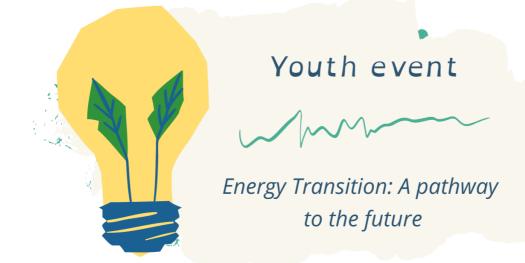
Youth Event

Energy Transition: A pathway to the future



1-3 October 2021 | online

Co-organized by:



In early October (1-2-3/10/2021), YES-Europe Greece organised a three-days event in collaboration with our local partners UN Sustainable Development Solutions Youth Network - Black Sea (SDSN Youth Black Sea) and NGO Move It, which focused on issues related to energy and sustainable development.

The goal of the event was to inform and raise awareness among young people (aged between 18 to 30 years old) about energy and energy transition, the connection between energy and sustainable development, environment and climate change and the Greek and European policies and institutions active in the energy sector.

The event was highly successful considering that the feedback we received was encouraging and all of the participants would be willing to attend such an event again in the future and/or suggest it to their networks!

We are in total, deeply grateful to the speakers for kindly accepting our invitation and to all the participants, whose contribution was intense all along the event's agenda and kept a high level of interesting and fruitful discussions.

Some of the event's highlights:

• We started with a quick quiz to get the participants introduced to the topics that would be discussed in the event.

• Dr. George Skevis, gave a speech on "Sustainable Energy Basics: Science for Policymakers" and introduced the participants to the broad concept of energy, providing them with useful information to trigger further research.

• Dr. Nikolaos Theodosiou raised important and interesting points about the SDGs, with his presentation on "Sustainable Development, Energy and Environmental Protection", where he noted that "the goals are not 17 but one: our future. It is just pursued through the different yet interconnected 17 goals".

• Dr. Gerasimos Rodotheatos held the first speech of the 2nd day of the event, through which he introduced us to the term "Energy Transition" and the importance of it taking place in a just way.

• Dr. Ioannis Tsipouridis held an insightful speech regarding the current challenges of the energy transition in the EU and the world, highlighting the severe inequalities that still need to be addressed, while he provided a pathway for the next steps in the future.

• Mrs. Iliana Papacharalampous gave us an interesting speech on the regulatory framework of the EU on the energy transition and talked also on the importance of the new EU climate law.

• Mrs. Elena Zafeiratou, representing our partner, Interphoton Group, presented the course of the green energy investments in Greece throughout the recent years and provided useful insights on the greek energy market.

• Dr. Stavros Mavrogenis in a lively and insightful speech presented the importance and the context of the Just Energy Transition and the Decarbonization of the energy sector in the country.

• Dr. Theodoros Zachariadis talked about the role of the Energy Transition in the Green Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Following, during a roundtable discussion included in the program, the VP of the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN), Mr. Miguel Mósca, presented the organisation talking about how the youth can be at the heart of the energy transition;

• Then, the two representatives of the Global Schools Program, an initiative of UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Mrs. Raquel Armendariz and Mr. Emmanuel Michael Emechete provided their points of view about the importance of Education for Sustainable Development and STEM education to K-12 students.

• Mr. George Peltekis, closing the second day of the event, talked about the use of digital tools for the optimization of the Energy Systems and the effective achievement of the energy transition.

• The 2nd day of the event ended with an interactive activity about the ecological and energy footprint, facilitated by Mrs. Evangelia Savvidou, UN SDSN Youth Black Sea 's Coordinator and Mr. Charis Stavridis, SDSN Black Sea 's Manager. During the activity, the participants explored the aforementioned concepts, learned about the Earth Overshoot Day, and the status of SDG 7 in Greece and the Mediterranean region. They also calculated their footprint, shared their thoughts and views, and explored ways to reduce their footprint.

• In the 3rd and last day of the event Dr. Phoebe Koundouri provided an interesting, insightful and inclusive speech regarding the energy transition in the EU and the world and all the measures that have been taken towards this pathway, especially since 2015.

• Last but not least, the participants were asked to act as numerous different stakeholders and negotiate within a case study example, similar to the characteristics of an actual case in Greece, in order to decide about the energy future and the decarbonization of "Energyland" and a region of it, highly dependent on coal. The 2-hour interactive activity was facilitated by Mrs. Evi Makri, Country Representative of YES-Europe Greece and Mrs. Alkistis Giogiou, President of NGO Move It.

We are very grateful for the successful completion of our event and thankful to all the speakers and participants.

Following you can find some photos of this beautiful and interesting ride!

