



Girls and Women Connecting
for Environmental Change

GIRLS AND WOMEN CONNECTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

WHAT PRIORITIES AND INSTRUMENTS TO PUT GENDER EQUALITY AT THE CENTER OF CLIMATE SOLUTIONS?

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND NETWORKING EVENT

**BRUSSELS
16 FEBRUARY 2023
17:00 - 19:00**

ORGANISED BY DIGITAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



DIGITAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
INTERNATIONAL



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About

“We4Change: Girls and Women connecting for environmental change” aims to contribute to the EU Youth Strategy by engaging, connecting and empowering young people with skills and confidence to contribute to prosperous and cohesive societies.

Adopting a gender specific approach, We4Change is concentrated on empowering girls and young women from disadvantaged backgrounds with digital and environmental citizenship skills and a changemaking attitude. The gender perspective is essential because the youth area remains highly influenced by gender-based inequalities. Specifically, young women, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, face gender specific challenges related to education, employability and civic participation. As such the project is addressed to this target group because they are the most at risk to suffer irreversible effects caused by gender inequalities, accentuated by the current social, economic and environmental situations, reducing their access to and control over (basic) resources, access to education and information, and access to decision-making processes, leading to lost opportunities, lack of self-confidence and interest to be actively involved in society.

Responding directly to the needs of young women to break down stereotypes, develop their creativity and confidence and contribute to society, the project developed the concept of **"We4Change Changemakers Events"**, **an innovative combination of hands-on activities, training on digital, innovation and environmental awareness skills, problem-solving and co-creation of prototypes to address climate change.**

Educational resources developed by the project can be found at <http://we4change.eu/>

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



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17:00	Welcome
17:15	“We4Change: Girls and Women connecting for environmental change”: project presentation
17:30	<p>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS</p> <p>TOPIC 1: Skills development for youth towards the Digital and Green transformations</p> <p>TOPIC 2: Gender mainstreaming in youth strategies</p> <p>TOPIC 3: Best practices for impact: Youth - Gender inclusion - Environmental action</p> <p>TOPIC 4: Opportunities for cooperation for organizations working on youth, gender and environmental topics</p>
18:00	Discussion on the main takeaways from each roundtable
18:30	NETWORKING DINNER

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS



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What is expected of you?

The objective of the event is to exchange ideas and best practices on how to foster girls' and young women's sense of initiative for environmental action and improve their active citizenship skills and social innovation mindsets. Ultimately, the aim is to create synergies and open up opportunities for collaboration among the participants. All that's expected of you is to participate in the discussion.

What you'll gain?

- Brainstorm with experts and practitioners on key strategies promoting greater participation of girls and young women in strategic, innovative ESTEAM (Entrepreneurship & Arts powered by STEM) sectors.
- Gain insight into the experiences and lessons learned by other organizations and stakeholders and take these best practices back to your community.
- Find opportunities of collaboration with a wide network of similar organizations.

What is the format of the roundtable discussions?

There will be four discussion tables set-up, each covering a topic among the four topics announced. Participants can choose the tables they want to join for a 30 minutes discussion, and share their knowledge and suggestions on how to empower girls and young women as changemakers in our society. Participants are encouraged to be as specific as possible, to raise issues that arise in their day-to-day activities, and actionable ideas for better paths forwards. A follow-up session will present the main takeaways from the roundtable discussions.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Following the event, we will gather the key insights in a Recommendations Paper and share it with all participants and stakeholders in our network.
- Engage and connect community members to collaborate for future initiatives for the benefit of girls and women.
- Opportunities for networking with like-minded professionals.

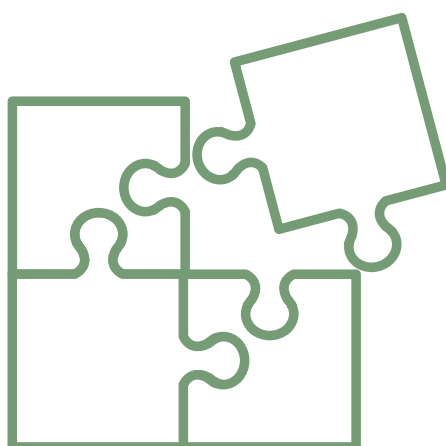


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TOPIC 1: Skills development for youth towards the Digital and Green transformations

The study entitled “A new green learning agenda” published by the Brookings Institution calls for the transformation of education systems, to expand the definition of “green skills” beyond the technical skills required for labour force outcomes. Its mission is to encompass a much broader spectrum of skills required for a green transformation, ranging from technical “skills for green jobs” like ICT skills, innovation and environmental awareness, to “skills for a green transformation”, such as political agency and environmental stewardship. The transformation of education systems must also prioritize gender-transformative education and gender equity. Project Drawdown evaluated the potential of 80 methods to reverse global warming and reported that empowering women and girls, through education and the protection of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, hits the top of the list of most impactful solutions.

Questions to consider: as civil society organizations and providers of non-formal education, how can we ensure young people gain a swift access to the requisite skills to enable them to be part of the solutions and to navigate the social, economic, and environmental challenges the world faces? What kind of skills and knowledge should we focus on? And how to include the gender lens in this process?



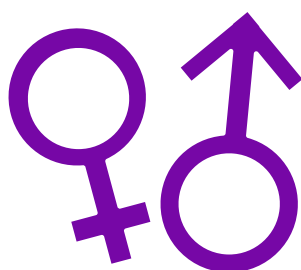
TOPIC 2: Gender mainstreaming in youth strategies

Young people are a priority of the European Union's social vision. Youth policy arises from the recognition that young people are an important resource to society, who can be mobilized to achieve higher social goals. The EU approach acknowledges that youth policy – being cross-sectoral – cannot advance without effective coordination with other sectors, such as education or health. In turn, youth policies can contribute to delivering results in other areas, such as gender equality. The integration of gender concerns in youth policy is increasing, yet most research and policy documents are rarely concerned with gender differences and an explicit and clear gender perspective is still lacking.

Many young people in Europe experience challenges which prevent them from fully enjoying their human rights and accessing equal opportunities. In some cases, difficult experiences or situations are gender specific. In some areas, young women are disadvantaged, whereas in other areas young men experience higher risks and adverse effects. Indeed, girls and young women face several challenges.

Although different performances in the labour market (employability, transition from education to work, unemployment) are the main issues of concern, many others are also present. For example, youth sector as an area remains influenced by a set of gender inequalities such as gender differences in education and transition to employment or gender inequalities in access to the labour market.

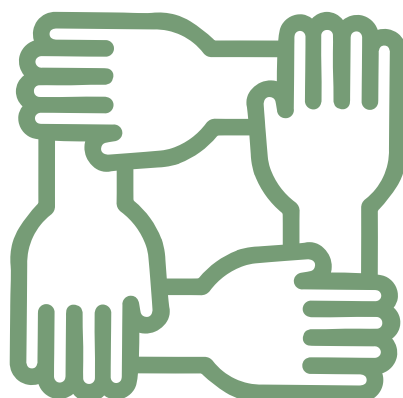
Questions to consider: What are the main challenges and opportunities of gender mainstreaming? How to strengthen the dialogue between civil society and policy makers to integrate gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes?



TOPIC 3: Best practices for impact: Youth - Gender inclusion - Environmental action

This topic aims to explore key considerations for meaningful youth participation, identifying inspiring examples from youth and organizations that are leading the way, and recommendations to find and strengthen interconnected solutions to governance, youth, gender, inequality and climate change challenges.

Questions to consider: What actionable ways to build gender equality and sustainability? What are the practices and tools you identified in your activities to improve the capabilities of civil society organizations for supporting more effectively their target groups and increase their impact?





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TOPIC 4: Opportunities for cooperation for organizations working on youth, gender and environmental topics

Youth organizations and other non-formal education providers play a crucial role in building sustainable communities, by creating awareness, promoting education and providing solutions for the complex challenges that arise in these areas. Cooperation between civil society organizations is important for effectively addressing the complex and interconnected challenges facing society today. Some of the reasons why cooperation is important include:

1. **Amplifying impact:** By working together, organizations can amplify their impact and achieve more than they would by working alone. Joint advocacy efforts, for example, can be more effective in raising awareness and generating support for important issues.
2. **Leveraging resources:** Cooperation allows organizations to leverage resources and expertise from one another, which can help them achieve their goals more efficiently and effectively.
3. **Addressing intersectional issues:** Cooperation between organizations working on youth, gender, and environmental issues is crucial for addressing intersectional issues that affect marginalized communities. By working together, organizations can bring a more holistic and inclusive approach to addressing these issues.
4. **Fostering innovation:** Cooperation between organizations can foster innovation and new ideas, by working together, organizations can learn from each other and come up with new and innovative solutions to address the challenges they are facing.
5. **Encouraging collective action:** Cooperation between organizations working on youth, gender, and environmental issues is important for encouraging collective action and creating a sense of shared responsibility for addressing these issues. This is important for creating sustainable change and building a better future for all.

Questions to consider: what are the needs of civil society organizations in terms of skills development, engagement capabilities or funding? what opportunities for collaboration are there and how to ensure they are accessible for all stakeholders?



Notes



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