



Youth Empowerment in the Danube Region

Let's get strategic!

© Moritz Schachner

Foto: Moritz Schachner

The Pulse of “Youth in the Danube region”

PA9 workshop highlighted issue that young people leaving school without key skills such as critical thinking and team work

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (2019), Youth Study Southeastern Europe 2018/19:

- young people between 14 and 29 show marked **disinterest in party politics**, but **want to have a stronger say** → considerable potential for participation

Recommendations for policy makers:

- Foster **civic education** programmes for greater civic engagement
- Promote **youth involvement in volunteering**
- Focus on grassroots youth initiatives and **involve different actors**, such as governments, institutions in the field of education, NGOs, trade unions and international organisations

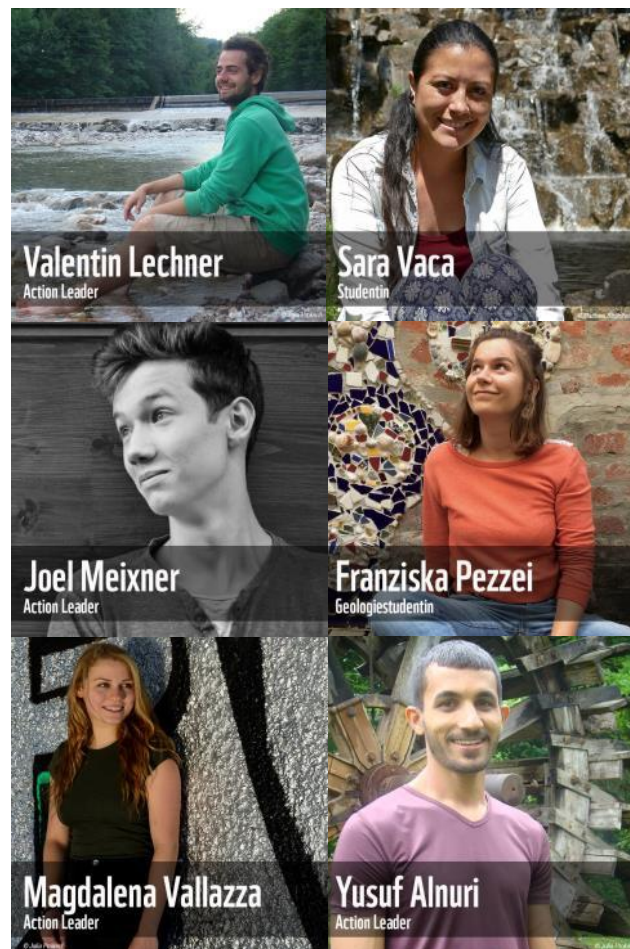


WWF's Generation Earth:

Empowering the leaders of tomorrow, today!

WHY do we do it?

- ...because **we believe in YOUTH.**
- We believe that young people can, are, and will continue to change the world for the better.
- We believe that, with support from organizations, peers and mentors, youth can be leaders of *today and tomorrow.*
- We believe the hope, motivation and drive in youth is contagious and can spread to others and drive change.
- Simply put. **We believe in YOUTH.**



WWF's Generation Earth: *How do we empower youth?*

Our Principles & Methods



WWF's Generation Earth: *How do we empower youth?*



Generation Earth in the Danube region

Does it work outside of Austria?

A short story...

3rd year of Generation Earth (2013)

EU Erasmus+ project with 2 Romanian NGOs

„Connect.Empower.Act“

Aim: Develop job and leadership skills, project mgt, with focus on sustainability!

Used Generation Earth approach

Elena Bicu

Bucharest, 28 years old

- From shy, young woman...
- To self-confident entrepreneur





- WWF CEE youth empowerment programme “Climate Heroes” in **7 *Central and Eastern European countries*** in preparation – start (hopefully) in 2019
- **Goal:** make young people between 15 and 30 yrs aware of climate change issues & wasteful consumption and get them to act
- **Approach:** youth driven training, enable to communicate on sustainability issues and to develop & implement sustainable solutions.
- **Skills developed:** solution oriented thinking, taking on responsibilities, team work, project planning, effective communication and understanding of the interconnected world
- **Applied for funding** from DEAR programme of EU



What EUSDR PA9 can do

- Make youth empowerment a cross-cutting issue in the next EUSDR Action Plan - together with PA 10?
- Bring initiatives in the field of youth empowerment together
- Make youth empowerment a recurrent theme of meetings and workshops





Contact: ilucius@wwfcee.org / nathan.spees@wwf.at