



Bridging Organizations and marginalized communities for Local Sustainability Transitions in EuRope

4th BOLSTER regional policy dialogue

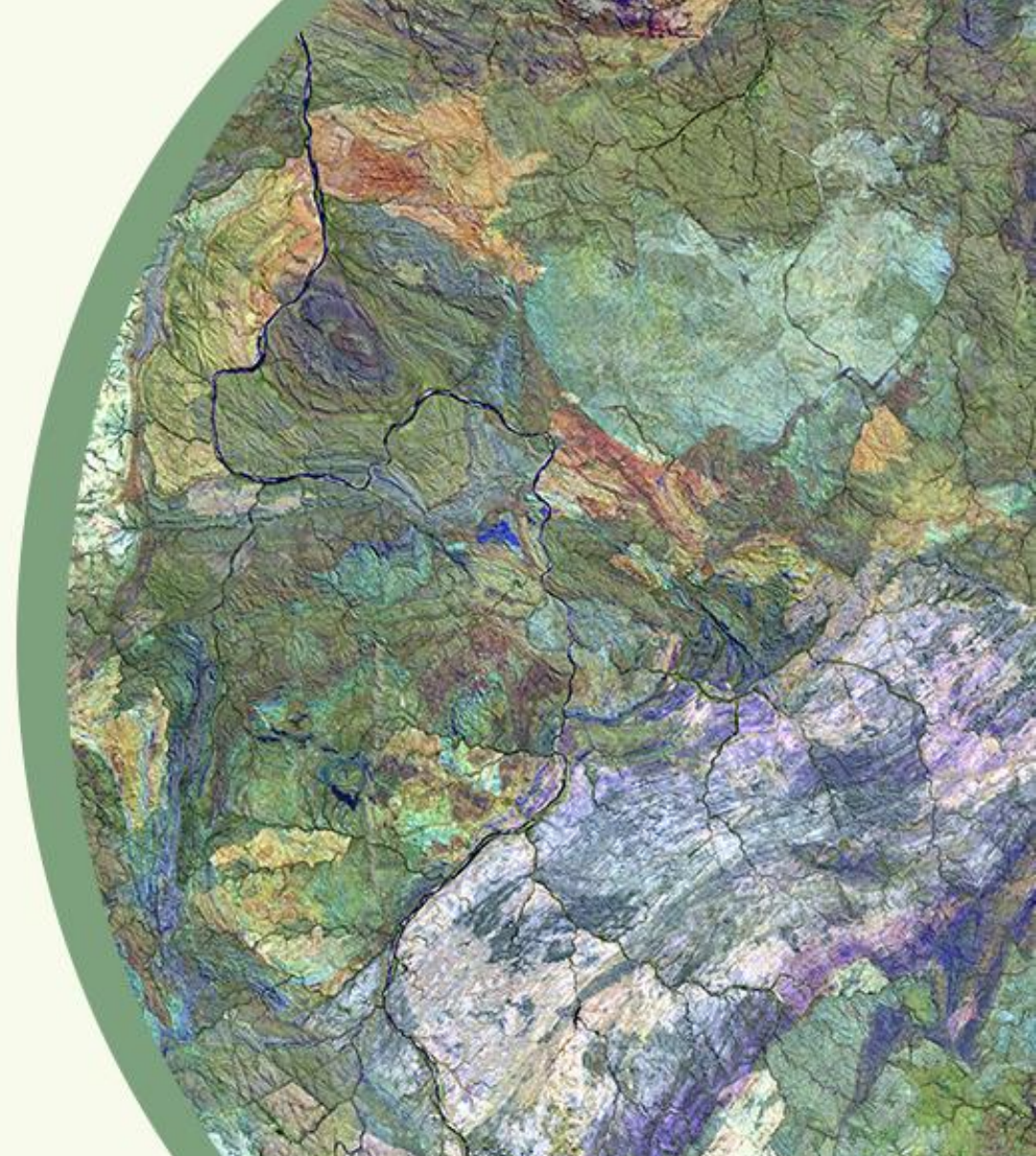
Green transition and citizen participation –
How to foster inclusive engagement?



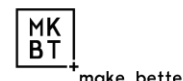
15th April 2024 - 10:00 - 12:00 CEST



Online



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Bridging Organizations and
marginalized communities for Local
Sustainability Transitions in EuRope

BOLSTER Policy Dialogue: Findings from fieldwork in Hainaut (Charleroi, Mons, and Tournai)

Presented by: Jessica Clement

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15/04/2024



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Introduction

- **Participatory-based field work** in three districts of Hainaut, Wallonia: Charleroi, Mons, and Tournai
- **Activities:** semi-structured interviews (16 participants) and multi-actor forums (MAFs), including “photovoice” methods (42 participants in 5 different MAFs)
- **Target communities:** women, youth, post-industrial neighbourhoods (La Docherie and Dampremy)



Photovoice method

- Part of our MAFs, photovoice invites participants to take a series of photos according to three themes
- Participants discuss their photos and then we use them as supports for a broader discussion about their **perceptions and priorities for a just transition**

1. A FEATURE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD (OR CITY, OR REGION) THAT YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE

2. A FEATURE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT YOU THINK THE FUTURE SHOULD LOOK LIKE

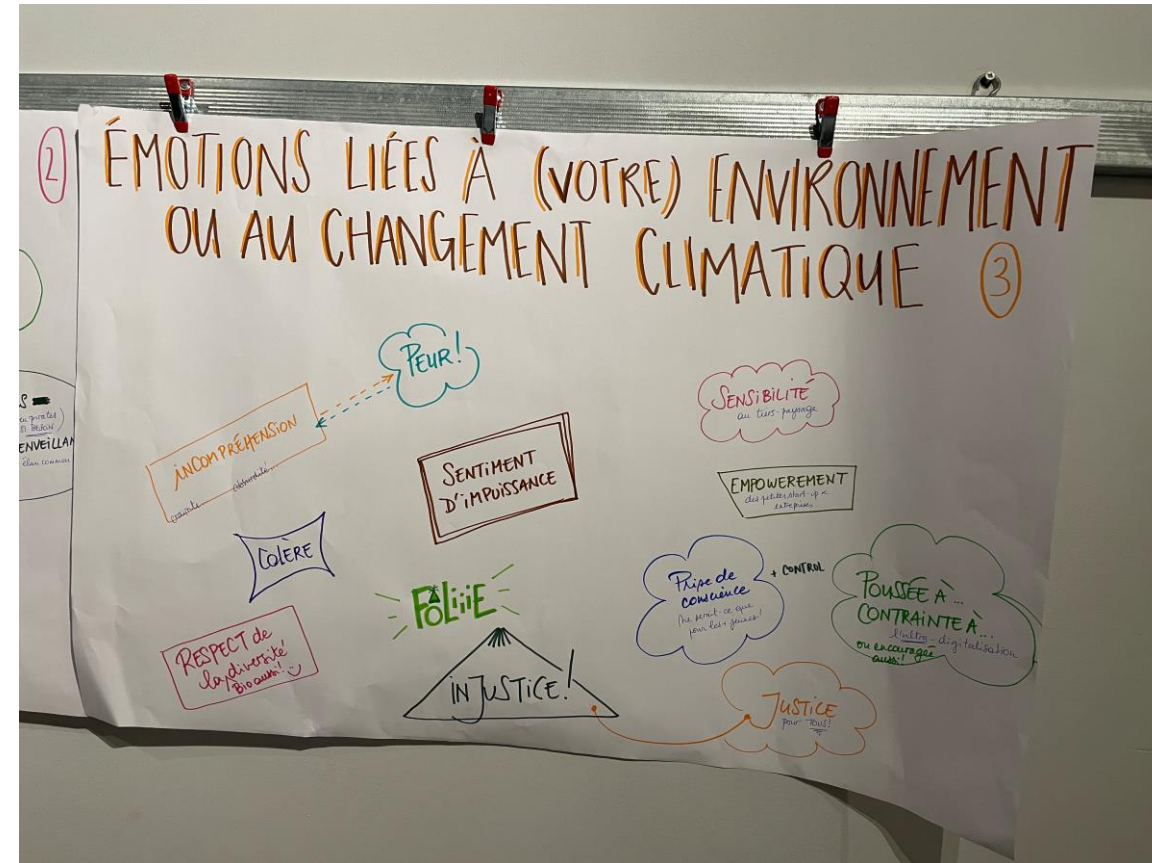
3. A FEATURE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT YOU ASSOCIATE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Photovoice method



Key themes

- (1) Collective challenges
- (2) Barriers in place to overcome these challenges
- (3) Perceptions concerning the just transition and a just future



(1) Collective challenges

- Loss of shops, stores, and services (community vitality),
- Security,
- Mobility and dependency on cars,
- Pollution

(2) Barriers to overcome challenges

- Economic and industrial barriers
- Precariousness in society
- Rooted mistrust in politicians and “the other”

(3) Perceptions about a just future

- Access to healthy food
- Shops and services in the neighbourhoods
- Employment and decent pensions
- Equal treatment between rich and poor
- No more discrimination

One story emerging from our data

Collective challenge

- Loss of community vitality

Barrier

- Mistrust in politicians

Perception of just future

- Pessimism

Collective challenges: loss of community vitality

- Cities, neighbourhoods, and villages have been emptied out in these areas
- Stores are concentrated in large shopping centers on the outskirts of the city

Collective challenges: loss of community vitality

- “I don't know how to put it, but here we are in neighborhoods that are a bit forgotten” (Dampremy/Charleroi)
- “I really love Antoing, I grew up there for 15 years and in fact, it's not at all the Antoing that I knew, but I still love it because I still have that old version of Antoing in my head. Now it's a sad town, with a lot of closed stores” (Antoing/Tournai)

Barriers: Mistrust in politicians

“I don't believe in politics. I don't even care about it anymore... Because they all promise things, and then, as soon as they're in power, they don't care about the population, they don't care about the people. It's the money that interests them. Because if they really cared, I think things would be a lot better everywhere”
(Dampremy/Charleroi)

Barriers: Mistrust in politicians

“I may shock you, but personally, I don't believe in it. I don't believe in global warming... I think it's just another big trick to get us to pay more taxes and tighten our belts even more” (Dampremy/Charleroi)

Barriers: Mistrust in politicians

“With time, I think a lot of people give up and don't participate because you realize that what you say or what you do, well, it doesn't make much difference. Their minds are made up” ... “but as far as I'm concerned, when they came to the meeting, their plan was done.” (Dampremy/Charleroi)

Perceptions about a just future: Pessimism

- Recall: healthy food, shops in the neighbourhood, employment, no discrimination, etc.
- Only 2 interviewees thought about the climate/environment
- **Pessimism that we will reach a just future**

Perceptions about a just future: Pessimism

- “The just future, well, to be honest, that's really hard. It's just, it's never going to happen” (Dampremy/Charleroi)
- “I don't see the world going there [towards a just future], unfortunately” (Tournai)
- “We've gone a little too far to have a just future” (Tournai)
- With youth having a mixture between hope and despair (Tournai)

Conclusions... & why (we think) participation matters

(From just one "storyline")

- Loss of community vitality makes citizens feel alone, abandoned
- Mistrust in politicians, leading to climate change doubt and feeling that their participation doesn't matter
- Pessimistic about a just future
- **Participation is about involving people on the margins, co-creating with them, making them a part of the transition...**

Thank you!

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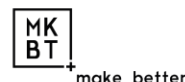
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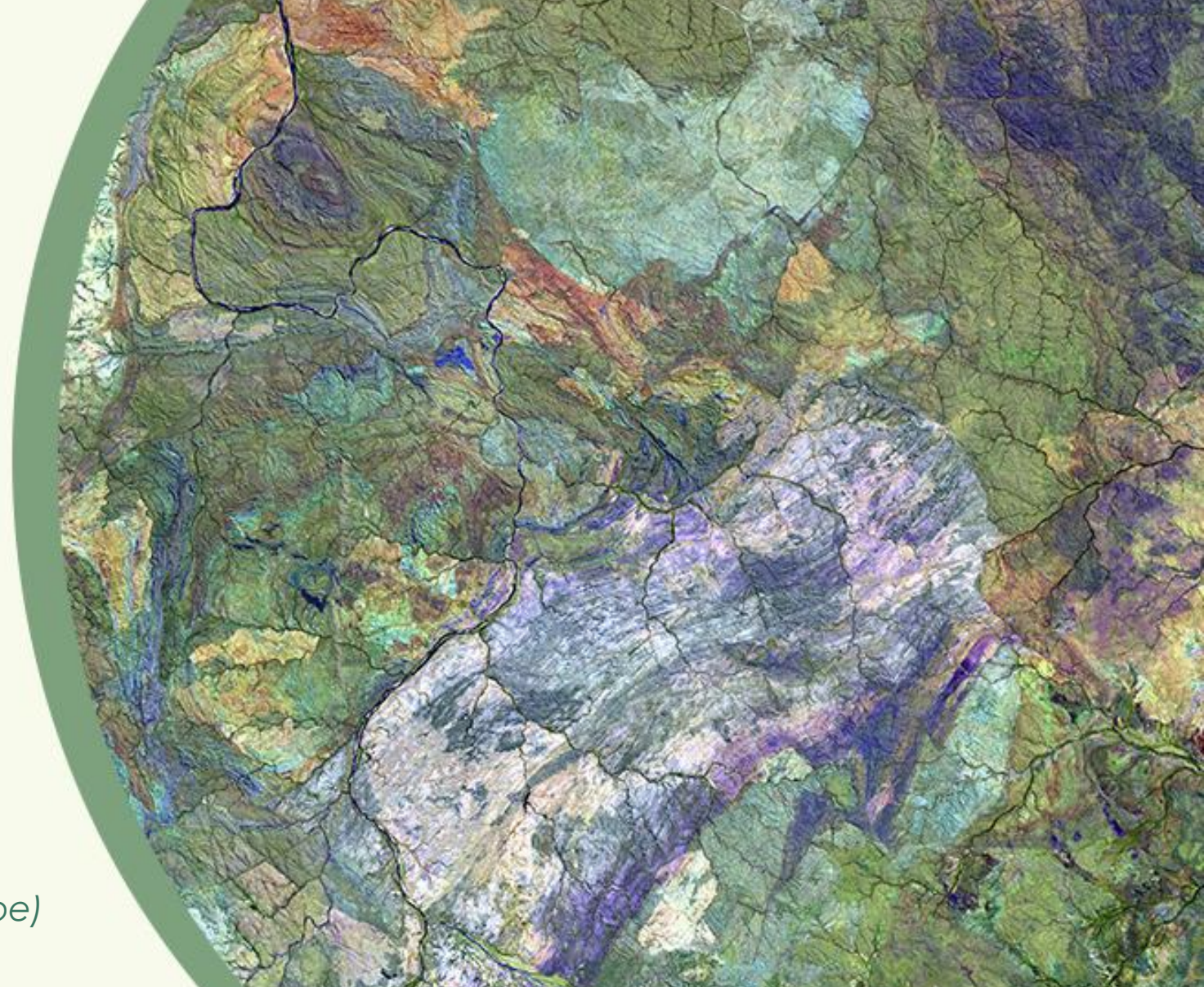
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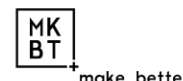
15.04.2024

Facilitating the marginalised
community for Re-Activation
Campaign

Dr. Ammalia Podlaszewska (Culture Goes Europe)



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Introduction

1. Facilitating the marginalised community for Re-Activation Campaign

- Follow-up regional activities after Capacity Building and Study Trip July- September 2023 in Germany.
- The objectives of the Re-Activate campaign is to increase the engagement of local multi-actor forum and the community members in decision making in their community and region by supporting their collaborative community projects addressing local just transition challenges.



2. The need for community leaders training, experiences and insights into the BOLSTER capacity building

Capacity Building Weimar

35 community leaders

- Engage local multi-actor forum members, especially the organizations that represent marginalized groups(MG) in the local just transition
- Build the capacity for better engagement of forum members including MG representatives via training and field trip

Facilitate engagement via “Re-Activate campaign”

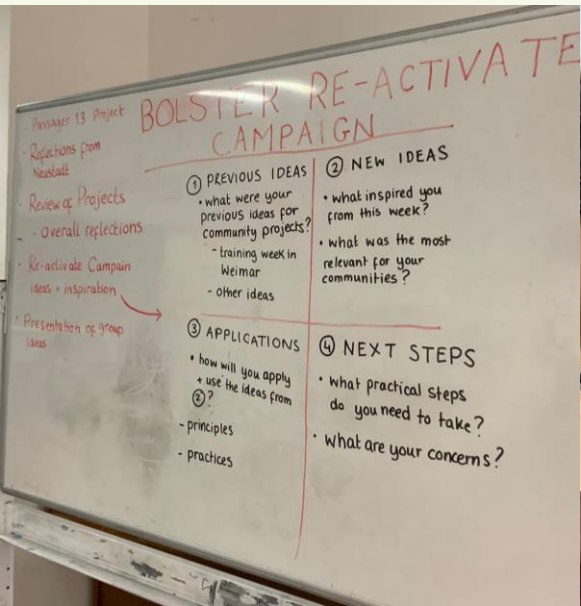




Capacity Building Programme: Study Visits

Locations: Berlin/Halle/Erfurt

Duration: 08-15.09.2023



Study Visit, Germany

Follow-up regional activities after
Capacity Building and Study Trip July-
September 2023 in Germany.

3. Example of the Local Campaign Projects

Examples of projects	Possible associated costs	Thematic relevance
Community/neighborhood garden development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purchasing special gardening tools, seeds/seedlings/plants, compost, garden shed - cost of specialist in growing/landscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adaptation to climate change and heat waves - promoting sustainable urban transformation and community engagement
Training programme on new green skills development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cost of expert/trained in re-skilling - room hiring, - materials and other training related needs 	Providing greens skills for people who lose jobs due to closure of carbon intensive industries
Setting/supporting a community center in promoting sustainability, energy and just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information materials on energy transition, climate, sustainability and just transition, IT tools, accessories, 	Building capacity of community centers to work on sustainability projects with the local groups, community engagement
Local festivals/ events on community engagement with the focus on green/climate/energy/just transition thematic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> thematic materials for informing citizens - invitation of green influencers - renting equipment for the festival: speakers, lights - travel costs for people from remote areas to visit the venue - honorary fees for moderation work - food for local festival, catering 	Focus will be on one or several of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green transition - Climate - Sustainable energy transition - Just transition

3. Example of the Local Campaign Projects

Examples of projects	Possible associated costs	Thematic relevance
Engagement of young people for local actions, mini projects, campaigns, media/social media actions, fleshmobs focusing on climate/ energy/just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supplies, materials - renting or purchasing equipment and software for media work (Adobe accounts, wordpress website hosting) - paint for murals with green thematic - renting tools lights, microphones, etc. 	Focus will be on one or several of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green transition - Climate - Sustainable energy transition - Just transition
'Towards energy neutrality' initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information campaign about simple insulation measures in homes - purchasing and installing radiator foils in marginalised people's homes - installing solar panels (<i>although we are aware that our budget might not buy a lot of panels</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Energy poverty alleviation by helping people to save energy costs - contribution to climate change mitigation by reducing carbon emissions

Question

1. How to get out of organisational ivory towers and identify those who definitely need support in just transition?



Questions

2. Capability of marginalized communities to envision the future. Do they dream? What do they dream about and how do they try to make it happen? Is there any link to green transition?

1. Einen Ort aus Eurer Umgebung, den Ihr gerne ändern würdet

Neubaubiete Zelt-Ost Verbesserungbedarf hinsichtlich Begrünung und Fassadenbegrünung

Bürgerumfrage: Platz der deutschen Einheit Schützenplatz Innenstadt Altmarkt Michaelspark Schulhöfe (Jugendliche)



hier Platz an der Michaeliskirche



Busbahnhof-pragmatic but not green, kein Grün, keine Solarzellen



Altmarkt

3. Ein Bild von einem Ort, Objekt, Symbol, Menschen, etc., was Ihr mit dem Klimawandel verbindet und den Einfluss, den das auf Euch hat

Bedarf an lebendiger Natur

upcycling

Altmarkt ist im Sommer "tot"



tiny forests!!!



hier in der Altstadt

lebensfeindliche Stadtgestaltung

fehlende Innenstadtbegrünung, Beton



hier an der Rahnestr.

Questions

3. How to build trust and long-term engagement strategy. Expectations and/or plans concerning the pilot projects within the Re-activate Campaign.

Umdenken für die Zukunft. Für ein nachhaltiges, resilientes und grünes Zeitz.

26. APRIL 2024
14:00 - 20:00
Aufakttreffen

BOLSTER

Open Call:
Wir möchten gemeinsam mit Euch eine Veranstaltung zu Nachhaltigkeit in Zeitz im kommenden Sommer planen

SEPT. 2024
Festival

Die Anzahl der Teilnehmenden ist begrenzt. Anmeldungen bitte bis spätestens 22.04.2024 per E-Mail an shanmugan@cge-erfurt.org

Alte Stadtbibliothek Zeitz

Funded by the European Union

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Panel discussion: challenges and best practices for inclusive citizen engagement in the green transition

- ❖ **Jessica Clement**, Researcher at HEC Liège (University of Liège, Belgium)
- ❖ **Valérie Xhonneux**, Climate Advisor for the Walloon Ministry for Climate, Energy, Mobility, and Infrastructure (Belgium)
- ❖ **Marine Sonet**, Head of the Participation and Climate project at Forum des Jeunes (Belgium)
- ❖ **Elisa Lironi**, Programme Director – European Democracy at European Citizen Action Service (Belgium)

LE FORUM DES JEUNES
NE T'ENDEND PAS.
IL T'ÉCOUTE.

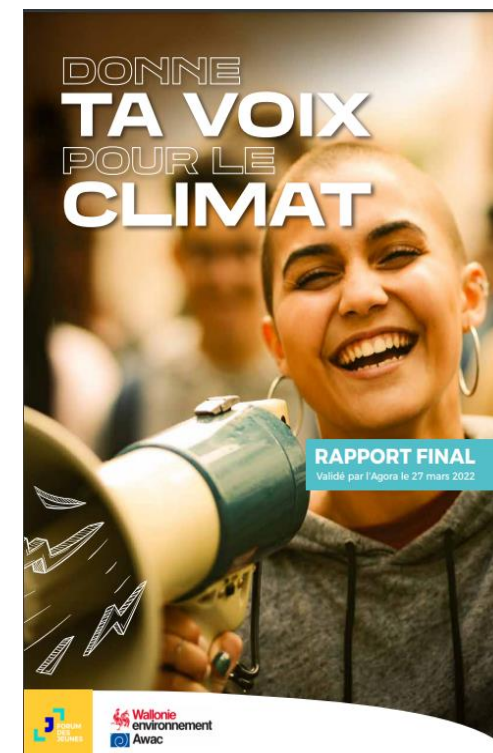
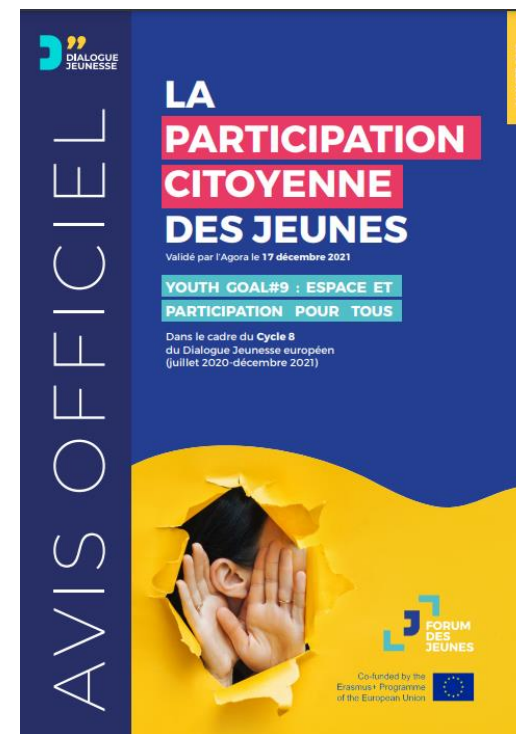
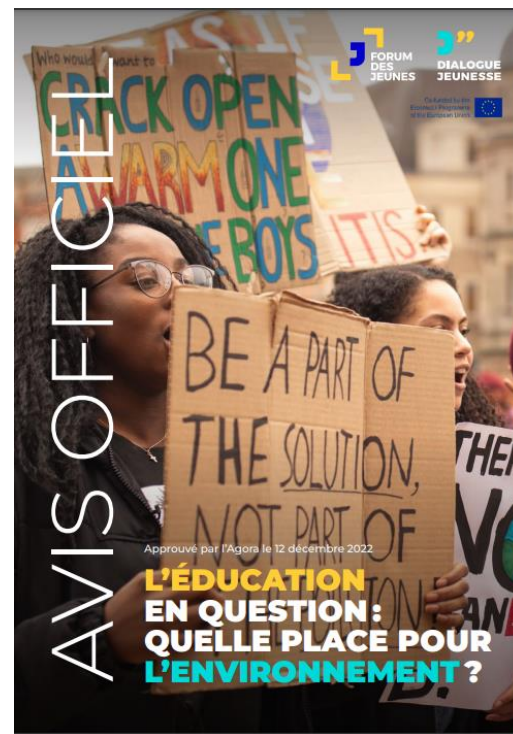
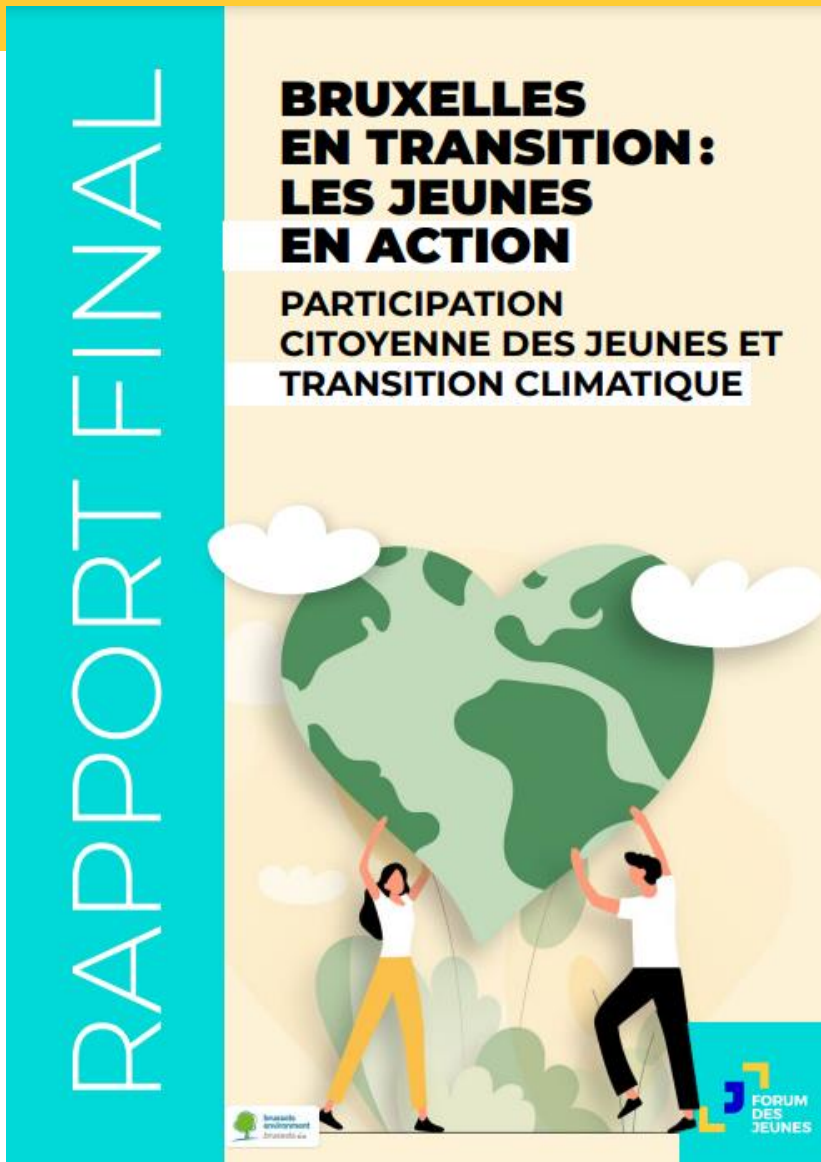
FORUMDESJEUNES.BE



The **Forum des Jeunes** is the voice of young people aged between 16 and 30 in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

It is the **official** advisory and representative body for young people.

Climate and Participation projects



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Green transition and citizen participation - questionnaire

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Thank you!

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