“Let’s Take Care of the Planet”
European Conference
May 14th, 15th and 16th, 2012
Committee of the Regions headquarters, Brussels
REPORT
# CONTENTS

I. Introduction  

II. From Brazil to Europe  
   1. Brasilia 2010  
   2. From Brasilia to Brussels, the young people commit themselves!  
   3. The project’s European coordination  

III. The 2011-2012 European process “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”  
   1. Objectives  
   2. Methodology  
   3. A pedagogical and methodological guide  
   4. “Sustainable Schools and Territories” theme  
   5. Sub-theme  

IV. National processes  
   1. Description of the national processes, country by country in 2011-2012  
   2. Analysis of national contributions  

V. The European Youth Conference “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”  
   1. The participants of the European Conference  
   2. The facilitators’ training, 12th and 13th May  
      A two-day training to prepare them to their role  
      And what do the facilitators say about it?  
   3. The “youth” programme of the European Conference  
      Opening Ceremony  
      Thematic workshops  
      Educommunication Workshops  
      Meetings with European decision-makers  
      The Field visits  
      Cultural activities  
      Cultural evening  
      Closing ceremony  
   4. The “adults” programme of the European Conference  
      Back on three workshops  

VII. Communication  
   1. On the web
2. On the paper 48
3. In the press 48
4. Audio and video media 48

VIII. Assessment 49

1. Post-event assessment 49
   Assessment of the infrastructure and reception conditions 49
   Evaluation of the activities of the conference 49

2. Assessment of the objectives 50
   What did the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project bring to the participating countries? 50
   What are the prospects for continuity? 51

4. What do young people think about it? 51

IX. After the European Conference 52

1. In France 52
   Maison de l’international – Grenoble – may 2012 52
   Val d’Argens high school - Le Muy, May 25th, 2012 53
   Jean Prévost high school – Villard de Lans – June 12th, 2012 53

2. In the Czech Republic 53

3. In Georgia 53

4. In Spain 53

5. In Romania 54

6. In Denmark 54

X. Financing and partners 54

XI. Continuity and prospects 55

XII. The teams involved in the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” European project 56

1. General Coordination 56
2. European Methodological Committee 56
3. National coordinating entities 56
4. Contributors to the European Conference 57

APPENDIX 62

Open Letter 62
Posters 66
I. Introduction

This report relates the history, activities and results of the process that led to the European Youth Conference “Let’s take Care of the Planet”, coordinated by the organization Monde Pluriel. This project is in line with the objectives of education for sustainable development and for international citizenship objectives. By giving young people the means to take into consideration the entirety of a situation, it prepares them to debate socially important issues in such a way that they can take a stance in an enlightened way and implement considered actions.

The “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” European project aims to encourage dialogue between young Europeans on sustainable development issues and to enhance their capacity for action and commitment in order to move towards sustainable societies.

This year, the project theme was “Sustainable Schools and Territories”. Its aim was to link school and people attending school (mainly students but also teachers and school staff) with their local territory for them to become actors on their territory in the field of sustainable development.

The European Conference, major project event, took place in Brussels between May 14th and 16th, 2012 at the Committee of the Regions (CoR) headquarters, and gathered about a hundred participants, including 60 young delegates aged between 13 and 16 and coming from 14 different European countries, 20 facilitators (aged 18-30) and a network of about 20 teachers.

II. From Brazil to Europe

1. Brasilia 2010

The Brazilian ministries of Education and Environment – in partnership with the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation – invited the member countries of the United Nations in 2009 to participate in a large scale international cooperation process: the Children and Youth International Conference for the Environment – “Let’s take Care of the Planet”, that took place in Brasilia in June 2010. It happened in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, a UNO and Unesco initiative. The conference proposed as main debate theme, common to all participants, global social-environmental changes.
Pluriel - organized preliminary discussions to the International Conference through an e-forum. This remote seminar lasted six days in May 2010 and was run by a team gathering members of the European coordination and experts specialized in sustainable development and climate changes.

The educational objective was to enrich the young European knowledge on climate changes in this regional context and to reinforce their collaboration. This seminar enabled the writing of a European Manifesto “Let’s take Care of the Planet”, resuming the commitments and actions the young wished to take at the European level.

2. From Brasilia to Brussels, the young people commit themselves!

When coming back from the International Conference of Brasilia, Monde Pluriel organized a presentation of the International Charter “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” to the European Institutions. Thus, in November 2010, a delegation composed by 5 young Europeans handed in the Charter to the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, in Brussels. They also presented it to a member of Connie Hedegaard cabinet, Commissioner for Climate Action (European Commission) and to Gerhard Stahl, the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

Some figures about the International Conference

- **52 countries** participated in the “Let’s take Care of the Planet” process and 47 among them attended the International Conference.

- The **5 continents** were presents: 18 American countries, 10 African countries, 10 Asian and Oceanic countries and 9 European countries.

- The Conference gathered **658 participants** in total, divided as follows:
  - **323 delegates**, aged between 12 and 15
  - **69 facilitators**, aged between 18 and 59
  - **110 chaperons**

Silvia, Spanish delegate, hands in the Charter to H. Van Rompuy

This event was an exceptional opportunity to enhance the voice of the young people about sustainable development topics to the highest European authorities.

It also was an opportunity to disclose the project “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”, which aroused a big interest among the leaders met. These discussions were decisive for the European process continuity and the considered prospects with the European institutions.

That way, a partnership was progressively developed between the Committee of the Regions and the Monde Pluriel association. In May 2012 it led to the European Conference that took place in its headquarters. It was at the same time symbolic and coherent to hold this conference in Brussels, the European Union capital, and at the Committee of the Regions headquarters, a representative authority of the European regions that are very active as for sustainable development.
Why the Committee of the Regions?

The Committee of the Regions is the political assembly where the regional and local collectivities can express their opinions to build the strategy of the policies and Community laws. In 2012 the European process “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” particularly focused on the link with local and regional territories.

Interview of Michel Lebrun, President of the Belgian delegation at the Committee of the Regions:

«It is very significant that the youth were welcomed at the Committee of the Regions because the local and regional authorities are usually the closest to the citizen, the closest to the youth. Thus, it is clearly obvious that for this reason, their place at the Committee of the Regions is legitimate and the message they give us is a message precisely addressed to these local and regional authorities. Today, it is local authorities that get involved beyond the European Commission objectives. The energy policy wanted by Europe is actually based on them, regarding for example sustainable use of natural resources.»

3. The project’s European coordination

The Monde Pluriel association has coordinated the European Youth Conference and the network gathering 15 participating countries during two years between 2010 and 2012. It supports the participating countries in the implementation of the national process. It defined the project framework together with the coordinators of the European participating countries and elaborated several tools necessary to facilitate the smooth progress of the project (a methodological guide, communication tools, an Internet website*). Monde Pluriel has collected the required funds for the organization of the European Conference and developed institutional relations with the European institutions that support the project (Committee of the Regions – European Union, French Ministry of Education, etc.).

The methodology was elaborated in collaboration with the European Methodological Committee, gathering partners from the existing network. This Committee, made up of 10 members representing 4 countries (Spain, France, Greece and Italy) was created to decide what would be the main directions of the project. People being part of it are experts – in education or scientists – and are involved in the project since the beginning. Its members met twice for coordination meetings in 2011. In September 2012, the committee welcomed 2 new countries – Romania and Denmark – during the project report/prospects meeting.

* http://confint-europe.net
1. Objectives

The European process leading to the European Conference had the following objectives towards the youth:
- Raise awareness on socio-environmental issues
- Become aware of the links between local and global issues, comparing different countries’ realities (intercultural dialogue)
- Think about one’s responsibilities with the aim of taking action for sustainable societies, in the present and/or future
- Increase the capacity of action of the young people
- Understand both the functioning of public institutions and their complexity through a dialogue with local, national and European elected representatives
- Reinforce the European citizenship

2. Methodology

The methodology applied for the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project reasserts the goals of education for sustainable development and International Solidarity, whether on value terms, know-how or behaviors. To reach these goals, this education is based on continuous learning practices leading to the respect of living species and among it, human-beings cultural diversity. Education also aims at reinforcing social resistances to resist the devastating relationships mankind can set with his environment and with others human beings.

Thanks to critical and participative education actions dealing with cross and interdisciplinary themes, we could have a responsible behavior facing social and environmental global issues. Rethinking our development modes and societies models will take us to sustainability.

To understand our world complexity, we have to use the tools we own: science, know-how, curiosity, history, solidarity, ecology, emotion... All these tools are essential for education and to build a fair and sustainable world.

The “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project involved all these aspects. It is a democratic process composed by different stages, that starts at a local scale, in schools, and during which young participants meet, discuss, suggest, commit themselves and elect those who then represent them at the next step.

The global educational process of the project “Let’s take Care of the Planet” is based on 4 essential pillars that were inspired by Brazil:

Responsibility – The acknowledgement by each person of their individual and collective responsibilities in the face of a problem is the main idea of the project. This is in the knowledge that each person is only responsible within the limits of their power and of their access to information.

Young people electing young people – The delegates, aged from 13 to 16, were previously elected by their peers.

Young people educating young people – A team of young facilitators aged from 18 to 30 ran the workshops for the youngest ones during the European Conference. Young people are recognized as social subjects who can act here and now. The process is established on the basis of the experiences of young people themselves, by trusting in their capacity for commitment and...
transformation through action.

One generation learning from another — Even though young people are the protagonists of the project, the connection and dialogue between the generations involved is essential. Concerning education for sustainable development, this characteristic is all the more important given that it is based on new concepts that young people can in turn pass on to their circle.

3. A pedagogical and methodological guide

Being inspired by the Brazilian method and adapting it to the European context, Monde Pluriel created an educational and methodological guide to help national coordinators and teachers to implement the project at a local and national scale. It was composed of two parts:

- A methodological part called “Step by Step towards the European Conference” describing the different steps of the project to implement, at local and national scales, until the European Conference.

- Pedagogical elements presenting elements of thinking and action for tackling the “sustainable schools and territories” topic in an ESD project.

This guide has been written in three languages: French, English and Spanish (the official languages of the conference).

4. “Sustainable Schools and Territories” theme

Common to all countries, the general theme — “Sustainable Schools and territories” — was collectively chosen in March 2011 during the first European coordination meeting. This theme covers interactions existing between the school and its territory.

A territory is defined as a complex but limited social environment, where actors have to make choices in order to respond to present and future issues. These actors have to manage both diverse constraints and interests (social, economic, environmental, cultural, etc.) while taking into account the variably strong position or the variably high level that they occupy in the hierarchy and on the power ladder.

School is a territory itself but also a place for the passing on of knowledge and information, a place for the practice of reflection and critical thinking making it possible to achieve an understanding of societal phenomena and a place that gives each person the ability to make enlightened individual and collective choices within society.

School, an “educational territory within a social territory” therefore constitutes a privileged environment for the empowerment of the citizen. Each discipline finds support, experience and illustration in the nearby area because the local territory brings all of these elements together within sight or within reach of lessons. The field outings are an opportunity to cross paths with various actors (companies, political or administrative representatives, organisations, etc.) and to highlight the importance, contradictions and issues of one situation or another.

A school at the heart of its territory helps each pupil, each citizen in the making, to confront points of view, to form their own opinion and to make their own choices.
5. Sub-theme

The general theme is built around sub-themes. ESD projects led at schools focused on these sub-themes through which it has been possible to highlight the link between school and local territory:

- Biodiversity
- Natural Resources
- Energy
- Transport
- Consumption
- Solidarity

They were defined together with the European methodological committee to direct the debates between young people towards more precise subjects.

IV. National processes

The number of European countries participating to the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project doubled between 2009 and 2012: they moved from 7 countries to 15. It is interesting to note that most of the European countries that were represented in Brasilia in 2010 (Spain, France, Georgia, Italy, Czech Republic and Russia) continued the project during the following years and were represented in Brussels in 2012.

The national processes before the European Conference were really heterogeneous from a country to another, regarding activities, organizational structure or available budget to develop the activities.

In most countries, the project was led either by a NGO, a local authority, or in partnership with the Ministry of Education (through a school or State Education). The participating countries located on the Baltic Sea come from the “Baltic Sea Project” school network (education project based on the protection of this area). Finally, the number of involved schools was very diverse from a country to another: a third of the countries only counted one or two participating schools while the other two-thirds counted between 8 and 250 schools.
1. Description of the national processes, country by country in 2011-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Coordination</th>
<th>Number of participating schools</th>
<th>Number of directly involved young people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Czech Republic</td>
<td>Civil society</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Denmark</td>
<td>BSP School network</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3  France</td>
<td>Civil society and State Education</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4  Georgia</td>
<td>Civil society and State Education</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Germany</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6  Greece</td>
<td>Civil society</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7  Italy</td>
<td>Civil society and National research center</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8  Lithuania</td>
<td>BSP School network</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9  Malta</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Poland</td>
<td>BSP School network</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Romania</td>
<td>Civil society</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Russia</td>
<td>BSP School network</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Spain</td>
<td>Autonomous regions and State Education</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Sweden</td>
<td>BSP School network</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Turkey</td>
<td>Civil society</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>376</strong></td>
<td><strong>5655</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coordination

- **Civil society (NGO, associations):** 40%
- **Civil society and government:** 27%
- **Schools network (Baltic Sea Project):** 13%
- **School:** 33%
National Coordination

Entity status: NGO

Description of the National coordination entity

Partners’ Czech (“partners for Democratic Change”) mission is to support the development of civic society and democracy in Central and East European countries. The organization is active predominantly in the areas of education and training. In particular: implementing educational projects for students and teachers, providing services and trainings for other NGOs and public, providing guarantee for probation and re-integration program for Juvenile offenders.

Collaboration with a School Network

Twenty Partners Centers exist throughout the world, most working with schools themselves.

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 2 in 2 cities
Number of youth directly involved: 60
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 2
Number of chaperons: 1

Description of activities

Sept-Oct 2011: Diffusion of the project in schools
March 2012: Local conference in the schools on personal, school and global consumption topic
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

The Local Conference

- Counting personal ecological footprint, lecture on biocapacity
- Reflection on personal consumption and its connection to the whole school and territory
- Research of the whole school consumption (work in groups), identification of the most significant negative environmental aspects (topic areas: energy, water, waste management, food, school equipment, transport, information about environment)
- Work on action proposals to find solutions
- Election of the delegates for the European conference in Brussels

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes, only if the budget conditions are filled
Planned Local Conferences: yes, if conditions are filled
National Coordination

Referent Entity: Baltic Sea Project Denmark

Entity status: international schools network in the Baltic area

Description of the National coordination entity

The Baltic Sea Project Denmark is a network of schools, belonging to the international BSP network for a better environment in the Baltic catchment area, member of the UNESCO Associated Schools’ Network. It gathers public schools from 9 countries from the Baltic region. **BSP is officially accredited by the Danish Ministry of Education.** BSP Denmark has gained experience during the implementation of several European ESD projects, and through producing teachers’ guide about natural sciences, activities such as camps for students and teachers working on environment matters, training courses for teachers and setting up a school network for students and teachers. See: [www.b-s-p.org](http://www.b-s-p.org).

Collaboration with a School Network

BSP schools (9 schools in Denmark, 200 schools in the Baltic Region)

ASPNET schools (UNESCO schools network)

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 9 in 8 cities

Number of youth directly involved: 150

Number of delegates at the European Conference: 4

Number of chaperons: 1

Facilitator: 1

Description of activities

Sept. 2011: Diffusion of the project in Danish schools; BSP international camp (presentation of the LTCP project (meeting with Danish teachers and European LTCP coordinator)

March 2012: National Conference (Internet session) between the schools

May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

Description of activities in Roskilde Gymnasium, 2011-2012

The school is a UNESCO partner school and takes part in the Baltic Sea Project. The school is applying for a green flag certificate and therefore takes all sorts of actions to save energy and resources at school.

In 2011 an eco-council was erected at school with eco-ambassadors chosen in each class and in March 2012 a one-day environmental conference was held for all students. The students participated in workshops; different topics were proposed by the students, in order to raise awareness and to engage the students. The role of the teachers was to work as facilitators. Some of the workshops were held in collaboration with the local community or with NGOs.

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes

Planned Local Conferences: to be decided with BSP Denmark
National coordination

Referent Entity: Monde Pluriel - Coordination in partnership with the Regional Education Authority of Grenoble (Ministry of Education). The project involved 5 regional education authorities: Rhône-Alps, Ile de France, Nancy-Metz, French Guiana and Nice.

The “Let’s Take Care of the Planet project” received the High Patronage of the French Ministry of Education in 2012.

Entity status: NGO

Description of the coordination entity

Monde Pluriel develops projects on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, with and for young people from different countries. Since 2006, it has been coordinating the “Global Classroom Initiative”, a project gathering young people from the Philippines, India, the United States and France on an e-forum, for a cross-cultural discussion on sustainable development. Since 2008, Monde Pluriel has been coordinating the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” process in France and in Europe since 2009. It has an expertise on intercultural youth projects as well as on local and global Education for Sustainable Development themes. To know more: http://www.mondepluriel.org/

Collaboration with a School Network

“Eco-responsible high schools” in Ile-de-France region.

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of implicated schools: 36 in 5 regions
Number of youth directly implicated: 600
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 9
Number of chaperons: 3
Facilitator: 2

Description of activities

Sept-Oct 2011: launching of the project in schools
Oct-Feb: supporting schools in implementing their local project
Jan-Feb 2012: local conferences in schools
March 2012: National Conference
May 2012: participation in the European Conference
June 2012: participation of a French facilitator at the Rio+20 Summit

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes
Planned Local Conferences: yes

The National Conference – Autrans, 26th and 27th March 2012

The National Conference gathered 60 delegates, aged from 12 to 21 and coming from 5 regional education authorities. The first day, the youth had two types of activities: the projects’ presentation and debates on the responsibilities and actions brought by the schools in view of the European Conference. The young people evaluated the projects themselves with the help of an evaluation grid. From this evaluation were selected 10 delegates for Brussels. On the second day, the youth were split into three different workshops:
- “Poster creation” workshop
- “Writing of the National contribution” workshop in preparation of the European Conference
- “Brussels’ delegates” workshop, to prepare the elected youth and their substitutes to their role of delegates.
National Coordination

Referent Entity: Georgian Nnjp Tsiphlari
Entity status: NGO on environmental education, officially accredited by the Ministry of Education. Coordination in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Scouts of Georgia.

Description of the National coordination entity

Georgian Nnjp Tsiphlari works on Environmental Education, organizing activities on ESD in schools (open lessons, workshops, visits, ecologic games...)

Collaboration with a School Network

The Scouts of Georgia work with schools. The Scouts group from Adjara region gathers 15 schools.

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 19 in 15 cities
Number of youth directly involved: 740
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 7
Number of chaperons: 2
Facilitator: 1

Description of activities

Sept 2011: Presentation of the project in schools, identification of the partners
Oct 2011 – Feb 2012: Local activities - project implementation in the involved schools, local conferences
Feb 2012: National Conference
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

Georgia’s National Conference

After the local activities and the regional conferences, the University of Tbilisi organised the National Conference on February 25th, 2012. Young people from all the regions were represented, even those from the farthest regions in the mountains! The conference lasted the whole day: the young participants presented their local activities with posters and PowerPoint documents. A selecting committee listened carefully, and then deliberated to select the delegates for the European Conference. Several workshops were organised, such as a collective creation of posters by the youth, workshops that were facilitated by students in fine arts. A member of the European coordination team, from Monde Pluriel NGO, attended all the activities.

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes
Planned Local Conferences: yes
National Coordination

Referent Entity: Emilie-Heyermann-realschule – EHS
Entity status: School

Collaboration with a School Network
ASPNET school (UNESCO schools network)

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”
Number of schools involved: 1
Number of youth directly involved: 20
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 2
Number of chaperons: 1

Description of activities
Feb-April 2012: Project implementation in the school
April 2012: Local conference
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

Local activities – EMILIE-HEYERMANN-REALSCHULE, Bonn
The High School implements activities for many years in the area of climate change and social learning as a part of the campaign “Agenda 21 in the school”.
- 2 working groups: meetings once a week with 30 students, two energy-officers in all classes
- In each classroom: 2 posters remind the pupils to switch off the light when they live the classroom and open the windows wide for a short time
- Rules for students: saving of the energy and water
- Pedagogical objective: students think about what they do.

Perspectives for 2012-2013
Participation: yes (in collaboration with schools from Hungary and Uzbekistan)
Planned Local Conference: yes (end September 2012)
National Coordination
Referent Entity: Polis
Entity status: NGO on environmental education

Description of the National coordination entity
Polis organization, created in 1996, works for the promotion of information, research in Education for Environment. Polis has participated in several international projects supported by the EU (SOCRATES, COMENIUS programmes). Since it was created, Polis has developed pedagogical material in collaboration with experts in education from several countries: leaflets, books, newsletters, etc. and has organized educational and artistic events focusing teachers and youth.

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”
Number of schools involved: 5
Number of youth directly involved: 100
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 0
Number of chaperons: 0

Description of activities
Sept 2011: Diffusion of the project in schools
Nov 2011 – Feb 212: Project implementation in the involved schools
The project was developed at local and regional levels

Perspectives for 2012-2013
Participation: no, unless they find a new coordinator
National Coordination

Referent Entities: Legambiente and CNR

Entity status: Legambiente: NGO on environmental education; CNR: Research National Center

Description of the National coordination entity

Legambiente is an environmentalist organization. It carries out information and awareness campaigns and organizes actions of environmental voluntary work, promotes solidarity and cooperation for development and is active in emergency and first aid activities. It is committed in environmental education in schools and society. To know more: http://www.legambiente.it

The National Research Council (CNR) is a public organization; its duty is to carry out, promote, spread, transfer and improve research activities in the main sectors of knowledge growth and of its applications for the scientific, technological, economic and social development of the country. To this end, the activities of the organization are divided into macro areas of interdisciplinary scientific and technological research. CNR is distributed all over Italy through a network of institutes aiming at promoting a wide diffusion of its competences throughout the national territory and at facilitating contacts and cooperation with local firms and organizations. To know more: http://www.cnr.it/sitocnr/home.html

Collaboration with a School Network

Legambiente works with the ‘Classes for the environment’ network (700 classes).

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 15 in 23 cities
Number of youth directly involved: 200
Number of youth indirectly involved: 1200
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 6
Number of chaperons: 2
Facilitator: 1

Description of activities

Sept-Oct 2011: Diffusion of the project in schools
March 2012: Local conferences
April 2012: National Conference
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes
Planned Local Conferences: no

Activities of the National Conference

On the first day, the delegates presented their school project and made educommunication posters. On the second day, the delegates were hosted by one of the Italian Parliament chamber (the Senate). There, they presented to the politicians both the Legambiente Decalogue on sustainability and the Italian Charter of Responsibility.
National Coordination

Referent Entity: Vilniaus Zemynos Gymnasium
Entity status: school

Collaboration with a School Network

BSP schools (29 schools in Lithuania, 200 schools in the Baltic Region)

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools involved</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of youth directly involved</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of delegates at the European Conference</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of chaperons</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description of activities

March 2012: Local conference with students aged 14-16
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

The Local Conference

The main objectives of this meeting was to discuss on the responsibilities and actions, write collectively a national Charter of responsibilities and elect 2 delegates that then participated in the European Conference in Brussels in May 2012. The selection of the delegates for the European Conference was based on the solution proposal poster, communication qualities and the level of English skills.

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes (with possible cooperation with schools from Turkey and Russia)
Planned Local Conference: yes (Jan-Feb 2013)
National Coordination

Referent Entity: St Thomas More College Girls’ Secondary School
Entity status: school

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 1
Number of youth directly involved: 25
Number of youth indirectly involved: 950
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 2
Number of chaperons: 1

The school project

The project was developed with the Eko-skola (eco-school) team, a group of students and teachers who work on how to preserve the environment through awareness and education. In November 2012 the school received the Green Flag for the work it carried out with both students and parents, which was mainly building a culture of recycling and separating of waste amongst others.

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: no, unless they find a new coordinator
National Coordination
Referent Entity: Zespol Szkol
Entity status: School

Collaboration with a School Network
BSP schools (34 schools in Poland, 200 schools in the Baltic Region)
Comenius project (7 schools, 5 countries – Denmark, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Poland)

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”
Number of schools involved: 2
Number of youth directly involved: 60
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 2
Number of chaperons: 1
Facilitator: 1

Description of activities
March 2012: Local conference where the students presented their results and suggested responsibilities and concrete actions.
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

Activities in the two participating schools
Both schools have been for many years in environmental projects (BSP, Comenius, partnership with schools). Students of biology and chemical profiles classes worked in group on investigations on water (Slepiotka River in Katowice) and observations of fauna and flora near this place. They observed changes of ecosystems as a result of climate change (measurements and experiments, writing of articles). They took part in the International Conference in Riga (Latvia) in September 2012 on “Sustainability in this region” (8 students, 1 teacher). The students learnt how to plan, do and conclude experiments. They increased their knowledge about environment. Within the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project, the students thought concretely about the question “What can I do as a young to change things”. The delegates could then, in Brussels, exchange knowledge and see how other countries deal with the same subjects.

Perspectives for 2012-2013
Participation: yes, with 4 schools.
Planned Local Conferences: yes (March-April 2013)
National Coordination

Referent Entity: APSD – Agenda 21 (Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21)
Entity status: NGO (officially accredited by the Ministry of Education)

Description of the national coordination entity


Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 12 in 3 cities
Number of youth directly involved: 250
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 2
Number of chaperons: 1
Facilitator: 1

Description of activities

Nov 2011-Jan 2012: Implementation of local activities in the schools
Feb-March 2012: Organization of local conferences
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

National Conference

The National Conference took place on 5th April 2012 and gathered 55 participants representing 9 schools from Bucharest, Buzau and Ilfov regions. The work theme was “Sustainable Schools and Territories”. The participants were informed about the project’s national and international context as well as its history. They discussed on the main objectives of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The youth presented their projects and worked in small groups in order to elaborate an Action Plan. 2 delegates were elected to attend the European Conference in Brussels.

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes (increasing the number of schools to 24)
Planned Local Conferences: yes
National Coordination

Referent Entity: Baltic Sea Project Russia
Entity status: International schools network in the Baltic area

Description of the national coordination entity

The Baltic Sea Project Russia is a network of schools, belonging to the international BSP network for a better environment in the Baltic area and member of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network. It gathers public schools from 9 countries from the Baltic region. See: www.b-s-p.org

Collaboration with a School Network

BSP schools (7 schools in Russia, 200 schools in the Baltic Region)
UNESCO ASPnet.

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 8 in 3 cities
Number of youth directly involved: 200
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 4
Number of chaperons: 1
Facilitator: 1

Description of activities

Sept 2011: Diffusion of the project in the schools
Jan-Feb 2012: Project implementation in the involved schools
March 2012: Internet sessions between the schools (National Conference)
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: Uncertain
National Coordination
Referent Entity: Ingurugela
Entity status: Regional Education Department of the Basque Government

Description of the national coordination entity
Ingurugela constitutes a network of public equipment that supports the teaching staff and the school centers, coordinating the plans and programs of environmental education in the non university educative system. It was created and works thanks to the collaboration between the Departments of Town and Country Planning, Housing and Environment, and of Education, Universities and Investigation of the Basque Government. Their work is based on a methodology of transversality and on an objective of sustainable development.

Collaboration with a School Network
“Sustainable schools” in the Basque countries (77 schools)
Agenda 21 schools in Catalonia

Implication in “Let’s take Care of the Planet”
Number of schools involved: 250 in 6 cities
Number of youth directly involved: 3000
Number of youth indirectly involved: 20,000
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 9
Number of chaperons: 4
Facilitator: 1

Description of activities
Sept-Dec 2011: Local and regional Conferences
Jan 2012: National Conference, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque country
May 2012: Participation in the European Youth Conference
June 2012: Participation of a Spanish facilitator in Rio + 20 Summit

National Conference – 26th and 27th January 2012 – Vitoria-Gasteiz
The National Conference gathered 101 delegates coming from 5 autonomous regions. A team of facilitators facilitated all the delegates’ workshops. The first part of the conference was dedicated to the presentation of local projects, and was followed by a debate around the responsibilities of the Brasilia’s International Charter, which was a reference to all the local projects. Two responsibilities from this charter were selected by the youth as a national contribution to the European Conference in Brussels. Then the delegates participated in “edu-communication” workshops to create posters, a radio programme, a manifesto, a musical anthem and a fresco. On the last day, the delegates were welcomed at the Basque government’s headquarters, in Vitoria, which was the European Green capital in 2012, to present the results of the Conference to local elected representatives. It was also, for the youth, the opportunity to elect their delegates for the Brussels Conference.

Perspectives for 2012-2013
Participation: yes
Planned Local Conferences: yes
National Coordination
Referent Entity: Myrsjöskolan High School
Entity status: School

Collaboration with a School Network
BSP schools (10 schools in Sweden, 200 schools in the Baltic Region)

Implication in “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”
Number of schools involved: 1
Number of youth directly involved: 20
Number of youth indirectly involved: 120
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 2
Number of chaperons: 1

Description of activities
Feb-April 2012: Local activities
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference

Local activities
The students worked within their own schools environment. They worked a lot with the idea that we have to change our minds about sustainable development and lifestyle. Their work during these months resulted in three actions, based on three focuses: “Once it is too late, it’s too late!” - “Still there is hope!” – “How much are we willing to sacrifice for our increased consumption?”.
They visited a climate exhibition and one of the students’ home, whose house is fully consistent with sustainable development.

Perspectives for 2012-2013
Participation: no
National Coordination

Referent Entity: TURCEV (national FEE)
Entity status: NGO on environmental education

Description of the national coordination entity

The Foundation for Environmental Education in Turkey, TURCEV, works on ESD and practices for Quality Education. TURCEV operates three different programs for the schools: Eco Schools in primary schools, Young Reporters for Environment in secondary schools and Learning about Forests in primary schools. See: http://www.turcev.org.tr (in Turkish only)

Collaboration with a School Network

Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE), LEAF programmes (700 schools), Unesco ASPnet.

Implication in “Let’s take Care of the Planet”

Number of schools involved: 30 in 5 cities
Number of youth directly involved: 200
Number of delegates at the European Conference: 7
Number of chaperons: 2
Facilitator: 1

Description of activities

All of the YRE and ASPnet schools were invited to participate in the project.

Sept 2011: Local activities started with young students aged 12-18.
March 2012: National Conference
May 2012: Participation in the European Conference
June 2012: Participation of the facilitator in the Rio+20 Summit

The National Conference

A national meeting was organized by TURCEV on the 10th March 2012. The objective was mainly to choose the school that would send delegates to the European Conference. Every local coordinator (teachers) represented their students’ project. They selected two school projects to be represented by delegates at the European Conference. The selection of the delegates was then done in each school based on their activities in the school project.

Perspectives for 2012-2013

Participation: yes (increasing the number of schools to 50)
Planned Local Conferences: yes
2. Analysis of national contributions

Prior to the conference, the European coordination team received 92 responsibilities (along with actions). These national contributions have been classified according to the themes defined prior to the conference. Then, major issues on each theme have been identified, avoiding redundancy. And during the conference, six reflection and debate groups were set up from these themes.

Consumption and Natural Resources were the two topics most frequently brought up, with 23 and 22 responsibilities respectively. They were followed by the topics on Energy (16 responsibilities), Solidarity (14 responsibilities), Transport (10 responsibilities) and Biodiversity (7 responsibilities).

- Consumption
On this topic, the following issues were identified: promoting responsible consumption and production through the promotion of organic and local agriculture and fair trade; reducing waste (paper, over-packaging) and thus consumption (5Rs’ policy: “Reflect, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”) as well as recycling and managing waste.

- Natural Resources
Concerning natural resources, the most brought up issue was pollution (pollution of water, rivers, and soils). The necessity of recycling to hinder the resources overexploitation caused by excessive production and consumption was brought up several times. The responsibilities also dealt with the need for saving water and protecting the environment.

- Energy
The responsibilities related to energy mainly dealt with energy savings (from electric sources and produced from non renewable energetic resources). The promotion of renewable energies was mentioned several times and the nuclear risk was brought up twice.

- Solidarity
This topic includes the issues concerning cooperation and exchanges between countries (intercultural exchanges) as well as those on global imbalances (related to health, education, food, poverty, but also migrations, demography, etc.). Promoting the social links, especially between the consumers and the producers, was brought up once. Solidarity also means promoting an active citizenship through the commitment of the young people, organizing environment related events, international meetings and informing.

- Transports
Regarding this topic, the most addressed issue was that of air pollution in the cities and of cars’ CO2 emission. Hence several responsibilities linked to the promotion of alternative mobility (use of public transports, of bicycle, etc.). The issue of local consumption was brought up once.

- Biodiversity
Two major issues emerged from the biodiversity topic: the protection of natural areas suffering from pollution or threatened by global warming, and the conservation of biodiversity as a whole (to minimize nature overexploitation, use of pesticides, etc).

The community awareness-raising and education appears to be a cross-cutting issue that was brought up several times for every theme.

As a conclusion:
Most responsibilities and actions expressed by these young people from different countries are within their reach, meaning they can achieve them themselves, but sometimes with the support of adults or local authorities. On the other hand, some actions are very wide and ambitious for young people to achieve. Lastly, some concern the school and others concern the local community as
a whole. Depending on the national contributions, the wording of the responsibilities and actions was:
- More or less accurate and well-argued
- Individual or collective
- More or less action orientated.

This classification was built on the basis of 12 national contributions (3 countries—Greece, Malta and Sweden—did not send any contribution), 8 of which emerged from National Conferences (the other contributions came from schools directly).
V. The European Youth Conference “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”

1. The participants of the European Conference

In total, 15 countries took part in the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” process, amongst which 14 countries were represented at the European Youth Conference (Greece couldn’t send a delegation). The delegations comprised a maximum of 9 delegates aged from 13 to 16 years old, who were accompanied by 1 to 4 adults and 1 facilitator aged from 18 to 30 years old. The number of persons in each delegation varied depending on the national process and the available resources for the travels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Delegates</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Czech Republic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2   Denmark</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3   France</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4   Georgia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5   Germany</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6   Greece</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7   Italy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8   Lithuania</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9   Malta</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10  Poland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11  Romania</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12  Russia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13  Spain</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14  Sweden</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15  Turkey</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: 98</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the delegations, other participants took part in the conference: workshops moderators, speakers (artistic, facilitators’ training, media coverage), interpreters, EU elected representatives and members, guests, from different nationalities (French, Italian and Belgian for the most part).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Conference’s participants</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delegates</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young facilitators and technical facilitators</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult chaperons</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops’ moderators</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic moderators</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreters</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media coverage consultants</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitators’ training speakers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guests</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Elected representative and members</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination team</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The facilitators training, 12th and 13th May

One of the strongest elements of the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” methodology is that those who facilitate are young people from 18 to 30 called “facilitators”. Quoting the words used by the coordinators of Brasilia’s 2010 International Conference: “they are the heart of the conference, they give the rhythm and accompany the delegates step by step during all the activities”. They also have a central role in welcoming and connecting with the national delegations.

10 facilitators coming from 9 European countries participated in the European Conference. They were previously selected by the national coordinations. In the case of France, there were 2 facilitators; one of them played the role of the team referent and interface with the organizational team.

A two-day training to prepare them to their role

The 10 facilitators participated in a two-days training in Brussels, before the European Conference. This training allowed working with them on several aspects:

- **The content**: several specialists took part - Monde Pluriel on the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” methodology, Edith Sizoo from the “Ethic and Responsibility Forum” on the notion of responsibility and Jean-Michel Lex, a Belgian teacher and trainer, on the civic challenges of education to sustainable development.

- **The European Conference’s programme**: practical aspects, agenda and moments facilitated by the facilitators.

- **Facilitation techniques** used so that the workshops and the daily times spent with the delegates could be lively, participative and fun.

During the whole training, Francesca Alvisi, an Italian scientist and member of the coordination team of the project in her country, brought her views and enriched the discussions on the project’s scientific content.

The different interactive activities and off-times planned during the training contributed to create a real team spirit among the facilitators, who formed during the whole conference a united group motivated by its role. The distribution of orange T-shirts, useful to easily indentify the facilitators during the conference, and the group picture allowed to close the training just before the arrival of the delegations at the youth hostel.

The future facilitators practise the “world café” method

The facilitators team at the end of the training
And what do the facilitators say about it?

The story of creating a team: the facilitators

There are times in life when you do not get what you expected... You get something better. This is the feeling I’ve had since the first day of the “Let’s take care of the planet” European Youth Conference. (…) In terms of preparation, the team of facilitators benefited from a two days training course during which they got the chance to know each other, learn from the different experiences they each shared, meet experts in the field of sustainable development, try new teaching and learning methods and plan the activities of the conference. In terms of optimism, funny energizers, songs, smiles and hugs brought a naturally positive atmosphere and confidence. In just a few words, the training course for the facilitators was a story of creating a team. A team that gave their best to answer to the participants’ needs and achieve the planned objectives while encouraging everybody to have fun, to work with passion and enthusiasm. A team that went beyond their formal responsibilities, which ignored tiredness and which never forgot to smile. (…)

At the end of this long and beautiful road on which we did not walk, but ran together these three days, my only hope is that we, as facilitators, were not the stones in the road that made the young delegates stumble, but the ones that were there to quietly show them the way. I hope they too got more than what they had expected.”

Fiorina PAVEL, APSD-Agenda 21, facilitator from Romania
3. The “youth” programme of the European Conference

Youth agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 13</th>
<th>18:00-19:00</th>
<th>Delegation moment with facilitators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15:00 - 20:30</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20:30-22:00</td>
<td>Cultural Presentation of the delegations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>7:15 - 8:15</td>
<td>Breakfast (departure at 8:30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30-10:00</td>
<td>Reception at the CoR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Opening ceremony and panel discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speakers: Michael Collins(^1), Nathalie Broux(^2), Edith Sizoo(^3), Ivan Pascoud(^4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 - 13:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topical workshops</td>
<td>13:45-15:30</td>
<td>Debate and prioritisation of responsibilities (part 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15:30 - 15:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15:45-17:15</td>
<td>Debate and prioritisation of responsibilities (part 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body music</td>
<td>17:30-18:00</td>
<td>Body music show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19:00-20:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body music session</td>
<td>21:00-22:30</td>
<td>Creating the Conference jingle with corporal percussions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| May 15 | 9:30-12:15 | Field visits and discussions with EU elected representatives or members |
| Topical workshop | 14:00-15:30 | World Café on the definition of actions related to the responsibilities (part 3) |
|        | 15:30-16:00 | Break                               |
| Educommunication workshops | 16:00-17:30 | Educommunication workshops: open letter, posters, reporters, video, Scientific workshop (part 1) |
| Body music | 17:45-19:00 | Creation of a flash mob             |
|        | 19:00 - 21:30 | Dinner in Brussels Centre          |

| May 16 | 10:00-11:00 | Educommunication workshops (part 2) |
|        | 11:00-11:15 | Break                               |
|        | 11:15-12:30 | Educommunication workshops (part 3) |
|        | 12:30-13:30 | Lunch                               |
| Educommunication workshops | 13:30-15:30 | Finalizing educommunication tools and workshop on Diffusion and follow-up |
|        | 15:30-16:00 | Break                               |
| Plenary | 16:00-17:30 | Closing ceremony: Youth messages, reactions, next steps |
|        |             | Speakers: Connie Hedegaard\(^5\), Staffan Nilsson\(^6\), Michel Lebrun\(^7\), Pierre Calame\(^8\), Patrick Lasson\(^9\) |
|        | 17:45 -18:30 | Flash mob: Body music in front of the EU Parliament |
|        | 19:00 – 22:00 | Dinner and Party (at the Mundo B)   |
|        | 9:00-12:00 | Delegations departure               |

\(^1\) Administration Deputy Director of the CoR  
\(^2\) French teacher, coordinator of an experimental educational project  
\(^3\) Coordinator of the Ethics & Responsibility international network  
\(^4\) Member of the ReFeud youth network, Expert on Rio + 20  
\(^5\) European Commissioner for Climate Action  
\(^6\) President of the European Economic and Social Committee  
\(^7\) Rio+20 delegate in the CoR  
\(^8\) President of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation  
\(^9\) Rhône-Alpes region representative in Brussels
A series of collective construction activities were proposed to the delegates, allowing the young people to identify their role in the society, through debates and practical experiences. Activities alternated between debate workshops and collective production workshops, between visits and more festive times.

Because of the great disparity of languages in Europe, the conference took place in three official languages: French, English and Spanish. A team of interpreters were at the disposal of the delegates and helped them to express themselves and better understand each other during the different activities of the conference. The facilitators, who were themselves from different nationalities, provided some translation on their mother tongue to the delegates who needed such support.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was moderated by Monde Pluriel.

Several guests took part in it:
- **Young ambassadors of the event** – Three European delegates (one Spanish, one French and one Georgian) from the Brazilia International Conference opened the conference with a speech they wrote together by remote work a few months earlier. They explained how important this kind of meetings is, for the rich exchanges and the strong unity they provide to face environmental challenges.
- **Michael Collins** – administrative deputy director of the Committee of the Regions, gave a welcome speech to the young participants and acknowledged the project they participated in.
- **Nathalie Broux** – French teacher at the Jacques Feyder high school of Epinay-sur-Seine (France), spoke about how important it is that students and teachers carry out ESD projects in their schools.
- **Ivan Pascaud** – REFEDD member (French Network of students for sustainable development), spoke about the Rio+20 Earth Summit and its challenges.
- **Edith Sizoo** – coordinator of the “Ethics and Responsibility” network, reminded the origins of the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project, with the first International Youth Conference in Brazil, and spoke about the concept of responsibility.

Then the floor was given to the European delegates, to react or ask questions to the speakers. The different issues addressed during the conference opening session brought the delegates elements of content on the conference themes, its background, the notion of responsibility, Rio+20, etc., which contributed to stimulate their reflection during the conference activities.
**Thematic workshops**

The thematic workshops were entirely led by teams of two facilitators each.

The *Open Letter to the Decision-makers* constituted one of the most expected outcomes of the European Conference. It contains on the one hand the summary of the commitments the young people expressed and wished to take on at their own level, and on the other hand, concrete requests to public decision-makers.

In a first part, the delegates were split up into 6 thematic groups (see the above-mentioned themes). The purpose of this workshop was to prioritize and/or reformulate one responsibility per theme. To this aim, they based their work on the responsibilities listed at national level. This first workshop period also gave the young people an opportunity to have a first exchange about local realities in the various represented countries. The outcome of this workshop formed a basis for the educommunication workshops.

The chosen responsibility had to meet three requirements:
- respond to a priority issue identified by the group
- be easy to implement in a school environment, whatever the country’s national context
- be accessible to young people, within their capacity to act.

*First part of the thematic workshops: debate on the responsibilities and experience exchange*

The aim of the second part of the thematic workshops was to identify concrete actions to be implemented for each of the chosen responsibility. With the World Café method, the same groups moved from table to table to suggest actions for each responsibility. Then the last group summarized the three actions that appeared to be, in their view, the most important and realistic.

*Second part of the thematic workshop: the delegates propose concrete actions.*
**Educommunication Workshops**

Educommunication is a way to connect education with communication and support the right of individuals to produce information themselves using different medias: posters, newspapers, radio, video, etc. It also consists in learning how to communicate to raise awareness.

These workshops provided an opportunity for the delegates to learn how to communicate on their commitments using various languages, to create communication tools in order to disseminate and promote the results of the conference once back in their country, and to learn how to handle tools that they can reuse afterwards.

The different productions were presented during the conference closing session to political leaders. These workshops were facilitated by external monitors and their content was prepared in close partnership with the European coordination team. These are also valuable tools for the continuity of the Conference as they allow to enhance the local projects and to keep this experience alive after the event.

Before the conference, the delegates could choose among 5 educommunication workshops (see below). These workshops were facilitated by different NGOs and scientific partners.

**Open Letter Workshop** (facilitated by Monde Pluriel association and 3 facilitators)

The open letter was written by an “editorial board”. The purpose was on the one hand to present and formulate the responsibilities and actions decided collectively during the thematic workshops, and on the other hand to address the decision-makers, by practical suggestions and requests. This letter is addressed both to local and international elected representatives, heads of schools or companies, journalists...

The workshop was held as follows:

- Brainstorming on the purpose, content, and the overall structure of the letter, on how to use it once written, on the target audience (public decision-makers) and the tone to adopt
- Summarizing and formulating of the responsibilities and actions (one group per responsibility)
- Formulating of the messages addressed to the decision-makers: heads of school, journalists, mayors, company leaders and members of international institutions (in groups)
- Writing the introduction and the conclusion (in groups)
- Reviewing and finalizing the letter
- Staging the letter reading and planning a diffusion strategy

The open letter was handed in to Connie Hedegaard and Staffan Nilsson during the closing ceremony and it was sent to local, national and European elected representatives. Some elected representatives sent a written answer to this letter, such as Michèle Rivasi, European Deputy of the French party “Europe Ecology - The Greens”.

*In groups, the delegates write the letter*
Video message Rio + 20 (workshop facilitated by the French association Frequence School and 2 facilitators)

The objective of this workshop was to create a video message for the Earth Summit Rio + 20. The participants learned how to write a script and shoot a film.

This workshop was held as follows:
- Brainstorming on a message to convey and on the target audience, reflection on the staging
- Collective script writing
- Distribution of the roles: actors, directors, technicians, cameramen, soundmen
- Video training
- Collection and/or creation of the scenery for the staging
- Rehearsal of the scenes
- Shooting inside and outside sequences

This message, carrying the voice of young Europeans on global issues and their commitments, was presented at the Rio +20 Summit (20th-22th June 2012) by a delegation of 3 European facilitators and 2 persons from Monde Pluriel. It was also distributed in schools to allow delegates and teachers presenting the results of the European Conference and raising different types of public’s awareness on the challenges of Rio +20 Summit.

Posters workshop (workshop facilitated by the French association Et Pourquoi Pas? and 2 facilitators)

In this workshop, the delegates created three posters whose aim was to relay an interesting message, by playing with words and image. The idea was also to transcribe in images the commitments made by the young participants. Several staging processes were proposed to the delegates who selected one: writing on the body, where the body becomes a medium to draw on, to write words on. Through the photomontage technique, the participants created the posters themselves, from the slogan to the visual.

The workshop was held as follows:
- Definition and description of a communication campaign, using the work of WWF NGO
- Presentation of the processes and selection of a process
- Distribution in three thematic groups - one on solidarity, one on consumption and energy, and one on natural resources and biodiversity
- Use of post-it to write strong words that are related to the responsibilities and actions of the theme in order to find the poster slogan. The slogan must be strong, concise, and why not off-the-wall or humorous
- Reflection on the images to associate with the slogan and the responsibilities
- Visual design: writing/drawing on the body and editing.
These awareness posters will be exhibited in the schools or other private or public spaces.

**Reporters workshop** (facilitated by the Italian organization MED Education and 2 facilitators)

The participants of this workshop were in charge of the press coverage of the event: writing articles, photo reporting, interviewing resource persons and delegates...

The material created was published on a blog opened on that purpose, on Facebook and on Twitter. The objective was to communicate broadly on the activities and results of the conference, so that those who did not attend Brussels meeting could follow the progress of the conference during the event, and to create tools reusable after the conference.

In pairs, the delegates chose a specific moment of the conference they wanted to tell about. They wrote articles illustrated with photos they had taken themselves and edited them on the blog.

Blog address:  
http://takecareoftheplaneteu.blogspot.fr/

**Scientific workshop “Sustainability and Climate Change: How to cope with them?”** (facilitated by 2 researchers from the Italian National Research Centre and 2 facilitators)

The general objective of the workshop was to induce a reflection about the possible linkages between sustainability and climate change issues by presenting a case study (the Arctic) where this problem is real and concrete, by making the youth interacting directly with research scientists on this topic. The third objective was to test the efficacy of the transmission of scientific information and data by letting the youth traduce what was understood in educommunication material: creation of 6 posters.

The workshop had three stages:
- Information was given about sustainability, climate change and the importance to study polar areas in order to monitor climate all over the planet.
- A telephone call to Dirigible Italia Base at Ny-Ålesund was performed, and young interviewers asked their questions to two scientific researchers. The telephone call was recorded.
- Production of educommunication materials: 6 posters and educative videos with interviews between the youth telling what they had learnt during the workshop.

*The delegates edit their articles on the blog*

*Creation of posters to transmit the workshop’s results*
Meetings with European decision-makers
During the second day of the conference, the participants had meetings with European decision-makers and field visits in the morning.

Meetings with European decision-makers
One of the objectives of this conference was to allow a dialogue between the young people and members of the European institutions, so that the youth could learn about the functioning of the institutions, the policies implemented and the complexity of the issues in their collective dimension (to go beyond the individual level). It was also an opportunity for the young people to understand the link between local and global issues as well as the different scales of territory (role of the regions at the European level, role of the European Parliament, etc.). Finally, these meetings had also a symbolic role to place the event beyond its context and allow the young participants to meet persons that work every day in these institutions, and vice versa.

This meeting was prepared the day before with the facilitators, at the end of the thematic workshops. In groups, they presented to the delegates the person they would meet the next day, and they prepared together the questions they would ask.

The young people met the following persons:

Kriton Arsenis: Greek European Member of Parliament, group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament.

Boris Essender: Member of the cabinet of the General Secretary of the Committee of the Regions.

Patrick Lusson: Former Director of the participatory democracy bureau (DPERC) at the Rhone-Alps Region and former Director of the Rhone-Alps Office in Brussels.

Philippe Lamberts: Belgian European Member of Parliament, group of Greens/European Free Alliance; Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs; Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

The young people were very honored to be welcomed in one of the Parliament salon and motivated to enter in this highly symbolic place.

Example of questions asked by the delegates – zoom on the meeting with Philippe Lamberts:

- How is organized a regular week?
  “Our work is organized in various thematic committees, but also per political group. During a month, the members of the Parliament spend 1 week in Strasbourg, 2 weeks in Brussels and 1 week at home.”

- What do you think of projects such as “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”?
  “The question is: « are you screaming loud enough? » If you are aware but you do not shout enough, the decision-makers don’t feel the pressure. You need to challenge decision-makers”.

Mr. Lamberts also explained that for him, there are two main challenges for Europe: “a decent life for each and the respect of environmental
limits. This is very complicated, because it consists in a systemic change.” He has also underlined the pressure exerted by the economic lobbies on the parliamentarian decisions and gave the example of an Act that was rejected because of the pressure from the major oil groups.

At the end of the debate, the dialogue became much more interactive: Mr Lamberts asked questions to the young participants on their vision about the decision-makers and exchanged on the question of trust. Indeed, a common vision emerged from several exchanges: the distrust in the decision-makers. It was a very spontaneous and enriching moment for the young persons.

As regards the “political career”, he insisted on the fact that there are honest people in all the parties; the main point is, in its point of view, to avoid making politics one’s unique “livelihood”, because we sometimes must take political risks, and therefore sometimes tell people what they don’t want to hear! If one expects to be re-elected, he/she then loses the ability to be in harmony with oneself. “If politics becomes a carrier the system is dead. No more democracy. No full time politician!”

Finally, Mr Lambert gave the young people some advices:

“Your responsibility is to inform yourself because the media distort reality, get your own opinion and debate on these issues.”

Let’s Take Care of the Planet”. It was our first time talking with a politician, and we really liked it. He looked like a simple man and was very friendly to us. His speech was rather fast, but legible, and all of us understood everything. We were impressed by this meeting.

Liza and Dasha, Russia.

The Field visits

Different types of visits were organized: the European Parliament, the Parlementarium, which shows the history and the missions of the European Parliament. Some groups also visited local inhabitants initiatives related with sustainable development: the PUM project and the ESPOIR Project.

Discovering the European institutions

Testimony of two delegates on the field visits:

“On 15th of May, the delegates were divided into 5 groups and every group had its own programme. [...] We would like to say some words about our visit. In the European Parliament we had a small excursion, where we had watched a video about the Rome Treaty, heard about functions of the European Commission, European Parliament and Council of EU and had seen the hall, where the politicians discuss different topics.”

Liza and Dasha, Russia.

Testimony of two delegates on the meeting with Mr Lamberts:

“We went to the Committee of the Regions to debate with the deputy Philippe Lamberts, representative of the Green Party, about his life, job, environmental problems in the world, responsibilities of adults and young and his opinion about the “Youth European Conference:
Discovering local projects on sustainable development:

Part of the adults and the young people participated in two visits to discover local initiatives related to sustainable development: the ESPOIR project (“espoir” meaning “hope”) and the garden of the PUM collective in Leopold Parc. The purpose was to show concretely to the participants how innovative projects can respond to the sustainable development issues in Brussels.

The ESPOIR project, an experience of ecodistrict managed in a multicultural context:
It consists in a social construction project of a building of 14 apartments in the district of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean in the West of Brussels. It is led by Bonnevie community center in collaboration with the Cire (coordination and initiatives for and with the refugees and foreigners). This project combines ecology, participation and policy of immigration through an ingenious use of many public devices.

A group of teachers with a few delegates could visit one of the apartments of the co-ownership. They were guided by two residents who explained the project and how a passive building works.

Collective PUM Garden, in the European district
A group of residents has installed an experimental collective garden in the European district, very close to the Committee of the Regions. The guides presented the project, the urban development issues in Brussels and in the European district and explained the interest of such a project so near from the European institutions. Then they made a visit of the garden.
Web site: http://pumproject.wordpress.com/
Cultural activities

Cultural evening

On May 13 in the evening, the day of the delegations’ arrival, the participants were invited to make a cultural presentation representing their culture. First, during the meal, the participants could draw up a table with culinary specialties from their country.

Then, the delegations were invited to share a friendly moment to discover the cultural diversity of Europe. The participants presented an aspect of their culture in various forms. The participants could for instance hear a beautiful Lithuanian song, a Danish rhyme, participate to a folk dances from Romania and watch traditional dance from Russia or Georgia. Others preferred to present the “essentials elements” of their country (geography, symbols, flag, candies, etc.).

This evening was both warm and moving and it helped to break the ice between the participants.

Body percussion

Several body percussion sessions gave rhythm to the three days of the conference. Body percussion is a musical genre that uses the body as a musical instrument. Music in general allows in an intercultural context such as the European Youth Conference, to overcome language barriers, to communicate and understand each other through a universal language. The idea was also to create the anthem of the conference, with a specific identity in which the participants could recognize themselves. In other words, the purposes were to strengthen the cohesion of the group and to use this art as an alternative mean of communication to diffuse the message of the youth to the European institutions.
The reading of the Open Letter during the closing ceremony was conceived as a “slam”, accompanied by a group of delegates giving a rhythm to the reading with body percussion in the background and a chorus between each part. The chorus was a sentence taken from the International Charter of responsibilities drafted in Brasilia in 2010: “If not us, then who? If not now, then when?” This sentence has remained as the slogan of the European Conference.

A choreography was created, under the artistic direction of Annie Deltour - a reference in Belgium on body percussion - and the French group Soleo, using used plastic bottles as percussion instruments – which had been collected, for the majority, at the cafeteria of the Committee of the Regions. A very strong moment of the conference was on May 16th, after the closing ceremony, when this choreography was performed by the delegates on the European Parliament square in the form of a flash mob, where all of the members of the European Parliament were invited. The Open Letter was distributed on this occasion.

Find an extract of the flash mob in video, filmed by the European Parliament television and edited on the European Conference blog: http://takecareoftheplaneteu.blogspot.fr/
Closing ceremony

On May 16 in the afternoon, the participants gathered in the plenary room to close the event. Important guests accepted the invitation to listen and answer the voice of the young people: Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action; Michel Lebrun, Rio + 20 delegate at the Committee of the Regions; Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Patrick Lusson, Director of the Representative Office of the Rhone-Alps Region and Pierre Calame, President of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation.

Speech of Connie Hedegaard and Staffan Nilsson

The youth are those who took the floor first. Each workshop spokesperson presented the fruits of their labor to the assembly. The Open Letter was read by 4 delegates, accompanied by another group of young delegates playing music and body percussion in front of the politicians. The spokespersons of the posters and video workshops were able to show the results of their work on the screen and those from the reporters and scientific workshops explained what they had lived in their respective working group.

Then the guests expressed their reactions; they warmly congratulated the young people for their commitment and great work. They expressed pride, emotion and encouraged them. Connie Hedegaard said it was “the most beautiful open letter she had ever received”. They also promised to relay the message to their personal and political circles.

The end of the conference was characterized by the flash-mob of body percussion on the European Parliament square. The closing ceremony and the flash-mob had a strong and moving impact on the participants.
The “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” method encourages young people’s free expression in the debate and educommunication workshops, as well as education for young people by young people. This is why activities for adults were held concurrently with the delegates’ workshops; they never attended the youth workshops. Also, having a separate programme for adults was of course an opportunity for them to network and enrich oneself with experts speeches, experience and practices sharing workshops.

The chaperons followed a programme aiming at inciting experience sharing on educational practices and learning more about the challenges of education for sustainable development. With external speakers’ contribution, the teachers could discuss on the notion of responsibility, on the Rio + 20 issues; they could think about the links between education, territory and sustainability. They could also share their experience on ESD projects and their implementation in different geographical contexts. A workshop on the project follow-up allowed thinking about the different possible dynamics for the European continuity of “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”.

4. The “adults” programme of the European Conference
## Programme of the adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 14</th>
<th>Plenary in the Cor</th>
<th>10:00 - 12:00</th>
<th>Opening ceremony and panel discussions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 - 13:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>14:00 - 15:30</td>
<td>Interculturality and responsibility, towards Rio + 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhone-Alps Region Offices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker: Edith Siza and Boris Essender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15:30 - 16:00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Presentation of the Conference: Youth and adults activities, practical questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Body music</td>
<td>17:30 - 18:00</td>
<td>Body music show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19:00 - 20:00 Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21:00 - 22:30 Free evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Visits and debates</td>
<td>9:30 - 12:15</td>
<td>Field visits and debates with members of European Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 - 13:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>14:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>“YCP project implementation at local and national levels”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhone-Alps region Offices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(experience exchange + sharing of working tools)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17:00 - 18:45</td>
<td>Free time in town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20:00 – 21h30 Dinner at the restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>10:00 - 12:30</td>
<td>Word Café on YCP continuity towards 2013-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CoR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expected result: concrete interaction proposals between schools and countries towards YCP European Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 - 13:30</td>
<td>lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>13:30 – 15:30</td>
<td>Education, territories and sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CoR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker: Pierre Calame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Experience exchange on partnership between schools and local authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plenary (CoR)</td>
<td>16:00 - 17:30</td>
<td>Closing ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17:45 - 18:30</td>
<td>Flash mob on the EU Parliament Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19:00 – 22:00 Dinner and Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A study was conducted in different cultures of the world to see if the concept of responsibility exists elsewhere. Unlike the concept of law, it appears that the concept of responsibility is universal, it exists in all cultures. These include the 6 characteristics of the concept of responsibility:

1 - **Responsibility is a relational issue:** “responsibility = ability to respond.” Responsibility is the link to parenting: a child is born of a relationship. “I am responsible because you exist”. Unlike western cultures, where nature is viewed as an object to make use of, indigenous cultures are the richest on this notion of responsibility since the human being is part of a great whole. Everything that lives is in relation to the other living beings. The human being is not superior to other beings.

2 - **Responsibility is a universal concept:** Although there are cultural differences, the concept of responsibility is universal. In the West the question of choice is individualistic (free choice) while in cultures where the group is more important than the individual, the group is the one that defines who is responsible to whom. For example, in Chinese, one cannot say “I take my responsibilities”, the ideogram for the word responsibility means: “trustworthy”.

3 - **The idea of proportionality:** All human beings are entitled to the same respect of his dignity, equally. Rights are equal for all human beings. On the other hand, responsibility is proportional; it depends on the power and the knowledge each being has... One feels responsible according to its environment.

4 - **The concept of dilemma:** the concept of dilemma is not easy to apply. We must make choices all the time according to priorities. And choices imply dilemmas. For example, an employee discovers that the drug his company manufactures can cause cancer, but he/she needs this work to feed the family: what choice will the person have?

5 - **Responsibility in relation to the past, present and future:** are we responsible for what was done in the past? Should we apply the precautionary principle when it comes to responsibility towards the future?

6 - **Responsibility as ethical and legal issues:** responsibility is not a value, it is the application of values in the practice. How do I act in the everyday reality assuming my responsibilities? The word “responsibility” comes from the Roman law: respondere = to account for one’s actions before the courts.
Workshop on the “implementation of the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project at local and national levels: exchange of experience and sharing working tools” - facilitated by Guillaume Saliège and Bruno Descroix

The objective of this workshop was to allow the participants to share their experience and to develop a database on the ESD projects undertaken within the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project.

The participants were divided into pairs. Each had to ask questions to its partner on its project and write a short article on it. The author had to mention in particular the educational goals, the actions carried out by young people, the involvement of local and national actors and finally they had to underline the positive impact of the project and the difficulties they faced.

At the end of this workshop, the articles were gathered by the moderators to make a compilation that will be edited on the website of the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” network as a newsletter.

This workshop allowed the participants to have mutual exchanges with other European colleagues on each one’s project. The compilation of the articles provided a synthetic vision of the ESD projects implemented within the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” programme.

Workshop on Education, Territory and Sustainability: Exchange of experience on the partnership between schools and local authorities – facilitated by Pierre Calame

3 case studies were presented: Spain, Turkey and France. These experiences carry a real revolution in the educational system. Here are some examples:

- **The development of international networks for the exchange of experiences.** Going from the local to the global level. Start of a reform of the educational methods through “horizontal” approaches and the exchange of experiences in order to gradually provide general guidelines.

- **Practical and sensitive relation to the local environment** in its different dimensions to comprehend the societies’ complexity as biosocio-technical systems.

- **Learning science by practicing**, learning about mathematical, chemical and physical tools as means of understanding the world and not as an abstract tool whose main purpose is selection at school.

- **Projects related with the authorities** that can initiate a large-scale movement aiming at setting up charters of shared responsibility between local authorities, the education system and the students.

- **Learning responsibility**, not to make one feel guilty but on the contrary learning about the sense of responsibility that comes from being aware of one’s possibilities to act.

- **Reconciliation** of the knowledge sphere with the emotions sphere.

- **Development** of skills useful both for economy and the society.
VI. Rio + 20

After the European Youth Conference, Rio + 20 was the final stage in the European 2012 process “Let’s Take Care of the Planet”. From June 13 to 21, a delegation of 3 European facilitators - Aynur from Turkey, Cristina from Spain and Ivan from France, together with Delphine Astier and Lydia Nicollet from Monde Pluriel, participated to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The goals of this mission were to bring the European delegates’ voice (a video message and the Open Letter to the decision-makers) and to create links with existing youth networks and organizations representatives of the cities and regions. The delegation took part in activities at the Peoples Summit, where they ran a workshop on the issue of responsibility, starting the debate from the Open Letter commitments.

The three facilitators also had the opportunity to present the video message and the Open Letter at the UN official Summit, during an event organized by the European Economic and Social Committee of the European Union and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), and another event organized by the Committee of the Regions.

New projects will probably arise from these meetings, such as the creation of a facilitators’ network committed on the continuity of the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project and on the theme of responsibility.

VII. Communication

Several tools were created by the European coordination to communicate on the project and on the tools created by the young people during and after the conference. This communication includes the relations with the print and broadcast media, the translation of the documents about the conference and its follow-up, and various official letters sent to inform about the event.

1. On the web

- A website for the European “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” process: www.confint-europe.net, created in 2010 by Monde Pluriel. This website is intended for the European project coordinators and participants in particular. Each participating country has a webpage on its national process. This website also provides working papers. Information is published in three languages (French, English, Spanish).
- The website of Monde Pluriel is also a communication platform with general information on the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project. www.mondepluriel.org

- A Facebook page “Let’s Take Care of the Planet – Europe” was created for the event. News were published during the conference to inform those who were not participating physically. Since then, it allows to publish the latest news and to post photos and videos related to the project. Following the conference, other Facebook pages have also been created by delegates, aiming to keep in touch and share information.

- keeping in social networks, a Twitter page was also opened, allowing to achieve a sphere a bit more “politicized” and in particular to connect with some elected representatives. For example Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, subscribed to the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” Twitter page. Boris Essender, Member of Cabinet of the Secretary General at the Committee of the Regions, and Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for Climate Action, have “tweeted” about the conference.

Also, the “Reporters” workshop of the conference opened a blog and edited articles during the conference: http://takecareoftheplaneteu.blogspot.fr. Monde Pluriel moderates and encourages the young people to send articles for publication.

2. On the paper

- The design of the European Conference: Monde Pluriel worked with a professional graphic designer for the creation of a logo and a graphic identity for the European Conference. These items were used on different communication media: formal letters, the participant guide, t-shirts,...

- A voluntary team of translators: these volunteers have supported the team of Monde Pluriel association translating in English and Spanish administrative and communication documents before and after the conference.

3. In the press

A press release along with a press kit addressed to print and broadcast media was published by Monde Pluriel association. The television channel of the European Parliament filmed the flash-mob at the conference closing. You can find this video on the blog of the conference: http://takecareoftheplaneteu.blogspot.fr/

4. Audio and video media

A professional photographer and a film production team were mobilized in Brussels for the audiovisual coverage of the event. The conference activities and many interviews of young delegates and elected representatives were filmed. A film about the event was
produced; it is available on internet and was sent to the national coordination teams of the participating countries.

**VIII. Assessment**

1. **Post-event assessment**

At the end of the conference, all participants - delegates, facilitators, chaperons, workshop moderators – were invited to complete an assessment form regarding the infrastructure, and their own feelings. They could choose between three qualifiers to answer the questions: ‘excellent or above your expectations’, ‘good or equivalent to your expectations’, ‘bad or below your expectations.

67 participants completed the assessment questionnaire at the end of the conference (42 delegates, 13 adult chaperons, 3 workshop moderators and 9 facilitators).

**Assessment of the infrastructure and reception conditions**

On the whole, more than 90% of the answers considered this part excellent or good, with more mixed results regarding meals: 64% found them excellent or good, which remains above average. In fact, the coordination team took the risk to propose the participants original food, sometimes spicy, sometimes exotic, but always of quality, organic (for breakfast and lunch) and local whenever possible. This type of food may have been unusual for some.

**Evaluation of the activities of the conference**

This part was different for each category of participant. For the delegates, the vast majority of the assessed activities were positive (excellent or good) for over 90%. If we make a classification, the body percussion activity was the most appreciated (100%), followed by the closing ceremony with 98%, then the thematic workshops and cultural presentations of the first evening with 97%. The visit of the European Parliament, for those who made it, was the activity with the lowest result (86%).

As for the chaperons, activities and workshops were in general also very appreciated, the opening and closing of the conference being the favorite moments, collecting 100% of the votes, including more than 80% qualifying them as “excellent”. Only the field visits organized the second day of the conference were less popular: 25% for the visit of the ESPOIR project and 58% for the visit of the collective gardens (partly explained by the bad weather on that day). The flash-mob was also cited several times as the favorite moment.

The assessment of the facilitators focused both on the activities themselves and on the method to implement them. Here again the overall assessment is very satisfactory, the positive answers ranging between 78 and 100% (if we add the “excellent” and “good” answers). Again the body percussion performance was unanimously classified as “excellent” by 100% of the facilitators. The most criticized aspects were the workload and the integration activities, classified as “bad” in 22% answers.

Finally, as for the educommunication workshop moderators, from whom only three questionnaires were collected, all the elements were evaluated as “excellent” or “good”.

To conclude, the assessment results are on the whole very positive. The most impacting moments for the participants where the unifying moments such as the opening and the closing
sessions of the conference (presentations of the work and reading the Open Letter) as well as the flash mob or the body percussion. And meals for the delegates were less appreciated so as the field visits for the chaperones.

2. Assessment of the objectives

Another assessment was on the understanding of the concepts conveyed by the project, such as European citizenship, sustainable development, the notion of responsibility as well as the knowledge of the European countries. This assessment was made at the beginning and at the end of the conference to measure the evolution of the delegates’ experience in Brussels.

Here are the answers to the questions at the beginning and at the end of the conference (51 answers collected at the beginning and 29 at the end, out of 60):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>At the opening of the conference</th>
<th>At the end of the conference</th>
<th>Evolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do the delegates feel like being European citizens?</td>
<td>Yes 74.4%  No 25.6%</td>
<td>Yes 93.1%  No 6.9%</td>
<td>+18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do the delegates know the European countries well?</td>
<td>Yes 76.5%  No 23.5%</td>
<td>Yes 93.1%  No 6.9%</td>
<td>+16.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Assessment of the project by the national coordination committees

Finally, a post-project assessment was also sent to the national coordinators from each country to evaluate the opportunities as the project continuity in the coming years in the different European countries that participated in the 2012 process. Out of 13 questionnaires, 11 have been sent back.

Here is a summary:

**What did the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project bring to the participating countries, both for the coordinating entities and the young people?**

For the national coordinating entities, the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project first complemented or was integrated into similar activities developed by their structure. This project meets the values carried by these organizations. Some also mentioned how this project enriched and enhanced their own projects, bringing an international dimension they did not have, a framework and a method to work with schools, concrete themes to tackle, concrete activities to implement. The project also allowed some structures to exchange and work in synergy with European partners. Two partners described this project as rewarding and stimulating for them. Finally, school teachers emphasized the fact that this project provides different working methods from the usual school methods and enhances the school actions implemented in their school.

For the young people, the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project is an opportunity for them to play an “important role”, to feel actors, to express themselves and to be heard. They can also practice participative and representative
democracy, citizenship, and debate to commit themselves on responsibilities. The intercultural dimension is very important because they have the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds, concerned about the same issues and thus they have the feeling of belonging to a wider community. Several times, they expressed their feeling of being ambassador of their school or their country. Finally, beyond new knowledge, they also gain new skills with the educommunication activities (learning how to communicate with different means, practicing foreign languages, speaking to an audience...).

What are the prospects for continuity?

At least 7 countries wish to launch again the project next year but in different forms. Given the very different contexts from one country to another, the planned activities are various: school workshops, trainings, seminars, competitions, conferences or exchanges with other countries, field-visits...

The number of schools involved varies from 2 to more than 200. 7 countries plan to organize local conferences. No national conference is planned next year.

Most of the countries expressed their interest in participating to a new European Conference, some said they would be ready to co-organize it in their country with the support of the European team (ex : Romania).

4. What do young people think about it?

“I am very glad I had the opportunity to take part in this important conference. I hope that all the participants will do their best to keep in mind all the principles mentioned in the Open Letter sent to the European Parliament. The event made me think about our planet from the other point of view – how much it is destroyed, how it suffers.

In working groups, we tried to find solutions of different problems connected to transport, natural resources, energy, etc. Hopefully we at least partially succeeded. I hope that the letter sent to MPs will open their eyes as it did to me and the other conference participants.”

Jan, delegate from Czech Republic

“I’ll be a journalist and I’ll only deal with environmental issues. In Brussels I realize that our life depends on the Earth’s life.”

Giorgi, delegate from Georgia

“This event is a big change in my life. I would like to become a decision-maker in order to urge the polluters to stop their harmful activities.”

Natia, delegate from Georgia

“The 2012 European Youth Conference was one of the biggest events I have been a part of in my entire life. I and my classmate not only had an opportunity to represent our home country, but also a chance to meet a lot of teenagers from all over the Europe and learn something about their culture, life habits, language and even become friends. I am very excited that we completed our goal by all cooperating and thinking together. Discussing global problems about nature made me look at this even more serious and I am glad that I am not the only young person who cares about these topical problems. I have learnt that giving up and doing nothing is never the answer, therefore I tried my best at finding solutions and offering alternatives to stop the harm being done to our Planet. [...] I just hope that what we did there is at least a small step to changing the humanity’s attitude and the World itself.”

Gabija, delegate from Lithuania
“The alarm clock rings for the last time, it’s the 17th of May and time to go home. Most of us are crying because we fought for environment and participated to democracy. And we also met wonderful people with the same state of mind and the same desire to change our uncertain future and our children’s. Keep in mind that those little daily actions in favor of our planet will preserve biodiversity for the future generations.”

Arturo, delegate from Spain

“We know it’s everyone’s responsibility to take care of the planet or not, it’s in everybody’s hands but we believe that talking with those who have the power is an important step to achieve it. So we are very happy to have handed them over our ideas during the conference. […]”

Desirée, delegate from Spain

“Together we took part in the European Conference in order to commit ourselves in favor of global sustainable development. Together we wish to take responsibility to take care of the planet. Together we will disseminate our message in Europe and in other continents. We met to continue a big project and we will carry on our eco-delegate role until the 7 billions human beings commit themselves to our action. […] We had the opportunity to participate in this project; we’ll have a big opportunity to follow it! We, the youth, have the energy and the potential to build a sustainable, united and ecological world, we will improve the society, I am sure of it! Hope is our motivation, our motivation is hope.”

Alexandre, delegate from France

IX. After the European Conference

Back from Brussels, most of the participating countries organized events to diffuse the conference’ results, hand in the Open Letter or talk about their experience, in the schools, to the parents or to local elected representatives. Many also sent the Open Letter to local newspapers or posted it on their school website.

Here are examples of diffusion or activities in Europe following the European Conference:

1. In France

Maison de l’international – Grenoble – may 2012

During the “European Month”, the “Maison de l’International” from Grenoble city hall asked the Monde Pluriel association to enhance European citizenship of the young people presenting the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project. Early in May, a public exhibition tracing the project since 2010 took place in the “Maison de l’International”.

Back from Brussels, on May 29th, 2012, the delegates presented the results of the European Conference during a reception organized by Grenoble city hall and Monde Pluriel. About hundred people attended (pupils and teachers, delegates’ relatives, members of the Ministry of Education, of Grenoble local authorities and organizations from Grenoble, partners of Monde Pluriel). Following the presentations, the young delegates asked questions to Grenoble elected representatives.

4 delegates from the Rhone-Alps region read the Open Letter to Grenoble elected representatives

10 International House
Val d’Argens high school - Le Muy, May 25th, 2012

The high school organized a meeting during a morning to present the ESD school project. The main theme was « the green and sustainable alternatives to the materials used in our daily lives ». Several groups of young people presented their work as well as their experience from the National and the European Conferences. The originality of this event is that it was broadcasted live on an internet participative TV channel. So it was possible to view the pupils’ presentations and asked them live questions. The videos of this event are still available on internet: http://resinemedia.net/?page_id=436

Jean Prévost high school – Villard de Lans – June 12th, 2012

A day off was organized to inform the pupils about the projects that had been run in the school all over the year, on the theme: « Eating better, what does it mean here and elsewhere? ».

Several actions were organized on that day:

- Awareness-raising workshops: carbon footprint, behavior at the school canteen, health issues on food, meeting with an organic farmer from the Vercors plateau, food sovereignty and inequalities in the world.

- Exhibitions made by the pupils or NGOs about food and the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project.

- Broadcasting of the video message towards Rio+20 shot in Brussels and presentation of the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” project to all the pupils by two delegates elected for the National and European Conferences.

- Reading of and handing in the Open Letter wrote in Brussels to local representatives.

Within the framework of the “lycées éco-responsables” (Eco-responsible High Schools) programme, a delegate from the Ile de France region presented the results of the European Conference to the region representatives. About 10 schools were represented.

2. In the Czech Republic

- Publishing of the Open Letter and photographs on the school and Partners’ Czech websites.
- Article on the Partners’ Czech newsletter.
- Sending of the Open Letter to local newspapers.

3. In Georgia

- Translation of the Open Letter by the delegates and publication in a local newspaper.
- Young people met the mayor from Kharagauli and presented him the Open Letter.
- Creation of a Facebook page “Let’s Take Care of the Planet – Georgia” (articles, videos and photographs).
- Some delegates met the Minister of Education from Adjara.
- At the beginning of the school term 2012-2013, three groups of delegates organized meetings with schools from their region to present the European Conference results.

4. In Spain

- Educommunication tools were edited on various blogs connected with the project.
- In Catalonia, the delegates met their city’s local authorities and 3 delegates met a person in charge of sustainable development.
- In the Basque Country a local forum was organized in May 31st 2012, where the young people talked about their experiences and presented the tools created during the process.
– From October to December 2012, seminars were organized in various towns to present the Open Letter and the pupils’ projects.

5. In Romania

In October 2012, the delegates and the facilitator organized a meeting to explain how the Open Letter was written and for what purpose. Then young people have thought about possible actions to implement in order to achieve the responsibilities. At the same time, the delegates have tried to call up local authorities and decision-makers using the Open Letter and the video message on Rio+20.

6. In Denmark

– Diffusion of the Open Letter through the newsletter of the Baltic Sea Project network.
– Presentation of the conference and the Open Letter on the school website.
– Presentation of the Open Letter to the Mayor of the city of Roskilde, on June 13th, 2012.
– Press release of the project sent to the local media.

X. Financing and partners

The European Conference, including the preparation process and the final event, was financed by several public and private, national and international sources.

The preparation process includes the work from the Monde Pluriel coordination team, the local and/or national processes and the European coordination meetings. The Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation has been financing most of the work of the Monde Pluriel team as for the organization of the European Conference, since 2009. The Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission financed the 3 preparation and post-event meetings with the European Methodological Committee.

The national coordination committees themselves covered the local or national processes in the 15 participating countries as well as part of the travels’ expenses to Brussels. These expenses are not included in the global budget presented in this report.

Most of the logistics line related to the final event was financed by the Youth in Action Programme. In September 2011, Monde Pluriel in partnership with five European countries (Denmark, Spain, Greece, Italy and Turkey) answered a call for proposals for this programme and obtained the required funds. Thanks to this programme, the travel costs for the partners’ countries and the expenses of the final event (accommodation, meals, material and activities) were financed as well as part of the cost of the preliminary coordination meetings for the conference.

The voluntary in-kind contribution from the Committee of the Regions corresponds to about 10,000€ (providing interpreters for the opening and closing ceremony, and the conference and working rooms). Furthermore, the work made
by the volunteers amounted to about 17,000€ (facilitators, interpreters and teachers). These contributions do not enter either in the total amount of this report.

Some countries (Poland, Romania, Lithuania, Georgia) received a financial support for their travel costs to Brussels from the Charles Léopold Mayer foundation.

Also, the European project “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” obtained the moral support from the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and from the Committee of Regions.

The total budget of the 2011-2012 European project « Let’s Take Care of the Planet » rises up to about 200,000€ (staff expenses included).

XI. Continuity and prospects

Elements for the continuity of the European project “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” were adopted after a working seminar of Monde Pluriel team in July 2012 and a coordination meeting with the European Methodological Committee in September 2012. The project will thus be run with new prospects for the three next years.

From November 2012, the European countries that participated in 2011-2012 have been given the opportunity to launch again the project at local level only, in continuity of the European Conference (organization of local conferences, use of the Open Letter, follow-up of the actions undertaken by the young people...). Two new working lines have also been proposed: dialoguing with the elected representatives and developing European exchanges throughout the year. Methodological elements have been sent to the national coordinators to guide them on the implementation of the new activities. Also a new methodological guide will be published for the 2 coming years’ activities and will be diffused in May 2013.

For the next two following years, the project could be developed both at regional level (organization of regional youth conferences) and European level (organization of a new European Conference in spring 2015).
XII. The teams involved in the “Let’s Take Care of the Planet” European project

The general coordination of the project has been assumed by Monde Pluriel association which took the initiative in 2009 to set up a European dynamics for the International Conference in Brasilia.

This team was composed of 4 persons till the end of 2011; from January to June 2012, a fifth person joined the team to work on the logistical organization of the European Conference.

1. General Coordination

Delphine Leroux-Astier (Institutional relationships, methodology)
Lydia Nicollet (European network, methodology and communication)
Mariïène Priolet (Methodology and Logistics)
Leslie Goovaerts (Methodology, management and communication)
Suzy Peyrouset (Logistics)

2. European Methodological Committee

The global guidelines of the methodology were decided together with the European Methodological Committee.

Francesca Alvisi, National Research Centre, Bologna, Italy
Nathalie Carencio, REX-ESD, Grenoble Education board, France
Bruno Descroix, teacher from Louise Michel high school, Bobigny, France
José Manuel Gutierrez, Ingurugela, Basque Country, Spain
Ariadna Pomar y León, Societat Catalana d’Educació Ambiental, Catalonia, Spain
Jean-Paul Robin, REX-ESD, Grenoble Education board, France
Yolanda Ziaka, Polis NGO, Greece

In the last meeting on assessment and prospects in September 2012, two persons from Romania and Denmark joined the Methodological Committee.

3. National coordinating entities

Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21, ROMANIA
Baltic Sea Project, DENMARK
Baltic Sea Project, RUSSIA
National Research Centre - ISMAR, ITALY
Emilie-Heyermann-realschule (EHS), Secondary School, GERMANY
Georgian Nnip Tsiphlari NGO (in partnership with the Education Ministry), GEORGIA
Ingurugela, Basque Country, SPAIN
Legambiente NGO, ITALY
Myrsjöskolan secondary school, SWEDEN
Partners’ Czech NGO, CZECH REPUBLIC
### 4. Contributors to the European Conference

| Facilitators’ training | Jean-Michel Lex, teacher, ESD expert  
|                        | Edith Sizoo, coordinator of the Ethics and Responsibility network |
| Posters’ production workshop | “Et Pourquoi Pas ?” 11 association:  
|                            | Audrey Chic  
|                            | Nicolas Moiroux  
|                            | Suzy Roland |
| Workshop on Rio+20 video message | “Frequence School” 12 association:  
|                                   | Thomas Belchi-Serrano  
|                                   | Laura Ben-Hayoun |
| Reporters’ workshop | “MED Media Education” 13 organization:  
|                      | Isabella Bruni |
| Open Letter workshop | Monde Pluriel association:  
|                      | Leslie Goovaerts  
|                      | Lydia Nicollet |
| Scientific Workshop | Italian National Research Centre:  
|                      | Francesca Alvisi  
|                      | Diego Gonzales |
| Body percussion | “Les Bouteilles Percutées” 14 company:  
|                | Annie Deltour  
|                | Marc Van Eyck  
|                | “Soleo” 15 company:  
|                | Sophie Boucher  
|                | Julien Vasnier |

---

11 French organization proposing creative workshops based on image, with an awareness-raising approach: [http://eppasso.fr/](http://eppasso.fr/)

12 French organization involved in media education (radio/video) towards young people: [http://reporterdunjour.fr/](http://reporterdunjour.fr/)

13 Italian organization involved in media education and communication: [http://www.medieeducationmed.it/](http://www.medieeducationmed.it/)

14 Belgian artistic body percussion company: [http://bouteillespercutees.wix.com/lesbouteillespercutees](http://bouteillespercutees.wix.com/lesbouteillespercutees)

| Adults workshops                      | Bruno Descroix, maths teacher at Louise Michel secondary school, Bobigny  
                                        | Guillaume Saliège, History and geography teacher at Voillaume secondary school - Aulnay-sous-Bois |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Film shooting                        | Ex-Pression association:                                                |
                                        | Olivier Marcolin                                                        |
                                        | Fanny Peyrin                                                            |
                                        | William Plaza                                                           |
| Photograph                            | Rémy-Pierre Ribière                                                     |
| Graphism                              | «Ça manque pas d’Air» graphic design agency:                            |
                                        | Sandra Pilotti                                                          |
| Media                                 | “Com’ par Ma.Gi. “ agency                                               |
                                        | Inga Wachsmann                                                          |
| Speakers (opening and closing sessions)| Pierre Calame, President of the Charles Léopold Mayer foundation         |
                                        | Edith Sizoo, Coordinator of the Ethics & Responsibility international network |
                                        | Nathalie Broux, French literature teacher at Jacques Feyder secondary school, Epinay-sur-Seine |
                                        | Yvan Pascaud, REFEDD member (youth network)                              |
| Technical facilitators (logistics)    | Elodie Berroyer                                                         |
                                        | Lucile Bruneau                                                          |
                                        | Florian Filankembo                                                     |
                                        | Robert Tantet                                                           |
                                        | Axel Simon-Deloche                                                      |
| Interpreters                          | Charlotte Bacot                                                          |
                                        | Elodie Bernard                                                          |
                                        | Alexandra Borghese                                                     |
                                        | Michèle Daniele                                                         |
                                        | Chloé Dussaudoy                                                         |
                                        | Anne-Catherine Geerinckx                                                |
                                        | Coline Glorieux                                                         |
                                        | Simon Prime                                                             |
                                        | Sarah Quetin                                                            |
                                        | Sabrina Rodono                                                          |
                                        | Soizic Shoonbroodt                                                     |
                                        | Gwendoline Vandenborre                                                   |
                                        | Anne-Paule Verrier-Cruz                                                 |
                                        | Lise-Maud Vert                                                          |
                                        | Fanny Willame                                                           |
Monde Pluriel team warmly thanks all the persons who contributed to the success of this project.
We, the youth of Europe, have gathered in Brussels, on the 14th-15th-16th May 2012 and worked with zeal and ardour in order to find solutions to the environmental problems we are deeply concerned about. We need to be heard and we need your cooperation, you decision-makers, in order to change the society’s attitude towards Mother Nature. We debated on these issues: energy, transport, solidarity, consumption, biodiversity and natural resources. We agreed on the following responsibilities and commitments.

We deem ourselves responsible of raising people’s awareness about reducing exhausting and polluting energies and replacing them with renewable energies. To this end, we commit ourselves to:

1. Create workshops to inform people, organise visits and special events, create videos, etc.
2. Urge decision-makers to take notice of renewable energies.

Nature is essential to all of us because our life is based on it. We want to discuss the problems related to natural resources and biodiversity. The problem is that people abuse them and there are less and less resources available. We want to make people aware of the stakes of biodiversity and make them protect it from the dangers of global warming in order to preserve it for future generations. To this end, we commit ourselves to:

1. Introduce special lessons and school projects about biodiversity and natural resources.
2. Organize trips and meetings and call the NGOs in order to support us. Let’s not forget about using social media in order to inform the people about what we think would be best.
We feel responsible for creating intergenerational social connections in local and international communities. To this end, we commit ourselves to:

1. Organize web debates to provide solutions and improve communication. Inform our municipalities by writing to the editors of local newspapers.
2. Conduct projects in schools and partnerships that connect students at national and international levels.
3. Create ‘environmental committees’ in European schools which will tackle local environmental issues.

We also feel responsible for what we buy and consume. Therefore, we commit ourselves to:

1. Choose local and organic products made by companies which care about the environment and their workers. For this, we want to know, thanks to the labels, if companies respect the environment, their workers and how they do it.
2. Create contents that could be broadcasted by all the media and that can make all the people responsible for what they buy.

One of our biggest concerns these days is the pollution caused by transport. Every one of us can take action. We want to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution by taking public transport, riding bikes or skateboards, walking, consuming local products and encouraging people to do the same. But it is not enough. The support of the decision-makers would be greatly appreciated. To fulfil our commitments, we will:

1. Organise events to collect money for the construction of bike parking, the creation of bicycle and walking paths and carpooling preferential roads.
2. Make a list of locally made products and draw a map of providers that can collaborate with consumers; sign agreements between school headmasters and the local producers so as they could buy it at lower prices which would enable students to eat for a fair price.

Having mentioned our responsibilities and commitments, we now kindly request your collaboration and participation.
**You, School Headmasters**

We represent the students in your schools and around the world. We like our schools and going to school is part of our everyday life. We want our schools to be more eco-friendly and this letter is a proof that we are ready to help you. But we need you, headmasters!

**You, Journalists**

We ask you to take notice of the actions we have undertaken during the process of the Youth European Conference and spread the word with all the means in your possession, taking into account 2.0 tools. We also demand you to relay information we and you will gather about good practices, youth experiences, respectful companies, etc., in order to raise people’s awareness.

**You, Company Leaders**

We, future workers, want you to implement sustainable development by being eco-friendly, by respecting human rights and by implementing participatory management. If so, we will be involved and constructive for the company. Moreover, we suggest every stakeholder to write their own charter of responsibilities.

**You, Mayors**

We need your support to organize events in order to raise funds and increase awareness such as concerts, charity fairs, etc. Citizens should be awarded and encouraged for being eco-friendly with lower taxes and prizes.

**You, Members of the International Institutions**

We want you to create Green institutions that represent citizens including a Green Parliament that will have the power to legislate, to debate on sustainability and suggest actions to fight climate change.

You need to invest on awareness-raising for the citizens and to launch campaigns about sustainable development.

You should elaborate policies on clean and renewable energy production methods and improve the efficiency of existing ones.

Corporations should be convinced to put clear labels on their products indicating how they spend their money.

More subsidies should be given to the civil society that is involved to take care of the environment and the people.
Now that you have become aware of our commitments and requests, we shall conclude by saying that we are in this world all together, that the Earth is our home and its future is in our hands. You must hear our voice and we urge you to spread it in all the communities all around the world. At the moment, we have a chance to make a transition from a grey Planet to a green Planet.

We want to share our ideas with you. We hope you will take these requests seriously. That’s why we need your help because you have the power to decide to fight human-induced causes of Climate Change and to reduce the injustices. We must be critical and choose the interests of all the people to have a better world. When there is a will, there is a way.

Thank you in advance.

Written in Brussels, by 62 European young Delegates from 14 countries, 16th May 2012 (Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey).
Posters created during the “Posters Workshop”.

Help Us, the Planet.

Save the planet
Tonight!

Feel nature, save freedom!