Mobilising Balkan youth for climate action

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Putting climate change into context

♦ The **narrative** in the Balkan region needs to change: Climate change IS happening and we need to act NOW!

♦ Biggest and most important fight of our time – **links all the different struggles**: environment, food, water, social issues, migration, minority rights, worker rights, economic system, etc.

♦ Lack of real national/regional climate activism in Balkans

♦ Due to severe floods, public narrative is changing, but very slowly and it’s not enough!
Putting climate change into context

♦ Communicate climate change to the public in a bold/strong, but simple language.

♦ The **people element** is crucial – can put real pressure on national governments.

♦ Global picture is important – international movement calling for **climate justice**.

Climate Justice is a vision to dissolve and alleviate the unequal burdens created by climate change. As a form of environmental justice, climate justice is the fair treatment of all people and freedom from discrimination with the creation of policies and projects that address climate change and the systems that create climate change and perpetuate discrimination.

Climate Justice addresses five key themes: root causes, rights, reparations/debt, participatory democracy and peoples solutions/system change/sustainable development

♦ Simply: climate change does not only cause, but brings up already existing and deep rooted inequalities in our society and current system.

**Why we call for climate justice?**

Because, what have we achieved

if we manage to salvage the planet,

but have an unjust world full of inequality,

poverty, discrimination...?

(c) Luka Tomac, COP17
Mobilisation

♦️ We are all part of the same struggle.

♦️ Climate action – incorporating environmental and social aspects

♦️ Balkans - linking climate change to dirty energy fights, affected people and communities, current economical and political system fueled by dirty industries and social justice.

♦️ It is about the PEOPLE.

♦️ Urgency is clear – we don’t have time to waste anymore!

♦️ Youth have the potential of sparking a climate justice movement in the Balkans. Young people, especially in developing countries, are affected by climate change today, not tomorrow.
Balkan Youth Climate Movement

♦ Probably first ever gathering of such kind in this region

♦ 45 youth from 11 countries on Šolta Island in Croatia: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine.

♦ Week of educational workshops on climate science, policy, UN climate negotiations, dirty energy, false and good solutions to climate change, community power, dirty industry lobbying, skillsharing and planning future joint activities.

(c) Maja Bradarić
Balkan Youth Climate Movement

♦ Regional informal platform

- Bring additional value to existing work:
  youth perspective, using potential of social media
- Raising public awareness on climate change and action
- using the momentum of 2015 Paris climate talks to build a movement
- Focus: Dirty energy (coal), affected communities (e.g. floods), social and climate justice narrative
- Build Balkan’s Peoples Demands

Still a small group, but already started working on next steps to awaken this region and bring the voices of Balkan people to the regional and international level.

Youth of the Balkans will no longer be silent.
Thank you! 😊