



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Sustainable Engagement

Fund: Funding Round 2

Selection Report

October 2023



SUSTAINABLE ENGAGEMENT FUND: ROUND 2

The second round of the Sustainable Engagement Fund offered funding opportunities from a pool of **15.000 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. Additionally, it focuses on breaking the EYP bubble and supporting National Committees in improving the long-term sustainability of their activities' impact.

Executive Summary

- Out of 18 applications, 10 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 transport, sustainable materials, and holistic sustainable practices at events.
- The awarded funds for 60% of the projects 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.
- Now that two rounds of funding are almost complete, the intention is to create a ‘database’ with input from every project that receives funding from the SEF. Future applicants can draw on lessons learned by the network to focus on using best practices in sustainability. This 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 up to 22 000 € will be disbursed. All National Committees and initiatives are invited to apply. A detailed Call for Applications will follow in the first quarter of 2024. NCs who plan to apply for the third 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

18 applications were submitted for this round of the Sustainable Engagement Fund, creating a healthy and competitive application process. **16 National Committees** put their applications forward (two 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:

- Impact and contribution to the long-term sustainability of the NC;
- Opportunity to create long-term partnerships with other civic actors (Breaking the EYP bubble);
- Focus on environmental sustainability;
- Possibility for other NCs to benefit from this concept;
- Innovativeness of the project;
- 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, **10 NCs were selected** to receive support for their projects. The NCs selected are based in Austria, Georgia, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Selected Projects

The selection process was especially difficult this round as the number of applications increased significantly (from 13 to 18). Furthermore, there was a clearer understanding of the funding goals in this second round, with NCs applying with innovative and concrete ideas. Prior to the application deadline the International Office offered two Office Hours as well as individual consultations for NCs that were interested. The Office Hour format will continue in future rounds. After the selection meeting, the International Office is happy to announce that 10 projects were funded. The projects we selected focus on various streams of sustainability and cover the areas of transport, sustainable materials, and holistic sustainable practices at events. Due to the number of strong applications received, most projects have received a reduced amount from what they have applied for. This decision was also made to continue the “strings attached” policy implemented in the previous funding round, which aims to ensure co-funding from NCs.

Other applications were not successful due to several reasons: the submitted concept was not matching with the long-term focus outlined in the criteria; the proposed project included unnecessary consumption of resources or materials; the application did not outline how funding would be used to ensure the sustainability of the event; the application did not adequately or specifically demonstrate the sustainable impact of the event.

Total amount of funding received by NCs is **15,000 €**. Additional information on the inspired projects is found below:



NC	Project Title	Project summary
Austria	EYP Austria's Members Weekend 2023	The project "Members Weekend 2023" aimed to provide the members of EYP Austria with the opportunity to attend diverse training modules, while also making new connections within the organisation. The focus on this event was laid on sustainability, ranging from holding workshops on sustainable organising to actual implementation in the planning of this weekend (reduction of waste, sustainable food sources, etc.).
Georgia	Tiflisi International Forum 2023 - 16th National Selection Conference of EYP Georgia	TIF'23 will celebrate the 15 years of Georgia's National Committee. With the motto - "Remastering Past and Innovating Future" the session will try to make new, innovative and sustainable future keeping in mind all the historical practices and experiences.
Ireland	Sustainable travel reimbursement for EYP Ireland Members Training 2023	Members' training is the national training event for EYP Ireland members, (especially new members of the organisation), with those who attend being more likely to further their participation with EYP. Funding of sustainable travel reimbursements helped work towards the goals of sustainability through increased usage of public transport, and outreach in that it reduces financial burdens associated with attending.
Latvia	19th National Selection Conference of EYP Latvia (LNC 2023)	The 19th National Selection Conference of EYP Latvia (hereinafter: LNC 2023) took place in Jelgava, Latvia from 6 to 13 August 2023. It gathered participants from more than 10 countries within the EYP Network. The session provided one vegetarian-only meal per day, meals from local producers, and education surrounding the benefits of cutting down on meat consumption.
Poland	National Training of EYP Poland 2023	The National Training of EYP Poland is a capacity building event of the NC, aimed at equipping new members of the organisation with knowledge on its functioning, as well as skills they will need to take on official roles on future sessions of EYP Poland.
Portugal	Bragança 2023 - National Selection Conference of EYP Portugal	Bragança 2023 - Nacional Selection Conference of EYP Portugal aimed to be a pilot project for making Sessions network-wide more paperless. To do this, the NC experimented with various paperless options and, taking the Chairs' and Delegates' feedback afterwards, will decide on the best option and share it with the network.
Spain	Marbella 2023 - 18th National Selection Conference of EYP España	Marbella NSC 2023 aimed at incorporating sustainability through local food producers in the session as a key focus towards progress, with the theme of the session being: Europe in Bloom: A voyage towards a flourishing future. The organisers want to make coffee breaks as sustainable as possible by purchasing food from local and



		organic producers thus reducing the ecological impact that average supermarket imported food conveys.
Slovenia	21st Regional Session in NG & 9th National Selection Conference in LJ	EYP Slovenia aimed at educating participants on the importance of recycling and proper waste management and organised have expert talks about it. Additionally, by using eco-friendly materials they invested in environmentally-friendly products but also high quality items which would last a long time.
The Netherlands	Summer Academy 2023	Summer Academy is the biggest capacity building event of the European Youth Parliament where 1-2 representatives from all National Committees come together for 4 days. While all meals were vegetarian and participants were encouraged to use sustainable means of transport, the programme had a strong focus on sustainability, and the event accommodation was a sustainable partner.
United Kingdom	EYP UK Travel Fund	EYPUK will be offering sustainable travel reimbursements for participants travelling to events accessible by ferry, train, or coach (eg. France, Ireland, Belgium & Netherlands). This seeks to achieve the dual aim of reducing the carbon footprint of our travel (environmental sustainability), whilst also encouraging our members to gain experience abroad and foster cooperation with other national committees, improving the long-term sustainability of our NC, regarding human resources and the environmental impact of our volunteering activities.

General remarks

The International Office is happy that interest increased for the second round of the Sustainable Engagement Fund in the context of a still young initiative. In the previous selection report, we noted that an increase in the number of National Committees applying was a hope for this round. This was achieved with a jump from 11 to 16 NOC applicants. We would like to thank those NCs 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 around the time of the spring BNC Meeting. Please reach out to the International Office in case you are not sure your project idea applies to the fund.

We also noted that a significantly increased number of Board Members participated in the office hours offered by the International Office prior to the deadline. We would encourage those NCs who plan to apply for the next round of funding to continue this trend, as they have previously improved an application's chances of aligning their vision with that of the fund. If board members or project managers 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 60% of projects 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 the previous two rounds, the intention is now 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.