

ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE DANUBE BASIN: STRONGER TOGETHER

The Role of Youth Engagement for a Sustainable Future

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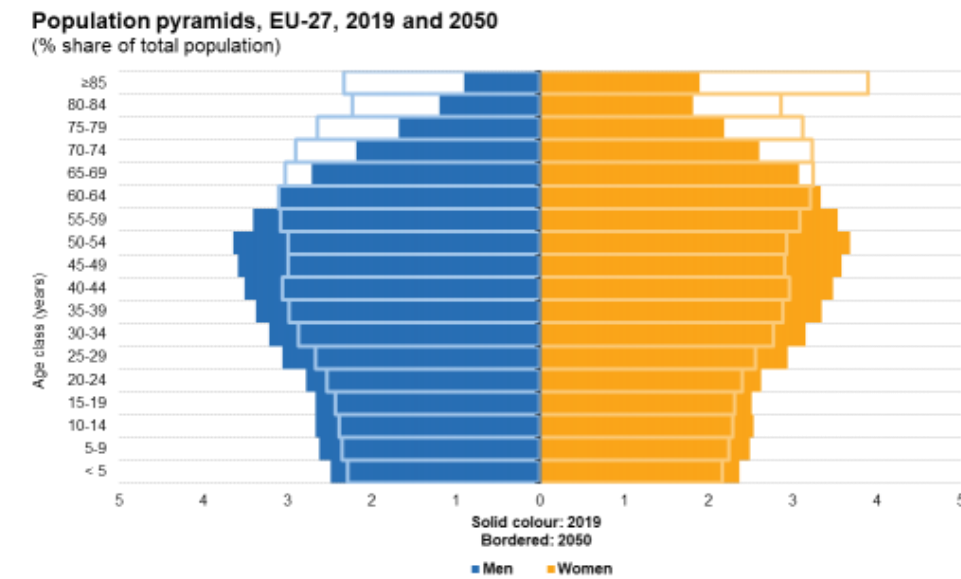
1. Introduction

- Climate change = no longer a distant threat
- Youth: Passive victims or drivers of change?
- Broader engagement beyond social media is necessary
- Education must integrate climate awareness



2. Youth Perception & Action on Climate Change

- Decision-making often excludes the voice of the youth
- Aging EU population reduces the influence of youth
- Eco-anxiety from inaction
- 60%+ of youth want stronger environmental policies



(European Commission)



(Chesapeake Institute)



3. How Youth Are Driving Change



- Activism: **Fridays for Future**, grassroots movements
- Policy engagement: **EU Youth Dialogue**, **Danube Youth Council**
- Youth engagement in projects: **DanuRELY**
- Innovation: Youth-led solutions
 - **William Kamkwamba** built a windmill from salvaged materials at 14
 - **Fionn Ferreira** created a method to remove microplastics from water at 18
 - **Boyan Slat** founded The Ocean Cleanup at 18: removed over 11 million kg of plastic from oceans in 2024



4. How Can Youth Voices Be Better Integrated?

- Institutionalized participation (youth councils, advisory panels)
- Better outreach beyond social media
- Large-scale youth surveys (e.g.: Eurobarometer) in schools/universities
- More funding, education integration



Conclusion

Climate action needs strong youth engagement

Awareness is not enough; youth must have a voice in decision-making

Education & institutional support are key



A large crowd of people, mostly young adults, are gathered outdoors. Many have their hands raised in the air, some in peace signs. Several signs are visible, including one that says "WORLD" in large, colorful letters. The scene is bright and sunny, with a warm, slightly faded color palette. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in the center in a bold, black font.

Thank you!