



EYE

Green Deal Challenges
The European Youth
Exchanges Experience

QUALITY STANDARDS & CHECKLIST



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The European Youth
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The project **EYE – European Youth Exchange** aims to strengthen the role of young people in addressing environmental sustainability and climate challenges across Europe. Within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, the project promotes innovative youth exchanges that combine environmental awareness, experiential learning, and international cooperation.

The EYE project aims to pioneer a new model of youth exchanges that combine environmental responsibility with a strong experiential learning approach (“learning by doing”).

To ensure that all exchanges developed within the project maintain a consistent level of quality and coherence with its objectives, a set of common project standards has been defined. These standards are intended to guide partner organisations in the design and implementation of their youth exchanges, ensuring that each activity meaningfully contributes to the environmental focus of the project while providing a valuable learning experience for participants.

The standards outlined below focus on several key dimensions of the EYE project, including the connection with local green initiatives, the structure of the programme, experiential learning approaches, the intercultural and European dimension of the exchanges, the production of concrete outcomes, and the adoption of sustainable practices in the organisation of the activities.

By following these standards, partner organisations will contribute to building a shared framework for high-quality, environmentally responsible youth exchanges that encourage young people to engage with local sustainability initiatives and reflect on their role in shaping a greener future for Europe.

QUALITY STANDARDS

1 Connection with a local green reality

- At least one local partner active in sustainability/environment (NGO, social enterprise, cooperative, public body, community).
- Direct interaction with participants (visits, workshops, practical activities, co-design).
- Each exchange should include at least one concrete sustainable practice connected to the local context and actively experienced by participants.

2 Structure and timing of the exchange

- 6 full working days of activities on-site.
- A structured welcome moment on the arrival day (evening) should be organised to support group cohesion and participant settling.
- If participants arrive significantly before the official welcome, hosts should ensure appropriate arrangements for reception, basic orientation, and access to essential facilities.
Integration of travel days as part of the learning experience (green travel activities and reflection).
- Use of entry and final evaluation questionnaires to support reflection, feedback, and impact assessment throughout the exchange.

The program must include:

- Introduction to the Green Deal / project theme
- Local exploration (community / territory)
- Meeting with local green organizations
- Co-creation / solution design sessions
- Hands-on activities
- Space for reflection and learning (daily reflection)
- Production of final output (idea / prototype / action)
- Final presentation

3 Experiential learning

- At least two practical environmental activities (e.g. site visit, community action, mapping, prototyping, citizen science).
- Activities should include teamwork, active participation, and a practical level of challenge.
- Space for youth-led workshops or participant-led initiatives should be encouraged.

4 European and intercultural dimension

Activities that actively mix nationalities:

- At least one structured moment for exchange of practices between countries
- Reflection on how local challenges connect to the European context
- Inclusion of intercultural moments (e.g. green intercultural evenings)
- Youth leaders should support and facilitate intercultural exchange and group interaction.

5 Concrete output of the exchange

Each exchange must generate at least one of the following:

- Project idea
- Mini local action
- Prototype
- Recommendations
- Communication content

6 Operational sustainability of the exchange (green event)

- Waste reduction measures
- Sustainable food options (local, seasonal, low-impact), including during travel days whenever possible.
- A sustainable packed meal (or equivalent meal arrangement) must be provided for participants on the departure day when undertaking long return journeys.
- Sustainable local mobility
- Clear reflection with participants on environmental impact
- Efforts to reduce the ecological footprint of the venue and activities (reduced resource consumption (water, energy), eco-friendly materials, paper-free approach)

7 Well-being and safe space

- Creation of a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants.
- Attention to participants' well-being (rest, balance, emotional safety).
- Clear group agreements and facilitation practices supporting participation and inclusion: Facilitators should apply structured practices (e.g. check-ins, reflection circles, conflict management tools) to actively maintain a safe and inclusive environment throughout the exchange.

8 Learning journey & dissemination

- Participants are actively involved throughout the whole journey: preparation, travel, exchange, and follow-up.
- Regular meetings and coordination moments for youth leaders should be organised before and during the exchanges.
- Dissemination activities (e.g. testimonials, EYE Stories, local sharing actions) are integrated into the process.
- Participants should be encouraged to leave advice, tips, or reflections for future exchange participants through the app or shared project tools.

9 Organisational checklist (360° approach)

A comprehensive 360° organisational checklist must be developed, covering all phases of the exchange:



Before the exchange:

- Infopack shared
- Green travel planning guidance and support
- Participant preparation activities



During the exchange:

- Daily programme structure respected
- Free-time part of the schedule
- Well-being and safe space measures implemented
- Environmental sustainability practices applied



After the exchange:

- Final outputs collected and shared
- Dissemination activities implemented
- “Thank you for participating” communication sent

This checklist will serve as a **practical operational tool for organisers** and youth leaders, ensuring consistency and quality across all exchanges.

10 Technical and logistical requirements



Reliable internet connection available on-site



Basic equipment for activities (projector/screen/computer)



Support for participants to plan and implement green travel



A shared communication channel for youth leaders should be maintained to coordinate and solve technical or organisational issues.



The project app should include a shared dashboard or system to visualise activities, progress, or participant engagement.

11 Organisational checklist (360° approach)

Each exchange should include:

- At least one “wow effect” activity (high-impact, memorable experience)
- Connection with the local culture and environment
- A balance between learning, action, and social experience
- A balance between effort, reflection, and rewarding/shared moments within the group experience.
- Sending organisations should support participants in preparing for the group experience before departure.
- Innovative and creative green activities that encourage participants to think outside the box.

12 Technical and logistical requirements

- Each exchange should include at least one intercultural evening aligned with sustainability principles.
- The activity should prioritise low-impact and non-material forms of cultural sharing.
- Participants should be encouraged to connect their cultural presentation with environmental challenges, sustainability practices, or local initiatives from their communities.
- Interactive and participatory formats that promote intercultural dialogue and challenge stereotypes should be preferred.



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