



Youth Position Paper, Vienna 2021

in the context of the WHO/UNECE Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)



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Preamble



The Vienna Youth Position Paper on Transport, Health and Environment has been produced by 27 participants of three international youth forums organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action. The following countries were involved: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The paper contains the views and proposals of young people regarding the Transport, Health and Environment issues that are described in the Ministerial Declaration. "Building forward better by transforming to new, clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport" ("Vienna Declaration") of the Fifth High-level THE PEP Ministerial Meeting, which took place in Vienna from May 17 to 18, 2021 in the form of a virtual conference.

Preparatory Workshops

In two Austrian Preparatory Workshops, nine young people from the "Fridays for Future" and "Build for Future" movements, as well as the UN youth delegate and the EU youth delegate from the Austrian National Youth Council, identified the following three topics:

1. Mobility Management (accurate and effect-oriented)
2. Active Mobility (a low-cost promotion of health)
3. Public Transport Systems plus digitalization (low emission, user friendly, affordable, competitive, digital)

International Youth Forums

Each international youth forum followed the same didactic concept:

- Knowledge transfer and introduction to the respective thematic area through presentations by experts,
- Collection of the wishes and ideas on what should be implemented in the next five years in the thematic areas in the form of differently composed virtual group work, and
- Evaluation of the proposed initiatives using a rating tool.

This consultation process and the resulting document received the support of and contributions from dedicated individuals and also representatives of the following institutions: Austrian National Youth Council, climate strike Switzerland, Eclaireuses et Eclaireurs Unionistes de France, European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC), Flemish Youth Council (Vlaamse Jeugdraad), Fridays for Future Austria, Generation Climate Europe, Let's do it Greece, Omladinski centar Loznica (Youth Center Loznica), Portuguese Young Physicians Association (AJOMED), Socialist Youth (JS) Portugal, Youth Council of Thessaloniki. This paper contains the ideas and contributions of engaged young people to the fields of transport, environment and health. It shows their eagerness to participate and to further strengthen youth participation in the PEP process.

Acknowledgement

We, the young people of the WHO/UNECE European Region, acknowledge the positive influence of previous THE PEP declarations and other actions taken to safeguard and improve green mobility and thus also our health and the environment in which we live. We recognize the improvements that have been made in commitments to transport, health and the environment at international level and recall in particular the 2017 and 2019 Ministerial Resolutions of the Inland Transport Committee, the 2018 Ministerial Declaration of the Economic and Social Council, the 2018 Graz Declaration, the International Transport Forum, the 2017 Ostrava Declaration, and the 2014 Paris Declaration. We draw particular attention to the commitment to actions under the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) reaffirming the commitments from the Vienna Youth Declaration (2016) adopted in Ostrava (2017), the Parma Youth Declaration (2010) and the Budapest Youth Declaration (2004).

We value the THE PEP-Visions of the Vienna Declaration. Here, we emphasise the following paragraphs in particular:

- Adopt our visions of “clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport for the happiness and prosperity of everyone”.
- Commit to leading the transformation of transport and mobility to achieve our vision, while involving stakeholders, including national, subnational and local authorities, communities, companies and civil society, especially youth and children, in this transformation towards green and healthy mobility and transport.

Outcomes Youth Forum I: Mobility Management

Targets

Mobility Management (MM) is a concept for promoting sustainable transport and reducing single occupancy car use and is based on changing travellers' attitudes and behaviours. Particular emphasis should be placed on society. Young people especially should play an active role in planning and decision-making. Furthermore, the success of MM could be ensured by changing the mindset of the people when it comes to using alternative methods of transport, using the strategies set out below.

Strategies

Increase cooperation and share best practice

- Across all nations, reduce fragmented approaches and increase cooperation between different actors in order to achieve a shift in the mobility sector towards more sustainable and healthy means of transport.
- Furthermore, worldwide best practices should be identified and implemented, nations should learn from each other's experiences, and cooperation across nations concerning public transport systems should be encouraged.

Factor the climate crisis and issues of public health into each nation's budgeting

- Implement high taxes for means of transportation with high greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. planes, private fossil fuel-powered cars) to raise money for lowering prices and improving the infrastructure for other modes of transport (public transport, walking, cycling).
- Stop privileges for company cars and support initiatives in companies that give employees access to public transport and bikes instead.
- Establish a youth mobility fund in every nation:
 - Sponsor the purchase of bicycles and skateboards, etc. for young people, thereby making these modes of transport more affordable
 - Support youth mobility projects
 - Make public transport affordable, especially for young people

Provide flexible transportation systems as alternatives to owning a car

- Inter- and multimodality is key to establishing flexible transportation systems which can be used without owning a car:
 - Create attractive mobility hubs where passengers can switch from one mode of transport to another (e.g. from train to bike)
 - Expand sharing systems to facilitate the mobility of more people by using fewer vehicles
 - Use digitalization for payments and route planning
 - Take account of public transport and active mobility in land use planning and reduce urban sprawl to facilitate public transport and cycling

Change the mindsets of people in favour of sustainable means of transport

- To achieve this, effective communication is needed
 - Expand, create and advertise pilot projects for car-free cities
 - Support free bike tours and walking tours
 - Inform people about alternative means of transportation through information campaigns (trains instead of planes; walking, cycling and public transport instead of cars)
 - Introduce a pollution ranking comparing different cities each day as an active reminder of the current situation (e.g. in the newspaper or combined with the weather forecast on TV)
 - Make booking platforms rank transportation choices according to the lowest greenhouse gas emissions and display alternatives to flying to international destinations
 - Raise awareness about how expensive it is to own a car
 - Raise awareness about the negative effects of our current transport systems
 - Provide information about alternative transport options at local level (e.g. distribute current public transport schedules to households, signposting routes for walking and cycling)
 - Organise art competitions for public transport design

Focus on (youth) participation for sustainable mobility

- Establish local councils where residents can participate in decisions on transport planning at local level, and invite in particular young people

Technical Input: Alexandra Dörfler & Petra Völkl, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Department Active Mobility and Mobility Management; Gernot Antes Chair of the Austrian Healthy Cities Network

Outcomes Youth Forum II: Active Mobility

Targets

Mission statements for decision-makers : “Pedestrian and Cyclists first!” “Make Active Mobility the most common way of traffic!”, “Make Active Mobility more attractive and accessible!”, “Make the healthy Choice the easy Choice!”, as well as safety improvements, fair distribution of the public space and increased financial support for active mobility.

Strategies

Redistribute space in cities away from cars and towards active mobility

- Promote city design that invites people to spend time in public spaces
- Restrict car use
 - Minimize public space used for parking slots (e.g. by making them more expensive, planting trees instead)
 - Give people a free bike/scooter if they give up their car
 - Restrict cars in proximity to schools

Expand the infrastructure for active mobility and make it pleasant and easy to use

- Implement safety improvements (e.g. safe crossings)
- Build and expand protected bike lanes of adequate width
- Make right turns at red lights legal for cyclists
- Create adequate infrastructures that make walking more attractive
 - Protection from weather (e.g. trees)
 - Sufficient space
 - Possibilities to rest
- Focus on linking public transport and active mobility
- Ensure adequate funding of active mobility
 - Financial aid for supporting the purchase of means for active mobility (e.g. bikes, electric bikes, cargo bikes, skateboards, make repairs easier), e.g. by
 - establishing a youth mobility fund
- Establish car-free zones
 - Create places without noise and air pollution, where people are invited to engage in active mobility permanently (“pilot projects for car-free cities”) or
 - Car-free days/hours (e.g. so that it’s possible to walk and cycle on the entire street)
 - Car-free city centres
- Introduce and expand spaces which invite people to be active (skate parks, bicycle training areas etc.)
- Make active mobility cool again, especially to young people!
 - Integrate the interconnection of health, mobility and environment into education, starting from kindergarten
 - Provide youth workers, NGOs etc., with more information about active mobility so that they can pass it on to young people
 - Promote active mobility, e.g. through sport events or city tours
 - Encourage (young) people not to regard the car as a status symbol and instead promote the revival of the bicycle
 - Offer cycling courses in schools

Technical Input: Jakob Weitzer, Austrian Federal Ministry of Health; Alec Hager, Radvokaten

Outcomes Youth Forum III: (Public) Transport System

Targets

Development of a trans-European, climate-friendly transport system, prioritisation of public transport routes, improvements in digitalization, building of public transport infrastructures, improvements in accessibility

Strategies

- Expand public transport (especially in rural areas) and make it more eco-friendly:
 - Provide carbon-neutral public transport
 - Expand/modernize public transport networks (e.g. high-speed trains)
 - Introduce more connections and ensure transport at night through additional night lines
 - Establish standards for stations: roofs, benches, signs, lighting, safe parking infrastructure for bikes
 - Prototype and establish demand-driven micro public transport (also in rural areas and at night time)
 - Support E-car sharing as infrastructure for last-mile accessibility
- Improve safety (and sense of safety) for users of public transport
 - Implement security measures such as an alarm system (buttons) at stations and in mobility apps, code words to drivers, security cameras, sufficient service staff
 - Provide carbon-neutral public transport
 - Ensure adequate lighting at and around public transport stops and locate them next to lively spots
- Digitalization in public transport
 - Ensure that apps that provide an overview of all transport options (trains, local public transport, bikes) also show relevant information for people with special needs
 - Use internet of things and analyse the data gathered to improve public transport (e.g. maintenance of vehicles, safety)
 - Create alternatives for people with difficulties operating smart phones (e.g. call centres)

- Make traveling in Europe (transnational transport) easy and affordable
 - Synchronise public transport across Europe and increase the number of international connections
 - Introduce pan-European standards with reduced prices for age groups in every country: establish reduced prices for young people (teenagers and people < 28 y/o) without the need for special discount cards
 - Include international train connections from different companies in local booking systems
 - Establish one standardized mobility app for the whole of Europe (include all kinds of public transport and bike rental, show greenhouse gas emissions per mobility option)
- Public transport and events
 - Make sure that tickets to events can also be used as tickets on public transport
 - Increase the number of connections to event locations during times of events
 - Ensure accessibility of public transport for people with special needs or people with bulky luggage and bikes
 - Sensitisation of staff
 - Improvement of infrastructure (visible, tactile and audio information, no physical barriers for wheelchairs/buggies)
 - Create options for taking bikes or scooters on public transport at no extra charge and with sufficient space
- Make using public transport more comfortable
 - Install reliable cooling and heating systems
 - Provide internet access through WiFi
 - Ensure easy remuneration of fees, if there are any inconveniences
 - Create “conversation zones” in trains to allow for meeting new people (in addition to “silent zones” and “family zones”)

Technical Input: Austrian Federal Minister for Climate Action Leonore Gewessler and the Chair of THE PEP Robert Thaler, Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Head of the Department Mobility Management and Active Mobility; Klaus Garstenauer, ÖBB; Markus Fedra, FAIRTIQ

Participants

Table 1: Participants and their countries

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United Kingdom	Anurag Koyyada

The Youth Position Paper was presented and handed over to the Ministerial Chair at the Fifth High-Level Meeting of Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme on May 18, 2021. This was done by the two youth representatives Miriam Egger, UN Youth Delegate of the Austrian National Youth Council and Ivo Wakounig, Fridays for Future Austria.

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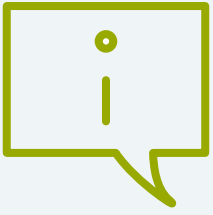
Mission Statement



No More Empty Promises

- This consultation process and the resulting document received the support of and contributions from dedicated individuals and also representatives of the following institutions: Austrian National Youth Council, climate strike Switzerland,
- Eclaireuses et Eclaireurs Unionistes de France, European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC), Flemish Youth Council (Vlaamse Jeugdraad), Fridays for Future Austria, Generation Climate Europe, Let's do it Greece, Municipal Youth Council of Thessaloniki, Commission of Environment and Sustainability; Hochschule Karlsruhe, Omladinski centar Loznica (Youth Center Loznica), Portuguese Young Physicians' Association (AJOMED), Socialist Youth (JS) Portugal.
- We, the young people of the WHO/UNECE European Region, welcome the initiative of the THE PEP Vienna Declaration "Building forward better by transforming to new, clean, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport", its approach and commitments. We particularly welcome the visions of the Vienna Declaration emphasising children and young people as an important target group.
- We express our gratitude to the Government of Austria for having hosted the youth involvement process to draw up the present youth position paper.
- Furthermore, we welcome the adoption of the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion. As a result of an increasing lack of physical activity and the subsequent impact on health, especially among young people, active mobility is becoming more and more important. At the same time, climate-friendly, healthy, free and independent mobility is encouraged.
- Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is of particular concern that we can move independently, safely and free of costs in both urban and rural areas.
- We want to contribute to sustainable and climate-friendly mobility, but above all we need the support of decision-makers and role models throughout Europe. It is OUR future at stake and today's decisions will affect our livelihood in the future. We will also have to pay the price of poor decision-making.
- We want to shape OUR future, so we demand to be involved in further processes. We need a paradigm shift, where the living space especially of young people matters. We do not want promises without any real measures. We do not want summits without action. We do not want position papers without concrete proposals for action.
- We support the establishment of a THE PEP Partnership for child- and youth-friendly mobility. We call on the member states to support this THE PEP partnership for child- and youth-friendly mobility!
- In addition to the visions of the Vienna Declaration, we, as representatives for young people, have the following three visions of sustainable mobility for children and young people, which specifically concern our living conditions.

Vision 1: Changing the Mindset



- We, the young people, demand a comprehensive change of perspective that focuses on healthy, climate-friendly and sustainable mobility. This change of awareness must take place at all levels of planning and politics and must include decision-makers! Education in sustainable mobility should also be established in schools, in extracurricular youth work and, if necessary, at decision-maker level.
- We, the young people, demand to have a choice and the possibility to travel independently, multi-modally, both in rural as well as urban areas.
- We, the young people, demand a holistic child- and youth-friendly transport planning system that ultimately benefits all population groups, young and old, as well as people with disabilities.

Vision 2: Make the Healthy Choice an Easy Choice!

- We, the young people, demand a redistribution of public space, including restricted car use especially in cities, to promote active mobility. Based on an attractive urban planning concept that encourages walking and cycling, people are invited to spend their time in public spaces. This requires an attractive, high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure.
- We, the young people, demand attractive places in public spaces as meeting places. To achieve this, we need to counteract the urban heat effect in cities by creating cool, attractive, green and, above all, consumption-free zones.
- We, the young people, demand sufficient opportunities for movement, which are essential for healthy physical development. Active mobility is crucial for young people. Especially given that health in childhood and adolescence has a particularly strong impact on health in adulthood. This requires space.



Vision 3: Make Public Transport Cool again!

- We, the young people, demand the freedom to choose an available, climate-friendly, comfortable and fair mobility option that ensures our independence. In order to reduce air travel, a Trans-European, climate-friendly transport system must be developed.
- We, the young people, are key users of Mobility as a Service (MaaS). We demand easy access to public transport systems all over Europe and an affordable and easy ticketing system. Our needs are different from those of adults, so MaaS and digitalization offer new opportunities.
- We, the young people, demand an attractive range of transport services. This entails a higher number of, and better, connections within the public transport network, especially in rural areas and at off-peak times, as well as at night. Furthermore, there is a need for more youth-friendly options for green events. In addition, safety and inclusivity must be guaranteed for all.

