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Rising Voices for Climate Action:

“Empowering Youth to Lead the Fight Against Climate Change”

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Düzce, Türkiye

Hosted by

Düzce Alfa Youth Association

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1. Introduction – Rising Voices in Düzce

Welcome to the project booklet of Rising Voices for Climate Action. This booklet was created to share our experience from the youth exchange that took place in Düzce, Türkiye, from 31 January to 8 February 2026 under the Erasmus+ KA152-YOU programme

The climate crisis is one of the most urgent challenges of our time. From rising global temperatures to extreme weather events, from biodiversity loss to increasing health risks, its consequences affect every region of the world. Through this project, young people from Bulgaria, Germany, France, Romania, North Macedonia, Greece, and Türkiye came together with one shared purpose: to raise their voices and take meaningful action against climate change

Düzce, surrounded by rich natural landscapes and located between major metropolitan areas, offered a powerful setting for reflection and learning. Being close to forests, rivers, and natural ecosystems reminded us that climate change is not an abstract concept discussed only in reports; it is a real and visible transformation affecting our environment and daily lives.

Throughout eight intensive days, we explored the science behind climate change, discussed carbon footprints and sustainable lifestyles, and examined the social and economic impacts of the climate crisis. We analyzed how human activities such as fossil fuel use, deforestation, and industrial production contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, and how these emissions accelerate global warming. But this project was not only about understanding the problem. It was about becoming part of the solution.

Participants engaged in interactive workshops, simulations, debates, and group work designed to strengthen their environmental awareness and activism skills. We worked on ideas for climate campaigns, reflected on our own consumption habits, and explored practical ways to reduce our personal carbon footprints. By bringing together both experienced sustainability advocates and less experienced participants, the exchange created a dynamic learning environment where peer inspiration played a key role

During intercultural evenings, each country shared its traditions, music, food, and perspectives. These moments strengthened our sense of unity and reminded us that although climate change is a global crisis, solutions require cooperation across borders. Cultural exchange became a symbol of solidarity in the fight for a more sustainable future.

Every day in Düzce offered a new opportunity to learn, question, collaborate, and grow. We did not only discuss climate action; we practiced responsibility, critical thinking, and active citizenship. We built friendships, exchanged ideas, and discovered that young people, when united, have the power to influence change.

This booklet brings together the highlights, reflections, and outcomes of our journey. It captures what we learned, how we challenged ourselves, and how our voices became stronger together. More than a record of activities, it is a testimony to youth engagement, climate awareness, and collective action.

We hope that as you read these pages, you will feel inspired to raise your own voice, reduce your environmental impact, and contribute to building a sustainable and just future for our planet.



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2. About the Project – Vision, Goals and Impact

Rising Voices for Climate Action is built on the belief that international youth mobility can empower young people to become active agents in the fight against climate change. In a world increasingly shaped by environmental crises, young people must not only understand the causes and consequences of climate change, but also develop the competences and confidence to take meaningful action.

Through interactive workshops, simulations, debates, and collaborative learning activities, the project creates a dynamic and inclusive environment where participants critically explore climate-related challenges, reflect on their personal responsibility, and design practical solutions. By combining scientific understanding with youth activism and intercultural dialogue, the exchange transforms awareness into action.

Vision

Our vision is to amplify youth voices in the global climate movement and to foster a generation that is environmentally conscious, socially responsible, and actively engaged in shaping a sustainable future.

By bringing together participants from diverse cultural and social backgrounds, the project strengthens solidarity across borders and highlights the shared responsibility of young people in addressing the climate crisis. We envision a community of empowered youth who:

- understand the urgency of climate action,
- adopt sustainable lifestyles,
- advocate for environmental justice,
- and inspire change within their local communities and beyond.

Through Rising Voices for Climate Action, we aim not only to educate but to mobilize. We believe that when young people raise their voices together, they become a powerful force capable of influencing attitudes, behaviors, and policies toward a greener and more just world.



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Goals and Impact

- To educate and raise awareness among young people about their carbon footprints and motivate them to adopt a lifestyle that minimizes their carbon emissions.
- To increase awareness among young people about the possible consequences of climate change and its impacts on daily life.
- To encourage young people to become environmental activists and to foster social awareness in the fight against climate change.



Skills Developed by Participants

- **Environmental and climate literacy skills:** understanding the causes and consequences of climate change, analyzing carbon footprints, interpreting climate data, and identifying sustainable lifestyle alternatives.
- **Social and emotional skills:** empathy toward communities affected by climate change, collaboration in multicultural teams, constructive dialogue, adaptability, and conflict resolution during debates on environmental justice and sustainability.
- **Cognitive and analytical skills:** critical thinking about environmental policies, problem identification related to climate challenges, solution-oriented thinking, and the ability to connect local actions with global impacts.
- **Advocacy and civic engagement skills:** designing awareness campaigns, public speaking on climate issues, participating in simulations and structured discussions, and understanding how youth can influence environmental decision-making processes.
- **Digital and media skills:** creating climate-related digital content such as social media campaigns, short videos, posters, and presentations to promote environmental awareness and responsible behavior.
- **Project management and reflective learning skills:** teamwork in planning climate-related initiatives, task distribution, time management, evaluation of activities, and reflecting on personal growth and environmental responsibility.

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Broader Social and Cultural Themes

Rising Voices for Climate Action addresses a wide range of contemporary social, environmental, and civic themes that directly affect young people and their future. The project goes beyond environmental awareness and connects climate change to broader societal dynamics, encouraging participants to view the climate crisis through multiple perspectives.

The main themes explored throughout the mobility include:

- **Climate justice and global responsibility:** understanding how climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities and examining issues of equity, intergenerational justice, and shared global responsibility.
- **Youth empowerment and active participation:** strengthening young people's confidence to speak up, engage in dialogue, and contribute to climate-related decision-making processes at local and international levels.
- **Sustainable lifestyles and responsible consumption:** reflecting on personal habits, carbon footprints, and everyday choices that contribute to or mitigate environmental damage.
- **Diversity, inclusion, and solidarity:** promoting intercultural understanding and recognizing that effective climate action requires cooperation across cultures, backgrounds, and social groups.
- **Media literacy and climate communication:** critically analyzing climate-related information, combating misinformation, and using digital tools responsibly to advocate for environmental awareness.

By exploring these interconnected themes, participants do not only gain knowledge about climate change, but also develop a deeper understanding of their civic responsibility and their potential to influence social transformation. The project encourages young people to see themselves not as passive observers of the climate crisis, but as active contributors to a sustainable and just future.



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Impact

The expected impact of **Rising Voices for Climate Action** extends far beyond the duration of the mobility in Düzce. The project is designed not only as a short-term educational experience, but as a catalyst for long-term environmental awareness and youth engagement.

- After the exchange, participants return to their communities with:
- strengthened climate literacy and a deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of the climate crisis,
- increased motivation to adopt sustainable lifestyles and reduce their personal carbon footprints,
- enhanced confidence to advocate for climate action and raise awareness among their peers,
- practical experience in designing campaigns, discussions, and environmental initiatives.

At the local level, participants are encouraged to implement dissemination activities, organize awareness sessions, and promote responsible environmental behavior within schools, universities, and youth organisations. In this way, the impact of the project multiplies beyond the original group of participants.

At the international level, the project strengthens cooperation among partner organisations from seven countries and builds a transnational network of young climate advocates. This collaboration contributes to a more connected, environmentally conscious, and socially responsible European youth community.

Ultimately, Rising Voices for Climate Action empowers young people to move from awareness to action. By amplifying youth voices and fostering solidarity across borders, the project supports the development of active citizens committed to building a sustainable and climate-resilient future.





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3. Activities in Düzce - Workshops, Climate Action and Intercultural Exchange

The 9-day mobility in Düzce offered participants a comprehensive programme combining climate education, youth activism, experiential learning, and intercultural exchange. Designed in line with non-formal education principles, the programme blended interactive workshops, simulations, creative production, public awareness activities, and reflection sessions to transform climate awareness into meaningful action.

Throughout the exchange, participants engaged in a wide range of climate-focused activities addressing both the scientific and social dimensions of the climate crisis. Workshops such as *“What Will Happen If We Don’t Protect it?”*, *Climate Change Presentation*, and the *Station Technique Workshop* enabled participants to explore the causes, consequences, and solutions of climate change through debate, group analysis, and collaborative problem-solving. These sessions strengthened critical thinking and encouraged young people to connect global climate challenges with their daily habits.

Creative and advocacy-based activities formed a core component of the programme. During the *“Be Your Own Activist”* session, participants developed their own climate action ideas and reflected on how youth can influence environmental change. In the *Climate News Flash* activity, groups created climate newspapers, transforming research into tangible outputs displayed throughout the project venue. The *Blue Sea* visualisation workshop and the *“Year 2055”* future scenario activity allowed participants to emotionally and ethically reflect on the long-term consequences of environmental degradation. Field-based and community-oriented activities further strengthened the experiential dimension of the project. Through the *Climate Workshop*, participants developed joint solution proposals and prepared a collective declaration. The *“We Walk for Climate”* activity and the *Climate Stand* event enabled participants to interact directly with local citizens and university students, raising awareness and sharing their learning outcomes with the wider community. These public actions transformed theoretical learning into visible civic engagement.

Sustainability was also explored through lifestyle-oriented sessions. The *Intention List* activity encouraged participants to set personal sustainable living goals, while the *“Turn What You Don’t Need into What You Do”* workshop focused on recycling and creative reuse, culminating in a small eco-fashion presentation. The *Green Travel* activity promoted environmentally friendly transportation and included the production of video blogs to support digital dissemination. Beyond environmental learning, the programme strongly emphasized intercultural exchange. Participants from Türkiye, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Romania, North Macedonia, and Greece shared elements of their cultures during intercultural evenings, presentations of good practices, and daily informal interactions. Cultural nights featuring traditional food, music, and customs strengthened mutual understanding and solidarity among participants.

Each day began with energizers and ended with structured reflection sessions, ensuring that learning outcomes were continuously evaluated and internalised. This balance between structured educational content, creative expression, and community engagement created a dynamic and inclusive learning environment.

By the end of the mobility in Düzce, participants had not only deepened their understanding of climate change but also developed the confidence and skills to advocate for sustainable lifestyles and environmental justice. The exchange became a transformative experience, empowering young people to raise their voices and take active responsibility in the fight against the climate crisis.



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4. Opinions of the Participants - Stories from 49 Young Soon-to-be Climate Activists

Over the course of nine inspiring days in Düzce, participants had the opportunity to learn, question, create, and take action in a truly multicultural and climate-focused environment.

Working together with young people from Türkiye, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Romania, North Macedonia, and Greece made every activity more dynamic and meaningful. Each participant brought unique perspectives, cultural backgrounds, and personal experiences related to sustainability and environmental responsibility. This diversity strengthened collaboration and allowed the group to quickly build trust and solidarity.

Throughout workshops, public awareness actions, and intercultural evenings, participants not only deepened their understanding of climate change but also developed friendships and a shared sense of purpose.

According to the project evaluation survey, many participants highlighted that the exchange significantly increased their understanding of the climate crisis and motivated them to take action in their daily lives.

Below are selected reflections inspired directly by participants' feedback:

- "I got a better understanding of how severe climate change actually is and learned about new factors that influence it."
- "I learned to be more ecological and to make sure I actively protect the environment."
- "This project helped me understand how climate change is already affecting our everyday lives."
- "I learned a lot about activism and how young people can actually contribute to climate action."

Participants also emphasized that learning did not stop at the end of the mobility. Many expressed strong motivation to disseminate project outcomes within their communities:

- "I will discuss the project at my school to inform others about climate change."
- "We plan to organize workshops and local presentations to share what we learned."
- "I want to tell other students why climate change is important."
- "I will share photos, videos, and experiences on social media to raise awareness."

For several participants, the project encouraged concrete behavioral change:

- "After the project, I want to walk more and use public transportation more often."

These reflections demonstrate that Rising Voices for Climate Action went beyond knowledge transfer. The mobility empowered participants to become multipliers of climate awareness, inspiring discussions, community initiatives, and sustainable lifestyle changes in their home countries.

Through shared experiences, collaboration, and active participation, young people strengthened not only their environmental awareness but also their confidence to raise their voices and contribute to collective climate action.



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5. Partners in Action – The Power of Collaboration Across Seven Countries

This section presents the partner organisations of the **Rising Voices for Climate Action** project, highlighting their roles, contributions, and active engagement throughout the mobility in Düzce, Türkiye. Bringing together organisations from seven different countries, the partnership created a strong platform for cooperation, intercultural dialogue, and youth-led climate action.

Each organisation contributed unique expertise, experiences, and perspectives that enriched workshops, awareness campaigns, intercultural activities, and collaborative climate initiatives. Together, the partners strengthened the project's impact by promoting environmental responsibility, active citizenship, and sustainable thinking among young people.

Türkiye: Düzce Alfa Gençlik Derneği - Host Organisation & Project Coordination

As the hosting organisation, Düzce Alfa Gençlik Derneği played a central role in coordinating and implementing the project activities. The organisation ensured the smooth management of logistics, participant support, and daily programme execution throughout the mobility.

The Turkish team facilitated climate-focused workshops, community engagement activities such as the Climate Stand and Climate Walk, and reflection sessions that supported participants' learning processes. Their strong organisational capacity and commitment to youth empowerment created a safe, inclusive, and motivating learning environment. As host, the organisation successfully connected international participants with local communities, transforming learning into real climate action.



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Germany: Des Akcabelen Kultur und Unterstützungsverein e.V- Inclusion, Community Engagement & Youth Support

The German partner contributed valuable experience in social inclusion, intercultural cooperation, and community-based youth work. Their participation strengthened dialogue among participants from diverse backgrounds and encouraged collaborative learning during climate discussions and group activities.

The German team actively supported teamwork processes, intercultural exchange, and awareness sessions, promoting solidarity and mutual respect while addressing shared environmental challenges.



Bulgaria: Insulin Pumps NGO - Health Awareness & Environmental Responsibility

Represented by Insulin Pumps NGO, Bulgaria brought an important perspective linking environmental sustainability with health and well-being. Their contribution highlighted how climate change directly affects public health and quality of life. Participants from Bulgaria actively engaged in workshops, discussions, and advocacy activities, contributing analytical perspectives and encouraging responsible lifestyle choices connected to environmental protection.



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France: Les Jeunes Pour La Jeunesse - Youth Initiative & Civic Participation

The French youth group enriched the project with strong motivation for civic engagement and youth participation. Their active involvement in discussions and collaborative activities encouraged open dialogue on climate responsibility and social change.

The team played an important role during awareness-raising activities and intercultural sessions, demonstrating how youth initiatives can mobilize communities and promote environmental awareness at local and European levels.



Republic of North Macedonia: Young Entrepreneurs - Entrepreneurship & Youth Innovation

The North Macedonian partner contributed an entrepreneurial perspective to climate action by encouraging innovative thinking and solution-oriented approaches. Their participation supported creative brainstorming sessions focused on sustainable solutions and youth-led initiatives.

Through active engagement in teamwork and intercultural exchange, the group promoted leadership, initiative-taking, and collaborative problem-solving throughout the project.



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Romania: Asociatia Evolve - Sustainability Awareness & Active Participation

Asociatia Evolve strengthened the educational dimension of the project through active participation in workshops, discussions, and dissemination planning activities. The Romanian team contributed thoughtful perspectives during climate debates and collaborative exercises.

Their engagement supported peer learning and encouraged participants to reflect on sustainable lifestyles and long-term environmental responsibility within their communities.



Greece: Arkadia Youth - Youth Empowerment & Environmental Advocacy

Arkadia Youth contributed dynamic energy and strong engagement in environmental advocacy activities. Their participants actively supported climate awareness actions, group discussions, and creative sessions focused on sustainability.

The Greek team played a visible role in fostering intercultural dialogue and teamwork, helping create an atmosphere of cooperation and shared responsibility toward climate action.



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6. Conclusion – Building Healthy Habits and Sustainable Youth Connections

As *Rising Voices for Climate Action* comes to an end, we proudly reflect on a transformative learning experience that brought together young people and youth organisations from Türkiye, Germany, Bulgaria, France, North Macedonia, Romania, and Greece. Throughout the project, participants explored the relationship between mental well-being, healthy lifestyles, nature connection, and sustainable youth engagement.

Over the course of the programme, young participants stepped away from fast-paced digital routines and rediscovered the value of physical interaction, outdoor experiences, and mindful living. The project created a safe and inclusive space where participants could reflect on their daily habits, strengthen social bonds, and develop healthier approaches to modern challenges affecting young people today.

Overview of the Activities

During the youth exchange, participants took part in a wide range of non-formal learning activities designed to support both personal development and collective learning.

Nature-based workshops allowed participants to reconnect with their senses through outdoor exploration, mindfulness practices, silent reflection exercises, and teamwork challenges in natural environments. Activities such as group sports, orientation games, and cooperative problem-solving tasks encouraged active participation, communication, and trust-building among participants from different cultural backgrounds.

Interactive sessions focused on digital balance helped young people critically reflect on screen dependency and explore practical strategies for maintaining healthier relationships with technology. Participants also worked collaboratively to design awareness initiatives promoting mental well-being, active lifestyles, and sustainable daily habits within their local communities.

Community-based activities involving local stakeholders strengthened intergenerational dialogue and demonstrated how youth-led initiatives can positively influence families and local communities.



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Youthpass and Learning Outcomes

The learning achievements gained throughout the project are officially recognised through the Youthpass certificate, acknowledging competences developed in non-formal learning environments.

Participants improved key competences including:

- self-awareness and emotional resilience,
- teamwork and intercultural communication,
- leadership and cooperation skills,
- healthy lifestyle awareness,
- environmental and social responsibility,
- digital literacy and critical thinking.

Many participants reported increased motivation to implement healthier routines, organise local follow-up activities, and act as multipliers promoting well-being and active youth participation in their communities.

Our Partnership Network

One of the most valuable outcomes of the project is the strong partnership established among participating organisations. Youth workers and participants built lasting friendships based on cooperation, empathy, and shared learning experiences.

The collaboration between Düzce Alfa Gençlik Derneği, Des Akcabelen Kultur und Unterstützungsverein e.V, Insulin Pumps NGO, Les Jeunes Pour La Jeunesse, Young Entrepreneurs, ASOCIATIA EVOLVE, and Arkadia Youth created a dynamic intercultural environment that strengthened solidarity among young Europeans. These connections lay the foundation for future Erasmus+ collaborations, joint initiatives, and long-term cooperation focused on youth well-being, sustainability, and active citizenship.



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Future Plans and Sustainability

Following the completion of the project, partner organisations and participants will continue dissemination activities through social media campaigns, local workshops, photo documentation, and awareness events.



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Düzce Alfa Youth Association

46 posts 2,081 followers 49 followers

DAGDER aims to carry out social, cultural, professional and educational projects, activities and collaborations that will ensure the active participation of individuals of all ages.

Digital content, participant reflections, and project outcomes will remain accessible to inspire wider audiences and encourage young people to adopt healthier and more balanced lifestyles. Partners also plan to develop follow-up initiatives that expand the impact of nature-based learning and youth mental health promotion at local and international levels.

The long-term impact of the project extends beyond the exchange itself. The habits developed, experiences shared, and relationships formed will continue influencing participants' personal lives, organisations, and communities.

This project represents not an ending, but the beginning of sustained cooperation, stronger youth networks, and a shared commitment to healthier, more connected, and resilient generations.

“ This is not the end of a project, but the rise of young voices united for climate action and a sustainable future. “

