

Baltic Sea Youth Declaration

LAST UPDATED AT: BALTIC SEA YOUTH CAMP 2019

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Health

 Youths mental health

Environment

 The Baltic sea

 Consumer behaviour

 Forestry

Youth participation

 Cultural exchange

Education

 Career path and higher education

Youths mental health

Problems:

- Students today are the most stressed in history.
- Students are scared of their future and lack self-confidence.

Vision:

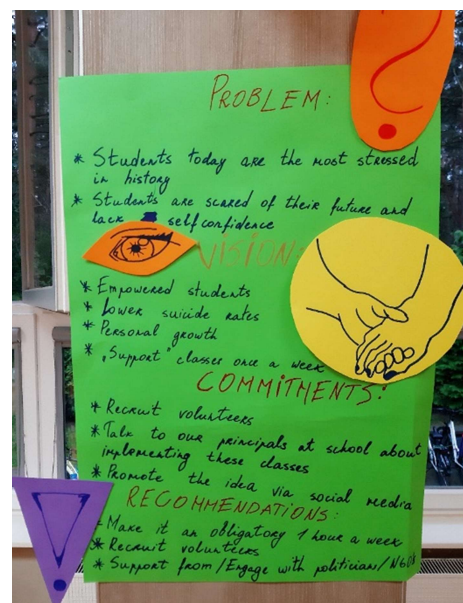
- Empowered students.
- Lower suicide rates.
- Personal growth.
- "Support" classes once a week for the students.

Commitments:

- Recruit volunteers.
- Talk to our principals at school about implementing these classes.
- Promote the idea via social media.

Recommendations:

- Make the support-class an obligatory class 1 hour a week.
- Recruit volunteers.
- Support from/engage with politicians/NGOs.



The Baltic Sea

Problem:

- The Baltic sea is one of the most polluted seas in the world.

Vision:

- To conserve and restore the health of the Baltic sea.

Commitment:

- To reduce, reuse, recycle and repair! what we use.

Recommendations:

- To set concrete measures and action-plan via cooperation and communication with stakeholders.



Consumer behaviour

Problems:

- Awareness of alternatives.
- Overuse of plastic.
- Single use of plastic.

Vision:

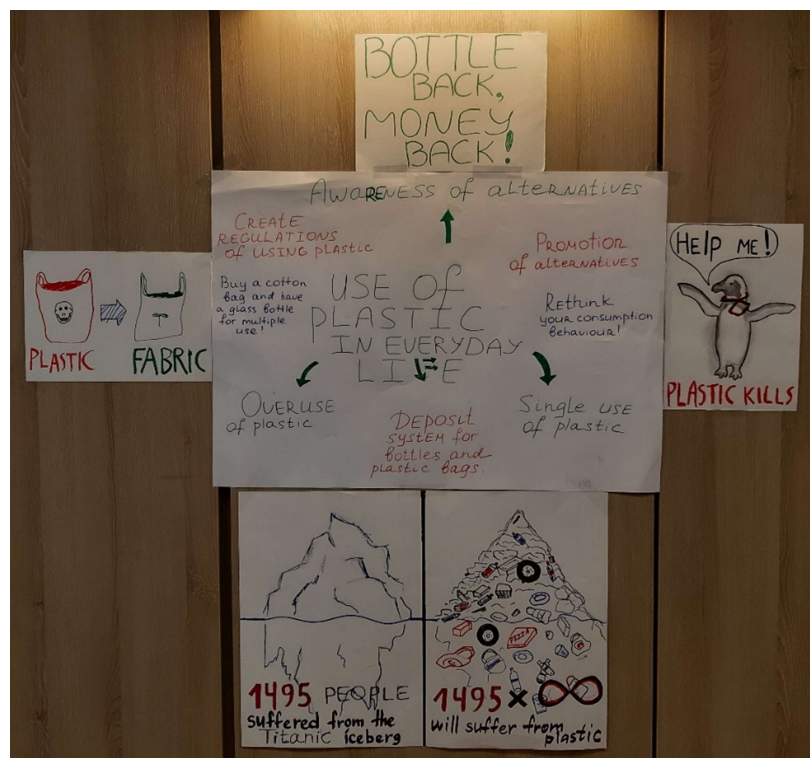
- Deposit system for bottles and plastic bags.
- Promotion of other alternatives.
- Create regulations of using plastic.

Commitment:

- Rethink our consumption behaviour!

Recommendation:

- Buy a cotton bag and have a glass bottle for multiple use!



Forestry

Problems:

- Deforestation as a result of inappropriate management and illegal cutting – f.ex. Poland is still trying to clear Biatowieza forest.
- Biodiversity loss (Conservation of 60% of species and 77% of habits is threatened).
- Climate change impact – invasive species, diseases and forest fires.
- Lack of green spaces in urban areas.
- Harmful transportation of humans and goods.

Vision:

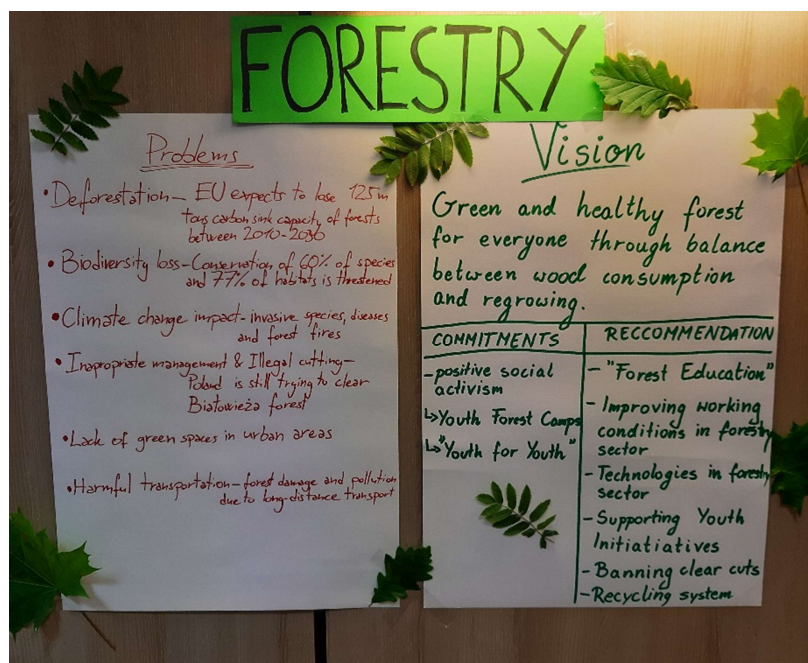
- Green and healthy forest for everyone through balance between wood consumption and replanting.

Commitment:

- Positive social activism, Youth Forest Camps, “Youth for Youth”

Recommendations:

- Improving working conditions in forestry sector.
- Technologies in forestry sector.
- Supporting Youth initiatives.
- Banning clear cuts
- Recycling system.
- “Forest Education”



Cultural exchange

Problems:

- According to the latest Eurobarometer on youth (2018) Youth participation in cultural organizations in the BSR is decreasing, a trend contrary to the EU development.

Vision:

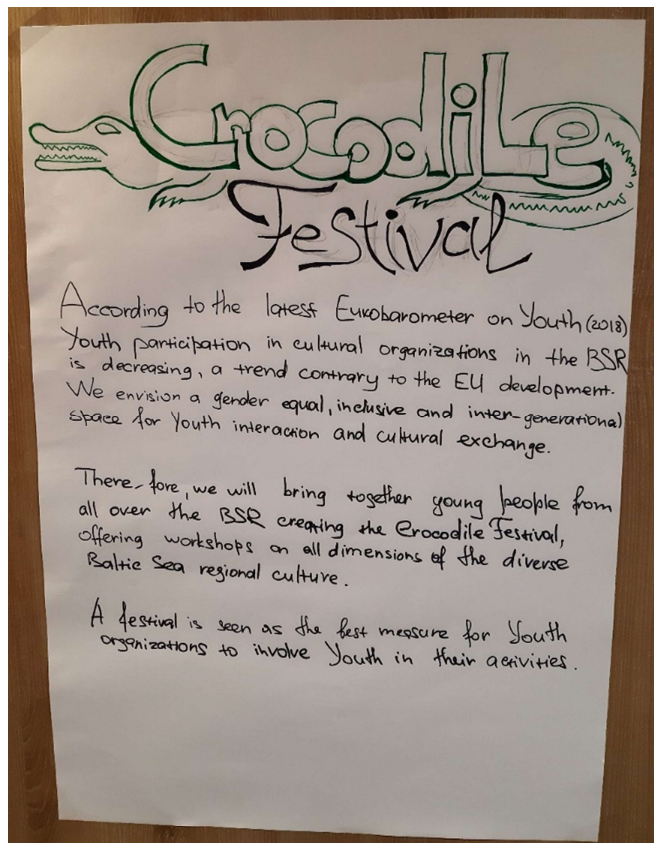
- We envision a gender equal, inclusive and inter-generational space for Youth interaction and cultural exchange.

Commitment:

- Therefore, we will bring together young people from all over the BSR creating the Crocodile Festival, offering workshops on all dimensions of the diverse Baltic Sea regional culture.

Recommendations:

- A festival is seen as the best measure for youth organisations to involve youth in their activities.



Career path and higher education

Problems:

- High school and bachelor years are considered critical for adolescents.
- Failure by students to make the right choice may lead to unhappiness and disapproval by society.
- Most students apply for tertiary education without knowledge of what they want to pursue.

Vision:

- Educational workshops.
- Improvement of career guidance and counselling for secondary- and higher-education students to support healthy career choice, engage youth in education and drive economic growth through clearly set goals and efficient use of governmental budgets.

Commitment:

- Tell younger generation about their studies at universities.

Recommendations:

- Open days at technoparks.
- Shadowing days where secondary school students would be able to follow a professional working in their field of interest.
- Internships as a part of higher education. Increase practical work both at secondary and higher education institutions.
- Recognizing the problem!

