



ENABLE

EMPOWERING NEXT – GENERATION ADVOCATES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Youth Environmental Forum - Zagreb
Croatia 20.-21.01.2026.



www.enable-cerv.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union

ENABLE (Empowering Next-Generation Advocates for a Better Environment) is an initiative designed to empower youth aged 18–30—including those from marginalized and underserved communities—by placing them at the forefront of climate action and civic engagement. Aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs, ENABLE places special emphasis on climate action, social inclusion, and sustainable development.

Objectives

- Enhance youth participation in climate governance
- Foster climate awareness and advocacy skills
- Promote social inclusion for vulnerable youth
- Strengthen civic competencies and critical thinking
- Support European values and unity through cross-border collaboration



ENABLE Youth Environmental Forum in Croatia

Empowering young voices for climate action and sustainable futures

From **20.-21. January 2026, Zagreb, Croatia**, hosted the **ENABLE Youth Environmental Forum**, bringing together young people from across Europe for an intensive learning and exchange experience focused on climate action, sustainable development, and civic participation. Organised by **Association ECHO** within the framework of the **ENABLE – Empowering Next-Generation Advocates for a Better Environment project**, the event created a dynamic and inclusive space for youth to reflect, collaborate, and strengthen their role as agents of change.

The forum gathered 25 young participants from Luxembourg, France, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Bulgaria and Greece, including young people, students, environmentalists, stakeholders and policymakers.

Over two days, participants engaged in a carefully designed programme combining non-formal education, participatory methodologies, and peer learning, with a strong focus on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and their connection to everyday life. They gained new skills connected to SDG's 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), and 15 (Life on Land)

Day 1 – Understanding systems, decisions, and lived realities

The first working day of the **ENABLE Youth Environmental Forum** focused on building a shared understanding of climate governance, sustainability, and the complexity of decision-making processes. Following the welcome and introductory session, participants engaged in an icebreaker activity designed to foster group cohesion and encourage intercultural exchange.

The programme continued with the activity “**Making Climate Decisions in a Complex System**”, a simulation-based workshop that invited participants to step into the roles of different stakeholders involved in climate and energy-related decisions. Working in small groups, young people analysed realistic scenarios, explored tensions between environmental, social, economic, and political priorities, and reflected on how different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can come into conflict or reinforce one another. This activity strengthened systems thinking and highlighted the challenges of inclusive and democratic climate governance.

In the afternoon, participants took part in “**Understanding Sustainable Development through Lived Experience**”, an interactive, persona-based activity focused on how sustainability is experienced in everyday life. By analysing the barriers and enabling conditions faced by different citizens, participants deepened their understanding of inequality, access to services, and social inclusion, while linking lived realities to specific SDGs. The discussions encouraged empathy, critical reflection, and a holistic view of sustainable development.

Day 2 – From present realities to future visions

The second working day was dedicated to future-oriented thinking and collective vision-building. Through the activity “**From Present Realities to Future Visions**”, participants reflected on how the Sustainable Development Goals are currently reflected in their national contexts and explored how their societies could realistically evolve by 2030.

Working in groups, participants compared present challenges with possible future improvements across areas such as mobility, energy, consumption, well-being, green spaces, and civic participation. Using creative and non-digital methods, they developed visual representations of EU’s “now” and “2030” realities, highlighting both shared European challenges and country context-specific differences.

The day concluded with group presentations and reflection, allowing participants to exchange perspectives, identify common trends across Europe, and discuss the role of young people in shaping more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable futures at local, national, and European levels.





ENABLE

EMPOWERING NEXT –
GENERATION ADVOCATES FOR
A BETTER ENVIRONMENT



www.enable-cerv.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.