



**EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

# **Sustainable Engagement**

## **Fund: Funding Round 1**

Selection Report

February 2023



# **SUSTAINABLE ENGAGEMENT FUND: ROUND 1**

The first round of the Sustainable Engagement Fund offered funding opportunities from a pool of **7.000 EUR in total**, to bolster the sustainability practices of the EYP Network. All National Committees were eligible to apply for funding. The emphasis of the Sustainable Engagement Fund is on supporting sustainable activities that have a long-term impact on the carbon neutrality of the individual National Committees and the EYP network as a whole.

## **Executive Summary**

---

- Out of 13 applications, 8 National Committees were selected to receive funding from the Sustainable Engagement Fund. These projects focus on various streams of sustainability and cover the areas of storage, mobility, and sustainable practices at events.
- The awarded funds for all except one project were reduced so as to avoid situations where NCs are de-incentivised to fundraise for activities without the Sustainable Engagement Fund. Thus, funding was given to a wider variety of innovative project ideas. This “strings attached” policy will be implemented moving forward, e.g., not funding 100% of electric van rental for one session but providing 25% of the costs for the next four sessions and then the NC fundraises the rest. Ideally, this would help the selected NCs now to set up these practices to be self-sufficient.
- Moving forward, the intention is to create a ‘database’ with input from every project that receives funding from the SEF. This will make it easier for future applicants as they will draw on lessons learned by the network to focus on using best practices in sustainability. It will also offer NCs insight into the areas or project types that have not been carried out with SEF support.
- The next wave of the Sustainable Engagement Fund will be launched in early April 2023 and a total of 15 000 € will be disbursed. All National Committees and initiatives are invited to apply. A detailed Call for Applications will follow shortly. NCs who plan to apply for the second round of funding are encouraged to engage with the Office Hours that will be hosted as part of that process. If they cannot attend the Office Hours, the team will also be available for separate consultations with the board.

## **Applications**

---

**13 applications** were submitted for this round of the Sustainable Engagement Fund, creating a healthy and competitive application process. **11 National Committees** put their applications forward (some submitted multiple project ideas). We want to thank all applicants for putting a lot of energy into their applications and hope the sums granted will contribute to the success of their work.

The main criteria for grading the applications were the following:



- Focus on environmental sustainability;
- Possibility for other NCs to benefit from this concept;
- Innovativeness of the project;
- Impact and contribution to the long-term sustainability of the NC;
- Assessment of the financial needs of the NC and the difficulty level involved in fundraising for such a project.
- Consideration of other support received from International Office initiatives in recent years.

Ultimately, **8 NCs were selected** to receive support for their projects. The NCs selected are based in Austria, Cyprus, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, and the United Kingdom.

## Selected Projects

---

The selection process was especially difficult this round as it was the first introduction of the Sustainable Engagement Fund to the network. Prior to the application deadline the International Office offered two Office Hours as well as individual consultations for NCs that were interested. In future rounds, the International Office will build on this process to improve it for the NCs applying. After the selection meeting, the International Office is happy to announce that 8 projects were funded. The projects we selected focus on various streams of sustainability and cover the areas of storage, mobility, and sustainable practices at events. Due to the number of strong applications received, the projects that would receive funding will receive a reduced amount from what they have applied for. We have made this decision in the hopes of funding as many sustainable projects in the network as possible.

Other applications were not successful due to several reasons: the submitted concept was not matching with the long-term focus outlined in the criteria; projects were not eligible due to their event dates taking place in the period that will be supported by the second round of funding; the application did not adequately or specifically demonstrate the sustainable impact of the event.

Total amount of funding received by NCs is **7,000 €**. Additional information on the inspired projects is found below:

NC	Project Title	Project summary
<b>Austria</b>	NSC Graz 2023	The NSC Graz 2023 held with 120 participants in April will be EYP Austria's biggest session next year. The session aims to be paperless, only offer vegetarian or vegan food, and encourage participants to use sustainable means to travel. 2 Sustainability Coordinators of EYP Austria and the organising team will develop sustainability goals derived from UN Sustainable Development Goals and support their implementation.



<b>Cyprus</b>	Sustainable storage of EYP Cyprus materials	With EYP Cyprus organising at least 4 sessions a year and multiple other small-scale events, all of which require various materials (e.g., coffee break plates, bowls etc), the NC has relied on ineffective storage solutions of materials (e.g., members' houses) in the past. Through buying durable storage boxes and paying for slightly more expensive storage that will secure materials, EYP Cyprus will avoid loss, damage to, or ineffective management of the materials they have.
<b>France</b>	50 <sup>th</sup> National Session of EYP France	EYP France is aiming to support sustainable means of transport for officials planning on attending the National Session in Angers in 2023. They will offer travel reimbursement to those who will include train/bus in their trip (instead of travelling by plane).
<b>Greece</b>	44 <sup>th</sup> NSC and 45 <sup>th</sup> NSC of EYP Greece	“Wind of Change: Youth Initiatives towards environmental consciousness” is the umbrella project of two National Selection Conferences (NSCs) of EYP Greece: the 44 <sup>th</sup> NSC (Thessaloniki, December 2022) and the 45 <sup>th</sup> NSC (Athens, April 2023). These represent their organisation’s growing, strong focus on sustainability, the environment, and youth initiatives toward these; which they promote through concrete (and some indirect) environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices, as well as their academic and session visions.
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Electric Vehicles for EYP NL sessions	EYP NL will rent an electric van to transport materials from their storage unit in Utrecht to the locations of the regional sessions in Amsterdam and back. They will rent this van for the duration of the session to also be able to transport groceries.
<b>Portugal</b>	Oeiras RSC 2023	EYP Portugal aims to buy cooking equipment and utensils that can be used for Oeiras 2023, and the NC going forward. The organisers typically cook for all participants but are lacking durable equipment, utensils, and dishes.
<b>Serbia</b>	Outreach Weekend Conferences of EYP Serbia	The Outreach Weekend Conferences of EYP Serbia serve as a first step for young people across the country who live in less developed areas to get involved in the activities of the European Youth Parliament. This project consists of three annual events organised by the NC that are held together by a common theme. Funding for these events will be used for waste management, reusable equipment, locally sourced food, as well as raising awareness for sustainable practices of the delegates
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Sustainable storage of EYP UK materials	EYP UK will rent storage space in Liverpool in order to store reusable session materials. This would stop committee members needing to store and travel long distances with materials for sessions and allow them to invest in more reusable items.



## General remarks

---

The International Office is happy high interest in the first round of the Sustainable Engagement Fund in the context of a fledgling initiative. We would like to note that while the total number of applications (13) was satisfactory in this first year, the number of countries that applied (11) would be a relatively low engagement rate moving forward. We would like to thank the countries which applied this year, and urge those who did not, to consider applying in the next round this spring. The Call for Applications will be published in April/ May 2023. Please reach out to the International Office in case you are not sure your project idea applies to the fund.

With that in mind, we noted that a very low number of Board Members participated in the office hours and consultations offered by the International Office prior to the deadline. However, each NC who engaged in these activities managed to be selected for funding as their applications were focused on the exact criteria outlined. We would encourage those NCs who plan to apply for the second round of funding to engage with the Office Hours that will be hosted as part of that process. If they cannot attend the Office Hours, the team will also be available for separate consultations with the board.

It was agreed with the Governing Body that it would be better avoid situations in which the SEF is the sole funder of an activity as that may de-incentivise NCs to fundraise for it. Therefore, the awarded funds for all except one project were reduced. Thus, funding was given to a wider variety of innovative project ideas. This “strings attached” policy will be implemented moving forward, e.g., not funding 100% of electric van rental for one session but providing 25% of the costs for the next four sessions and then the NC fundraises the rest. Ideally, this would help the selected NCs now to set up these practices to be self-sufficient.

Building from this, the intention is to create a ‘database’ with input from every project that receives funding from the SEF. This will make it easier for future applicants as they will draw on lessons learned by the network to focus on using best practices in sustainability. It will also offer NCs insight into the areas or project types that have not been carried out with SEF support.

We would like to thank EYP’s partners who contribute to the Sustainable Engagement Fund, namely the E.ON foundation as our main partner for the Climate Youth Action Plan.