



## YOUTH WORKERS GUIDE, A LIST OF ACTION FOR SDGS



# CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

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## PROJECT PARTNERS



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## I. Introduction

The “**Youth workers guide, a list of action for SDGs**” was elaborated in the framework of the Capacity Building project “Youth workers 4 Global Goals” (YW4GG). YW4GG is a project coordinated by the Belgium NGO, Association Universitaire Latino-Américaine, ASBL, with cooperation of other European and Latin American organizations, namely Fundación Alternativas y Acción Social (Colombia), Asociación EuropeYou (Spain), Asociación Civil Familia Gangitana De Rosario (Argentina), Rääma Noorte Ühing Noorus MTÜ (Estonia), Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Perú (Peru), and Danish Youth Team (Denmark). The project aims to activate youth workers to contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs, encouraging youth initiatives and youth inclusion by promoting democratic life in alignment of SDGs theme.

The following document includes actions, non-formal methods, and good practices from the job shadowing mobilities that can generate a positive impact in achieving the SDGs, in an attempt to improve our world. It will offer a set of recommended actions, and encouragement to involve friends, family, and the local community. Its aims will be not just to help youth organisations but also to help stakeholders, including governments at all levels (national, regional, and local), to start an inclusive dialogue on SDG implementation, to understand the SDG Agenda, and to prepare SDG-based national development strategies.

Enjoy reading!





## II. Sustainable Development Goals. Going Deeper!

As a beginning, we believe it will be interesting and useful for our readers, to go through the each of the 17 Goals. However, we strongly recommend everyone to visit the website dedicated to those goals, where a lot of information can be founded as well as definitions, latest updates, publications and events: <https://sdgs.un.org>

### Action 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere



More than 700 million people, or 10% of the world population, still live in extreme poverty and is struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation, to name a few. The majority of people living on less than \$1.90 a day live in sub-Saharan Africa. Worldwide, the poverty rate in rural areas is 17.2 per cent—more than three times higher than in urban areas.

The first goal of the Agenda 2030 is titled «End poverty in all its forms everywhere», which means reduce poverty, eradicate extreme poverty, ensure equals rights for all people in

need, enhance resilience from economics and natural catastrophes but also support people with minimum social protection.

This first goal is really an important topic, especially now during COVID-19 pandemic, where efforts and achievements made to tackle down poverty and extreme poverty has been swept up. This worldwide pandemic has weakened those who were already in need, therefore, achieving the sustainability of this goal is more important than ever.

Important to highlight is that everyone can act from individual to NGOs, and governments. NGOs play a crucial role in holding the governments into account for its promises. They do this by closely following and participating in policy processes in relation to the SDGs. Through their advocacy activities they can lobby for the SDGs to be integrated into domestic and foreign policies. They can also act as watchdogs by monitoring the progress made by the governments and by highlighting the problematic areas.

During YW4GG activities different topics were discussed and many interesting ideas have emerged. First of all, to avoid extreme poverty, people need to live in a sustainable managed environment, which is a prerequisite for socio-economic development and poverty reduction. The natural environment supplies ecosystem goods and services that provide income, support job creation, poverty alleviation, contribute to safety nets and reduce inequity.



Following, national governments should establish a minimum wage as matter of tangible human dignity. The right to human dignity has been applied to numerous employment issues: loss of reputation, privacy, sexual and psychological harassment, but human dignity has less often been invoked in litigation involving tangible working conditions such as the minimum wage. In this respect, the adequacy and sufficiency of minimum wage regulations could be assessed in the light of the right to human dignity. Higher minimum wage can help create jobs and grow the economy, as well as the declining value of the minimum wage is one of the primary causes of wage inequality between low-and middle-income workers.

We, as individuals can also support the increase of minimum wage and the work of workers. For example, many factories of fast fashion brands around the world, are leaving their garment workers in dangerous circumstances such as poor sanitation, long working hours, poor malnutrition, etc. What we can do, is to boycott brands which use exploitative trade, and stop using fast fashion brands, being such brands not sustainable. There is a false notion that workers in other countries can live with lower wages, because everyone deserves an income that allows him or her to live and thrive. Shopping consciously won't necessarily bring down a large corporation, but it could make all the difference to a small business. We can support small and ethical fashion brands in addition to protesting larger fast fashion labels.

Local governments and decision-making process should be orientated to promote the protection of indigenous people. Due to their subsistence economies and spiritual connection to lands and territories, most indigenous peoples suffer disproportionately from loss of biological diversity and environmental degradation. Their lives, survival, development chances, knowledge, environment and health conditions are threatened by environmental degradation, large scale industrial activities, toxic waste, conflicts and forced migration, as well as by land-use and land-cover changes (such as deforestation for agriculture and extractives for example). These challenges are further exacerbated by climate change. Therefore, governments should try to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, and particularly their rights to land, territories and resources, because when their culture thrives also the nature thrives.

Finally, governments should have fair social protection systems that can help individuals and families, especially the poor and vulnerable, to cope with the crises and shocks, find jobs, improve productivity, invest in health and education for their children, and protect the aging population. Social protection programs are at the heart of boosting human capital for the world's most vulnerable. They empower people to be healthy, pursue their education, and seek opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. NGOs can advocate for the creation of well-designed and implemented social protection systems, engaging also vulnerable people to uphold their social rights. Such systems not only help the poor and most vulnerable to climb out of poverty, but also help them to become productive members of the society.



## Action 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



The short name of Goal 2 is « Zero Hunger ». In this goal, is present: hunger, malnutrition, nutrition deficiency and healthy balanced. So, the problem here is not only to have food but to have diverse and healthy food. Moreover, the production of food must be sustainable. Here, we are talking about food safety: access to enough, healthy and sustainable food.

The solutions to hunger may looks simples, but they are very complex. Although the word produces enough food to feed all people in the planet, yet 1 in 9 people still go hungry every day. The complex is to make the change happen

in lasting and sustainable manner, and find the right combination of solutions for each individual community.

First of all, everyone should be protecting the Earth, because if we destroy our planet, we destroy our future and more people will suffer from the lack of food. In order to preserve it, we all can do some changes in our eating habits and become local flexitarian. The flexitarianism is a plant-based diet that claims to reduce our carbon footprint and improve our health with an eating regime that's mostly vegetarian yet still allows for the occasional meat dish. The rise of the flexitarian diet is a result of people taking a more environmentally sustainable approach to what they eat by reducing their meat consumption in exchange for alternative protein sources. Indeed, meat consumption is responsible for releasing greenhouse gases such as methane, CO<sub>2</sub>, and nitrous oxide. These gases contribute to climate change, such as global warming, as well as it takes a lot of water to produce meat, and beef is the most water-intensive food. It requires two times more water to produce beef than pork and four times more than alternative protein sources such as lentils. Adding the prefix local, means that we need to choose when possible, food which is grown, manufactured and produced locally. This can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to improving our carbon footprint, benefits the local economy, including supporting local farmers and other producers, and encourages sustainable agriculture.

Professionals from all sectors can also take actions in order to preserve the Earth. For example, by using non-toxic products, buying in a local range, using sustainable energies as solar panels or green electricity for their offices. For farmers, they can follow the previous incentives but also, they could make the choice to produce organic. If there are more organic producers more lands will be protected and could be used longer, as well as also the price for organic food will decrease and the access to those products will be widening. Moreover, with organic produce the nutritional contents are better. Time and rich soils produce food with more micronutrients, this nourishment brings to the human body a better health.

Governments and NGOs have their roles to play in all these actions. NGOs can help the implementation of food safety by spreading those ideas to citizens, industrials and farmers. NGOs can allow more people to have access to food and knowledge. From the other hand, governments have to implement rules and world regulations to spread a world sustainable production. Through different measures they can help preserve our planet, encouraging all people to change their habits, select food with better nutritional values, choose locally when possible, use greener energy, increase the amount of organic productions.

In addition, acting immediately should be a priority for all, since COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation. According Statista<sup>1</sup>, the crisis could push more than 100 million people into chronic hunger this year. It is therefore estimated that the number of undernourished people should reach nearly 800 million in 2020, i.e. a return to the levels measured between 2005 and 2006. Beyond hunger, a growing number of people have had to reduce the quantity and quality of the food they consume. Two billion people, or 25.9 percent of the global population, experienced hunger or did not have regular access to nutritious and sufficient food in 2019. This situation could deteriorate if we do not act immediately and boldly<sup>2</sup>.

### Action 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Goal 3 aims to achieve universal health coverage, including access to essential medicines and vaccines. It proposes to end the preventable death of new borns and children under 5 and to end epidemics such as AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and water-borne diseases, for example.

Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality, but working towards achieving the target of less than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030 would

require improvements in skilled delivery care.

SDG 3 aims to reduce under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births. But if current trends continue, more than 60 countries will miss the SDG neonatal mortality target for 2030. About half of these countries would not reach the target even by 2050.

The major step in improving good health and well-being is to raise awareness, knowledge and acceptance among the population. All human beings should receive

<sup>1</sup> <https://fr.statista.com/infographie/22279/nombre-de-personnes-en-sous-alimentation-dans-le-monde/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/CA9692EN.pdf>



education about basic sanitary gestures, first aid and hygiene rules, no matters their origins. Moreover, knowledge about sex protection and menstruations but also the access and/or the distribution to hygienic protections and condoms should also be among the most urgent matter to spread all around the world. Some girls don't have access to menstruations protections, others can't afford them while others have to pay the «pink tax» meaning that protections are taxed as luxury and none as an essential good. This crucial step of awareness could and should be held by governments from local to international level, and also by non-governmental organizations and youth activists. In non-formal methods, becoming aware of yourself, of these desires and weaknesses is important.

However, efforts to eradicate poverty, prevent conflicts and disasters, and promote education will not be successful unless mental health is prioritized. Poor mental health and unfulfilled human potential pose major risks to the changes that are needed if we are to reach the SDGs. Mental health has been underestimated by many people and leading powers, and for the first time, it is explicitly included in universally agreed goals, providing an opportunity to enhance mental health and well-being across countries and professional disciplines. To fully use this opportunity, care for people with mental illness and psychosocial disabilities, as well as promotion of resilience and mental health generally, must be prioritized. Indeed, being healthy had been proved to be important many centuries ago, having in mind the Latin expression "*Anima Sana in Corpore Sano*", which means a healthy mind in a healthy body.

Mental health should be promoted in school, university, workplace, during and after maternity, as well as during educational non-formal activities. Being aware of the overall health is important so that people can detect any symptoms and seek professional help when necessary. While everyone is familiar with the symptoms and treatment options for common illnesses that affect their loved ones, like the flu, migraines, or and (most recently) COVID-19, many people are unsure how to look after their mental health. Raising mental health awareness can help people to understand their symptoms, find professional treatment, and, perhaps most importantly, break the mental health stigma that leaves so many people suffering in secret.

In addition, all this can be achieved only if we as individuals start helping each other. Many times, in strongly competitive societies, individuals do not trust one another. They worry about their safety and they constantly seek to promote their own interests and social status without much concern for others. Therefore, a cycle of solidarity and reciprocity that nurtures harmonious relationships should be created.





## Action 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



The fourth goal is about equal access and quality education for all child, no matter they are boys or girls. Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, and to eliminate gender and wealth disparities with the aim of achieving universal access to a quality higher education. Important to highlight is that adults are also targeted, being lifelong learning crucial for the prosperities of our societies. Access to

higher education should be also offered to the ones who would like to keep developing themselves.

The reasons for lack of quality education are due to lack of adequately trained teachers, poor conditions of schools and equity issues related to opportunities provided to rural children. For quality education to be provided to the children of impoverished families, investment is needed in educational scholarships, teacher training workshops, school building and improvement of water and electricity access to schools.

However, COVID-19 show us that there is another way of learning and teaching, being people able to attend lectures from home. Online classes allow all of us to follow and acquire the same knowledge. This alternative could be useful to children and youth leaving in area where the schools are far away. Moreover, for girls who suffer from endometriosis or youth with long disease, this option could really help them. People who give lessons could be done by national professional teachers and/or by volunteers from NGOs and citizens who are eager to share their knowledge and teach other.

However, let's not forget that nearly a quarter of billion students worldwide have been affected by COVID-19 school closures, forcing hundreds of millions of students to rely on virtual learning. For those with no internet access, education can be out of reach. The digital divide is perpetuating inequalities that already divide countries and communities. Children and young people from the poorest households, rural and lower income states are falling even further behind their peers and are left with very little opportunity to ever catch up. Following, progress should be made, being governments and technique schools the ones that can address the critical civil right issues in our societies, giving ideas for addressing the digital divide range widely. Internet access is an urgent civil rights issue, and the governments have a moral duty to address longstanding needs and expand access however possible.



The other important point to work on is the building of schools. Many pupils can't go to school due to the long distance between them and the institutions. The idea above included the mix of physical and non-physical courses. However, it is crucial to build more schools to allow the access to everyone to learn and to socialize. Socialization is a crucial part of the well-being. Those buildings have to be fully equipped and have not only walls, being water, electricity and furniture necessary for the overall learning experience of the pupils. Water to drink and to teach hygienic rules, electricity to be able to teach with light and to heat or cool the class and furniture to write and learn lessons. Everyone can be part of it, governments can give the space and some materials, NGOs can help for the construction and bring teachers, citizens can be engaged in civic service for the building and/or teaching steps. Companies can reward employees who help there during vacation, supporting the learning process of the child.

Talking about companies, they have the power to change things by hiring everyone qualified no matter its minority background. If children realize that after finishing school there are real opportunities to do what they want, this will change a lot of things. Furthermore, apprenticeship for all kind of gender and all ages can be a solution. Learn a job can be the moment to learn or re-learn the basic, civil rules and be included in society even if you stopped your scholar studies in a young age.

### Action 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



According to the UN, "gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will nurture sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large".

Women rights have been continuously evolved during centuries. Nevertheless, despite these gains, many challenges remain: discriminatory laws and social norms remain pervasive,

women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political leadership, and 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 report experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could reverse the limited progress that has been made on gender equality and women's rights. The coronavirus outbreak



exacerbates existing inequalities for women and girls across every sphere – from health and the economy, to security and social protection<sup>3</sup>.

There are still many challenges with respect to the abortion. Preventing women and girls from accessing an abortion does not mean they stop needing one. When undertaken by a trained health-care provider in sanitary conditions, abortions are one of the safest medical procedures available, safer even than child birth. But when governments restrict access to abortions, people are compelled to resort to clandestine, unsafe abortions, particularly those who cannot afford to travel or seek private care. Worldwide, an estimated 1 in 4 pregnancies end in an abortion every year. Therefore, access to safe and legal abortion services should be guaranteed for those who may need abortion services. In addition, the right to an abortion is not a standalone right. It depends upon people also having other human rights: to health, to equality, to privacy and to live free from violence and discrimination.

For reducing gender inequality, institutions, public and private ones, should introduce women quotas. It should be used in politics, business and beyond. In the political world, quotas ensure that parliament truly reflects the population it represents. When a parliament consists only or mainly of men, it becomes very hard to gain broad support for political decisions, and to demonstrate that every citizen can be elected.

However, the main problem of hiring women is the social pre-constructed identity. Employers from private to public sectors often think that women will not be always in the work due to their domestics and child chores, as well as they can't take overtime and after their maternity leave, they will be exhausted and less effective than other after a lapse of work time out. All those biases thoughts explain the behaviour of other people: boys or girls. To deconstruct those stereotypes, school should teach gender equality from an early age: domestics chores, children care, men equal women, a woman can be tough and a man can be sensitive, a woman can bring work before home and a man can do the contrary... We all, governments, citizens, NGOs, ... must deconstructed those ideas and see people as human not as females at home and males at work.

We all have a role to play in the empowerment of women around the world. As individuals, we can defend women rights and choices; governments should take seriously the problem, introducing measure and tools for combating stereotypes and supporting women to develop in professional spheres; NGOs can spread awareness through the organization of non-formal and informal educational activities for promoting women equality and empower women; companies can impulse change by companies' laws and regulations. Implementing quotas and giving scholarships to women and girls, could improve the gender inequality worldwide and help reduce the stereotypes.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>



## Action 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in and there is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. However, due to bad economics or poor infrastructure, millions of people including children die every year from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Natural filters can be made by everyone. First option, it is to filter the water with natural species or plants. This can be done by everyone including for swimming-pool in order to evict

the pollution of watercourses and groundwater. Every collectively can set the depollution with plants planting. Moreover, natural filters can also be done with some earth and precisely chosen stones. Two benefices from this natural filter are, more drinking water can be made so more people could have access and people could drink more. Additionally, by using natural supplies instead of chemical products, watercourses and groundwaters will not be polluted. This can be made by individual and by all, especially by local community and governments but also NGOs.

If people live far away from water points, one object that Arturo Vittori has created can be used: atmospheric water collectors, called Warka Water. Those can be easily made or installed anywhere even in desert area. NGOs and governments can support such initiatives. Although is needed an investment at first hand, the later outcome will be clean water for the local population. In addition, Warka Water is a nonprofit focuses on innovative and sustainable solutions to some of humanity's most enduring issues through the fusion of local knowledge and resources, visionary design and ancient traditions<sup>4</sup>.

To avoid the pollution of watercourses and groundwaters, it is also important that governments and companies act against those who pollute by releasing dangerous chemicals. Governments should create environmental police groups that are checking regularly as well as close those industries that pollute the most. The chemical and fertilizer industries are among the most hazardous industries as they make use of various chemicals as raw materials. The solid waste of these industries is also very dangerous because it may contain heavy metals as well as high concentration of poisonous chemicals. Therefore, alternatives ways for sustainable production should be created.

National governments should gather in order to decide for the equal level of «cleaning water », because everyone should be offered fresh and clear water.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.warkawater.org/>





## Action 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Be it for jobs, security, climate change, food production or increasing incomes, access to energy for all is essential. Working towards this goal is especially important as it interlinks with other Sustainable Development Goals.

To move, companies which need private company cars can head toward greener cars: electricity, LPG, ethanol, hydrogen, ... the choice is huge. Governments should initiate bonus, and lower taxes. Companies could also promote human traction as means of transport by

buying them bikes, skateboards, scooter, etc., or by accepting more flexible hours for those choosing these means of transportation. Moreover, many skyscrapers haven't solar panels in their rooftop. Companies could decide to choose these forms of electricity rather than conventional one. The same goes for individuals in the construction of their private houses.

Each individual and companies can make decisions to choose geothermal, tidal, wind power. Governments should promote in helping people desire to use clean energies, giving them incentives, bonus taxes or giving grants for it. NGOs can export these models to least developed countries.

In countries where energy is not yet available, green energy can be installed first in order to not making changing habits. To replace old behaviours is really hard to do, humankind is not really able to change quick. Finally, at schools and universities, more educational programs should develop about clean energy and engineers should be working on more sustainable means that provide consumers with greener options. Ads from schools and governments can spread the big markets for these educational degrees.

In sum, the strategies are simple, we already have alternative energies. Now, we have to use them more and for changing habits. Therefore, NGOs, companies and governments have a great role to play. In informal and non-formal education, people will, in the most of the cases, say that they want change and they are ready to do it, but they just need a little push to go through it. Incentive as grants or less taxes in their end of year taxes can affect them and really help them replacing some old customs.



## Action 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about US\$2 a day with global unemployment rates of 5.7% and having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty in many places. This slow and uneven progress requires us to rethink and retool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty.

The following goal was highly affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many businesses are still trying to recover from the crisis, while other small and medium-sized enterprises in tourism, catering and retail sector closed their

business forever. The COVID-19 and efforts to contain it, led businesses to suspend operations or close, resulting in a record number of temporary layoffs, as well as an increase of the unemployed people have been seen. The pandemic also prevented many people from looking for work.

One of the measures that should be considered, is the support of creativity of people, especially the young ones, who lack experience. Governments, NGOs and businesses should support young people entrepreneurial ideas, stimulating the creation of social enterprises. Non-formal educational activities can stimulate young people ideas, classes at the university, no matter the degree that people study, as well as entrepreneurial education should be offer in school for the development of entrepreneurial mindset from an early age. Governments can stimulate young entrepreneurs with reduced taxes by the state, flexible loans, and insurance given by the banking sector. The role of NGOs and youth workers is also very important here. Youth workers can guide step by step young people in their entrepreneurial journey, giving them additional resources and space where they can develop their ideas. Moreover, micro-financing can be realized either in most developing countries. This is a way to support the economic growth. In addition, to reduce the unemployment, we can simply direct young people into areas where there are places: catering, carpenters, sculptor, etc, entire sectors of the economy lack employers. Thought information and formation, we can ensure that people find job, contributing to the grow of the economy. For doing so, NGOs and employment center have to better prepare and direct people.

Furthermore, governments and NGOs have to fight against the closing of businesses with traditional and industrial knowledges. They have to preserve the added-value and in doing so, allow economic growth. They can offer an educational system based not only on knowledge but also in know-how. Moreover, governments should support all people, no matter their origin, gender, race, disability. Everybody should be offered equal treatment and equal rights.



## Action 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Investments in infrastructure – transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technology – are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. It has long been recognized that growth in productivity and incomes, and improvements in health and education outcomes require investment in infrastructure.

In order to do so, governments must invest more in R&D, putting in place more grants in the infrastructure and industry innovation, giving awards to the ones which have performed the best. NGOs can gather and act like a center of excellence for innovation with sub-sections for each sector. Citizens can donate or put themselves in the research, as well as businesses can support and invest in innovation.

Another important idea in this goal is the concept of inclusion. Industrialization is a tool for inclusion. By constructing roads, train station, tram, cable car, and so on, it allows people to be connected to each other and not isolated. This is a mission for governments, which should build a web of communication in the whole country territory. Moreover, build schools is a way to socialize with other and open the mind of young generations. NGOs can help with their resources: ideas, materials, and humans.

Those new constructions must be done utilizing sustainable composites. For example, hay, slaked lime, earth brick, mainstream remaining construction, coconuts, hemp, wood... those are natural and resilient products. An Eco-labelled should be created with the help of citizens, NGOs and governments for all new constructions. No more than a certain degree of pollution should be allowed by meter square for building, and it will be evaluating every three years to go deeper and deeper. The achievement will be a zero polluting for the construction of any kind of infrastructures. This will be possible only thanks to R&D. It is a virtuous circle!

To conclude, in order to meet future challenges, our industries and infrastructures must be upgraded. For this, we need to promote innovative sustainable technologies and ensure equal and universal access to information and financial markets. This will bring prosperity, create jobs and make sure that we build stable and prosperous societies across the globe.



## Action 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries



The international community has made significant strides towards lifting people out of poverty. The most vulnerable nations – the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing states – continue to make inroads into poverty reduction. However, inequality persists and large disparities remain regarding access to health and education services and other assets.

As we talked previously in this document, apart of the inequality between gender, there is an inequality within countries. Inequality in its various forms is an issue that define our time. There are also inequalities within communities – and even families. Groups such as indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees, and ethnic and other minorities continue to suffer from discrimination, marginalisation, and lack of legal rights. This is pervasive across developing and developed countries alike and is not tied to income. For example, social protection has been significantly extended globally, yet persons with disabilities are up to five times more likely than average to incur catastrophic health expenditures. High levels of inequality of opportunity discourage skills accumulation, choke economic and social mobility, and human development and, consequently, depress economic growth. It also entrenches uncertainty, vulnerability and insecurity, undermines trust in institutions and government, increases social discord and tensions and trigger violence and conflicts.

Therefore, it is crucial to promote philanthropy and a greater global equality, to reach an agreement of redistribution. The level of sharing should be decided within and among countries. Specific savings could be used only to support a social action: healthcare, residential construction, food supplies, etc. The amount of redistribution could be calculated in function of the country's willingness and economic power. This will help promote a sense of community within humans, of course this kind of politics cannot be imposed, nevertheless, the new political generation can take inspiration and act on the challenges of our time. Finally, we never know, maybe one day this redistribution and mutual help can be used to promote some of the ideas exposed here in the Youth Workers Guide, a list of actions for SDGs.

Last but not least, partnership between states is really important. More meetings should be realized between nations willing to develop their relation in a certain common domain. Everyone has something to offer, and can support the nation and its people in need.





## Action 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. At their best, cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically.

Sustainable cities and communities can ensure access to affordable housing, safe transportation system, improve the quality of air and waste management. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many urban inhabitants fled cities to install themselves and their families into rural environment. One on the main criticism was the lack of sanitation and the high degree of pollution. In least developing

countries, slum dwellers have known a worst situation.

If we take a look at affordable housing, NGOs could create projects where young unemployed people can make «do-it yourself homes». Now, there are many housings constructions which can be done in only few hours or few days. This will allow people to have home and young unemployed persons learn, find jobs and maybe find their ways to a happy and satisfied life. About the quality of air, everyone can participate by planting trees and flowers: from balconies, gardens, traffic roundabouts, parcs, forest, everyone can do it. Moreover, plants help also to regulate the temperature. Cities where vegetations lack are more inclined to have higher temperatures. To regulate the heat, it is also possible to paint streets, road, sidewalks and roofs in white. Attention, not chemical white painting but white lime paint.

Taking veto or alternative ways is also an act for 2030 Agenda. Safer and well-connected communities can be form with partnership between countries which have well installed police systems and countries which have lack of them. How to organized, the right and duties of police administrations, how to treat a suspect, develop a deeper sense of professionalism, etc., and many more questions can be dealt by exchanging experience and knowledge. Of course, a copy-paste procedure is not always the best option, because each country must pay attention to its proper needs and specific cases. Police can be an active partner in the control on vandalic acts, but the community can also help by teaching young generations the civic values and sense of belonging.

To finish, it will be good to install elective sorting trash cans every 500m in the cities, as well as local municipalities need to ensure that their cities have well developed waste management system, supported by the technologies which are available nowadays.



## Action 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Sustainable consumption and production are about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. It concerns all countries, from the least developed ones to the developed.

There are a lot of measures that countries can take in order to ensure sustainable consumption and production. They should reduce the use of natural resources, reduce the

food waste, minimize waste during the life cycle of products, recycling, reusing and implement other sustainable practices through the process of creation and use. And sure, they should provide everyone with information about sustainable ways of living, raising awareness of the importance of taking measures for the common wellbeing of the countries and the people.

Citizens also can take individual actions. In order to reduce plastic pollution, they can choose products without plastic or at least superfluous plastic. This includes plastics covering fruits, vegetables which skin isn't edible or double packaged products. Companies can reduce their plastic use and buy products which contain less plastic. Governments can write laws concerning the reduction of plastic and/or superfluous plastic. In the same line of thinking and to reduce the pollution from plastic, citizens can privilege bulk instead of basic PET bottle. It also helps to decrease the waste of food. People go to the supermarket but alternatively buying as usual they came with their glass box or cloth linen, fill up as much as they need and pay the right price. The same goes to every shop: butcher, bakery, grocery stores... go with your glass box or cloth linen rather than let the merchant wrap it in single-use plastic.

NGOs could propose activities for everyone to know when a food is really expired without taking only the information about expiration date, but also learn how to recognize if food is still good. Depending of the product, some products can be consumed with more or less days in addition to the date written to it. In doing so, it will allow to stop a huge quantity of thrown eatable products to the trash.

Finally, to diminish the use of natural resources, all industries should function with at least 50% of green energy: panel solar for electricity, geothermal for the heat, etc. Companies and citizens can choose the circular of the functional economy in lieu of the consumption economy. Circular economy is the idea of circle which means reducing the electronic products waste. In this idea, repair centers could be managed by NGOs and employ youth who are unemployment and/or people with disabilities. Moreover, within the functional economy, the concept is to use a product for its purpose and not to own it. Location center of application to loan product can be also created.

## Action 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow. Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, weather events are becoming more extreme and greenhouse gas emissions are now at their highest levels in history. Without action, the world's average surface temperature is likely to surpass 3 degrees centigrade this century. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most.

Taking actions in this direction is very important. We all heard about this issue during the world confinement. When the entire planet was doing a break, the environment was going better and the quality of air was improving. Here the focus is to strengthen resilience toward natural disasters, improve education and awareness about environment, integrate effective measures and strategies.

In order to integrate climate change measures into national policies, one thing that can be done is to create a new index beside PIB or GINI which would measure the carbon and pollution issued by each country. Higher the score, higher the pollution. This can be done by consultation between all countries. Moreover, construction must integrate the most important change, that's why all new construction should be greener and include revegetation on wall and/or roof, or paint in white to reduce the temperature increase.

Furthermore, to increase the awareness, lessons can be given about alternative economy. Circular and functional economies could be taught during in the national educative program in the years of compulsory schooling. Moreover, training courses on those two matters should be implemented by youth NGOs. Companies also can speed those two alternatives economy during professional seminars. Citizens who are interested can participate into conferences, lecturers, read online and create business or use those already installed. To strengthen resilience to climate change, the R&D is essential. It will serve to design the probable evolutions on climate change and risks, to create new products in order to tackle those issues, everyone can be willing to participate to this by donation or by involvement.

To sum up action and strategies: create an index of pollution as used and study as PIB and GINI, integrate most probably change in all construction, spread and used circulated and functional economy, go deepen in R&D.

## Action 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 aims “to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.”

Within this goal, we all need to diminish marine pollution, regulate the fishery, protect but also restore the water environment, as well as shield small fishers that respect their place of work and raise the awareness toward the incredible threats that faces the oceans, seas and all marine areas.

To decrease the pollution, one way is to oblige all countries and all governments to filter their wastewater. Filters mean withdraw all toxic particles but also the rejection at the right temperature. Moreover, as we already spoke, it is important to reduce our plastic use in order to avoid that this plastic will not be found in the ocean and won't be eaten by marine animals. Toward the regulation of overfishing, all citizens can act by buying only product with labelled which protect marine environment. For example, the MSC label which assure sufficient fish stock and maintain the eco-system. By buying only them, it will force other companies to change their methods, more companies will be implied and that will leave time to regenerate the marine environment.

There are activists and groups working without rest in order to find methods and new ideas to clean oceans. On the internet there are many ways you can interact with them and join them in this incredible path. The idea is to either through awareness or action, take necessary measures to tackle this issue. There are many conferences, meetings, training courses, job shadowing, etc. that are organized. It is a matter of being willing to take a step forward. People can also organize those events in their community and try to convince friends and colleagues to join them.

Finally, to protect coastal and marine ecosystem, first it is important to finance more R&D into this theme. Then, it is possible to cultivate corals and afterward replant them into their natural environment. Citizens, NGOs, government of all sizes thanks to an exchange of knowledge can help conserve our oceans, seas and marine resources.





## Action 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



This goal articulates targets for preserving biodiversity of forest, desert, and mountain eco-systems, as a percentage of total land mass. Achieving a "land degradation-neutral world" can be reached by restoring degraded forests and land lost to drought and flood. Goal 15 calls for more attention to preventing invasion of introduced species and more protection of endangered species.

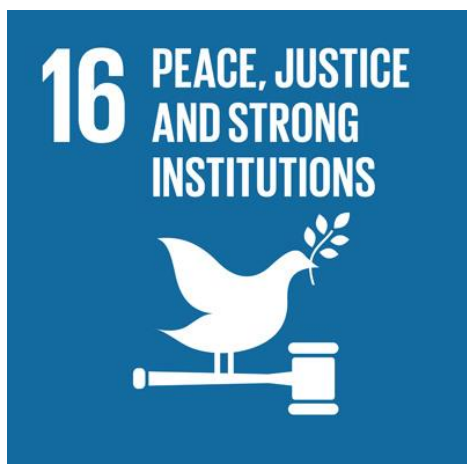
In order to conserve, restore and encourage sustainable action, citizens can buy papers with labels PEFC or FSC. These are labels which respect forest through a sustainable management. NGOs or governments can increase the number of forests which are sustainably manage. They not only protect forest but also the wildlife inside which depends on it. In the same line of thinking in order to protect forests, NGOs and governments could promote more protected areas. By protecting forests, jungle or savanna the flora and fauna could be secured, notably by national guards, world army as Blue Helmet or voluntaries from the country or also volunteers from foreign countries, that can come through some exchange programme in the field financed by some international or national institution.

The same idea goes for mountains. Indeed, in mountains there are plenty of miraculous flora and animals. This ecosystem is fragile, all the more when there is a glacier. We have to protect them against poaching of animals but also plants. Pedestrian paths must be created and respected so as not to confuse the ecosystem. Furthermore, in order to stop poaching, guarded areas should be created as part of the solution, but apart, of this more punishment against resellers should be done. All sells concerning protected or in danger animals or plants should be prohibited. Governments can harden laws, in this way less resellers and buyers would be less inclined to do this business.

To maintain ecosystems, native species should be prioritized and alien species should be evicted. All citizens can install traps in their garden. For example, traps for Asian hornets can be easily made with bottle, beer, syrup and water. This will capture only Asian hornets and leaves bees.



## Action 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Reducing violent crime, sex trafficking, forced labour, and child abuse are clear global goals. The International Community values peace and justice and calls for stronger judicial systems that will enforce laws and work toward a more peaceful and just society. By 2017, the UN could report progress on detecting victims of trafficking. More women and girls than men and boys were victimized, yet the share of women and girls has slowly declined.

The goal is about child labour, torture or trafficking; killing of defenders and disrespect of their rights; reduce of death rates; justice for all; arms trafficking; decrease bribery and corruption; develop clear and responsible institutions; fair decision-making process and laws. During the pandemic, the risk of child labour or media repression among other topics was increasing. With the decrease in tourism, some people haven't enough money and they were forced to put their child to work. Moreover, some governments take advantage of pandemic to censure media institutions.

To ensure an equal access to justice for everyone, it would be interesting to enhance courts where citizens can appeal when their access to justice is blocked. By giving local actors and NGOs the tools to support those people as well as creating awareness and international pressure on countries that don't respect basic human rights. Moreover, NGOs can be there to assist by providing a court-appointed lawyer or connecting citizens to lawyers. Strengthen laws and rules against people who are guilty of bribery and corruption will decrease the number of people willing to commit those practices. For countries who don't respect the rule of law, a boycott and sanctions could be made in order to push them to respect their population and their rights.

Partnership can be made between NGOs, national governments with difficulties with ensuring peace of with strong institutions and governments which have success peace and robust national system. To keep the peace, committee of discussion can be created to understand what are the requests of the two parties with third neutral countries as mediator. And finally, teach the "peace mind" instead of the "war mind". When you have been thought from childhood to solve problems with violence, then you will repeat this in the future. The whole idea here is to work with youngest generation and teach them to solve conflicts differently. This mindset will benefit everyone: locally, nationally and internationally.

To prevent violence and crime, the solution could be creating impregnable, tough and fair justice institutions. In order to do so, it is important to give them

independence. Meanwhile, it is crucial to teach at school the importance of the civic behaviour and what is the proper code of conduct within society. Strategies and actions are: create a world citizen justice institution, strengthen laws about corruptions and bribery, strengthen institutions, discussion committees and learn how to find and create peace of mind.

### **Action 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**



Increasing international cooperation is seen as vital to achieving each of the 16 previous goals. Goal 17 is included to assure that countries and organizations cooperate instead of compete. Developing multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial support is seen as critical to overall success of the SDGs. The goal encompasses improving North-South and South-South cooperation, and public-private partnerships which involve civil societies are specifically mentioned.

Such cooperation includes international support; money resources from all shareholders; help country to diminish and structure the national debt; support wide-ranging cooperation for science, technology and innovation; encourage a fair financial world system; spread the access of the data; diffuse and apply world sustainable policies and intensify effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to achieve all the 17 goals or to come closer to them, sanctions and/or reward for countries which don't respect or respect those achievements should be given. Concerning the debt, we should expand the European concept of budgetary rule. Sure, each country or area should have their own limit but everyone should have certain limits that should be respected. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments because of debt and limitation refuse the lock down and put the health after the economy. During such crisis a flexibility could be expected in order to respect the context at that specific moment. More robust cooperation should be enhanced, using technology and connecting online, no need to always take the flight contributing to the pollution world level. Decisions or follow-up could be done in an online way as it was possible during COVID-19 times.

For example, each trimester the union can organize an on-site meeting, in the same time or during multiple summits. It could be interesting each year to invite NGOs and citizen leaders to attend such meeting, so organizers can take new ideas, current challenges from other perspectives, but also learn about success stories. What we need is to realize that everyone can act and our own acts are important, specifically when it comes to citizen and their consumption. NGOs are real actors and key to



achieve all these goals. However, governments have crucial role to play, because they can change the laws, enforce it and obviously implement new ones.

At the end of the day, people should truly understand that we are all in this together. These 17 goals are a good start to inspire younger generation to work towards common goals and objectives. Raise awareness, keep learning and having the courage to act is a key in our success as human beings. Humanity has done some extraordinary things during the course of time, is time to go for the next level.

### III. Good practice from YW4GG job shadowing activities

The job shadowing mobility activities of YW4GG had the purpose to allow youth workers to collect, record information and practical guidelines related to SDGs that could be used in their own countries, communities and NGOs. The activities allowed participants to share experience and good practice about SDGs having the opportunity to learn about each other culture. The job shadowing activities were a great chance for introducing participants to the realities of the host countries, their own unique progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Following, in the next pages readers will be introduced to the experience acquired by youth workers in the framework of Youth Workers 4 Global Goals activities.

#### ❖ PERU

In September, 2021, two youth workers from Denmark and another two from Spain were hosted by Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru, in Lima.

During their stay in Peru, youth workers visited the organization red Marina of the district of Punta Negra, getting to know the president of the association Marco Munar, representatives of the municipality of the district, the local police, and several volunteers who also helped representatives to beat the language barriers.



The mission of the organization is to educate children, youth, and adults about the area and how to conserve the endemic and migratory species of this great biological corridor. To bring awareness they use non-traditional methods, such as wall paintings,



where they introduce typical species of the area. With this they not only educate the people, but also make a beautiful decoration for the neighbourhood. Youth workers were impressed by the collaboration of the different actors in preserving the area as well as of the involvement of children in such activities. The youngest volunteer they have is not more than 6 years old.

Moreover, during their stay, youth workers visited a meal center for the poor people of the district AAHH of the Church San Jose who distribute free lunches to 150 families in the area. This visit was very impressive for the participants since they realized that in Peru there is an extreme poverty rate and malnutrition continues to be a problem in Lima. However, the city is combatting this occurrence through community kitchens being such kitchens an example of Peru's efforts to reduce the hunger and malnutrition of its poorest people. Another fact about poverty that participants learnt about is that in Lima there is a large income disparity, which has led to problems with access to clean water. While the rich have cheap water pumped into their homes, the poor pay almost ten times more for water to be delivered by lorries.

In addition, participants learn about different Peruvian organizations fighting poverty and about their core activities. For example, the Solaris Perú non-profit organization based in Peru has the mission to end poverty, focusing on the creation of programs that create better community environment through educational models, and specifically creating positive change for children. In order to provide positive results to Peruvian communities, the organization collaborate on political, social and technical dimensions with other partners and institutions, being the efficient use of the resources their main priority.

Aprode Perú is an example of organization working toward the improvement and development of the country. Their representatives and volunteers fight to eradicate poverty and help the ones in most need. They create programs and projects that contribute to the social, cultural, and economical development of the communities, especially to the poorest living areas. They create encounters with the Peruvian government in order to promote their causes and raise awareness of the conditions that poor people live in.

Another good example was the non-profit organization CARE Peru, which creates programs that serve to empower poor communities in Peru to exercise their rights. These programs work to empower women, indigenous groups and rural populations. This organization helps to increase household income, reduce malnutrition, bring educational improvements, and improve access to water and sanitation, among others.





During their stay in Lima, youth workers also had the opportunity to meet youngsters and the president, Percy Bergara from the Nueva Semilla Youth Association, in the Villa María del Triunfo District in Lima, which promotes the



proper use of free time, through cultural artistic activities, like art and dance. For 23 years, more than 10,000 young people joined to Nueva Semilla. At the same time, they have formed Cultural Volunteers through art and culture,

focused on social work, social inclusion for the benefit of extremely poor populations and high-risk youth. During their visit youth workers also met some extraordinary people that shared some of their background stories. Participants also got a presentation of their latest choreography and all together did some team building activities.

Participants also had the opportunity to meet the volunteers of the organization, called Servop, in Cieneguilla. The association is composed by volunteers that seeks the welfare of the population and the continuous improvement of young people. Their aim is to help more young people to get involved in the field of volunteering in their free time and to give smiles 😊 They help in several ways to their community, such as the organization of meal centers, outdoor cinemas, etc. They also adapted to the current Covid-19 situation, saving life by buying oxygen tanks and giving them for free to the people in need.

In the same area, youth workers also visited two other organizations, Arca and Munay Perú. With their role play activities and wall paintings they bring awareness and valuing the natural and cultural heritage in their region. Participants found their work very important since roles and rituals are essential for creating, situating and maintaining cultural practices.





## ❖ ESTONIA

In October, 2021, two youth workers coming from Peru were hosted by our Estonian partner Rääma Noorte Ühing Noorus in Pärnu.

During the visit in Estonia, Peruvian participants had the chance to learn more about the Estonian way of life, education, infrastructure, politics, health, and environment system. The most impressive for the participants were the many activities Rääma Noorte Ühing Noorus organizes in its premises, workshops and activities for children, youth and adult people in different spheres.



Participants were also introduced to some projects that are currently carry out in the city that aims to improve the wellbeing of its inhabitants, in terms of health and environment. They visited the giant plastic recycler on the beach in the form of fish. The fish represents the importance of recycling and the risks that plastic bottles have on our

natural environment, specifically on animals that live in the sea. The sculpture encourages people to rethink how they approach recycling and to protect our natural resources. Youth workers saw the project as very interesting, expressing their willing to implement something similar also in their community once they come back.

One of the most interesting things for the Peruvian participants was the level of education in Estonia, which is divided into general, vocational and hobby education. Specifically, the hobby education is offering to each child or adult to find an exciting hobby to spend one's leisure time. Through hobby education, people acquire new knowledge and skills, as well as it provides them a great opportunity to develop their strengths and talents, experience success and expand their network and relationships. The main fields of hobby education are nature, music, art, sports, engineering, and general culture, being sports between the most preferred one.



Participants were also impressed by the organization of the municipal waste management service. Moreover, they learnt that Estonia is planning to be the first country in the world with a fully digital real-time monitoring system for waste management which will also help assess people's garbage sorting behaviour. The new system will help reduce people's fears that their carefully sorted garbage is not being taken to the right place. The data will help create new business models of



waste management and for companies to better plan their own activities. In addition, Estonia's goal is to recycle 55 percent of municipal waste by 2025.

In contrast, according to the forecast of World Bank, in Peru by 2025 up to 36,000 tons of garbage will be generated per day, thus making it necessary to propose immediate solutions such as recycling. Cities represent a major challenge for solid waste management. In Lima, the largest city in the country where almost 10 million people live, about 8,468 tons of garbage are generated daily, which corresponds to 47% of the total produced. Whereof, only 4% is recycled. In fact, Lima is the city with the highest ecological footprint, exceeding ecologically permissible parameters.



During their stay in Estonia, youth workers visited Pernova Nature House, a unique place in Pärnu that educate people about biodiversity in Estonian nature and in the rest of the world. The knowledge about nature allows people to develop a deeper understanding of the multifaceted functioning of the environment around and what part we

all play in the survival of this ancient biodiversity. Pernova Nature House believes that creating and maintaining connection with nature and raise awareness about environmental changes through exhibitions, special events, hobby groups is more than crucial in the current times.

## ❖ DENMARK

In September, 2021, two youth workers from Argentina were hosted by Danish Youth Team in Aarhus, Denmark.

During their stay, they had the possibility to explore the different actions taking place in correlation with the SDGs, in everyday life activities as well as specific locations within the city. They got to know more about the reusing/recycling system in use in Denmark, the Dansk Retursystem, which ensures that disposable beverage packaging made of plastic, aluminium and glass are recycled, by involving all the actors in the Consumption and Production process:

- Producers, importers and the breweries contribute by selling bottles and cans that can be used again or recycled.
- Danish people contribute by returning their empty bottles and cans to the system instead of discarding them.
- Shops, offices, cafés, restaurants and similar places contribute by receiving the empty bottles and cans and storing them until Dansk Retursystem collects them.
- Dansk Retursystem makes sure that the bottles and cans are sorted, separated and sent to specialized plants that melt the bottles and cans so that the material can be used to make new ones.





Youth workers had the opportunity to attend an event at the municipal centre Dokk1, organised by an NGO called NU (Folkekirkens Nødhjælps Ungdom), on which people received clothes donations that were reoffered to other participants to freely take home. This activity had both a social as well as an environmental approach, avoiding the discarding of clothes and prolonging their life cycle.



Furthermore, youth workers shared with Danish representatives some related and interesting initiatives that are currently taking place in Argentina, such as the Project Biotico. The idea for this project came from Jessica Pullo, a designer based in Buenos Aires, who decided to combine her passions for fashion and the

environment, creating her own sustainable fashion company. The idea came out after Jessica has visited parts of Argentina that were full of pollution, thus, the materials that she used to make her clothes, purses and other accessories are waste from the textile industry, the food industry, leather workshops and household garbage. The objective is to give new value to this refuse by creating high-quality dresses and accessories. Digital manufacturing tools such as laser cutters and traditional processes are used to produce the dress. Moreover, the project also has a social value as it uses recycled materials and helps disadvantaged categories. She is collaborating with workers from ALPAD, an organization that hires people with intellectual disabilities to do various jobs.

Youth workers were very positive surprised by the many spaces for inclusion, such as ramps, wide parking for wheelchairs, tiling for the visually impaired and Braille-written or sound directions. Also, they were impressed by the wide-spread use of sustainable means of transportation, a large network of bikeways and a lot of available parking spaces. Indeed, cycling is a deeply ingrained part of Danish culture, and newcomers, who do not know how to cycle, are encouraged to learn as soon as they arrive. Danish children usually learn to bike before they begin school at age 6 - and often much earlier. In addition, during the 1920s and 1930s, the bicycle became a widespread symbol of equality and freedom in Denmark.

Youth workers learnt more about the story of cycling in Denmark and the “Car Free Sundays” introduced in Copenhagen in the beginning of 1970s, protests demanding that all of Copenhagen became car-free. However, in the beginning of 2021, Danish government hoped to attract a majority of Parliament to support car-free Sundays initiative, which was supposed to kick in before the autumn. The idea for car-free Sundays from 09:00-20:00 is particularly geared to major cities such as Copenhagen and Aarhus.

Participants also shared about the growing interest in cycling in Argentina, promoted specially by the development of bike paths in the main cities. According



to a 2019 report issued by the Interamerican Development Bank the Latin American region has made progress in promoting “active transport”, (the mix of walking and cycling), notably in cycling. Among the main policies that have helped boost walking and cycling as means of transport is the implementation of bike-sharing, pedestrianization, and ciclovías. However, potential users of bicycles complain about the safety on the street, lack of public bikes system in the big cities, and lack of bike culture. Another concern is about the security, a place where they feel is safe to park their vehicles. And finally, there is a need of incentives for purchase, renewal and repair, as well as a space where people from all ages can learn how to ride and receive advises on road safety measures, types of vehicles to be purchased and routes offered.

During their stay in Denmark, youth workers visited many museums and other educational spots, e.g.: Den Gamble By, ARoS, Moesgard Museum, Aqua Aquarium & Wildlife Park, Papirmuseet (Silkeborg), Natural History Museum, Viking Museum, Steno Museum and the Botanical Garden. All entities were very interesting for them, being the most of the exhibits both in Danish and English, so that the multicultural visitors in Aarhus can enjoy these learning and cultural experiences.

Specifically, the Natural History Museum impressed them with a full exhibition dedicated to raise awareness in the preservation of native wolves (SDG Life on Land). On the outskirts of the city, it could be found the Marselisborg Dyrehave, a park within a preserved forest area, where deer and wild boars inhabit their natural ecosystem.

Also, the Gender Museum (KØN) which they had the opportunity to visit, shows through pictures and narrations, the life of women throughout history in Denmark and the rest of the world. One of the permanent exhibitions, called "History of Girls and Boys" offers information on the infancy around the world and through human history and describes situations of disadvantages for girls.

## ❖ SPAIN

In July, 2021, two youth workers coming from Belgium were hosted by Asociación EuropeYou, in Torremolinos, Spain.



During their stay in Torremolinos (Málaga area), participants learnt more about different initiatives which aim to contribute to the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In particular, youth workers learnt more about “Málaga, cómo te quiero!?” (Málaga, how do I love you), a citizen awareness program of the City Council of Málaga that aims to influence neighborhood responsibility in the cleanliness and image of public spaces in the city. The program focuses on the role of the individual as an active agent and whose knowledge and behaviors ultimately determine the environmental conditions of the city. The program proposes education for social





change as the only real solution to the environmental problems of the urban system and the approach towards training for the action of people.

Indeed, there are numerous sporting and cultural events, parties, festivals, etc. organized from the public administration, social groups or from private entities that generate a negative impact on the city and its inhabitants (waste, consumption of resources, pollution, degradation of the environment). Therefore, the team behind this wonderful awareness program “Málaga, cómo te quiero!?” have created an environmental quality stamp for those events designed, organized and developed from a perspective of environmental respect. However, to all those organizers that show interest in taking care of the environment and the image of their event, they offer advice in different fields such as reduce, reuse, and recycle waste; responsible consumption of water and energy; collaboration with local, responsible and low-carbon suppliers; avoidance of atmospheric, acoustic and light pollution; sensibilization of attendees and society to generate respect for the environment.



Another great initiative for which the youth workers got to know more is “Pasaporte Verde” (“Green Passport”). “Pasaporte Verde” was born with the aim of promoting the awareness of schoolchildren of all educational levels about the need to respect the environment in which they live, offering environmental itineraries to facilitate and promote the re-education of habits. To achieve this objective, different activities grouped into 10 environmental programs are developed:

- EcoWaste ... Reduce and Separate
- I change my consumption model
- Taking care of my neighborhood
- This sounds to me
- The Habitat and Life of the Chameleon
- Conservation of Marine and Coastal Species
- Scholar Orchard. Sow and Learn
- Generation-Restoration
- I Take Care of Water and Biodiversity
- Footprints in the Classroom

All these programs aim to promote sustainable habits. Some activities that were included and youth workers found interesting were school garden, used as a



teaching tool for good eating habits and teamwork; analyse of the value of biodiversity through the study of chameleon, a threatened species that symbolize respect for ecosystems; the workshops raising awareness about the need of responsible use of sanitation networks, avoiding the spillage of sanitary napkins and oils identifying the negative effects on the aquatic environment and marine life.

In addition, “Pasaporte Verde” as an environmental education action for the educational community began in 2014. Since that year, 80,000 students are part of the program annually and 160 are educational centers in Malaga that host free activities on different subjects.

Youth workers also learnt about different campaigns that took place in the last years in Spain, aiming to raise awareness on the importance of achieving the SDGs. One of the them was #StopDesperdicios, a campaign focused on the journalists and the media commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, and the problem of food waste and loss current issues, being aware that it is a problem that goes beyond bad habits and lack of awareness. In the framework of this project, a communication campaign on social networks and media communication were disseminated in the form of videos that aimed to raise awareness about the current problem, as well as an exhibition on food waste and loss were set for a week in each of the newsrooms / headquarters of 25 Andalusian media.

With respect to the SDG 4, Quality Education, youth workers learnt about an interesting campaign created in Málaga, during the COVID-19, called “La Nevera” (The fridge). It was a space in social networks based on a series of videos in which a total of seventy characters linked to the world of culture offered cultural recommendations for confinement every day. In this way, they invited the consumption of books, movies or series. In addition, there were more than 200 videoconferences that could be seen on the website of the cultural center of La Térmica, as well as blog with articles on cultural news and online workshops for students and children are still available there.

## ❖ BELGIUM

In July, 2021, two youth workers coming from Colombia were hosted by Association Universitaire Latino-Américaine, ASBL, in Brussels, Belgium.



From their arrival, youth workers coming from Colombia were impressed by the electrification of public transport in Brussels, being able to enjoy comfortable, quiet, safe and emissions-free travel services. Moreover, they were excited to see how well is organize the city for people with disabilities. Indeed, all metro stations have a braille map and tactile floors to help the visually impaired to find their way, as well as the new trams and buses have low floors and automatic



access ramps. In contrast, although in Bogotá, public transport should be accessible to people with reduced mobility, still many public buses are not equipped to handle the specific needs of those people.

Interesting for youth workers was to learn that Belgium is becoming the food start-up nation, being young people attract to the creation of businesses within the food sector. It is considered by many of them that the way we produce, transform and consume good and services should be transformed. The majority of the start-ups promote food that is either healthier, more local, more socially responsible or more environmentally sound. Moreover, there is a growing number of people who want to consume differently - think organic, vegan, local, seasonal or zero-waste. Some start-ups are testing deliveries with Urbike, other are making energy bars containing crickets, and yet other ones are making soups from unsold vegetables or Belgian farms, being all of them embracing new business models.

Belgium representatives also shared more about the climate activists and climate strikes that have been taking place in the last few years, being young Belgium activists among the most enthusiastic. In addition, representatives of ASUL have participated to several climate strikes, so they could explain from first-hand what are the young people expecting and fighting for, as well as what are the current results of such protests at local and national level.



Youth workers learnt more about the so-called ambassadors or “SDG Voices”, that aims to raise interest in the SDGs among the general public. The idea of SDG Voices is not only to inform people about the SDGs, but also encourage them to roll up their sleeves and get involved themselves with all manner of inspirational initiatives.

For example, the organization Play4Peace aims to break social and cultural barriers, organizing meeting with young people from different backgrounds (language, neighbourhood, background, religion, etc.). The idea is to raise awareness and involve those young people in the SDGs. Each week, 150 to 220 young people participate free of charge in sport activities, as well as more than 600 young people were helped thanks to the Back2School and Back2Sport program. The organization offers academic support, training, spaces for studying, and inspirational talk among other activities, in order to best support young people in their development and give them back the desire to dream and believe in themselves.

Good Planet Belgium inspires young and old to realize a sustainable society by taking positive actions and sharing expertise. They do this by developing and supervising projects, workshops and teaching materials on all sustainability themes. 50 employees and dozens of volunteers from all over the country use their know-how and passion in the field of sustainable development every day. They are primarily aimed at children and young people. Every year, the educational staff raise awareness among more than 300,000 children and young people. GoodPlanet is also



a partner of companies that actively take up their social role and sets up awareness-raising campaigns for a wide audience. In this way they also reach 50,000 adults every year. In addition to this significant impact at individual and group level, they also strive for a more structural impact on our society. GoodPlanet's creative ideas have inspired many policymakers.

In addition, Belgian civil society organizations, alone or in partnership with others in multi-stakeholder platforms, are also taking ownership of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, focusing on accountability, advocacy and awareness-raising, as well as on implementation. Examples include a series of national thematic campaigns on food, climate justice, social protection, health and decent work; seminars and workshops on SDG related issues such as empowerment of women; and the integration of the SDGs into actions undertaken with partner organizations in the global South.

### ❖ COLOMBIA

In June, 2021, two youth workers coming from Estonia were hosted by Fundación Alternativas y Acción Social, in Bogotá, Colombia.

During their stay in Colombia, they got to know more about the main activities of the foundation, mainly, offering job to single mothers and retired people trying to increase their incomes, as well as helping them to cope better with their life.



Their work is motivated by the growing incidence of single-parent families over the recent decades, with Colombia which reported the highest rate in South America, with 84%. Beyond the challenges the sheer volume of these numbers brings forth to already strained resources, the issue in Colombia is further

compounded by the fact that a large majority of these single-parent families are headed by women, and that women represent a disproportionate percentage of the countries poor, a phenomenon commonly labeled as the “Feminization of Poverty”. It is well-documented that lone-mother households are at the highest risk of poverty amongst women due to lack of income. This is further exacerbated by deprivation of capabilities and the gender biases present in both Colombian society and government. The culmination of all these factors in modern day Colombia has resulted in a vicious cycle of emotional, financial and social problems and other stressful life events for both the single mothers and their children.

Youth workers had the chance to make real chocolate from cocoa beans. They were introduced to the whole process from how cocoa beans are grown till the delicious chocolate they shaped with their own hands.





They learnt that in Colombia there are several smallholder farmer cooperatives, producing better cocoa quality and increasing cocoa productivity in sustainable agroforestry. Working with local coaches, they are increasing quality through improved fermentation and drying process, increasing output quantity by rejuvenating cocoa trees, following good agricultural practices, and setting up central cocoa collection and processing centers at cooperative level, pursuing organic/Fairtrade certification and getting access to market cocoa on the regional and international market. They are all inspired to have a better life and to take on immediate action against climate change as well as improve the livelihood of their communities. Such projects also aim to raise awareness of the circular economy in society and to emphasize the sustainability of biological and technical cycles.

Social entrepreneurs are empowered, especially in the development of innovative solutions and initiatives to achieve positive social and ecological effects, such as striving for sustainable cultivation and production patterns and methods as well as promoting responsible consumer behaviour, contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda. In addition, in the last years many sustainable initiatives of women entrepreneurs in rural communities were established, providing basic services such as sharing of knowledge and networking. Social entrepreneurs are usually identified, evaluated, trained and supported with long-term coaching, on the one hand to support the development of a sustainable enterprise and, on the other hand, to promote and accompany the development of basic services.

Youth workers got to know about the different challenges Colombia face in term of poverty rate and inequality. Specifically, almost 39% of the people in the largely Afrocolombian province are living in extreme poverty. Peripheral provinces with a relatively large indigenous population like La Guajira and Cauca also see extraordinarily high levels of poverty.



Afro-Colombian and indigenous people, women, people with disabilities and young people who have been in care are also disproportionately likely to be affected by poverty. In addition, poverty and communities' lack of access to health care was blamed for a large number of the infant deaths. According to the World Bank, more than 12 of every thousand babies died before their first birthday.





#### **IV. Conclusion**

The Sustainable Development Goals call for worldwide action among governments, businesses and civil society because all of them have a role to play in the achievement of each of the 17 Goals.

In particular, United Nations recognizes young people as a rights-holders, having the capacity to identify and challenge existing power structures and barriers to change, and to expose contradictions and biases. Youth-led organisations and specifically youth workers need to be encouraged and empowered to participate in translating the 2030 Agenda into local, national and regional policy. They can play a significant role in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Agenda as well as in holding youth accountable. With commitment and adequate resources, youth organisations have the potential to make the most effective transformation of the world **into a better place for all.**

**IT'S OUR WORLD, LET'S TAKE ACTION  
TOGETHER!**



**YW4GG**

**YOUTH WORKERS 4 GLOBAL GOALS**

