

CHAPTER 3: NEEDS

How to improve *green inclusion* in the youth field? Considering the diversity of NGOs and CSOs that are involved in *green inclusion* projects, strategies and actions, there is a wide variety of needs for individuals and organisations for their next steps. The main areas are:

1. MORE AND BETTER COOPERATION

Connecting stakeholders together helps with building a stronger network, increasing social capital, and allows for interdependencies and diversity of approach. A multi-system approach allows input from many different angles, and can build capacity in different, and sometimes unforeseen, areas.



"A sense of community and social interaction is key for sustainability."

Participant, seminar

The more connected different players are, the easier co-creation can be. Supporting each other is vital, including sharing resources and expertise, and allowing collaboration on solutions which are open to all, address the needs of all, and are co-designed. It's important to connect the scattered yet passionate people that are currently involved in NGOs (of which there are 20–30 million globally right now).

Having this cooperative approach between such a diversity of stakeholders also encourages tolerance and an inclusive approach to different needs. The more people and organisations that are working together, the more need there is for clear understanding of approach, and tolerance to diversity. Cooperation can be role modelled for young people to help them envision how tolerance and diversity can look like.

2. JOINED UP THINKING

Having an integrated approach allows different sectors and institutions to connect together to make a difference. Issues such as climate change know no borders, yet separate nationalities and different ways of thinking.

Climate and social aren't two separate issues. Solutions for them shouldn't be one-sided either. Climate change and its impact exacerbate inequalities in society, making the poor people poorer. Climate change cannot be dealt with on its own in isolation. Dealing with these issues as a package, all together, in a systemic approach, is the way forward.

Making sure that different voices, opinions and experiences are heard while co-designing the solutions is important.

"It's important to look how to build a readiness system that looks at problems like climate change from an integrated approach, so when we face these crises we will have diverse solutions... We need the lenses from different people affected, to see in the long term how the results will address the issues."

Richard Apeh, Keynote Input

3. PARTICIPATIVE DECISION-MAKING

Participation of all is vital for the different experiences and needs to be heard and acted upon. There needs to be access to all the spaces where decisions are made, with *inclusion* for the *diversity* of people, and for those that need it, support and capacity to be able to participate in those spaces.

Policy discussions need to open up spaces to citizens, including those with fewer opportunities, who would never be heard. Those that are more affected must be addressed directly. Many under-represented groups are willing and capable to represent their own needs in these spaces, if able to access the spaces and conversation. If policy makers are deciding the needs, the policies will stay the same. Policy makers need to know what is wanted, and how to address the problems. Those affected need to express their problems and needs, and be at the core of solutions. And then they must be listened to and the ideas that are put forward must be acted upon. The tokenism of having 'a young voice' present in some part of the decision making must be overcome. The expressed need must be respected and then transparently implemented into the policies, visible for all to see. Policies need to change.



"Once there is balance [of involvement], we will be able to make policies that reflect interest."

Richard Apeh, Keynote Input

4. FEWER MATERIAL BARRIERS

Increase resources and knowledge of what needs to be in place for more people to access and participate in *green inclusion* projects and actions. This includes items such as access, sanitation, equipment, infrastructure etc. The more of that there is, for more types of projects and activities, the more access to opportunities different people will have. Implementing this also means taking into account the reality of different places that do not have the same access and resources.

5. MORE TRANSPARENCY

How decisions are made, and the evidence and process used to make those decisions, needs to be made more transparent. This is for politics at all levels, as well as for companies and others that have power and an influence on society.



6. MEASUREMENT AND TRACKING

Having a baseline structure to measure things, and then tracking the change, is important. We need to evaluate the results of the policies we have, and how the implementation of the policies affects different people's lives.

Discussion needs to be held about what things are being measured, against which indices. For many, measurement of development against GDP is not helpful any more. The de-growth movement would advocate for other measurements. For many the focus should be on the well-being of societies, rather than economic indices.



7. LEARNING WITH AND FROM OTHERS

Individual learning and competence development is important to support more and better *green inclusion* projects. Understanding those with different needs, ensuring their requirements are included as a basis for any project or activity, is fundamental.

Making sure there is enough resources and support for Mentoring (or coaching) is important in this area. This support can help youth workers and young people to embed their learning and look at how to pass it on.

Moving away from focusing on the victims of situations, but rather using individual's experiences as a way to co-create solutions together with them, should be the way forward: learning from others who are already feeling the impact of climate change, who are already living the solutions. Learn from those who feel the impact of climate change, and learn from them how to address the changing needs that we have.

Connecting to the global south, to those that are already living these challenges and starting to find solutions right now and learning from them is vital for this.



"How do we transform from vulnerability to resilience?"

Participant, seminar

8. ENCOURAGE INTERSECTIONALITY

The *green inclusion* field links to many areas of identity, privilege and power. The broader themes (such as post-colonisation, poverty, gender differences, identity, disability) need to be explored more. The youth work approach of encouraging young people to explore their own identity, and the values used in that work to respect diversity and make sure people with differences are included, are very much needed.



"There are so many things we need to do to have an inclusive society. It's also comforting that we are building a common ground together to do this."

Participant, seminar

GREEN INCLUSION



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