 2

Goal 4	Quality Education
Case Study Title	Finland's Approach to Inclusive Education
Overview	Finland is renowned for its inclusive education system, which integrates students with diverse needs into mainstream classrooms. This approach ensures that all students receive equal educational opportunities, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds.
Implementation	The Finnish education system provides three tiers of support: general, intensified, and special support. Teachers receive comprehensive training to identify and address the individual needs of students. Collaboration among teachers, special educators, and teaching assistants is emphasised to create supportive learning environments.
Impact	This inclusive approach has led to high educational outcomes and low variance in student performance across Finland. Students with special needs are successfully integrated into mainstream education, promoting social cohesion and equal opportunities.
Learning Points	• A tiered support system allows for early intervention and tailored assistance for students with diverse needs. • Comprehensive teacher training is essential for effectively implementing inclusive education practices. • Collaboration among educational professionals enhances the support provided to students, fostering an inclusive learning environment.



Link

- <https://finlandeducationhub.com/exploring-the-finnish-approach-to-inclusive-education/>

SDG 5. Gender Equality

Case study 1

Goal 5	Gender Equality
Case Study Title	Mobilising Youth for Gender-Inclusive Cities (MAAT Project)
Overview	The MAAT project, funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, aims to foster active citizenship among young people by involving them in research and policymaking to enhance urban inclusivity through a gender perspective. Coordinated by Università Telematica Internazionale - UNINETTUNO (Italy), the project includes partners from Italy, Cyprus, Romania, and Serbia.
Implementation	MAAT engages youth through participatory approaches, allowing them to lead initiatives that promote gender-inclusive urban environments. Activities include workshops, urban analyses, and the development of policy recommendations, all designed and executed by young participants. The project emphasises collaboration with local authorities and communities to ensure that the voices of young people are integrated into urban planning and development processes.
Impact	The project has empowered young people to become active agents of change, enhancing their understanding of gender issues in urban settings and training them with skills to advocate for inclusivity. Through fostering dialogue between young people and policymakers, MAAT has contributed to more gender-sensitive urban policies and increased awareness of the importance of inclusive city planning.



Learning Points	• Engaging youth in participatory research and policymaking fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility toward community development. • Addressing gender inclusivity in urban planning requires collaboration between young people, local authorities, and communities. • Providing platforms for youth-led initiatives enhances their capacity to influence policies and promote sustainable change.
Link	• https://maatproject.eu/

Case study 2

Goal 5	Gender Equality
Case Study Title	Youth Promoting Gender Equality: Safer Cities for Girls
Overview	Organised by Plan International's offices in Spain and Belgium, this initiative focuses on empowering young people to advocate for safer urban environments for girls. The project addresses issues such as gender-based violence and discrimination in cities, aiming to create inclusive spaces where girls feel safe and valued.
Implementation	The project engages youth through workshops, advocacy training, and participatory urban assessments. Young participants collaborate with local authorities and community members to identify safety concerns and develop action plans. The initiative also utilises social media campaigns to raise awareness and mobilise support for creating safer cities for girls.
Impact	The initiative has successfully raised awareness about the safety challenges girls face in urban areas and has empowered young people to take an active role in advocating for change. Collaborations with local authorities have led to tangible improvements in urban safety measures, and the project has fostered a greater sense of agency among young participants.
Learning Points	• Youth-led assessments provide valuable insights into the safety concerns of girls in urban areas. • Collaboration with local authorities is key for implementing effective safety measures.



	• Social media is a powerful tool for raising awareness and engaging the community in advocacy efforts.
Link	• https://participationpool.eu/project/youth-promoting-gender-equality-safer-cities-for-girls/ • SALTO Awards 2021 Winner - Safer Cities for Girls in Belgium and Spain - https://youtu.be/0fUVXYhcY9E?feature=shared

SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation

Case study 1

Goal 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
Case Study Title	Youth for Water and Climate Programme
Overview	The Youth for Water and Climate (YWC) Programme is an impactful capacity-building initiative designed to empower young professionals to lead and innovate in the water and climate sectors. Led by a coalition of organisations including the International Secretariat for Water, Solidarity Water Europe, CEWAS, Global Water Partnership, Global Water Partnership Hungary, Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, and Good Planet Belgium, the Programme aims to foster youth-led solutions for sustainable water management, climate resilience, and SDG achievement, while also building a global youth partnership to address skill gaps in water and climate sectors.
Implementation	The YWC Programme provides a comprehensive approach to youth empowerment through various components: Mentorship: Each participant is paired with an experienced professional from the water and climate sector, meeting at least monthly to receive guidance and insights. A guide was developed to maximise the mentorship experience for both mentors and mentees. Community of practice: An online, secure platform for collaboration where participants can share ideas, access resources, discuss thematic topics, and find internship and job opportunities. This community fosters knowledge-sharing, feedback, and leadership development.



	In-person workshops: From the pilot YWC Programme, two in-person workshops were organised, during which the youth met up in Hungary and Sweden as part of their professional enhancement curriculum. These in-person workshops were greatly impactful for the participants, allowing them to gain access to knowledge, and experience and to develop connections with their peers, mentors and leading organisations. Internship support: Partner organisations assist participants in securing internships, providing practical experience and a pathway to career opportunities in water and climate. Online curriculum: The YWCP partners developed the YWC Curriculum, an open-source and freely available online course which aims to inform, motivate and prepare European youth to develop innovative and disruptive solutions to tackle some of the planet's biggest challenges, train them with the needed leadership skills and methodologies to develop their (professional) personality to make a real change, and provide them with methodologies and tools to implement water & climate solutions either as an independent entrepreneur or in a professional career in an existing organisation. YWC Roadbook: This resource, developed post-pilot phase, offers a guide to replicating the YWC Programme, allowing other organisations and youth to adopt and expand the initiative.
Impact	The YWC Programme has had a significant impact on participants, providing them with both theoretical and practical skills needed to drive change in water and climate issues. Many participants have launched bankable projects addressing local water and climate challenges, while others have secured roles in leading organisations within the sector. By creating a pipeline of skilled young professionals dedicated to sustainable water management and climate action, the programme has strengthened the capacity for climate resilience across Europe. The success of the pilot phase has led to the creation



	of resources such as the YWC Roadbook, enabling the programme's replication and expansion.
Learning Points	• Peer-to-peer education is a powerful tool for engaging young people on sensitive health topics, as youth are more likely to trust and relate to their peers. • Structured mentorship enhances youth learning and professional growth, providing guidance and real-world insights into the water and climate sectors. • In-person workshops offer invaluable opportunities for experiential learning, networking, and hands-on skills development, creating long-lasting connections. • A community of practice ensures continuous knowledge sharing and support, promoting a collaborative approach to water and climate challenges. • Open-source curricula and resources allow for wider accessibility and replication, expanding the programme's impact across different regions and organisations.
Link	• https://youthwaterclimate.org/ywc-programme/ • https://sswm.info/perspective/building-your-water-climate-career

Case study 2

Goal 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
Case Study Title	WaterScope®: Smart, simple water tasting – for all
Overview	WaterScope® is a youth-led initiative supported by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme. WaterScope® is a social impact start-up founded in 2015 at the University of Cambridge. With a mission to ensure inclusive access to reliable and affordable water testing, the initiative addresses the critical challenge of bacterial contamination in drinking water. Globally, water-borne bacterial infections lead to half a million diarrhoeal-related deaths each year—more than 2000 deaths every day. This is more than malaria and HIV-related deaths combined. Testing water supplies for bacterial presence is therefore imperative, especially in remote and low-resource communities. The WaterScope® system, developed in collaboration with end-users, maintains scientific accuracy while being low-cost and effective across various environments. The initiative integrates smart sensor technology, community engagement, and open-source solutions to address water management and safety challenges across Europe.
Implementation	Development of the WaterScope® system: The team, consisting of biologists, physicists, and engineers, designed a low-cost and user-friendly water testing device to detect bacterial contamination. The system combines reliability and ease of use, making it adaptable to a variety of environments. Using robust materials and machine learning technology which automatically counts bacterial colonies such as E. coli, the testing system can be used anywhere—from the lab to the field—and can identify the presence of coliforms in 8 hours, with fully quantitative results provided in 21 hours.

	Pilot programmes across Europe: Piloted in urban neighbourhoods in the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and Germany, WaterScope® engaged with local communities to address water safety and conservation. Funding and partnerships: Secured over £900,000 in non-dilutive funding to employ staff, refine prototypes, and scale the initiative. Capacity building and community workshops: Conducted workshops to educate communities about water testing and encourage water conservation practices.
Impact	WaterScope® is based in Cambridge, UK, and has worked in Tanzania, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Bangladesh, Colombia, South Africa, Switzerland, and the US. Their goal is to use water testing systems all over the world. Thanks to the WaterScope®, communities all over the world now have access to affordable and easy-to-use tools for bacterial water testing. The project's open-source model has inspired similar initiatives in Greece, Poland, and Hungary. In addition, WaterScope's data influenced local governments to prioritise smart water management in urban planning.
Learning Points	• User-centred innovation: Designing solutions with and for end-users ensures effectiveness and adoption. • Youth leadership: Empowering young people creates a sustainable and proactive approach to water safety challenges. • Affordable solutions: Making technology affordable and accessible is critical for widespread adoption and long-term sustainability. • Commitment to SDG 6: WaterScope® aligns its mission with SDG 6, contributing to the global initiative to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."



Link

- <https://waterscope.org/>

SDG 7. Affordable and Clean Energy

Case study 1

Goal 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
Case Study Title	Young Energy Ambassadors Programme
Overview	Launched in 2023, the Young Energy Ambassadors Programme is a pioneering initiative supported by the European Commission, aimed at fostering youth involvement in Europe's sustainable energy transition. The programme seeks to engage young professionals aged 18 to 34 from diverse backgrounds, empowering them to become ambassadors for clean energy and sustainability throughout Europe. By connecting the next generation of energy leaders with the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), the initiative supports the European Green Deal's goals of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 while promoting youth participation in energy innovation and policymaking.
Implementation	The Young Energy Ambassadors initiative aims to strengthen the connection between the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) and young individuals, fostering their interest and involvement in the sustainable energy sector. The selected Young Energy Ambassadors have the chance to represent EUSEW's young audience and act as multipliers of the event campaigns. The group is formed by thirty young people around Europe, from different sectors/career stages (studies, employment, personal engagement, etc.). The selection process prioritises diversity in terms of gender, age, profession, and nationality. Over the course of their ambassadorship, participants engage in outreach initiatives designed to promote the EUSEW campaign



	across digital platforms, local communities, and professional networks.
Impact	Responsibility and commitment: Participating in the Ambassadorship programme will entail taking positive actions to embark on the energy transition, and inspiring or encouraging others to join. Ambassadors will contribute concrete, science-based, trustworthy actions with clear and, ideally, measurable outcomes that demonstrate their impact. Ambition: To achieve the energy, climate, and environmental goals, we need to challenge long-standing behaviours and assumptions. Ambassadors can contribute to this objective by exhibiting behaviours that are coherent with the European climate neutrality goal. Action tailored to national and local contexts: Ambassadors' actions are adapted to European as well as national and local contexts. The closer to people's day-to-day reality, the better. Ambassadors are invited to share their knowledge about European energy policy, programmes or opportunities in their local community, especially with young people.
Learning Points	The programme has successfully bridged the gap between youth and policymakers by promoting the voices of young professionals in energy dialogues during high-profile events like EUSEW. The programme also successfully demonstrates the importance of engaging young professionals as active contributors to the energy transition in the EU.
Link	• https://sustainable-energy-week.ec.europa.eu/young-energy-ambassadors/young-energy-ambassadors/young-energy-ambassadors-guidelines_en

Case study 2

Goal 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
Case Study Title	Generation Climate Europe (GCE)
Overview	Generation Climate Europe (GCE) is the largest coalition of youth-led networks at the European level advocating for climate, energy and environmental action. Established in September 2019, GCE unites over 20 million young Europeans across 381 national organisations in 46 countries. Its mission is to provide a platform for youth to advocate for a just and green transition in Europe, in line with the European Green Deal and climate neutrality goals by 2050. GCE envisions a sustainable, human rights-based future where youth voices are central to decision-making.
Implementation	GCE operates through a structured framework that empowers young people to influence European policies: Policy advocacy: GCE formulates evidence-based policy demands across areas like biodiversity, clean mobility, circular economy, and energy justice. The coalition advocates for systemic change and institutional reforms to integrate climate action across all EU policies. Youth empowerment: GCE engages young Europeans through campaigns, consultations, and workshops, providing them with the skills and knowledge to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes. Collaborative efforts: GCE works with NGOs, EU institutions, and other stakeholders to integrate youth perspectives and foster inclusive climate governance. GCE's activities are guided by two overarching programmes: • System change: Advocating for policies that promote sustainable development and climate resilience.

	• Institutional relations: Strengthening youth inclusion in EU climate and environmental decision-making.
Impact	• Advancing climate policy: GCE's advocacy efforts have helped position youth as key stakeholders in European climate policy. Its initiatives have contributed to the European Parliament's adoption of ambitious climate measures, including the European Green Deal. • Youth-led influence: Through its extensive coalition, GCE has brought the voices of millions of young Europeans to the forefront of climate discussions, influencing policy on biodiversity, clean energy, and climate justice. • Capacity building: GCE has empowered young leaders with the tools and platforms to take part in critical climate dialogues, fostering a generation of informed and proactive advocates for sustainability.
Learning Points	• Unified youth leadership: A coalition of youth organisations can effectively influence high-level policy decisions when guided by a shared vision and clear objectives. • Intersectional and inclusive approaches: Recognising diverse perspectives, including marginalised and underrepresented voices, strengthens the effectiveness of climate and energy advocacy. • Collaborative networks: Partnering with institutions and organisations ensures that youth voices are integrated into systemic and institutional change.
Link	• https://gceurope.org/

SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth

Case study 1

Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
Case Study Title	Start It Smart – Fostering Youth Entrepreneurship in Bulgaria
Overview	Start It Smart is an entrepreneurship organisation founded in 2009 by five fellow students at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Today as one of the leading youth entrepreneurship organisations in Bulgaria, is dedicated to inspiring and supporting young innovators to transform their ideas into successful businesses. The initiative aims to tackle youth unemployment and promote sustainable economic growth by fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.
Implementation	Start It Smart offers programmes like Pre-Accelerator, an intensive 10-week course that guides young entrepreneurs through building and validating their business ideas. Participants receive mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs, access to a vast network of industry professionals, and tools to pitch their ventures to investors. The organisation also hosts events like Startup Weekend Sofia, where young people collaborate to develop business ideas in just 54 hours.
Impact	Since its launch, Start It Smart has supported over 200 startups and trained more than 5,000 young entrepreneurs. The businesses born from its programmes have created hundreds of jobs across industries such as technology, education, and sustainability, contributing to Bulgaria’s economic growth. Additionally, the programme actively promotes inclusivity, with a significant focus on empowering young women in entrepreneurship.



Learning Points	• Structured programmes like pre-accelerators provide youth with practical skills and confidence to launch businesses. • Collaborative events foster innovation, networking, and real-world entrepreneurial experience.
Link	• https://www.startitsmart.com/en/

Case study 2

Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
Case Study Title	Turning Ideas into Action for Social and Economic Change
Overview	The Social Impact Award (SIA) is a youth-focused initiative that provides youth with the skills, tools, and support to launch social enterprises. The award was established at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation) in 2009 and is currently available in over 20 European countries. The programme aims to address unemployment and promote decent work through innovation.
Implementation	Participants join workshops on social entrepreneurship, project management, and impact measurement. SIA offers seed funding, mentoring, and access to a network of like-minded changemakers. Key projects include initiatives tackling labour market access for refugees and creating sustainable, inclusive workspaces.
Impact	Since its launch, SIA has helped 500+ youth-led projects, with 60% becoming fully operational businesses. These enterprises have created over 2,000 jobs while addressing critical social issues, demonstrating how youth can combine economic growth with social impact.
Learning Points	• Empowering youth with entrepreneurial skills can address both economic and social challenges. • Funding and networking opportunities are important for scaling social enterprises.
Link	• https://socialimpactaward.net/ • WU Social Entrepreneurship centre

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Case study 1

Goal 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Case Study Title	Industry 4.0 (Germany)
Overview	Commonly known as the 4th Industrial Revolution, this initiative was initially conceived in Germany and due to its success quickly spread around the globe. It is a formal representation of the revolution in manufacturing by utilising and integrating advanced digital technologies in industrial production. The key technologies used in Industry 4.0 are: • Artificial Intelligence (AI). Used to analyse vast amounts of data it optimises manufacturing processes saving time, effort and of course money. • Machine Learning (ML). By using algorithms industries can forecast future growth and adjust their processes for optimization of their gain. • Automation/ Robotics. Automation systems and collaborative robots that collaborates with humans allow the manufacturing process to run smoothly. It eliminates risks and makes the production run faster. • Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR). Ideal for training employees and simulating scenarios to avoid hazards or enhance the repair of machinery.
Implementation	Industry 4.0 maximises the beneficial use of AI and ML for data analysis, trend forecasting and eventually optimization of the process.



	Automation and robotics contribute greatly to the promotion of safety and speed-up procedures while AR and VR support repairs and training.
Impact	• Artificial Intelligence (AI): allows the analysing of massive datasets and thus makes decision-making procedures easier and faster. • Machine Learning (ML): Increases profit by enhancing methods used for its prediction and enables efficient performance monitoring. • Automation and Robotics: Speed up production and enhance risk and safety management. • AR and VR: Promote skills development, and simulation of risks and thus risk management and contribute to fast and effective repairs of machinery.
Learning Points	Industries must change their priorities. Enhancing the workforce's skills in the use of AI, robotics and data literacy should be the number one goal. Additionally, they need to invest more in simulation training using AR/ VR technologies to maximise risk assessment and management and enhance safety. Overall, industries need to start planning their development in a more strategic way using the exchange of knowledge, experiences and collaboration so that they can ensure continuous progress.
Link	• https://www.plattform-i40.de/IP/Navigation/EN/Home/home.html

Case study 2

Goal 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Case Study Title	Amsterdam Smart City (Netherlands)
Overview	Not only is Amsterdam the capital of the Netherlands but it claims the title of the most representative example of a “smart city” in the world. There is a disproportionate connection between its population and the land it covers which has led to typical urban challenges like pollution, congestion and uncontrollable use of energy resources. For over 15 years, the city has been using a smart network, created to improve and upgrade infrastructure and thus elevate its inhabitants' quality of life. That's why the city has decided to rename the innovation to “Amsterdam in Change”.
Implementation	• Electric vehicles. The city has committed to zero CO2 emissions and promoting/ implementing measures for the use of electric vehicles instead of gas ones is one of the first things they did. • Smart parking. In extension to the above measure, the city has been using an innovative parking management system which collects real-time data and informs drivers of available parking spots. This minimises congestion, not to mention that promotes drivers' mental well-being. • Sustainable infrastructure via exploitation of natural energy resources (e.g. solar panels for road lights, smart grids for efficient industrial and domestic energy distribution, water management). • Promotion of circular economy by extensive recycling and promotion of re-use of materials in all aspects of life. • Collaboration between the government and the people. All data are available to citizens, in real-time, and they are

	encouraged to participate in decision-making. This allows transparency and promotes citizens' active participation.
Impact	The initiatives adopted by the city of Amsterdam have led to the reduction of CO2 emissions and thus improved air quality. Additionally, energy efficiency has been boosted and has created a healthier environment. Smart- parking has reduced traffic congestion which has improved the mental health of the residents. All the sustainable practices followed have elevated the level of life for the citizens and promoted their active participation.
Learning Points	• Understanding that by addressing transportation and energy issues we promote sustainability and improvement of urban life. • Using technology in a beneficial way towards collecting real-time data and enhancing the use of smart systems towards reducing inefficiencies. • Promoting active participation of the citizens leads to transparency and effectiveness of decision-making.
Link	• https://amsterdamsmartcity.com/

SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities

Case study 1

Goal 10	Reduced Inequalities
Case Study Title	The Roma Inclusion Strategy
Overview	The EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation for 2020-2030 was developed by the member countries of the EU to promote inclusion of Roma people within its borders. The Roma community faces severe inequalities in all aspects of life and shows high rates of poverty, employment, and lack of education. Moreover, members of the specific community face discrimination and experience a lack of proper housing or access to sanitation and water.
Implementation	Ways in which the strategy will be implemented are: • Through educational programmes that will uplift language barriers, provide access to schooling for Roma children and promote cultural sensitivity. • By developing housing programmes that promote a community-based model and enhance all its aspects (e.g. healthcare, socializing). • By developing and implementing employability policies and at the same time enhancing upskilling via training programmes tailored to the needs of the Roma population. • By incorporating intense mentoring in workspaces. • By using social media platforms to raise awareness and fight stereotypes. • By involving stakeholders in a way that promotes transparency and ensures effective use of the funding.
Impact	• Enhancement of efforts for inclusion and integration of the Roma population into society.



	• Contribution to lower levels of unemployment within the circles of Roma people and enrichment of the employability sector with additional cultural elements. • Elimination of stereotypes and reduction of discrimination. • Promotion of equality and respect for fundamental human rights.
Learning Points	Tailoring educational and training programmes to the culture of the Roma community enhances participation and outcomes. Additionally, mentoring in the workplace ensures an efficient experience transferability and boosts long-term success in employability. Finally, transparency in implementation procedures and consistent efforts to raise awareness highlight the importance and effectiveness of the initiative and prepare the ground for similar future actions.
Link	• https://www.euromanet.eu/news/the-ec-launches-a-new-eu-roma-framework-for-equality-inclusion-and-participation-2020-2030/

Case study 2

Goal 10	Reduced Inequalities
Case Study Title	The EU Pillar of Social Rights
Overview	The European Pillar of Social Rights, proclaimed in 2017 by the European Parliament, Council, and Commission, aims to promote inclusion and equal opportunities in Europe. It contains twenty key principles: 1. Equal opportunities and access to employment. 2. Fair working conditions. 3. Inclusion and social protection. 4. Access to healthcare. 5. Childcare and support for children. 6. Support for the elderly. 7. Support with finding a job. 8. Fair wages. 9. Access of employees to information regarding their employment conditions. 10. Work-life balance. 11. Labour markets that promote inclusion. 12. Access to VET and lifelong learning. 13. Participation in decision-making for employees. 14. Non- discrimination in employment. 15. Gender equality in employment. 16. Support for job transitioning. 17. Access to proper and affordable housing. 18. Access to basic services (e.g., water, sanitation, energy). 19. Promotion of long-term social inclusion. 20. Sustainability concerning social rights.
Implementation	These key principles can become a reality with the support of different mechanisms and organisations such as:



	• The Social Scoreboard: a scoreboard of key statistical indicators used for screening the employment and social performance rates of Member States. • The European Semester: yearly reports that ensure that the budgetary and economic policies on national levels are in line with the ones agreed at the EU level. • The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+): the main instrument that the EU uses for implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights to invest in people's development.
Impact	Through transnational collaboration and cooperation between different mechanisms, the European Pillar of Social Rights is paving the way towards a more inclusive and equitable European community that is characterised by consistency in policy and decision-making procedures.
Learning Points	• Design and implementation of policies that address total inclusion. • Promotion of continuous learning and maximization of opportunities for training that is up to date with socio-economic needs. • Identification of vulnerable groups and the specific gaps in their needs. • Promotion of active participation to strengthen transparency in decision-making. • Understand how society can become healthier by responding to the tailored needs of its members (e.g. fostering flexible working conditions).
Link	• https://www.epr.eu/what-we-do/policy-analysis/european-pillar-of-social-rights/

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

Case study 1

Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
Case Study Title	Smart City in Helsinki- Uusimaa, Finland
Overview	If citizen engagement had a face that would be the Helsinki- Uusimaa community in Finland. Citizens there are very active and have formed collaborations with companies to create a smart city for them to live in. The city is a world leader in creating new businesses and making data public while using technological advancements. Its development spreads across all areas of infrastructure (housing, transportation, urban planning, healthcare, and well-being). The city aims to be carbon-neutral by 2035 thus the tremendous efforts in achieving sustainability. The Helsinki Smart Region is a champion when it comes to using IoT and AI towards evolution and industrialisation. The country itself ranks 1st for the best business environment – judging by this it's understandable why the city of Helsinki managed to mark such progress.
Implementation	The implementation of the initiative involves: • Maximization of citizens' engagement in decision-making and implementation. • Effective utilisation of IoT and AI and continuous development of people's digital skills via training and educational programmes. • Promotion of sustainability in all areas of communal life like infrastructure, transportation, housing, etc.

	Encouraging industries to embrace innovation and adopt an eco-friendly approach while investing in upskilling their workforce.
Impact	Successful implementation will lead to an enhanced quality of life for all citizens, boost economic growth, and enhance efforts for achieving 2035 Carbon-Neutral goals. Additionally, it will uplift society as it will allow each citizen individually to feel more involved and thus promote people's empowerment and involvement.
Learning Points	The success of the Helsinki smart city initiative highlights the importance of cooperation on an organisational level. When local governments, people, and stakeholders of the industrial sector combine skills, ideas, and experience the results can be greater than expected. AI and IoT technologies can also significantly enhance communal development. upgrading of urban spaces, effective waste management systems). Lastly, consistent, and clear communication of the goals to be achieved in combination with transparent procedures followed towards their completion guarantees that the results are undeniable by all.
Link	https://youtu.be/0p3caCppKLE?si=an7x3Jtt9NH-xQwT

Case study 2

Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
Case Study Title	Affordable Housing Initiative, Vienna, Austria
Overview	Vienna holds global recognition as the most affordable capital to live in. Renters pay a third of what renters pay in other major capital cities like London or Paris. The reason for this is the fact that most of the socially rented apartments in the city are owned by the government instead of private landlords. This makes Vienna the largest home-owning city in Europe. Many of these “superblocks” were built in the 20s & 30s but the majority were built after World War II. Even though similar communal buildings in other cities are characterised by low-income inhabitants and are connected to increased crime activity (ghettoes).
Implementation	The implementation of the policy includes the following: • Non-private house-owning: Rental properties are owned by the city and state government. This allows for better control of the rental prices and monitoring of the housing stock. • Longevity in plans for housebuilding: most of the properties were built sometime around the mid-20th century and went through several renovations. This is an excellent example of long-planning in infrastructure. • Housing and social integration on equal terms: The fact that people of all socio-economic levels can access housing in the complexes leads to an even social integration of its residents and allows better provision of services.
Impact	Thanks to the initiative, rental prices in the city have remained up to a fair level and contributed to lowering poverty and unemployment rates. This alone became a source of social stability in the area



	enhanced by undisturbed urban development. Residents of the area experience certainty in fundamental areas of living (e.g. housing and employment) which allows them to focus on their well-being and boosts their desire to contribute to the further development of the community via active participation.
Learning Points	The success of the Vienna model demonstrates that: • Government-owned housing is more effective than private-owned as it restrains rental prices and leads to social stability. • Variations in the socioeconomic status of residents in a community add to efforts for progress and promote inclusion and equality. • Long-term urban planning is the solution to uncoordinated growth and enhances sustainability. • People feel empowered and motivated to engage in decision-making when the environment they live in is characterised by democratic procedures and meritocracy.
Link	• https://youtu.be/NrDflyccNxQ?si=cNJPquggU-318D7P

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production

Case study 1

Goal 12	Sustainable Consumption and Production
Case Study Title	ARMEDANGELS
Overview	ARMEDANGELS, established in 2007 in Cologne, Germany, by a group of young people, is a fashion brand committed to transforming the industry through sustainable and ethical practices. The company focuses on producing high-quality, enduring clothing using eco-friendly materials and fair labour practices, aiming to reduce the negative impacts of fast fashion.
Implementation	ARMEDANGELS integrates sustainability into every aspect of its operations: Eco-Friendly Materials: The brand uses organic cotton, organic wool, recycled polyester, and organic linen. These materials are certified by organisations such as the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and the Fair Wear Foundation, ensuring low environmental impact and ethical production. Fair Labour Practices: They collaborate with socially responsible companies, ensuring fair wages and safe working conditions throughout its supply chain. The company is a member of the Fair Wear Foundation, which works to improve labour standards in the garment industry. Circular Economy Initiatives: The brand has launched a resale platform to extend the lifecycle of its products and reduce waste. Additionally, it has developed t-shirts with a circularity ID, facilitating recycling and promoting a closed-loop system.



Impact	ARMEDANGELS' commitment to sustainability has led to significant positive outcomes. By using eco-friendly materials and renewable energy in its supply chain, the brand reduces its carbon footprint and minimises the use of harmful chemicals, water, and wastewater in production. Also, the company's fair labour practices ensure that workers receive fair wages and work in safe conditions, contributing to improved livelihoods and community well-being.
Learning Points	• Adopting a Holistic Approach. Integrating sustainability into all facets of business operations; from material sourcing to labour practices, can lead to comprehensive positive impacts. • Open communication about sourcing, production processes, and sustainability goals builds consumer trust and sets industry standards. • Investing in sustainable materials and circular economy initiatives can drive industry change and reduce environmental impact.
Link	• https://www.armedangels.com/eu-en

Case study 2

Goal 12	Sustainable Consumption and Production
Case Study Title	Team Repair
Overview	An award-winning company founded by a team of Design Engineers from Imperial College London. Its mission is to increase STEM uptake and tackle the e-waste crisis, using repair. Team Repair are introducing repairing to young people to address the e-waste crisis by. Inspired by their childhood experiences of dismantling and fixing broken items, the founders aim to share this hands-on approach to demonstrate the fun and educational aspects of science, technology, and engineering.
Implementation	Team Repair offers educational programmes designed to teach children aged 8-14 how to repair electronic gadgets. These programmes include: At-Home Kits: Subscription-based repair kits delivered to homes, allowing children to engage in hands-on repair activities under parental supervision. School Programmes: Classroom repair kits accompanied by educational materials and lesson plans, enabling educators to integrate repair activities into their curriculum. Each kit contains a real gadget with a built-in fault, challenging children to diagnose and fix the issue. This process not only imparts practical repair skills but also reinforces scientific concepts related to the gadget's operation. The programme emphasises learning through play, fostering curiosity and confidence in young learners.
Impact	Team Repair's initiatives have reached over 5,000 students, providing them with the confidence to repair and a deeper understanding of STEM subjects. Feedback from educators highlights the project's



	effectiveness in engaging students and enhancing their problem-solving abilities. Additionally, by promoting repair over replacement, the project contributes to reducing electronic waste and fostering sustainable consumption habits among young people.
Learning Points	• Hands-On Learning: Engaging students in practical repair activities enhances their understanding of scientific principles and develops critical thinking skills. • Sustainability Education: Teaching repair skills introduces a sense of responsibility towards the environment and encourages sustainable consumption practices. • Accessible STEM Engagement: Providing structured programmes with comprehensive materials makes STEM education more accessible and appealing to a diverse student population.
Link	• https://www.team.repair/about-us

SDG 13. Climate Action

Case study 1

Goal 13	Climate Action
Case Study Title	Fridays For Future: A Global Youth Movement for Climate Action
Overview	A global campaign organised by young people, Fridays for Future (FFF) calls for swifter and more robust climate action. Greta Thunberg started the FFF in August 2018 with weekly school strikes to express disapproval of the lack of climate change action. Millions of young people worldwide have been motivated by the movement to support policies that are consistent with the Paris Agreement and take part in climate strikes. FFF emphasises the necessity of keeping global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and works on the tenets of non-violence, inclusivity, and science-based campaigning.
Implementation	The FFF is a grassroots, decentralised organisation where young activists plan community gatherings, educational initiatives, and climate strikes. FFF encourages young people to participate in worldwide climate strikes and spread awareness of the climate problem by leveraging the power of social media and internet platforms. Young people work with like-minded organisations, lobby governments, and plan protests by organising local chapters. Additionally, the movement gives young people the tools and resources they need to take the lead in community-based initiatives. FFF has been instrumental in swaying public sentiment and putting pressure on decision-makers to commit to more aggressive climate goals in Europe and beyond.



Impact	With millions of participants in more than 150 countries, the Fridays for Future movement has achieved widespread awareness. Through its initiatives, youth voices in the struggle for climate justice have been promoted and worldwide awareness of the climate issue has increased. The movement has influenced various national and international policy discussions, including the UN Climate Summits and the European Green Deal. FFF has also served as an inspiration for other youth-led climate change initiatives.
Learning Points	• By using social media for education and mobilisation, youth-led, decentralised movements can have an international influence. • The effectiveness of grassroots activism increases when local chapters and global networks work together. • Giving youth the opportunity to spearhead climate initiatives encourages a sense of urgency and accountability in local communities. • Governments can be convinced to enact more stringent climate measures through persistent advocacy and public pressure.
Link	• https://fridaysforfuture.org/

Case study 2

Goal 13	Climate Action
Case Study Title	Rise Up Movement
Overview	Youth for Future Africa, an organisation that encourages young Africans to take up environmental advocacy and climate action, is formed by Vanessa Nakate, a Ugandan activist. This movement acknowledges the particular difficulties that the African continent faces because of climate change and aims to provide young people with the resources and venues they need to spread awareness and put sustainable solutions into action. The project changed its name to the Rise Up Movement to include more African voices in the international climate debate.
Implementation	The movement started by using grassroots mobilisation as a tool. Organising climate strikes and local advocacy campaigns to educate communities about the climate crisis led to interesting educational initiatives. Rise Up Movement began conducting workshops and seminars to build knowledge and skills among young people, enabling them to lead climate-related projects. Also, they are putting a lot of attention to creating partnerships and collaborating with global organisations to ensure African climate activists have a presence at international platforms such as COP conferences.
Impact	So far, the Rise Up Movement has achieved to: • Mobilise thousands of African youths to participate in climate strikes, drawing international attention to the disproportionate impact of climate change on Africa. • Advocate for renewable energy adoption and reforestation projects, contributing to local and global climate resilience.



	• Ensure representation of African perspectives in international discussions, emphasizing the need for equity and climate justice.
Learning Points	• Grassroots initiatives led by youth can effectively mobilise communities and advocate for policy change. • International collaboration is key to promoting marginalised voices and achieve equitable climate solutions. • Education and capacity-building empower youth to lead meaningful climate actions within their communities.
Link	The Rise Up Movement does not have an official website, but it uses the social media channels of Vanessa Nakate, its founder: • https://x.com/vanessa_vash • https://www.instagram.com/vanessanakate1/

SDG 14. Life Below Water

Case study 1

Goal 14	Life Below Water
Case Study Title	Sea Ranger Service
Overview	The Sea Ranger Service is a social enterprise based in the Netherlands that combines youth employment with marine conservation. It recruits and trains young people as Sea Rangers to conduct maritime operations, including ecosystem restoration and marine management. This innovative approach focuses on building sustainable livelihoods while ensuring the protection of marine resources, aligning directly with Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.
Implementation	The Sea Ranger Service operates through a structured programme where young people undergo significant training in collaboration with maritime experts and institutions. Once trained, Sea Rangers are deployed on missions to monitor and restore ocean biodiversity, conduct research, and assist in tasks such as underwater environment restoration. This initiative collaborates closely with governmental bodies and environmental organisations to ensure its efforts align with national and global conservation goals.
Impact	1. Youth meaningful engagement and employment-generating conservation work. 2. Contribution to restoring underwater ecosystems, such as seagrass meadows, which play a critical role in carbon sequestration and marine biodiversity. 3. Supporting sustainable ocean management and conservation research in marine protected areas.



	4. Inspires similar initiatives globally by showcasing a scalable model of youth-led ocean conservation.
Learning Points	• Combines employment with environmental conservation that brings sustainable outcomes for youth and ecosystems. • Community and governmental partnerships are important for the success of conservation efforts. • Training and empowerment of young people foster innovation and a long-term commitment to environmental stewardship.
Link	• https://searangers.org/

Case study 2

Goal 14	Life Below Water
Case Study Title	The Pearl Protectors
Overview	Established in 2018, The Pearl Protectors is a youth-led volunteer organisation in Sri Lanka focusing on marine conservation. The initiative focuses on reducing plastic pollution and safeguarding marine ecosystems through awareness campaigns, advocacy, and active volunteer engagement. Their mission is to protect Sri Lanka's marine environment by raising awareness about the beauty of marine ecosystems and fostering passionate individuals.
Implementation	The Pearl Protectors execute various projects and campaigns, including: Nurdle Free Lanka: Launched in response to the MV X-Press Pearl disaster, this campaign mobilises volunteers to remove plastic nurdles from Sri Lanka's shorelines, utilising sieving tools and conducting shoreline surveys. Turtle Patrol: Volunteers patrol beaches during nesting seasons to protect sea turtle eggs from poaching, ensuring the safety of these endangered species. Cleaner Seabeds for Sri Lanka: An underwater expedition aimed at removing marine litter, such as plastic waste and abandoned fishing nets, from the seabed and reefs along the coastline. Pearl Protector Approved Certification: A standardisation certificate recognising restaurants and food vendors that eliminate single-use plastic items, promoting sustainable practices in the food industry.



Impact	• Volunteer Engagement: The organisation has built a great volunteer platform, engaging over 2,000 individuals in marine conservation efforts. • Policy Advocacy: Advocated for legislative changes to ban single-use plastics and improve marine environmental policies. • Public Awareness: Conducted educational programmes and awareness campaigns, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship among the public
Learning Points	• Youth Mobilisation: Engaging young individuals in conservation efforts can lead to significant environmental and societal benefits. • Community Involvement: Collaborative efforts with local communities enhance the effectiveness of conservation initiatives. • Innovative Approaches: Implementing creative solutions, such as certification programmes, can promote sustainable practices across various sectors.
Link	• https://pearlprotectors.org/

SDG 15. Life on Land

Case study 1

Goal 15	Life on Land
Case Study Title	Youth Protecting Biodiversity through GYBN Global Youth Biodiversity Network
Overview	Organised by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), this initiative mobilises young people worldwide to take action in preserving and restoring biodiversity. With a focus on addressing deforestation, habitat loss, and species extinction, GYBN empowers youth to advocate for sustainable policies and practices that protect life on land. The project highlights youth-led biodiversity conservation, aiming to create a global movement to protect ecosystems for future generations.
Implementation	GYBN engages youth through biodiversity training workshops, capacity-building programmes, and advocacy campaigns. Participants collaborate on projects such as reforestation initiatives, monitoring endangered species, and developing educational materials to promote biodiversity awareness in local communities. The network also works closely with international policymakers, representing youth voices at global biodiversity forums such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Through partnerships with local and international organisations, GYBN facilitates grassroots projects that align with global biodiversity goals. Social media and digital platforms play a key role in extending the reach of GYBN's campaigns, enabling the network to inspire and mobilise young people from diverse regions.

Impact	The initiative has empowered thousands of young people to actively participate in biodiversity conservation efforts. Local projects supported by GYBN have led to tangible outcomes such as restored habitats, increased awareness of endangered species, and improved community engagement in sustainable practices. Youth delegates representing GYBN at international conferences have successfully influenced biodiversity policies, ensuring the inclusion of youth perspectives in key decisions. The project has also strengthened connections between young environmentalists globally, fostering a sense of collective responsibility and collaboration.
Learning Points	• Youth-led initiatives bring innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation and community engagement. • Partnerships with policymakers and local communities are so important for driving sustainable change. • Digital tools and social media enhance advocacy efforts, enabling global collaboration and awareness-raising.
Link	• https://www.gybn.org/ • <i>Example:</i> Reforestation in Indonesia - Eyes on Indonesia • GYBN collaborated with local youth groups in Indonesia to combat deforestation by planting native tree species in degraded forest areas. This project restored over 100 hectares of land, improved biodiversity, and engaged communities in sustainable forest management practices. https://eyesonindonesia.com/2024/06/28/reforestation-in-indonesia/

Case study 2

Goal 15	Life on Land
Case Study Title	Kids for Tigers Programme by Sanctuary Nature Foundation
Overview	The "Kids for Tigers" programme, initiated by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation in 2000, is an educational outreach initiative aimed at instilling love and respect for nature among children across India. The programme seeks to create awareness about tiger conservation and the importance of preserving natural habitats through interactive activities, workshops, and educational materials.
Implementation	The programme engages students through a diverse range of activities designed to foster a deep understanding and appreciation for wildlife and ecosystems. Nature trails and workshops provide experiential learning opportunities, allowing students to explore natural habitats firsthand and gain practical knowledge about biodiversity. School campaigns play a key role in raising awareness by educating students about the ecological importance of tigers and the urgent need for their conservation. Additionally, the programme hosts festivals and competitions, such as art contests, debates, and themed festivals, which not only encourage creativity but also promote active participation in conservation efforts. To further supplement these activities, the programme distributes educational materials such as books and newsletters, ensuring that students remain informed and inspired to contribute to the protection of wildlife and natural habitats. Together, these initiatives create a comprehensive and impactful learning experience for students.
Impact	Since its inception, the "Kids for Tigers" programme has reached over a million children across India. It was recognised by the Limca Book of Records for creating the world's largest 'Save The Tiger' scroll. The



	programme has successfully raised awareness about tiger conservation, inspired youth participation in environmental activities, and contributed to a growing movement advocating for wildlife protection.
Learning Points	• Youth Engagement: Early education and involvement of children in conservation efforts can lead to a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. • Interactive Learning: Experiential activities such as nature trails and workshops enhance understanding and appreciation of biodiversity. • Community Involvement: Engaging schools and communities can extend the reach and impact of conservation messages. • Recognition and Motivation: Acknowledgment of efforts, such as record-setting initiatives, can motivate continued participation and enthusiasm among young conservationists.
Link	• https://www.sanctuarynaturefoundation.org/ • <i>Example:</i> Kids For Tigers • Kids for Tigers introduces children to nature in a gentle, reassuring and encouraging manner. The schools are enrolled in the year-long programme and teachers are engaged in the Environmental Leadership Workshop to incorporate them into the Kids for Tigers curriculum. https://www.sanctuarynaturefoundation.org/projects/kids-for-tigers

SDG 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Case study 1

Goal 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
Case Study Title	Building Bridges through Dialogue
Overview	Organised by the Search for Common Ground (SFCG), this initiative empowers youth to become peacebuilders in conflict-affected regions. By fostering dialogue and understanding, the programme aims to reduce tensions, prevent violence, and strengthen community relationships. The project addresses issues such as interethnic tensions, lack of representation in decision-making processes, and the erosion of trust in institutions. It promotes inclusive participation and provides young people with the tools to advocate for peaceful solutions and justice in their communities.
Implementation	The programme engages youth through a comprehensive approach that includes peacebuilding workshops, capacity-building activities, and community dialogue forums. Workshops on conflict resolution provide participants with essential skills in mediation, negotiation, and effective communication, enabling them to handle conflicts constructively. Through youth leadership programmes, young leaders are supported to organise impactful community initiatives that foster social cohesion and advocate for justice. The programme also facilitates community dialogue forums, creating a space where diverse stakeholders, including youth, local authorities, and community leaders, can address grievances and build mutual trust. To further extend its reach, the programme utilises media campaigns for awareness, leveraging social media and local radio



	stations to promote messages of peace and justice, engage broader audiences, and encourage active civic participation. These initiatives empower youth to become agents of change and strengthen community resilience.
Impact	The Search for Common Ground (SFCG) initiative has successfully empowered hundreds of young people to become agents of peace in their communities. Through dialogue forums, trust among diverse groups has improved, leading to collaborative solutions for local issues. Many youth participants have gone on to advocate for justice reforms and increased transparency in local governance. The media campaigns have raised awareness about the importance of peaceful conflict resolution, and community projects initiated by trained youth leaders have fostered a culture of cooperation and mutual respect.
Learning Points	• Youth involvement is key in creating lasting peace and fostering trust in institutions. • Dialogue and inclusive participation can break down barriers and resolve deep-seated conflicts. • Media and storytelling are powerful tools for spreading messages of peace and inspiring community action.
Link	• Search for Common Ground (SFCG): https://www.sfcg.org/ • <i>Example:</i> AU-EU Youth Voices Lab • AU-EU Youth Voices Lab – Power of the Collective is a four-year EU-funded project implemented by a 5-member consortium comprising Oxfam Intermon, Restless Development, Search for Common Ground, Youth-Makers Hub, and Make-Sense Africa. The project seeks to create a more youth-responsive and inclusive society in Africa and Europe. https://www.sfcg.org/project/au-eu-youth-voices-lab-power-of-the-collective/

Case study 2

Goal 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
Case Study Title	European Youth Parliament
Overview	European Youth Parliament (EYP) is a peer-to-peer educational programme that brings together young people from across Europe to discuss current topics in a parliamentary setting. Founded in 1987, EYP aims to inspire and empower young Europeans to become open-minded, tolerant, and active citizens. EYP provides a platform for young people to engage in intercultural dialogue, develop critical thinking, and understand the principles of democracy and human rights. Through its sessions and events, EYP fosters mutual understanding and cooperation among youth from diverse backgrounds, contributing to the promotion of peace, justice, and strong institutions in Europe.
Implementation	EYP operates through a network of 40 European associations and organisations. It organises over 500 events annually, including regional, national, and international sessions. During these sessions, participants are divided into committees to discuss various topics, culminating in a General Assembly where resolutions are debated and voted upon. This structure allows participants to experience parliamentary procedures firsthand, enhancing their understanding of democratic processes.
Impact	EYP has engaged thousands of young Europeans in its activities, providing them with the skills and knowledge to participate actively in democratic processes. Many alumni have pursued careers in politics, international relations, and other fields where they contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions and the promotion of justice and human rights.



Learning Points	• Involving young people in discussions about current issues fosters a sense of responsibility and active citizenship. • Experiencing parliamentary procedures enhances understanding and appreciation of democratic institutions. • Bringing together youth from diverse backgrounds promotes mutual understanding and peace.
Link	• https://eyp.org/ • <i>Example:</i> European Youth Parliament • The European Youth Parliament is one of Europe's largest youth platforms for civic education, intercultural encounters, and the exchange of ideas – run by young people, for young people. Our mission is to inspire and empower a young generation of informed, open-minded, responsible, and active citizens who shape society and drive impact.

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals

Case study 1

Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals
Case Study Title	Global Partnership for Education - Youth Leaders programme
Overview	The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) actively involves youth in its mission to strengthen education systems in developing countries. Recognising the important role of young people in driving educational change, GPE has established programmes to promote youth voices and empower them as advocates for education. Launched in 2018, the GPE Youth Leaders programme engages youth leaders to raise awareness about educational challenges, mobilise communities, and influence policy decisions to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.
Implementation	GPE selects young leaders annually through a competitive process that prioritises individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to education advocacy and community engagement. These youth leaders receive training in advocacy, leadership, and communications, supporting them with the skills needed to effectively influence education policies and mobilise stakeholders. Once trained, youth leaders work at multiple levels: • engage their communities by organising events, conducting awareness campaigns, and meeting with local authorities to address barriers to education, such as gender inequality, financial constraints, and infrastructure challenges. • They participate in consultations with national governments to influence education financing plans, ensuring youth voices are reflected in policy decisions.

	attend international events such as the GPE Financing Conference, UN High-Level Political Forums, and education summits, where they share their stories and advocate for increased investment in education. A key aspect of the programme is fostering collaboration between youth leaders, civil society organisations, and policymakers to build sustainable partnerships that enhance education systems.
Impact	The GPE Youth Leaders Programme has empowered dozens of young people to drive meaningful change in their communities and countries. For example: In Malawi, youth leader Joseph mobilised stakeholders to address the lack of sanitary facilities in schools, resulting in improved attendance rates for girls. In Nepal, youth leader Laxmi worked to increase awareness of the importance of education for marginalised communities, influencing local authorities to allocate additional resources for underprivileged schools. In Uganda, youth leaders advocated for increased funding for education during the national budgeting process, securing commitments to improve teacher training and school infrastructure. Through their efforts, GPE youth leaders have raised awareness of the urgency of education financing, bridged gaps between youth and decision-makers, and demonstrated how youth-led advocacy can contribute to SDG 4 and SDG 17.
Learning Points	- Engaging young people as equal partners in decision-making ensures that policies address the needs and aspirations of future generations. - Capacity Building - by providing training and resources supports youth with the tools to advocate effectively and contribute meaningfully to education systems. - Collaborative Partnerships between youth, civil society, and governments strengthen education systems and foster sustainable development.



Link

- GPE transforms education systems:
<https://www.globalpartnership.org/>
- *Example:* Improving Girls' Access to Education in Malawi
- The 'Improving Secondary Education in Malawi' (ISEM) programme, which is supported by the European Union has been described as a "rescuer" by beneficiaries, especially learners. Learners credited the ISEM programme for smoothing their path to achieving their dreams through goal setting training, self-assertiveness, bursaries, and donations of bicycles, school uniforms, and learning materials.

Case study 2

Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals
Case Study Title	Young European Leadership (YEL)
Overview	Young European Leadership (YEL) is an international non-profit and nonpartisan organisation founded in 2013, and headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. Its mission is to empower young Europeans by providing high-level leadership development opportunities and facilitating their engagement with decision-makers across Europe and beyond. YEL organises delegations to significant international events, enabling youth participation in policy discussions and promoting partnerships that align with Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17): Partnerships for the Goals.
Implementation	Young European Leadership (YEL) operates through various programmes and activities: Y7 and Y20 Summits: YEL organises the European Union's delegations to the Youth Seven (Y7) and Youth Twenty (Y20) Summits, the official youth events of the G7 and G20. These summits convene young leaders to deliberate on global challenges and propose innovative solutions, which are subsequently presented to world leaders. UNFCCC COP Delegations: YEL sponsors youth delegations to the annual United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP), providing young Europeans with the platform to engage in climate policy discussions and advocate for sustainable solutions. European Health Parliament Delegations: YEL organises delegations to the European Health Parliament, allowing young professionals to contribute to health policy debates and promote public health initiatives across Europe.



	Publications and Events: YEL publishes the "European Stars" magazine, covering topics related to European politics and youth engagement. The organisation also participates in events hosted by the European Business Summit, the OECD, the Paris Peace Forum, and the European Committee of the Regions, among others.
Impact	Through its initiatives, YEL has enhanced youth participation by providing platforms for young Europeans to engage directly with policymakers, contributing to more inclusive and representative decision-making processes. In addition, YEL supported youth with essential skills in public speaking, negotiation, and policy analysis, fostering a new generation of informed and active leaders. They facilitated cross-border partnerships among youth, encouraging the exchange of ideas and collaborative solutions to global challenges.
Learning Points	• Providing leadership development opportunities empowers youth to take on significant roles in their communities and beyond. • Connecting young leaders across borders fosters mutual understanding and collaborative efforts towards common goals.
Link	• https://younglead.eu/ • <i>Example:</i> European Delegation to the Y20 Summit • YEL's delegation to the Y20 Summit successfully advocates for the inclusion of youth perspectives in the G20's recommendations on various topics. E.g. Climate action, and digital education. Delegates create the Y20 Communiqué - documents that outline youth priorities. Y20 (2024 Brazil) Y20 (2023 Canada)



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