



THE ROAD TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN

DIALOGUE 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION:

The Role of the Youth as Drivers of Change

21 July 2021 – 18h00 – 19h15 CET

Languages: English / French / Spanish with simultaneous translation

Virtual event: Zoom platform / Live in YouTube / Palau Macaya

Organized by



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION: The Role of the Youth as Drivers of Change

PRESENTATION

As the climate emergency has been intensifying over the last years, more and more young people have been raising their voices to demand stronger climate and environmental action in the name of global justice. Inspired by the example set by Greta Thunberg and other young activists who launched the #FridaysForFuture movement, young people from many countries in the world have been marching in the streets to urge action from public authorities on an issue that directly affect them in the long-term. Making a strategic use of their moral authority and social media networks to mobilise their fellows, they have succeeded in making their voices heard, engaging with the population, and influencing the global, national, and local climate agenda, to the point that are now considered as powerful drivers of change.

The Mediterranean region has been no exception in the rise of youth's climate and environmental activism. From Rabat to Athens, passing by Marseille, Tunis or Barcelona, young Mediterranean activists have been taking the streets to denounce the lack of action to address the climate crisis, in a region particularly vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation. Beyond demonstrations with media coverage, they have been at the forefront of a growing grass roots movement, creating associations, organisations and networks connecting young activists across both shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Understanding the role of youth as drivers of change is crucial to develop approaches associating young activists to the policy-making process while taking advantage of their energy to mobilise the society towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is equally essential to understand the challenges they are facing to empower them as important actors of the public debate in countries of the Mediterranean region where they are not considered as such.

- What is the added-value of youth-driven climate action? How can young people make a difference in raising awareness and spurring sustainable development initiatives in Mediterranean countries?
- What resources, strategies and actions are specific to young climate and environment activists in the Mediterranean region?
- How to empower young climate and environment activists and develop synergies with the policymaking? How can they help moving to concrete climate actions on the ground?



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- What challenges do they face in their daily activism? How do they act in societies where the participation to the public debate is locked and where climate change is not a topic?
- What are the broader political and cultural implications of those movements?
- What are the main success stories of the young climate and environmental movement in the Mediterranean region?
- Has the COVID-19 pandemic hindered youth efforts towards climate action?

SPEAKERS

Moderator

Miquel Rodríguez, Commissionaire of 2030 Agenda, Barcelona City Council

Guest Speaker

Hajar Khamlichi (Morocco), President and co-founder of the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network (MYCN)