

YOUTH MANIFESTO SDG13

Romania

We, the young people from Romania, who participated in the Winter School - SDG 13, within the Walk the Global Walk project, want to be heard, want to express our opinions and wishes, to help the planet and to maintain favourable living conditions.

OUR VISION

Our vision of climate action supports the recovery of the splendour of nature that would be reflected on people and on increased standards of living. We want a cleaner environment, nature to return to its old beauty, the air to be breathable again, the water to be as clean as in the past and the Earth to be green and full of life again. We need to rediscover how to live sustainably, not separately but together with nature.

We want to make all citizens aware of these issues, in order to be more responsible and to make informed decisions, motivating them not to pollute the environment, not to waste the planet's resources. We want a change that consists in imposing regulations both for the authorities and for us, ordinary people, to be in balance with nature, but also to change everything that is happening in the present, thus ensuring our future.

It's time to make a change and impose our ideas!

WHAT WE NOTICED

The current situation is getting worse every day, with higher and higher average temperatures every year. Due to the CO₂ in the atmosphere that has accumulated over the years as a result of human activity, through the pollutants emitted by vehicles, home heating and industrial activity, we are facing an accelerated greenhouse effect. Mass deforestation, waste, substances from factories and power plants, emissions, farm waste, all contribute to the warming of our planet at an unprecedented rate.

Following the discussions within the Walk the Global Walk Winter Camp, we realized how cruel and unfair the current landscape is, which we humans have created. Overgrazing, deforestation, lack of recycling stations, production of non-recyclable materials, overuse of soil with toxic substances, desertification of green areas are all ways in which we have come to destroy everything that nature has offered us, we have

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not appreciated it, and the effects are visible and drastic. Ocean warming, the disappearance of pollinating insects, melting glaciers, natural disasters with increased intensity and frequency, poor air quality, drought, low rainfall are just some of the observable effects. In addition, agricultural land becomes uncultivable, with the projection that over 50% of our country's land area will become desert in the next 30 years. All the while, we find that people are not sufficiently aware of these issues, and the authorities are not taking action.

WHAT WE REQUEST

- We call on the authorities to get more involved and adopt public policies that support environmentally responsible behaviours, which facilitates the recycling and the use of public transport and the digitization of solving the requests and problems of citizens.
- We want optimal conditions for the use of public transport and bicycles.
- We want poaching to be stopped, and animal habitats, our forests, not to be cleared.
- We also call for action to be taken on illegal fishing, especially on rare species of fish.
- We want to see quotes that encourage environmental protection on each abandoned building or on some billboards.
- We want the implementation of rules for companies that put out waste and fines for non-compliance.
- We request the creation of recycling stations.
- We want to ban high-emission cars, more frequent checks, the implementation of penalties for those who do not comply with the rules, a greater responsibility of the authorities.
- We want to be able to use electricity from natural sources.

WHAT COMMITMENTS WE MAKE

- ✓ We will use public transport and bicycles more often.
- ✓ We will carry out information campaigns on social media.

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- ✓ We will organize and get involved in outdoor activities and volunteering for waste collection in parks/on the river and sea-shores.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we want the support of the authorities to be able to apply all these changes in our behaviour and attitude, so that the efforts of the citizens are not in vain. We are responsible for reducing carbon emissions, and we will be able to contribute using hybrid, electric or public transport cars. We care about our health and the environment so that we can complete our path of development and once again become a species that lives in balance with nature.

We want a much greener nature, which regains its beauty again!

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