

2nd YCDF Annual Conference
“Youth Power in Climate Diplomacy: Southeast Europe on the Rise”

Location: Hellenic American Union | Europa Experience

Dates: Friday 17/10/2025–Saturday 18/10/2025

Friday – Opening Night

Welcoming Event & High-Level Opening Address

- **18:30–19:00 | Arrival & Registration**
- **19:00–19:05 | Opening** - *Rania Papadopoulou, Chair, Youth Climate Diplomacy Forum for Southeast Europe*
- **19:05–19:10 | Welcome Remarks** - *Prof. Emmanuella Doussis, UNESCO Chairholder*
- **19:10–19:15 | Welcome Remarks** - *Marian Wendt, Director, Konrad Adenauer Foundation for Greece and Cyprus*
- **19:15–19:20 | Welcome Remarks** - *Dimitris Kollias, Advisor to Dep. Minister of Environment and Energy | EU Climate Pact Ambassador | Energy transition strategist*
- **19:20–20:00 | Keynote Speech** - *Lefteris Arapakis, Young Champion of the Earth, UN | Director, co-founder Enaleia*
- **20:00–21:30 | Networking Drinks & Social Gathering**

Saturday – Main Conference Day

Workshops & Panels on Climate Diplomacy in Southeast Europe

Two parallel tracks in different rooms (Room A & Room B)

- **10:00–10:30 | Registration**
- **10:30–11:00 | Opening**

Morning Sessions

- **11:00–12:00**

Room A: Panel: *Youth & Climate Diplomacy: The Next Generation*

Moderator: Nota Siachouli, PhD candidate

Speakers:

Marios Arampatzis, Climate justice advocate & former youth delegate to UNFCCC COP (COP29)

Leonidas Asimakopoulos, European Climate Pact Ambassador - Communications Manager at the Association for International and European Affairs – ΟΔΕΘ

Vallia Stafylaraki, Co-founder of Gen Z(εν) Podcast at Pod.gr | Tech Comms Strategist at the European Commission

Redon Katroshi, Chair - YCDF Albania

Room B: Workshop: *Negotiation Simulations in Climate Talks*

Elena-Alexandra Miron, President, the Youth Platform for Sustainability | Researcher Climate Governance & Clean Economy | Co-chair, YCDF Romania

Florent Demelezi Agri-Environmental Engineer | Chair, YCDF Kosovo

• **12:15–13:00**

Room A: Panel: *Southeast Europe: Policy Gaps & Regional Collaboration*

Moderator: Rania Papadopoulou, PhD(c), Chair - YCDF

Speakers:

Dr George Dikaïos, Marie Curie Fellow, Leiden University | Senior Research Fellow, UNESCO Chair on Climate Diplomacy

Cameron Bell, Director of Civic Engagement and Faculty, Hellenic American University

Cheryl Novak, Research Associate ELIAMEP

Aleksanda Sotirovic, Master Manager in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development

Room B: Workshop: *Advocacy Tools for Climate Activists*

Sokratis Vlachakis, Programme officer (Sustainability & Climate Change), UNICEF

13:00–14:00 | Lunch Break & Informal Networking

Afternoon Sessions

• 14:00–15:00

Room A: Panel: *Green Transition & Energy Diplomacy in the Region*

Moderator: Georgia Giannakidou, Energy Research Associate; PhD Candidate | Athens University of Economics and Business

Speakers:

Zisis Ioannidis, Phd Energy & Environmental Consultant

Penny Kazaki, Head of EU Projects at Sustainable City Network

Angelos Pastras, Energy Transition Ambassador | DNV

Room B: Workshop: *Building Youth Climate Movements in the Balkans*

Annia Korneeva, Balkanologist and Lifelong Learning Trainer | Co-Founder of Balkan Youth Cooperation

• 15:15–16:45

Room A: Panel: *Civil Society's Role in Climate Governance*

Moderator: Natalia Vradi, Head of Operations (YCDF)

Speakers:

Theodora Vounidi, Co-founder Balkan Youth Cooperation

Eva Iliadi Vagen, Corporate & International Relations Officer, We4All | MSc in European Environmental & Social Policies, Sciences Po Strasbourg

Eleni Maistrou, President of the Council of Architectural Heritage at the Elliniki Etairia (Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage)

Lara Mayland, Chair - YCDF, Slovenia and Youth Worker at NoExcuse

Room B: Workshop: *Project Pitching – From Ideas to Action*

Stella Bougioukou, Core Member EU Youth Hub, Activities & Outreach Team

Athina Ntekouli, Core Member EU Youth Hub, Activities & Outreach Team

Closing

- **17:00–18:00 | Closing Session & Reflections**

Short talks by selected speakers, participants, and organizers

- Preview of YCDF's future projects