

MŁODZI MYŚLA DLA
EUROPY

**YOUNG IDEAS FOR
EUROPE**

EURÓPA FIATAL
SZEMMEL

EVROPA OČIMA
MLADÝCH

JUGEND DENKT
EUROPA

DES JEUNES IDÉES POUR
L'EUROPE

EURÓPA OČAMI
MLADÝCH

MLADE IDEJE ZA
EVROPO

Action Plan New Energy for Europe

November 2009



About *Young Ideas for Europe*

The future Europe needs committed citizens. It also needs visionary people who are ready to take on responsibility. Young Ideas for Europe is an initiative of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, realized by IFOK GmbH, which inspires young people aged 15 to 18 to actively shape Europe's political, economic and social future – giving young people a voice in European politics.



Learning about Europe through participation:

- Ø Young Ideas for Europe promotes the active involvement of young people with Europe by engaging them in a strong participatory format to develop political ideas – an innovative format designed as non-formal education for young people.
- Ø The initiative enables tomorrow's politicians, entrepreneurs and decision-makers to creatively and critically deal with a concrete European issue - energy and climate change at the European level.
- Ø With input from experts and political patrons in their respective fields, key elements of civic education are enhanced: Young people obtain first-hand information and valuable insights into the real life of parliamentarians and policy advisors, political mechanisms and interdependencies.
- Ø During the project week, students exchange opinions and project results with students from other European countries in a cross-border dialogue, acquiring intercultural competence and strengthening their development into European citizens. Via the project's Europe-wide online community, the initiative turns into a borderless meeting space for European youth.

The project week – core of *Young Ideas for Europe*

The core of the initiative is a 4-day workshop, during which young people develop their ideas for energy policy and climate change together with experts from the political sphere and participants in other European countries. On the last day, they present their ideas to high-ranking guests and media representatives. The workshop is organised and implemented by a professional facilitator and follows a clear structure.



The *Young Ideas for Europe* Action Plan 2009

We, the *Young Ideas for Europe* participants, demand action to ensure the future of energy in Europe. New energy policy is necessary especially with the threats of climate change. As youth from across Europe, we are key stakeholders in these decisions, since we will be affected in the future by the decisions made today. This Action Plan 2009 was developed through project weeks in which hundreds of young Europeans spoke with experts and politicians about our ideas for energy. We are delivering these ideas to key decision-makers who have the ability to take on our proposals.

1. Access to renewable energy sources for all EU citizens

- a. EU countries should produce more energy using alternative technologies in order to phase out both fossil and nuclear power plants as soon as possible, at the latest before 2050.
- b. Make investments in renewable energy easier and reduce bureaucracy.
- c. Fossil and nuclear power sources should be replaced with different renewable energy sources, such as sun, wind and water. Reduce nuclear energy by 75% until 2030, provided by law. Coal power plants will be turned during the next 30 years. Increase the ratio of the alternative power plants, especially the ones that can provide with stable electricity flow (e.g. geothermal, hydroelectric, tidal).

2. An EU energy system, with safe and widely independent energy supply

- a. The use of regenerative energies should be adjusted to local conditions in different European countries in order to be most efficient.
- b. Improve the safety of nuclear energy by research and development.
- c. The more energy produced within the EU, the more independent the system can be from external sources, for example on gas from Russia.

3. Affordable energy and more investments EU-wide

- a. Invest in technologies based on renewable resources, especially regarding drive technology (hydro, solar, etc.).
- b. High taxes on electricity that comes from fossil energy sources or nuclear power plants. In addition, the taxes on electricity from renewable energy sources will be low or non-existing.
- c. Companies that are energy self-sufficient should be rewarded financially by the EU.

- d. Establishment of an *Institute of Alternative Energy Research*, which is funded by all EU countries. It supports EU countries by building renewable energy plants nationally, suitable for local conditions and available natural resources. The energy from the plants will be distributed to countries according to their needs. Furthermore, the Institute functions as a cluster for energy researchers from all over Europe – this will bring scientists and experts from all kinds of different branches together in order to develop new solutions that they would not have thought of working separately.
- e. The energy companies should make it easier for the customers to know where the energy comes from.

4. Transform citizens' energy usage

- a. Limit the electricity supply to every household, dependent on the number of persons in the household (up to a certain amount electricity is sold for a lower price. If one household uses more than this, they would have to pay higher prices.)
- b. All new houses built will be “zero-energy houses” with solar panels on every roof. Support households financially in cases of building new houses and reconstruction in order to be energy efficient.
- c. Energy issues should be introduced in the field of education policy: integrate energy issues in school curricula starting in 8th grade to encourage youth to become more responsible.

5. Increase energy use efficiency

- a. Reduce energy use by 5% every year until reduced with at least 40%.
- b. Boost eco-friendly companies (tax relief, grants for “going green”).
- c. Conduct more research in the fields of household appliances, transport and industry.

6. Secure sustainable mobility options

- a. Rationalize and improve transportation efficiency. Support the development of public transportation and sustainable mobility by lowering taxes for carriers, especially the ones with some eco-friendly projects.
- b. Grant more investments in new technologies. Buses and cars should be run on electricity or biogas. Investments should be made to develop new fuels and produce magnetically operated and electric cars.

As adopted November 2009 by the following schools participating in *Young Ideas for Europe*:

Abtei Gymnasium

Spyken Upper Secondary School

Europaschule Marie & Pierre Curie

Goethe Grammar School

Goethe Gymnasium

Gymnasium 'Alexander S. Puschkin'

Gymnasium, Arabská 14

Gymnázium Jura Hronca

Kozgazdasagi Politechnikum Gimnazium es Szakkozepiskola

Lycée Saint Exupéry

Ostschule - Europaschule Gera

Rudolf-Diesel-Schule

Šolski center Postojna

Wilhelm-Focke-Oberschule

Duisburg/Germany

Lund/Sweden

Guben/Germany

Warsaw/Poland

Bensheim/Germany

Hennigsdorf/Germany

Prague/Czech Republic

Bratislava/Slovakia

Budapest/Hungary

Saint Dizier/France

Gera/Germany

Erfurt/Germany

Postojna/Slovenia

Bremen/Germany



For more information please visit the interactive project website:
www.youngideasforeurope.eu