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Climate-KIC

EIT

Community good practices in Education

Case studies from:

EIT Climate-KIC

2023

Transforming
innovation
into climate
action

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EIT Climate-KIC

KIC's YI Spurs Teacher and Student to Action on Climate

The Young Innovator's (YI) programme teaches youth between 12-18 years of age the knowledge and skills they need to tackle climate-related challenges. It also provides teachers with the techniques and tools they need to carry out YI methods without EIT Climate-KIC involvement. YI is working to roll out education on climate change and embed systems thinking and challenge-based learning into the curriculum.

Through YI, students are:

- Equipped with the skills they need to become change-makers on climate and other social and environmental issues
- Given challenge-based and experiential learning based on real life challenges faced by cities and corporations
- Given the ability to identify key stakeholders who can support their environmental and social goals

YI Reaches Youth at a Critical Age

YI is one of the few EIT programmes currently offered to the 12-18 age group. The programme has chosen to focus on this age group to better reach young people still shaping their identities and vocational futures. By operating through compulsory education systems, YI can reach young people of all backgrounds and at all levels of awareness of climate change.

YI also focuses on educators. It teaches educators how to use a "learning by doing" methodology and gives them tools to increase student involvement in activities. For this reason, YI remains impactful even after the period of EIT support.



Learning Blocks that Challenge Students to Innovate

YI consists of three learning blocks:

- **School Innovators** – Learn skills on systems thinking: This block trains both teachers and students on systems innovation and how to use problem-solving tools. EIT Climate-KIC along with its public and private partners then lay down a challenge for the learners.
- **Young Climathon** – Apply skills to ideate projects: This is a one or two-days climate hackathon where teams work on finding and pitching innovative solutions to the challenge with teachers acting as team coaches and facilitators.
- **Young Changemakers** – Refine skills by developing projects further: The most ambitious students can join this block to develop their solutions in close collaboration with schools and challenge providers.

YI Gives Teachers and Students the Power to Enact Change

In 2021, YI was able to maintain an upward momentum for participation in the programme even during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic. These results can be attributed to the participatory programme management model where YI management is in regular contact with partners and educators. This strong level of communication means the programme can react quickly to change how it is implemented (which in the past has included developing digital solutions to certain challenges).

Students and educators see real-life challenges as the main value of the programme. Community work that solves local problems increases participants' civil engagement and makes them feel empowered.

And EIT Climate-KIC's tools for educators mean they will have ready-made lesson plans and visual tools that they can use even outside of programme activities. Teachers felt that their new tools and techniques helped increase the creativity and systems thinking of their students.

Students Overwhelmingly Feel More Prepared After YI

- 13 835 students and teachers have participated from over 20 countries
- 89% of students believe that the programme helped deepen their knowledge of climate change
- 87% believe the programme gave them tools to create positive change on climate change



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Lessons Learnt and Best Practices: Engage All Possible Stakeholders of the Programme

- Teachers are as important beneficiaries of the programme as students; one teacher trained in YI methodology is able to teach hundreds of students even beyond the EIT Climate-KIC-supported editions.
- Establishing a good relationship with education ministries ensures that YI advocates can help shape school curricula and promote YI methods.
- The years-long process of building relationships with sponsors and partners should begin as soon as the programme is launched.
- Emphasise systems thinking which provides students with a multidisciplinary insight into major global challenges.
- Prepare ready-to-use lesson plans for educators to save them time on preparation.
- Partners value regular bi-weekly meetings where they can network and share their experiences within the project consortia.

Replicable if Ready to Engage Stakeholders and Focus on Current Challenges

The YI method allows for flexible implementation by a diverse array of partners in different contexts. Partners who collaborated closely with programme management had no major issues implementing the programme. And consecutive editions of the programme no longer require significant investment at the EIT Climate-KIC level, with financial burdens picked up by public and private partners.

The key conditions for successful replication of the YI model are:

- Refocusing workshops and challenges to areas of interest by the institution
- Being inclusive in who can participate
- Maintaining dedicated communication activities targeted at non-profit organisations
- Creating an evaluation framework to measure impact and results to then attract new part-

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