

Briefing Document: Climate Justice Project Think Tank Consultative Meeting (19-20.02.2025)

Executive Summary:

This briefing document summarises the key themes, ideas, and outcomes of the Climate Justice Project (CJP) Think Tank Consultative Meeting held on February 19-20, 2025. The meeting brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from youth organisations, research institutions, national agencies, and European forums to discuss the concept of climate justice, identify needs and challenges within the youth sector, and lay the groundwork for the establishment of a Climate Justice Think Tank. Key discussions revolved around the definition and understanding of climate justice in the EU context, the importance of inclusion and intersectionality, the need for practical tools and resources, and the potential role and structure of the Think Tank in driving action and policy change.

Main Themes and Important Ideas/Facts:

1. Defining and Understanding Climate Justice in the EU Context:

- Participants recognised that climate justice might have different meanings in the EU context compared to a global perspective and emphasised the need for a "common understanding of Climate Justice and all it entails".
- The meeting highlighted the importance of considering the four dimensions of justice as used by the [Climate Justice Summit](#): procedural, distributive, recognition, and intergenerational. Participants noted that the research mapping could have benefited from analysing climate justice through this framework.
- The discussion underscored the need to "reflect together on how to possibly integrate [the intersectionality approach from the research study] into the EU climate justice context."

2. The Crucial Role of Inclusion and Intersectionality:

- A significant emphasis was placed on making climate justice more inclusive, particularly for BIPOC youth communities and young people with fewer opportunities (YPWFOs), including those with disabilities. One participant stated their organisation brings "perspective of the disabled community, especially young disabled people, as well as resources, training and knowledge of accessibility, inclusion and human rights-based actions."
- The meeting acknowledged the "lack of diversity in the projects" identified in the research mapping and suggested further research on the barriers to inclusion.
- The concept of the "[Wheel of Power and Privilege](#)" was introduced as a useful tool for understanding vulnerability and marginalization, highlighting that "marginalisation and power happen due to systemic and structural inequalities, and exploitation." However,

participants stressed the need to move beyond understanding to actively "redistribut[ing] power."

- Several organizations emphasized their experience in "Intersectional Climate Justice experience (eg, Climate Justice links with: gender/sex, racial justice, justice for indigenous communities & SIDS, youth, Global North/South partnerships, etc)."

3. Needs and Challenges in the Youth Sector:

- Climate justice is "not a mainstream topic yet" within the youth field in Europe.
- Bureaucracy and "lack of accessibility of funding impact the lack of inclusion and intersectionality."
- There is a need to address the regional diversity challenge in climate activism engagement across Europe (North vs. South and Eastern Europe).
- Participants expressed a desire to know the "next steps of the project... what's the timeline and milestones?" and to ensure that actions planned "take into account the needs and rights of disabled people."

4. The Potential Role and Objectives of the Think Tank:

- The Think Tank is envisioned as a space to "build a coalition that brings together inclusion and environmental organisations."
- Key objectives identified include:
 - Providing a network for collaboration. One group stated the aim of "Creating this network so people can make use of this great network."
 - Giving directions on how National Agencies (NAs) and the European Commission (EC) should support organizations working on climate justice through recommendations, checklists, and trainings.
 - Digesting complex information and spreading it in simple language.
 - Creating an overview of different funding programmes around climate justice.
 - Developing a common understanding of climate justice in the EU context. One group emphasized "the need for a common understanding of what climate justice is in the EU context."
 - Developing practical tools and resources, such as an online platform/website with toolkits and a database of organizations.
 - Connecting grassroots and institutional climate justice work.
 - Bringing forward creative and ambitious proposals to institutions.

5. Structure and Composition of the Think Tank:

- The Think Tank is proposed to have a three-phase participation involving NGOs, expert organizations, youth (Phase 1), institutional representatives and researchers (Phase 2), and funders and decision-makers (Phase 3).
- It was emphasized that there should "have self-representing NGOs in all phases (people who are experienced and marginalised)" and "at least one representative from every category of YPWFOs."
- The profile of Think Tank members should include expertise in climate justice, inclusion, environment, or similar areas, the ability to make decisions on behalf of their

organizations, and youth work practitioners, activists, and those directly impacted by climate injustice.

- Discussions touched upon the need for a "dynamic think tank" with potentially rotating members and clear deliverables.
- Clear expectations, mandates, and potentially contracts were deemed important for Think Tank members.

6. Planned Actions and Outputs:

- The Think Tank is expected to contribute to a "better understanding of climate justice (Common ground)" and the "design [of] an online platform."
- Other anticipated actions/results include:
 - Training of trainers and multiplier actions.
 - Resource exchange platforms.
 - Concrete advice and technical opinions on documents, strategies, and actions.
 - Practical tools like databases and guidelines.
 - Accessible and equitable tools and action plans.
 - Policy recommendations.
 - The possibility of this initiative evolving into an actual "SNAC/LTA" (SALTO-YOUTH National Agency Cooperation/Long-Term Activity) focused on green issues was raised.

7. Upcoming Activities:

- A TCA (Training and Cooperation Activities) in Romania (October 2025) is planned, targeting youth work practitioners, beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries, and NA POTs, focusing on the practical application of intersectional approaches in climate justice projects.
- A TCA Officers Meeting (March 2025) will underline the opportunity to combine climate/environmental and inclusion topics in work plans and discuss potential stakeholders for future activities.
- ESC (European Solidarity Corps) Webinars on good practices and theory related to including climate justice in ESC projects are planned.
- Webinars for NAs and Stakeholders will present theory, evidence from organizations working intersectionally on climate justice, and provide space for Q&A.
- A Call for the Climate Justice Think Tank will be launched, outlining the purpose, benefits, expectations, and application process. The call will target a diverse range of individuals and organizations with expertise in social/climate justice, environmental defense, research, youth work, and policy.

Quotes:

- *"We bring perspective of the disabled community, especially young disabled people, as well as resources, training and knowledge of accessibility, inclusion and human rights-based actions."* - Participant representing the disabled community.
- *"To ensure that the actions planned and the framework that is created takes into account the needs and rights of disabled people."* - Wish from a participant for the meeting and project.
- *"We should create a common understanding of Climate Justice and all it entails and agree on what is needed, where our circle of influence is and what the impact can be of the LTA Climate Justice."* - Wish from a participant for the meeting and project.
- *"Climate justice is not a mainstream topic yet."* - Observation during the discussion on research mapping.
- *"Marginalisation and power happen due to systemic and structural inequalities, and exploitation."* - Point made during the discussion on the Wheel of Power and Privilege.
- *"Trying to build a coalition that brings together inclusion and environmental organisations."* - Aim of the project in bringing the field together.
- *"Providing a network for collaboration."* - Perceived use of the project and Think Tank for stakeholders.
- *"The need for a common understanding of what climate justice is in the EU context."* - Key discussion point on framing the Think Tank.

Next Steps:

The outcomes of this consultative meeting will inform the further development of the Climate Justice Project, particularly the framing, composition, and activities of the Climate Justice Think Tank. The upcoming TCA events and webinars will serve as stepping stones towards broader engagement and capacity building within the youth sector on climate justice. The launch of the Call for the Think Tank will be a crucial next step in formalising its membership and initiating its work.