

Dialogue organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean Virtual
Forum on Youth and Climate in the Mediterranean + 25

**Environmental activism:
From social networks to the public and natural space**

December 9, 16-18h

The impact of the virtual paradigm cannot be dissociated from the broader processes of society and the political system, which in turn are affected by new forms of communication. Young activists live between the online and offline world, but how do they use these two realities to achieve their main objective: to fight against global warming?

“From social networks to the public and natural space” is a dialogue which aims to understand the different forms of mobilization of young people in the Mediterranean finding an offline and online complementarity. We will address questions such as: How does environmental activism move from networks to concrete action? What is the relationship between online and face-to-face activism in Mediterranean societies and communities? How to sensitize and mobilize the population and make them participate in actions for the climate? How have online tools today become essential to create a global movement? In this dialogue, young people from Algeria, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt and Spain, active in associations, collectives and movements in favor of the climate, will speak up. These young people who work in many field campaigns for climate action (SDG13) and implement high impact climate initiatives in their countries and communities, will exchange their good practices. They will engage in a collaborative, creative and participatory dialogue on the main challenges of the Mediterranean through social networks and online platforms, imagining new solutions to move towards more sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

PARTICIPANTS

Nouhad Awwad (Lebanese activist, Greenpeace)

Wafa Hmadi (Tunisian activist, Arab Youth Platform for Sustainable Development)

Veronica Rosa Chancy (Fondation Assemblée des Citoyens et Citoyennes de la Méditerranée)

Selma LAGHA (Association AGIR, Algérie)

Georges Bitar (Live Love Recycle, Liban)

Mohab Sherif Mohamed Mohsen Gharib (Friday for Future, Egypt)

Moderator: Laia Segura Cueto (EcoUnion, Spain)

SESSION

Introduction of the session and presentation of the participants by the moderator: young people, climate, struggles and social networks in the Mediterranean. **(5 minutes)**

Participants explain how social networks and virtual platforms have been important in their journey and their activism for the climate or for the association they represent. **(8 min / person)**

Through their projects and good practices, they will explain the relationship between online and face-to-face activism in Mediterranean societies and communities. They will talk about how environmental activism can raise awareness and mobilize people. Finally, they will make proposals on how to use networks to take concrete actions in the face of environmental challenges. **(10 minutes / person)**

Dialogue organisé par l'Institut Européen de la Méditerranée
Forum Virtuel Jeunesse et Climat en Méditerranée + 25

**Activisme environnemental:
Des réseaux sociaux aux espaces publics et naturels**

9 Décembre 2020

L'impact du paradigme virtuel ne peut être dissocié des processus plus larges de la société et du système politique, qui à leur tour sont affectés par de nouvelles formes de communication. Les jeunes activistes vivent entre le monde online et offline, mais comment utilisent-ils ces deux réalités pour atteindre leur objectif principal: lutter contre le réchauffement climatique mondial?

«Des réseaux sociaux aux espaces publics et naturels» est un dialogue qui vise à comprendre les différentes formes de mobilisation des jeunes en Méditerranée tout en trouvant une complémentarité offline et online. Nous y aborderons des questions telles que: Comment l'activisme environnemental passe-t-il des réseaux à l'action concrète? Quelle est la relation entre l'activisme en ligne et en face à face dans les sociétés et communautés méditerranéennes? Comment sensibiliser et mobiliser la population et la faire participer aux actions pour le climat? Comment les outils en ligne sont-ils aujourd'hui devenus indispensables pour créer un mouvement global? Dans ce dialogue, des jeunes d'Algérie, du Liban, de Tunisie, d'Egypte et d'Espagne, actifs dans des associations, des collectifs et des mouvements en faveur du climat, prendront la parole. Ces jeunes qui travaillent dans de nombreuses campagnes de terrain pour l'action climatique (ODD13) et mettent en œuvre des initiatives à fort impact en faveur du climat dans leurs pays et communautés, échangeront leurs bonnes pratiques. Ils dialogueront de manière collaborative, créative et participative sur les principaux défis de la Méditerranée à travers les réseaux sociaux et les plateformes en ligne, imaginant de nouvelles solutions pour aller vers un développement plus durable et inclusif dans la région.

PARTICIPANTS

Nouhad Awwad (activiste libanaise, Greenpeace)

Wafa Hmadi (militante tunisienne, Plateforme de la jeunesse arabe pour le développement durable)

Veronica Rosa Chancy (Fondation Assemblée des Citoyens et Citoyennes de la Méditerranée)

Selma Lagha (Association AGIR, Algérie)

Georges Bitar (Live Love Recycle, Liban)

Mohab Sherif Mohamed Mohsen Gharib (Friday for Future, Egypt)

Modératrice: Laia Segura Cueto (EcoUnion, Espagne)

Déroulement de la séance

Introduction de la session et présentation des participants par la modératrice : les jeunes, climat, luttes et réseaux sociaux en Méditerranée. **(5 minutes)**

Les participants expliquent en quoi les réseaux sociaux et plateformes virtuels ont été importants dans leur parcours et leur activisme pour le climat ou pour l'association qu'ils représentent. **(8 min / personne)**

À travers leurs projets et leurs bonnes pratiques, ils expliqueront la relation entre l'activisme en ligne et en face à face dans les sociétés et communautés méditerranéennes. Ils parleront de la manière dont l'activisme environnemental peut sensibiliser et mobiliser les populations. Enfin, ils feront des propositions sur la manière d'utiliser les réseaux pour entreprendre des actions concrètes face aux défis environnementaux. **(10 minutes / personne)**

YOUNG MEDITERRANEAN VOICES Workshop
In the framework of
Youth and Climate in the Mediterranean+25 Virtual Forum

Workshop: “Digitalisation and innovative solutions for the climate emergency”

Thursday, 10 December:

- **Session (1) 10-12h (CET)**
- **Session (2) 16-18h (CET)**

SUMMARY

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona process, the Anna Lindh Foundation’s flagship youth programme ‘Young Mediterranean Voices’ in collaboration with IEMed and the Government of Catalonia is organising a workshop entitled “Digitalisation and innovative solutions for the climate emergency” in the framework of the “Youth and Climate in the Mediterranean+25” Virtual Forum.

The Forum is a Three-day partnership-building activity that will gather young-led organisations/entities/associations/networks from the Euro-Mediterranean region, as well as young leaders, in order to discuss, rethink and develop joint actions for the climate emergency in the Mediterranean.

The Forum will adopt different social, political, cultural, scientific and artistic perspectives, working on 6 thematic areas related to climate:

The 6 thematic workshops are:

- Activism, social movements and civil society
- Cities, young people and sustainability
- Digitalisation and innovative solutions for the climate emergency
- Global justice, migration and gender
- Influencing decision-making
- Transformative economies

WORKSHOPS

The workshops organised by Young Mediterranean Voices are in the overall section entitled “Digitalisation and innovative solutions for the climate emergency” and they will underline the role of the new technologies, the media and the social media in young people actions on climate change and to protect ecosystems.



The objective of the workshops is to discuss the importance of digitalisation and the role of information and communication technologies in the climate emergency and in preserving ecosystems, in inter-cultural settings with agendas that are inclusive, relevant and timely.

Session 1: “Digitalisation and innovative solutions for the climate emergency”, Good Practices, Thursday, 10 December: 10-12h (CET)

The session will aim at discussing the important role of digitalization, information and communication technologies in the climate emergency. The invited participants will speak of their experience with working and speaking about environmental issues in the Euro-Med, both as activists, civil society platforms, networks, but also as individual youth trying to enforce positive change through dialogue. The discussants are part of the YMV network and alumni, and will be speaking with a focus on SDG 13, focusing on climate action. The discussion will ensue, sharing how online tools will be able to facilitate outreach for environmental issues, taking on the views and experiences of the audience members. The Young debaters and leaders will come together to showcase, discuss and evaluate the needs and opportunities of a fairer, safer, more effective environment on both shores of the Mediterranean.

During the session, good practices will be shared, such as #beachcleanup, and digital platforms for smartphones.

PARTICIPANTS

Mr Ahmed Yassin, Egypt (proposed moderator 1)

Ahmed Yassin is the current Chief Strategy Councilor, Co-founder and trainer at Make A Contribution Club, a CSO which works in the social development at the prospect of contributing with the general community and widening the integration of various backgrounds. On a parallel track, He is a Young Med Voices ambassador in Egypt since January 2019 and debate hub director of Alexandria city and founded the first English speaking debate hub in Egypt. Ahmed is as a cofounder of a Social enterprise under the name of Banlastic” to ban the single use plastic in the euro-med region. Currently, He is leading the beach cleanup movements in all coasts of Egypt.

Mr Abdallah Dreiat, Jordan

Abdallah is 30 years old. He speaks English (fluent) and is leading the awareness raising ‘Green Movement Challenge’. It is a project focusing on marginalized areas that are affected by climate change for which he works intensively on a media campaign encouraging communities, NGOs, Governments, Decentralization councils and Municipalities to organize events in different areas and post on social media with the hashtag #green_movement to motivate and spread the word about this project.

Ms Hajar Maiach, Morocco

Hajar is a 22-year old Master student of Gender Studies in Morocco, she is also an English tutor for international students on the online platform, Engoo. After she graduated from the Bachelor’s Degree of English Literature and Linguistics in 2019, she devoted her time to self-development through participating in extracurricular



programmes that are either related to public speaking, debating, or diplomacy. In the same year her Young Mediterranean Voices debate team won the National Debate Forum. Hajar also won "Fatema Mernissi' Speech Contest" about sexual harassment and was labeled a Junior Feminist Leader. In 2020, Hajar passed the Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT) and was a host of an online programme initiated by the US Embassy in Rabat called "Learn English at Home", in which she delivered voluntary English and cultural courses for two months. She has recently graduated from the English Teaching Internship Initiative (ETII).

Ms Julia Blake, Malta

Julia is a 21 year-old Law student. She is currently Vice President of the "Junior Chamber of Advocates" where she works on bridging the gap between students and legal professionals by providing internship opportunities. She has also worked as a broadcast journalist, specialised in local politics, therefore, Julia understands Malta's political dynamics well. Julia is currently working as an intern in compliance at a well-known gaming company (GIG), her role is to combat money laundering, fraud and general misconduct of players.

Ms Salma Khaled, Egypt (Proposed Moderator 2)

Salma is a graduate of Science College, majoring in both Chemistry and Biochemistry. Salma is currently having a year-long internship with Nestle Egypt. She is a strong supporter of Sustainable Development and contributes to the implementation of the Global Goals. Salma worked at "Pharmia Egypt" on SDG4 - Quality Education. She helped young people in choosing the best and more-fitting major for their study. She also took part in the "Green Schools" project with the American University in Cairo, where she worked on SDG 4 &15 by visiting public schools and raising the student's awareness on the environmental challenges. Finally, Salma is a Young Mediterranean Voices programme since 2019.

Session 2: Creating a space for project building: Thursday, 10 December: 16-18h (CET)

The session will aim at creating a space to building projects across cultures. It will facilitate the establishment of a network among the initiatives around the Mediterranean with the objective of creating a joint project. Young Alumni of Young Mediterranean Voices' Leadership Seminars will come together and feature inter-regional projects they developed linked to the current climate emergency.

The Facilitators will also guide the participants through a simple method of generating ideas across regions, with following the steps Mapping – Brainstorming –Planning.

PARTICIPANTS

Moderators:

Mr Burak Yusmak, Germany

Obtained a Ba in International Relations and a Masters in International Studies and Diplomacy at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Furthermore, he was selected for the first Young Mediterranean Voices Leadership seminar organized by the Ana Lindh Foundation, MEDAC and Club de Madrid as the German representative. He is a Team leader, Debater, Trainer and Ambassador of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange program of the EU Commission and won the 2nd Euro-med Debate competition with his team "Brussels-Tripoli-Napoli". Prior he was working at the



European Parliament as a Policy Advisor. He was the co-founder of the Transnational Diplomacy Association, SOAS University of London where he organized conferences and roundtable meetings at the University. He initiated the “Diplomacy Dinners” with a thematic focus on conflicting regions such as Japan, China, Taiwan, South Asia and Gender bringing Youth and professionals together to create sustainable dialogue among future leaders through the use of diplomatic practices to prevent future conflicts in prospective regions through the creation of transnational alliances based on common values and Ideas. He is a global advocate of (2250) Youth, Peace and Security and speeches at the United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France.

Ms Meriam Yahiaoui, Tunisia

Meriam is graduated in 2018 with a BA in English language, literature, and civilization. Currently working on her master's degree in International Relations. She chose this MA because she has a passion for international politics and aspires to become a leader, a policymaker or someone who makes a change in her country.

Apart from being a student, she is a Young Mediterranean Voices Alumni co-funded by the European Commission. This program shaped her public speaking skills, presentation skills, and teamwork and leadership skills. Meriam debated in various competitions and championships such as the National Debate Championship in 2018 in Tunisia, and the Euro-Med Policy and debate forum in Malta (July 2019).

Discussants:

Mr Marjus Cevoli, Italy

Young Mediterranean Voices Alumnus and Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Debate Master Trainer and Senior Facilitator. As debate Master Trainer he delivers and supervises Training of Trainers, Team Leader Trainings, Intercultural Debate Exchanges, Post Debate Dialogue Sessions and briefings both for Facilitators and Trainers. He adjudicated in all the three E+VE Online EuroMed Debate Competitions since the first stages to the finals of the competitions, in the last competition he was chief Adjudicator supervising more than 20 adjudicators. In total he moderated/adjudicated around 30 debates in the E+VE Online EuroMed Debate Competitions and moderated numerous Intercultural Debate Exchanges since he joined the program in 2018.

Mr Jawher Ali, Libya

Jawher is an ambitious English master's degree student, who intends to go further in the academic field. He is multifunctional and he works with enthusiasm and vim. He worked in photographing and videoing all of his city events and updates and distributing them to different TV channels and media agencies till 2018, currently writing articles for online platforms & newspapers. Jawher actively participated in the YMV Communications Lab that took place in 2019 in Kokkola, Finland.