European Commission

More about Environment

Young people across the EU came together to discuss the topics most important for them and ideas for Europe's future. Environmental issues tend to prompt heated discussions due to the belief that our behaviour can have a direct impact. There needs to be better education on climate issues, sustainable transport and recycling, as well as more action to curb climate change.

As one of the most popular topics, for which urgent action is required, it produced drastic responses that highlight how much of a concern it is and how young people are willing to make change through individual action. For example, recycling at European level should be promoted. Reducing waste and reusing materials should also be a priority. Young people also believe that more should be done to make information about sustainable transport options across borders available.

Recycling was seen as a part of everyday life and seen as a simple, effective way to look after the environment. However, as it is regulated at different levels of government, young people called for a more common European recycling system and the promotion of recycling in all Member States.

Overall, it was agreed that the EU should take a stronger stance globally in the promotion of environmental protection through integrating environmental topics in education more widely, as well as by promoting immersive, experimental learning experiences for younger people that helps foster behavioural changes.

The infographic focuses on the ideas that arose from the consultations and statistics relating to some of the topics young people believe the EU should prioritise. The next step is to explore the ideas and stimulate discussions based on the information and questions provided.

About the New Narrative for Europe

The New Narrative for Europe aimed to identify a new, encompassing narrative for the EU, accounting for the constant evolution of the continent and addressing Europe's core values of freedom, democracy, human dignity, equality, and respect for human rights.

Education, Youth, Sport and Culture