



Event: “Youth Climate Awareness and Leadership Programme”
Peer Parliament Heraklion | Saturday 23 November 2024
City of Heraklion, Crete

Peer Parliament: Planning for Climate Action and Youth-Led Climate Discussions

Saturday 23 November 2024 – City of Heraklion | 11.00 – 14.00

3rd High School of Heraklion, Demokratias Avenue

DESCRIPTION

The **Peer Parliament** is an interactive and youth-centred forum that engages students aged 12 to 16 in meaningful discussions about climate action and environmental responsibility. The event will be held in **Heraklion, Crete**, on **Saturday, 23 November 2024**. It will empower young voices to express their perspectives on climate change, collaborate on solutions, and take action for environmental issues affecting their communities. Participants will be guided through structured discussions and interactive elements, fostering peer-to-peer learning and leadership. They will explore climate challenges, devise actionable solutions, and develop plans to implement environmental changes within their schools, local communities, and daily lives. This initiative is part of a broader effort to encourage youth leadership in climate action and sustainability.

OBJECTIVES

- To give young students a platform to express their views on climate change and its impact on their local environment.
- To foster critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving skills in the context of climate action.
- To promote youth leadership and empower students to take ownership of environmental initiatives.
- To encourage practical discussions on how local communities in Crete can contribute to climate resilience.

PEER PARLIAMENT FACILITATORS

Alice Corovessi, Head of EU Climate Pact CC in Greece

Georgia Mouriadou, Production & Manager Engineer, EU Climate Pact CC in Greece Team Member

Charalampos Fasoulas, Scientific Director of the Psiloritis Geopark

INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- **Welcome and Ice-Breaker Session (15 minutes)**

The event will start with a fun ice-breaker activity to help students get to know each other and feel comfortable expressing their thoughts. Students will be asked to share one personal experience related to the environment or climate change, helping create an immediate connection to the topic.

- **Peer-Led Roundtable Discussions (45 minutes)**

Students will be divided into small groups, each led by a student moderator. These roundtable discussions will focus on two key themes:

- **The impact of climate change on Crete’s ecosystems and communities:** Students will explore how climate change affects local water resources, agriculture, biodiversity, and tourism.
- **Youth solutions for climate action:** Students will brainstorm practical ways to contribute to climate action at school and within their local communities, including water conservation, reducing waste, and promoting clean energy.

Moderators will guide their peers through the discussions, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to contribute.

- **Peer Parliament Debate (45 minutes)**

Following the roundtable discussions, students will participate in a structured **Peer Parliament** session to present their ideas and debate potential climate action strategies. Each group will nominate one or two representatives to present their group’s findings, followed by a debate where students discuss which solutions they believe will be most effective.

The debate will centre on key questions:

- What actions can local schools take to become more environmentally sustainable?
- How can young people influence their families and communities to take action against climate change?
- What role can digital tools and social media play in raising awareness and promoting climate action among young people?
- How can students collaborate with local authorities or organisations to implement long-term environmental initiatives in their communities?

- **Action Planning Workshop (60 minutes)**



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After the debate, students will work together to create a detailed action plan for climate initiatives they would like to implement. This could involve organising recycling programmes at their schools, participating in local environmental clean-ups, or engaging in community advocacy campaigns for water and energy conservation. Facilitators will provide guidance to ensure that students can develop clear, realistic plans that they can take back to their schools and communities.

- **Conclusion and Reflection (15 minutes)**

To close the event, students will gather to reflect on the day's discussions and share their personal takeaways. Each student will be encouraged to make a personal commitment to take action toward fighting climate change in their daily lives. The event will conclude with a summary of key solutions proposed during the Peer Parliament.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- The Peer Parliament will give students a voice and encourage them to become community leaders. Through discussions and taking ownership of climate action plans, students will gain leadership and organisational skills that will benefit them in school and future endeavours.
- Students will learn about Crete's specific environmental challenges, such as water scarcity, agricultural shifts, and the preservation of local biodiversity. Through these discussions, they will gain a deeper understanding of the real-world impacts of climate change.
- By working together in roundtable discussions and debates, students will practice collaborative problem-solving. They will learn to listen to others' ideas, build on them, and engage in constructive debate, enhancing their critical thinking and communication skills.
- One of the Peer Parliament's main outcomes is creating actionable action plans so students can return to their schools and communities. These practical solutions will allow students to see the impact of their discussions and provide them with concrete steps to make a difference.
- The Peer Parliament will foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among students as they work toward making tangible changes in their immediate environments. By focusing on youth-led initiatives, students will feel empowered to act as catalysts for environmental sustainability in their local areas.

**Organised by the Country Coordinator in Greece INZEB, in collaboration with the
Region of Crete**



**ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
REGION OF CRETE**

TAKE INDIVIDUAL ACTION

Join over 500,000 participants and keep track of your climate action so you can help create a greener, more prosperous future for all!

The European Climate Pact has joined forces with ACT NOW, the United Nations campaign to inspire people to act on climate change and sustainability, and AWorld, the mobile app supporting citizens to take individual action.

Anyone can use the AWorld app to reduce their carbon footprint through daily activities and take measurable steps towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

