Climate-Resilient Youth

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Abstract

Climate change has significant impacts on contemporary societies, while the potential environmental, economic, and social risks it poses for the future are of particular concern to younger generations. Therefore, the active participation of young people in the development and implementation of climate policies is essential for strengthening societal resilience to climate change.

This study aims to increase young people's knowledge and awareness of the climate crisis, encourage discussion of the potential impacts of climate change on future generations, and support students' active participation in climate policymaking processes.

The study proposes organising a **Youth Climate Forum**, primarily involving students enrolled in the Environmental Sociology course in the Department of Sociology at Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, alongside young people from other departments and academic programmes.

The forum is intended to provide a platform for young people to discuss issues such as climate-resilient cities, the impacts of climate change on coastal areas, agriculture and food security, the health effects of extreme heat, forest fires, biodiversity conservation, and sea-level rise from their own perspectives.

During the preparation phase, participating students and discussion topics will be identified, and students will be encouraged to conduct research on their selected subjects and prepare discussion papers. The forum is also intended to develop into an inclusive platform open to young people from different universities and countries.

One of the key expected outcomes of the study is the preparation of a **Youth Climate Declaration**, bringing together the forum discussions and young people's recommendations for climate policies.

This approach aims to ensure that young people are involved in climate change processes not merely as recipients of information but as active stakeholders who develop informed perspectives, propose solutions, and contribute to decision-making processes.

Keywords: Climate resilience, youth participation, climate awareness, environmental sociology, climate policies.

MİDUG Thematic Area: WP3 – Living Laboratories, Circular Economy, and Youth.