

Dear Sir or Madam,

The upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris is a decisive moment for future generations in Europe and globally.

World leaders and experts from civil society will meet in order to limit the scale of climate change and its impact on life on earth.

We the undersigning NGOs, Local Governments and Municipal Authorities are engaged in serving this very same aim. Collaborating in the EU financed project LADDER (Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising Awareness, led by ALDA, Strasbourg, F) our focus is on including and promoting resilient, sustainable development in the framework of development education.

We are convinced that a shift of the economy and culture of mankind to resilient sustainable development is the only peaceful and democratic answer to the threats and terrible implications of an unlimited climate change and its impacts.

We understand resilient, sustainable development as a process that has to develop evolutionary, that has to be built on a democratic pluralistic system, takes the given cultures of mankind and the finite/limited character of natural resources into account sufficiently.

Education and awareness raising will be essential to trigger and foster this evolutionary process. The efforts of education and awareness raising have to encompass all ages and areas of public life.

Nevertheless we indicate key obstacles on the way to implement resilient, sustainable development.

The first obstacle is poverty. Poverty forces mankind to exploit any resources at hand to the utmost. In order to achieve resilient, sustainable development we have to fight poverty.

The forms of economy will be built on new technologies. These key technologies have to be available for those in need. Technology transfer must not be blocked by patent protection.

Technologies have to be implemented and applied accordingly. This underlines the importance of technical education. The best technology will fail to achieve its purpose if people are too poor to acquire, untrained to apply the technologies.

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*Partners to the LADDER WorkPath RESILIENT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*

*Albanian Association of Municipalities; Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity; Association of Kosovo Municipalities; Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania; Birgu Local Council, MT, Comitato Permanente per il Partenariato Euromediterraneo delle Autorità Locali e le Regioni, I; Communities Finance Officers Association, AM; Croatian Association of Counties; European Association for Local Democracy, Strasbourg; European Network of National Civil Society Associations, B; Foundation for strong European Regions, A; Latvian Association of Local and Regional Authorities; Lev Sapieha, BY; National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria; Romanian Municipalities Association; South East European Youth Network, BiH; Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, Union of Municipalities of Marmara, TR; Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland; Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, SK*



Resilient, sustainable development and its teaching and training are not a matter of governments alone. In a multi-level and multi sectoral governance system international, supra-national, national, regional, and local levels have to act coordinated and cooperatively.

This cooperation and coordination of the executive level has to be mirrored and complemented by a partnership in aims and cooperation between citizens, civil society, business, and politics.

These forms of cooperation and coordination cannot be reached in a totalitarian political system. An open pluralistic exchange of opinions and a competition for the best practice are essential to reach resilient, sustainable development and to limit climate change and its disastrous impacts.

Preservation of the nature and environment is one of the highest responsibility of mankind and the key to successful resilient and sustainable development and a fundamental factor in achieving a better global balance. Therefore, we the undersigned urge you take the above mentioned aspects into due consideration and demand the following:

1. Emissions of heat-trapping gas must be reduced to a limit that secures to restrict global warming with 2°C maximum.
2. To shift the mix of energy sources from carbon and nuclear to renewable energy sources with a high degree of decentralisation.
3. To reduce the use of energy wherever possible as reducing energy use is the most effective way to reduce strains on the environment and natural resources.

We offer a multi-level and multi-sector partnership involving of actors (state, business, third sector, local, regional, national, and supra-national) to reach the SDGs in a joined, concerted, and intergenerational approach.

We the undersigned call upon participants of the COP21 and all leaders in the world that ambition and courage should conduct their work, to take the strongest decisions.

*Stefan August Lütgenau  
on behalf of LADDER WP 5  
Resilient, Sustainable Development*

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