

Future of planet and youth in our hands



Planet of Youth -seminar, 11.9.2023 Haltia, Nuuksio
Eeva Furman, commission for sustainable development, Prime Minister's Office, Finland

Life on Earth is connecting millions of species and individuals of past and present



A photograph of two children on a rocky shore. The child in the foreground is a young boy with light brown hair, wearing light blue shorts, crouching and looking down at a small pool of water. The child in the background is a young girl with dark hair, also wearing light blue shorts, sitting on a rock and looking towards the water. The rocks are large, grey, and textured. The water is clear and blue. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.


**Life on Earth is connecting millions of species
and individuals of past and present**

What kind of life will future generations have?



The relationship of Humankind to Nature is broken

0 25 50 km



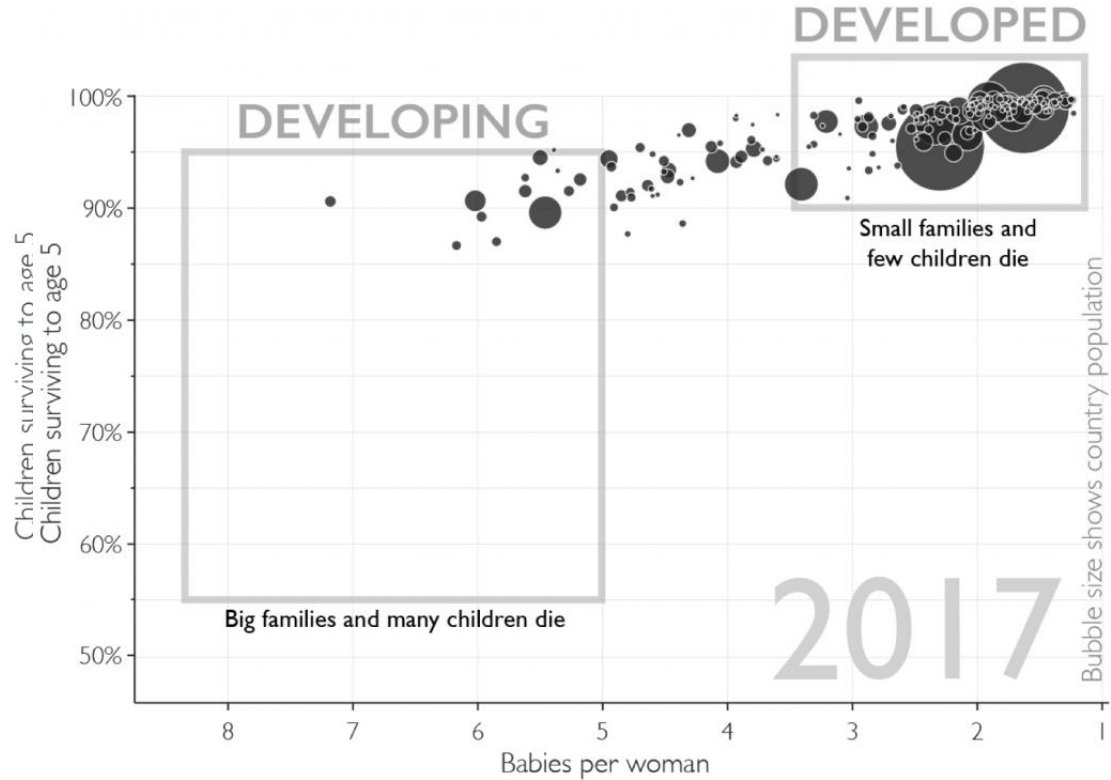
A satellite photograph of Earth from space, showing the Americas, Africa, and Europe. The image is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with North and South America on the left, Africa in the center, and Europe on the right. The text "The many faces of the planet" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image. The background is black, representing the vacuum of space.

**The many faces
of the planet**

The idyllic planet



The healthy human population



Sources: UN-IGME, UN-Pop[1,3] & Gapminder[6]

Climate change
accelerates



**How is
our
planet
doing?**



Injustice
increases



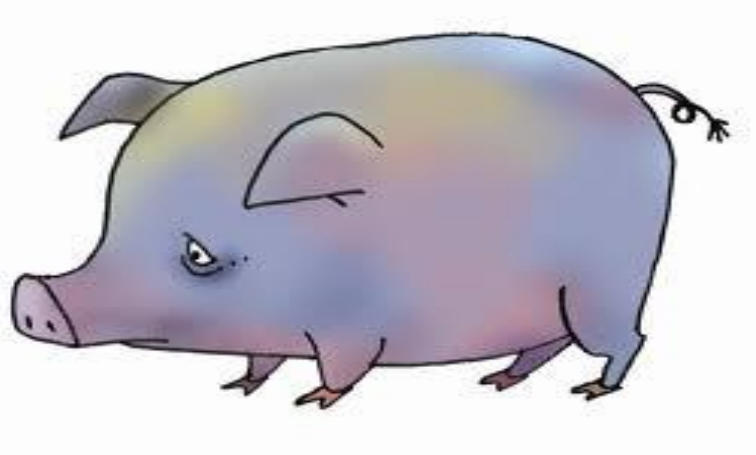
Biodiversity loss
continues



The waste
problem
grows



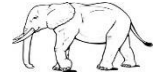
Jaakko Niemelä 2021



65%



32%



3%

Animal biomass today

In Finland, we have plenty of nature
around us, also in human communities





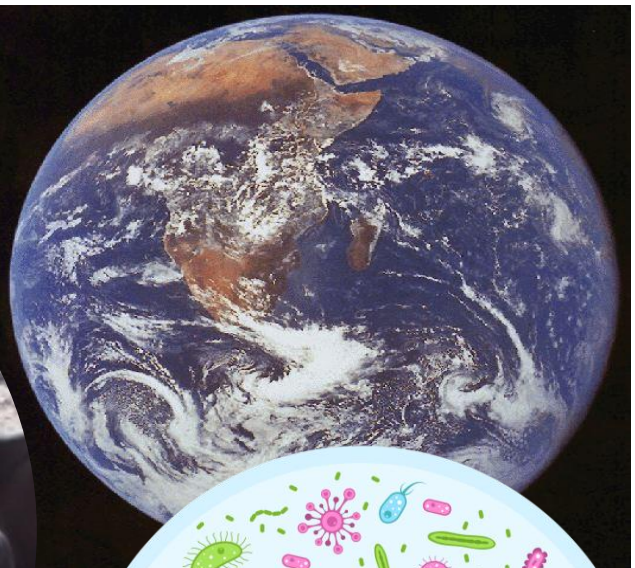
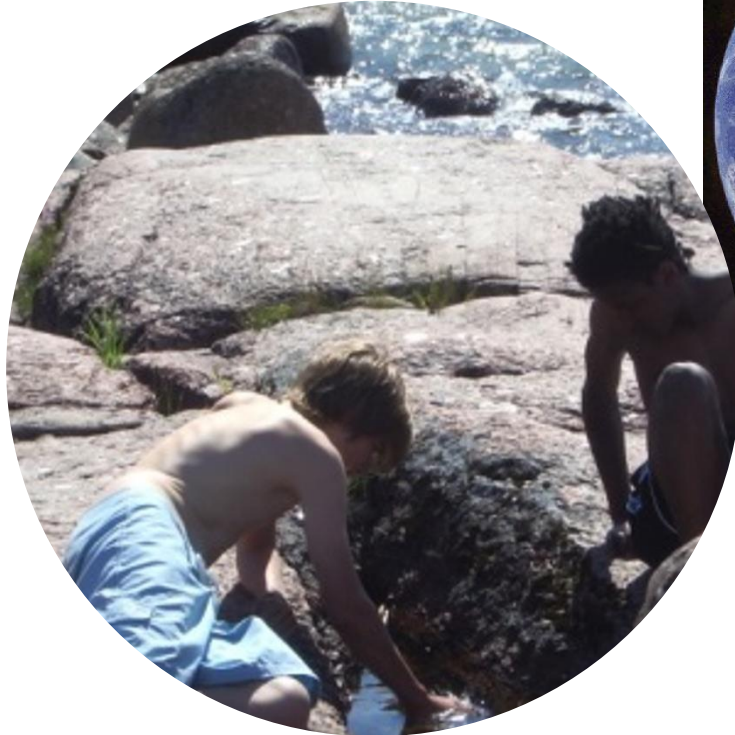
48% of Finland's natural habitats are endangered

Reasons for the negative trend

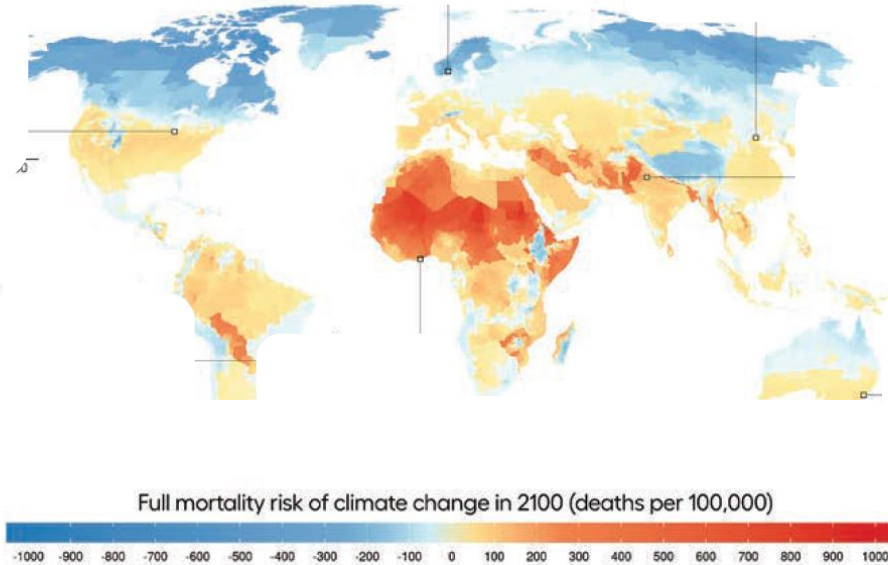
- Reforestation and management of forests
- Ditching
- Clearing areas for arable land
- Construction
- Eutrophication
- Climate change

The health and wellbeing of humans and the planet are connected

- Mental health
- Stress
- Immune tolerance
- Obesity
- Fitness
- Viability



It is difficult for human societies to manage slowly but broadly developing risks

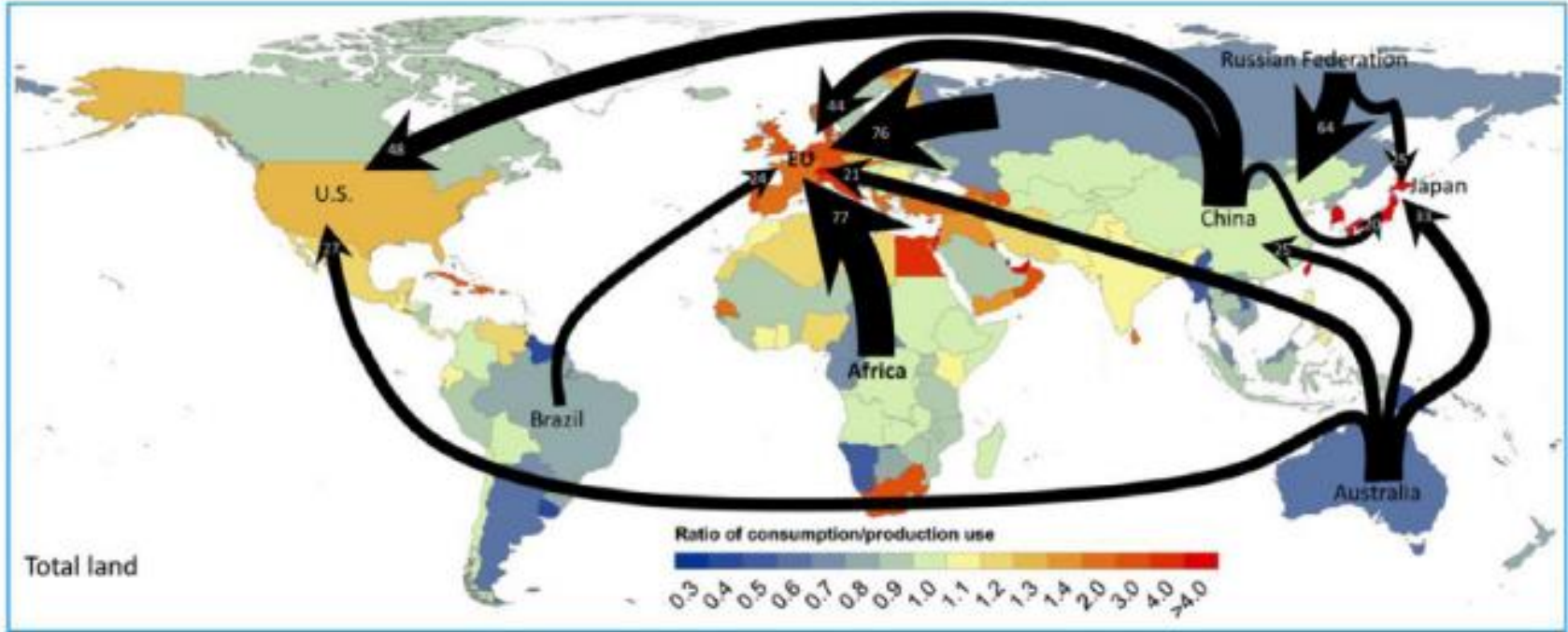


Note: Density plots for select regions indicate the full probabilistic distribution of estimated impacts across simulations.

Source: Reproduced from Carleton and others (2020).

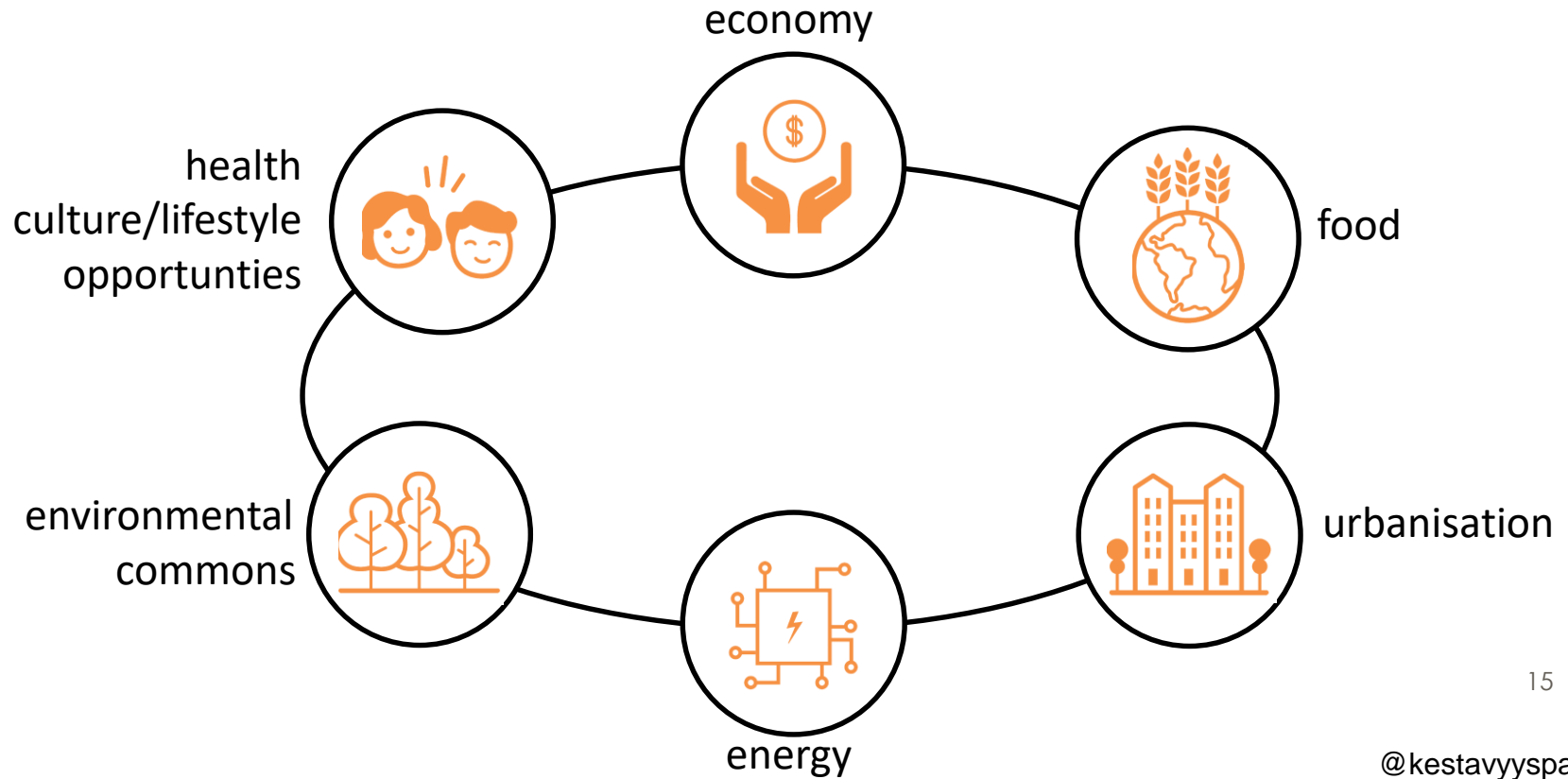
Mean death rate in 2100, caused by climate change

We live in an Antroposene: humans intervene all earth systems



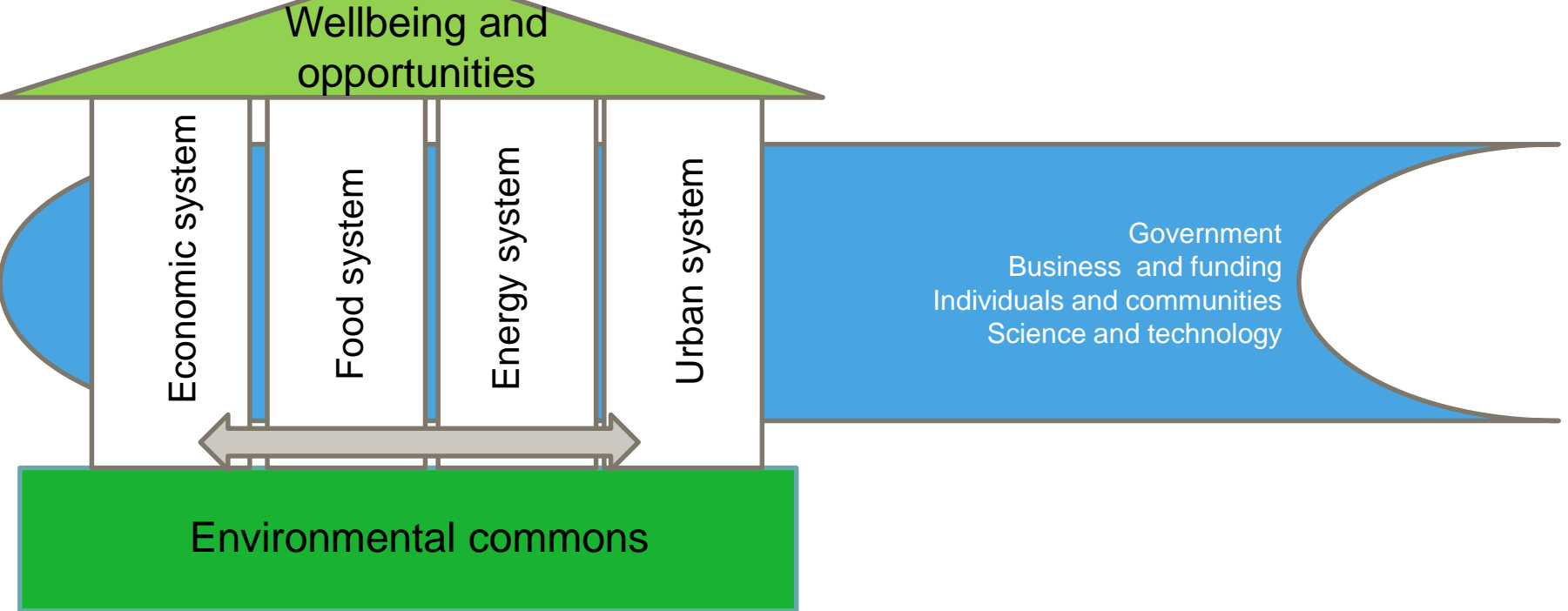
Raw materials, goods, fashion, money,
people, culture, pollution flow globally

By transforming unsustainable societal systems





House of sustainability transformation – from strategies to practice



**How to create a safe
and overgenerationally
just wellbeing?**

Crucial for making a change: Positive image of the future and speeding up the transformation

Illusion 1

**Inconvenience
of change**

Needs: stories of
good experiences

Illusion 2

**Continuity of
today**

Needs: skills to
imagine futures

Illusion 3

**Decoupling of
economy &
environment**

Needs: sustainably
gained wellbeing

Whose future?



**The future is closer
than we can imagine**



**Are the youth concerned? What
are their say?**

Youth barometer in Finland, 2021

- 86 % demanded intrinsic value of nature to be taken into consideration in decision making
- Influencing with shopping decisions was seen as important as voting (78%)
- 75 % said they feel good when making sustainable choices



Collective action supports ones own wellbeing



Involving children and youth in research projects for sustainable future

Minna Kajjonen



School children participate in sustainable school meals research

Riikka Paloniemi



Children in daycares are involved in growing food and recycling waste

Youth, planners and researchers co-creating future urban structure



Maija Faehnle

Giving voice to children

Groups (years of age)

- under 7
- 7-8
- 9-10
- 11-12
- 13-15
- 16-18
- 19 and over

The National Commission on Sustainable Development organises

The Hopeful Future -Writing Competition

1.7.-31.10.2023

Write one 4A length page with the writing style of your choosing in Finnish, Swedish, English or Kolt-, North-, Inari-Sami languages.

Send your story to kestavakehitys.vnk@gov.fi by email.

Read more from kestavakehitys.fi/kirjoituskilpailu and follow our communication on Instagram and Twitter!



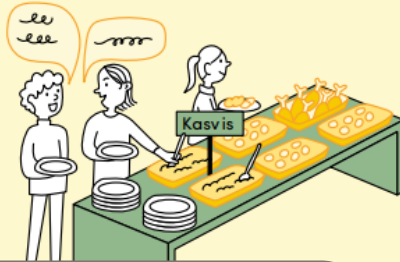
@kestavakehitys.vnk



@kestavakehitys

Kemu-project invited youth to co-create recommendations for Youth Planet (2022)

Plosters



Encourage youth to

- Vegetarian diet
 - Reduct consumption
 - Sustainable mobility
- Enable safe zones

Medicine



Medicine:

- Repaire & recycleculture
- Good work culture
- Mental health and wellbeing services
- Logical communication of sustainability

Cuts



Cut:

- Unsustainable subsidies and advertising
- Traffick emissions
- Workload from studies, work and life
- Loose talk

Enabling youth to participate and act

- UN delegates take part in the meetings (part of delegations of national governments) – youth members in secretary general's team
- Finland: Agenda2030 youth group & nature and climate youth group
 - 10-15 members, age 15-28 years
 - Tasks include to support sustainable development, support participation of the youth and ensure the justice of forthcoming generations in policy making on ecological sustainability



Paula Pättikangas

European sustainable development network (ESDN) empowers youth involvement in Europe

ESDN youth's 5 point statement:

1. Give Youth a seat at the table
2. Empower Youth through capacity building and training
3. Treat Youth as equal partners and avoid tokenism
4. Involve Youth on all topics relevant for their future, not just Youth and education
5. Support networking between Youth representatives

Youth taking active role themselves



Operaatio Arktis-project

2023

What happens when Arctic sea ice disappears?

What are climate repair technologies?

What are the challenges and risks involved?



Elokapina – Extinction Rebellion Finland declares a climate emergency in Finland

2023 Action towards viable forests

Critical questions concerning solidarity towards youth and future generations

- Avoid moving from greenwashing to youthwashing
- Are youth being listened and heard as equal partners?
- How youth should be compensated when giving their part in decision making?

- Do the youth really need to do the job?

But where lies the power of future decision making?



- Government
- Businesses
- Science
- Technology
- Cities
- Planners
- Politicians
- us adults

Finland is sustainable only when sustainability is universal

If not justice for all, there is justice for no one, if not wellbeing for all, no one experience wellbeing



Finland is
number one
in
sustainability

#AGENDA2030

Thank you

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