



# **futureEU** **OBSERVER**

# **TRACK**

# **2022-2023**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**1** Introduction

**2** Message from futurEU

**3** Essays by Observer Track  
Participants

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## futurEU an initiative by students for students

In 2020, futurEU launched the futurEU Competition for its first edition. With the competition, futurEU strives to bridge the gap between young people's voices and opinions and public discourse and academic research. The futurEU Competition is an opportunity for all CIVICA students to learn, explore and network with each other. More importantly, the Competition is a platform that encourages students to actively find and propose policy solutions for reforming the European Union. It is open to all students and PhD researchers of the CIVICA alliance.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Message from Lea Mathies

“ The idea behind futurEU is to create a space for experimentation. A space for students – created by students – to come together, to share, to discuss, to dare. With the goal of providing a platform for students’ ideas not only at one institution but across the EU.



*Focusing on climate action and sustainability, the 2023 edition reached the largest audience thus far. It was an honour to have students from different Ukrainian universities join us in Berlin this year as well.*

*I hope that this report encourages readers to not only share their own ideas, but to discuss them and to shape solutions to big and small policy questions alike.* ”

# 2. FOREWORD

FuturEU is delighted to present the introduction for the third edition of the futurEU Competition, an initiative that brought together bright minds from all over Europe to delve into EU policymaking. This year, Ukrainian students participated as observers, gaining invaluable insights and cultivating cross-cultural exchanges. Their viewpoints enhanced discussions, stressing the significance of European collaboration.

The competition's finale took place in Berlin, as students from Ukraine and several other European nations came together. This event profoundly affected the Ukrainian contestants, leaving an enduring impression on all attendees and enabling them to make meaningful contributions towards the European project.

The inclusion of Ukrainian students aligns perfectly with the competition's ethos of fostering cooperation and inclusive discourse regarding EU affairs. FuturEU thanks its sponsors, supporters and participants for sparking intellectual curiosity that will shape the future of Europe.

The legacy of the futurEU Competition strives to inspire and empower the next generation of EU policymakers, while promoting lasting friendships and facilitating positive change for years to come.

Patrick von Rakowski  
in the name of the futurEU Management Team



# 3. OBSERVERS ESSAYS'

## EXPERIENCES AND AFTERTHOUGHTS



**Solomiia Hnidan**  
UCU University, Lviv, Ukraine.

Recently I returned from the "FuturEU" competition as part of the "CIVICA for Ukraine" project. Due to the support of SGH Warsaw School of Economics and the Hertie School, I was honoured to participate in the recently launched «Observer track», explicitly designed for Ukrainian students. In terms of competition, students of 5 Ukrainian universities could attend workshops on public speaking, policy-paper writing, and enlargement of the EU and get the unique opportunity to network with like-driven CIVICA universities students across Europe.

The "FuturEU" project is unlike any other I have attended. It is an opportunity to unite students from one of the best universities in Europe. It is an opportunity to be heard, gain valuable knowledge, get out of your comfort zone, and expand your horizons. You start to look at the same problems from new perspectives and can delve into joint work on challenges for modern societies. You can work with Europe's proactive and creative youth who is ready for cooperation and dialogue, notices problems that should be discussed more, and offers new progressive visions for their solution.

I gained valuable knowledge from the workshops held by experts in the specific field. In the finals in Berlin, we had the opportunity to hear all the presentations of all semi-finalists and finalists on improving EU policy in the climate change framework. I could critically analyze all of them and discuss with my Ukrainian peers from other universities to what extent different ideas are applicable for the implementation in our home country. The presentations were insightful and thought-provoking, and the ideas were indeed unique and creative. Regarding the project, Ukrainian students also had a chance to make a speech. I would like to thank the project team for the platform to discuss today's urgent environmental issues due to the Russian war in Ukraine. Grateful to have the opportunity to talk publicly on the crucial topic of climate change and societal transformation, representing Ukraine in the international community. Moreover, I had a chance to talk with several competition participants. After the conversation with the Italian team from Bocconi University, I realized how motivated they are to participate in such projects and how curious they are about the ideas and perspectives of others. I appreciate how determined they are to obtain new knowledge, develop and broaden their horizons in different fields.

Among the people whom I talked with were also the winners of the "FuturEU" competition – Eman and François:

François said: «It is the precious alliance; it is the opportunity to team up with one of the best universities in Europe, in your perspective and field, which is social and political science, and eventually bring all different perspectives».

Eman added: «It's so rare to have a platform like this where young people's voices can be heard when all of us have the same voice, and everyone can be heard. It is such a wonderful learning opportunity and a value-driven project. The special thing is that the jury recognized the importance of something we put forward, not necessarily being much discussed in society. It is indeed important to interact with these kinds of institutions and make policies inclusive».

The most important things are always about people and their values. I appreciate the values this project promotes and the community it creates. I share the importance of youth activism and leadership, and I believe every person's voice and even minor action can contribute to the ambitious goal. The idea of public discussion from the point of view of students and academic professionals brought bright and creative ideas united with profound academic research. We learned from one another and had the chance to network with all the competition participants. I appreciate how the project "FuturEU" contributes to the discussion of the future of all of us. For me, this project is about unique experiences and unique people. It is a big inspiration for me, which reminds me of the slogan of my home university - "Wish big". With a desire and values behind you can make many things real.

Most importantly, I would like to express my gratitude to the team of FuturEU, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, the Hertie School, and everyone who contributed to our participation. I am glad I had the opportunity to experience such a great project and meet many wonderful people. Thank you to the FuturEU team for their support and work in launching the Observer Track for Ukrainian students for the first time and conducting it in the best possible way for us. Glad that such an initiative exists. Thank you to all the participants - wonderful and creative people representing the European youth. These were three days full of new knowledge and unique moments with like-driven people.



**Stefaniia Parubets**  
**UCU University, Lviv, Ukraine.**

Growing up in Ukraine, a nation that has always sought close ties with other European nations, and being able to take part in the futurEU, has been a singular experience for me. In my opinion, it's crucial that young Ukrainians understand the significance of European issues as their country moves forward on its path to closer union with the EU. The fundamental principles upheld by the EU, such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, may be introduced to young Ukrainian students through learning EU legislation and policies as well as the reasoning behind them.

These ideals and values are in line with those of many Ukrainians who want to establish stronger links with the EU. Ukrainian students may expand their awareness of democratic values, civil freedoms, and good governance by actively participating in conversations on topics of European matters. With this information, we can better advocate for positive change in Ukraine and promote a climate of openness, responsibility, and respect for human rights. As a Ph.D. student and an avid follower of European affairs, specifically being a passionate advocate for youth engagement in shaping the future, I recently had the opportunity to explore the third edition of the futurEU Competition. Young people have a fantastic opportunity to be heard and participate in the continuing conversation about the EU at this yearly event. I got the amazing chance to take part this year on the observer track. I have a particular place in my heart for the futurEU Competition because it gives young people like me the chance to have a real influence on the future of the EU. It acknowledges the significance of our opinions and viewpoints in influencing the laws and choices that will eventually determine the course of our lives. futurEU promotes a forum for creative thinking and helpful debates by bridging the gap between academics, professional knowledge, and the student community.

As an observer during the futurEU Competition 2023, my experience has been nothing short of inspiring and enlightening. Witnessing young minds come together to discuss and debate the future of the European Union has been a truly enriching experience. The passion and dedication displayed by the participants, along with the engaging workshops and thought-provoking lectures, have created a dynamic atmosphere of intellectual curiosity and collaboration. It was remarkable to see how the competition provided a platform for meaningful discussions and empowered participants to voice their perspectives, contributing to the shaping of the EU of tomorrow.

I value the emphasis on thorough study and views that are supported by evidence. As a result, the conversations and ideas put forth by participants are knowledgeable and believable and have a strong chance of influencing EU officials. The blending of enthusiasm and academic rigor enables us to examine the issues facing the EU from various perspectives, igniting imagination and fostering novel viewpoints.

Future EU contests need active participation in a transformational discourse as well as the submission of a research paper or essay. I had the good fortune to take part in every session run by outstanding experts in various fields. I learned valuable information from these sessions that I wouldn't have otherwise. The sessions were thoughtfully created to promote critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning. Each session deepened my understanding and sparked creative ideas, from examining the difficulties of EU governance to solving urgent problems like social cohesion, climate change, and digitization. The interactive format of these workshops encourages participation, resulting in a lively and stimulating learning atmosphere.

Participating in the workshops provided me with invaluable key takeaways. First and foremost, I learned the significance of embracing diverse perspectives and interdisciplinary thinking when addressing complex issues. The workshops encouraged us to explore the interconnections between various EU-related challenges, enabling us to propose holistic and sustainable solutions.



Furthermore, I gained a deeper understanding of the importance of youth engagement in policymaking processes, as the workshops showcased how innovative ideas from young voices can contribute to shaping more effective and relevant policies for the EU. Finally, the workshops reinforced the significance of evidence-based research and data-driven insights in advocating for change and influencing decision-makers.

During the futurEU Competition 2023, one standout moment that deeply resonated with me was the workshop on the theme of European Union enlargement, conducted by Natasha Wunsch, Assistant Professor of Political Science and European Integration at SciencePo. This workshop was a truly enlightening and thought-provoking experience that left a lasting impact on my understanding of the EU's expansion and its implications.

Natasha Wunsch's expertise and passion for the topic were evident from the moment the workshop began. She artfully navigated the complexities of EU enlargement, providing a comprehensive historical overview of the accession process and its evolution over time. Her engaging presentation style ensured that even participants with limited prior knowledge on the subject could grasp the fundamental concepts and challenges.

The workshop went beyond merely discussing the mechanics of enlargement; it encouraged us to critically analyze the motivations behind both the EU's decisions to expand and the candidate countries' aspirations to join. Dr. Wunsch facilitated interactive discussions that allowed us to explore the potential benefits and drawbacks of enlargement, considering economic, political, and societal aspects. The prospect of EU membership acts as a catalyst for reform and democratization, promoting a more stable and prosperous Europe.

Furthermore, the workshop delved into the delicate balance between enlargement and consolidation. Dr. Wunsch eloquently addressed concerns about the EU's ability to absorb new members effectively while preserving the integrity of its institutional framework and shared values. This dynamic discussion underscored the need for careful consideration and strategic planning in the enlargement process.

I am really appreciative of the opportunity to take part in futurEU. This student-led effort has been effective in building a platform that enables young people to contribute to the future of the EU and have a real impact. The futurEU Competition has been an incredible journey, filled with enriching experiences that have shaped my perspective on the EU's future and my role as a young participant in this transformative process.

The workshops and lectures offered during the futurEU Competition were undeniably the highlight of my participation. They provided a unique and stimulating environment to learn from experts, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and exchange ideas with fellow participants. As a young student from Ukraine, the topic of EU enlargement was of particular significance to me. I found the workshop's emphasis on the geopolitical implications of EU enlargement highly relevant. Dr. Wunsch encouraged us to critically analyze how the EU's expansion policy influences regional dynamics and global governance. This perspective shed light on the potential impact of EU enlargement on Ukraine's positioning in the international arena, which is of great importance given my nation's aspirations for closer ties with the EU.

Beyond the workshops and lectures, the futurEU Competition provided me with the opportunity to engage with a diverse community of young scholars and researchers. Interacting with fellow participants from different backgrounds and cultures enriched my perspective and broadened my understanding of the EU's challenges and opportunities. The camaraderie and shared passion for shaping the EU of tomorrow fostered an environment of mutual support and collaboration that will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on my personal and professional growth.

As a young Ukrainian participant, I recognize the profound relevance of futurEU in shaping the EU-Ukraine relationship. The competition has empowered me and fellow Ukrainian students to actively participate in conversations about European concerns that directly impact our nation's future. Through futurEU, I have come to appreciate the significance of Ukrainian perspectives in the broader EU discourse and the value of our opinions in shaping policies that affect our country's trajectory.

Looking ahead, I am eagerly anticipating the next edition of the futurEU Competition and urge all students and Ph.D. scholars to seize this fantastic opportunity to influence the EU of the future. For young Ukrainian students like myself, futurEU represents an invaluable platform to broaden our knowledge, amplify our voices, and actively contribute to the development of a wealthy, democratic, and European-focused Ukraine.

The futurEU Competition has been an empowering and transformative experience that has amplified young voices and bridged the gap between academia and public discourse. The workshops, lectures, and vibrant discussions have deepened my understanding of the EU's challenges and opportunities, fueling my determination to advocate for a more transparent, legitimate, inclusive, and prosperous Europe. As a young Ukrainian participant, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the EU-Ukraine dialogue through futurEU, and I eagerly await the future editions to continue shaping the EU of tomorrow.



**Anastasiia Liesna**  
**Kyiv National Economic University**

Being a Ukrainian has brought numerous challenges throughout my life: two grand revolutions, corrupted government and full-scale war made me understand that I am responsible myself to change everything for the better. Therefore, my choice of the path for professional development fell on international economics since I believe that understanding global economic dynamics and fostering international cooperation can play a crucial role in shaping a prosperous and stable future for Ukraine. The complex interplay of trade, investment, and policy decisions on a global scale has a direct impact on the economic well-being of countries, including my homeland.

Taking part in the FuturEU initiative was my impulsive decision, since in a second of hearing about the aim of the competition, I had made up my mind and signed up for participation. I was highly motivated, because it was an honor for me to engage in conversations with EU representatives and learn from their experiences in order to broaden my mind on one of the key global issues – climate change.

As a Ukrainian student, I had also experienced huge responsibility of representing my home country on a European arena, because Ukraine is yet to join the EU and becoming a part of FuturEU was an opportunity to showcase Ukraine's potential and commitment to addressing global challenges. In spite of being a member of the observer track and not the actual competitor, I didn't feel excluded from the workshops, and in fact throughout the competition, I engaged in intense discussions, brainstorming sessions, and collaborative projects with fellow participants from different European countries. It was a truly enriching experience as we shared our diverse perspectives, ideas, and solutions to combat climate change. The opportunity to work closely with EU representatives allowed me to gain valuable insights into the policies, initiatives, and best practices implemented within the European Union.

During the competition, I also had the chance to present Ukraine's perspective on climate change and the steps we are taking as a nation to mitigate its effects. Together with other students from Ukrainian universities, I emphasized the importance of international collaboration, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer to support sustainable development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It was crucial for me to showcase Ukraine's potential as a partner in tackling global issues, despite not being an EU member state yet. Since the beginning in 2014 and forward full-scale form of russian invasion in 2022, the amount of water, air and soil pollution continue to grow, and after the victory of Ukraine there will appear shocking statistical figures, showing the level of deforestation and number of wiped-out animal species. To face this outrageous challenge with dignity it is crucial to start planning a comprehensive strategy for environmental restoration and conservation in Ukraine right now. That is why I value the youth involvement and intergenerational dialogue in shaping the future, provided by the FuturEU organizers. As a young Ukrainian, I recognize the need for sustainable policies that consider the long-term implications of climate change on our planet and future generations, especially the ones caused by the ongoing war.

To my mind, all the workshops were devoted to the topics, that influenced and shaped my worldview on climate change, however one of them resonated with me the most. I am talking about the one on ecocide, delivered by Aaron Dumont, followed by a presentation from Ukrainian MP, Dr. Yuliia Ovchynnykova. I was greatly impressed by the extent at which our everyday-life activities harm the nature, but what made my heart beat faster was the volume of pollution, caused by the war actions. During that workshop, Aaron Dumont shed light on the concept of ecocide and its implications for the environment, which highlighted the urgent need for stronger environmental regulations, accountability, and justice to protect our planet. Dr. Yuliia Ovchynnykova's presentation further emphasized the importance of addressing the environmental consequences of the war in Ukraine. The devastation caused by the conflict not only affects human lives but also has far-reaching implications for the environment. A year of the full-scale invasion notwithstanding, actions of the European Union gain even bigger significance, concerning the potential for addressing ecocide and promoting environmental justice not only in Ukraine, but in the whole world.

However, it would be a crime not to mention the key takeaways, that I had gained from other seminars, including the ones on policy brief writing, EU policy-making, EU enlargement, and of course public speaking:

- The seminar on policy brief writing provided me with valuable skills in crafting concise and impactful documents that effectively communicate policy recommendations. I learned how to structure and present complex information in a clear and concise manner, making it easier for policymakers to understand and act upon. This skill will be instrumental in my future endeavors, as I aspire to contribute to evidence-based policy-making and drive positive change.
- Understanding EU policy-making processes was another crucial takeaway from the workshops. Learning about the various institutions, decision-making procedures, and the role of different actors within the European Union deepened my understanding of how policies are formulated, implemented, and evaluated at the EU level. This knowledge will enable me to navigate the complex landscape of EU affairs and engage in discussions and initiatives that shape Ukraine's relationship with the EU.
- The seminar on EU enlargement shed light on the potential opportunities and challenges that Ukraine may face on its path towards EU membership. I gained insights into the criteria, negotiations, and reforms necessary for a country to join the EU. Understanding the requirements and expectations placed upon aspiring member states will help me contribute to the necessary reforms within Ukraine and foster stronger ties with the EU.
- Lastly, the workshop on public speaking was instrumental in honing my communication skills and boosting my confidence in delivering effective presentations. I learned techniques to engage audiences, convey messages persuasively, and handle questions and challenges during public speaking engagements. These skills will be invaluable in my future endeavors, as I aim to be an effective advocate for Ukraine's interests and contribute to meaningful discussions on the global stage.

Bearing in mind all of the propositions, that were presented during semi-finals, it becomes really hard to come with ways to better address climate change and facilitate an equitable climate transition, since the participants have showed that everything has impact of ecology. Therefore, from my point of view, it is crucial to adopt a multi-faceted approach that addresses climate change from various angles and involves stakeholders from different sectors. First of all, transitioning to renewable energy sources should be a top priority. Encouraging the development and adoption of clean energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease dependence on fossil fuels. This requires investing in renewable energy infrastructure, providing incentives for renewable energy projects, and promoting research and innovation in the field. Secondly, promoting sustainable agriculture and land use practices is essential. According to the findings of the team 86, agriculture is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. Encouraging farmers to adopt climate-smart techniques, such as organic farming, agroforestry, and precision agriculture, can help reduce emissions, enhance soil health, and preserve natural habitats. Additionally, supporting initiatives that promote sustainable land management, reforestation, and afforestation can contribute to carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, I was greatly impressed by the ideas, delivered by teams 77 and 53, stating that addressing transportation emissions is crucial in combating climate change.

Taking into account all the details covered by these two teams in their presentations, I came to a conclusion that promoting the switch from airplanes to night trains, improving public transportation systems, and investing in sustainable infrastructure can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. Encouraging active modes of transportation, such as walking and cycling, and implementing policies that prioritize public transportation and discourage private vehicle use can also contribute to a greener and more sustainable transport system.

FuturEU not only broadened my understanding of climate change but also strengthened my determination to contribute to sustainable development and environmental stewardship. It ignited a passion within me to continue advocating for climate action, both within Ukraine and on the international stage. I am committed to leveraging my knowledge, skills, and experiences to drive positive change in my country and foster greater collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union. Thanks to all of the information, provided during the workshop, my abilities to formulate, present and defend my values only deepened, therefore increasing my chances to have a say in ecological incentives of the post-war rebuilding of Ukraine. A month after the final round of this year competition, my gratitude continues to only grow from day to day. I would like to end this essay with a "Thank you" to the EU representatives, experts, and speakers who shared their knowledge, experiences, and insights during the workshops. Their expertise and guidance have broadened my understanding of climate change, policy-making, and the role of the European Union in addressing global challenges. I would also like to express my gratitude to my fellow participants, both from Ukraine and across Europe. The discussions, debates, and exchange of ideas have been invaluable in shaping my perspective and challenging my assumptions. And finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the FuturEU initiative for organizing such a remarkable competition that not only empowers young minds but also recognizes the importance of addressing climate change and building sustainable future.



**Stefaniia Bulakh**  
**Kyiv National Economic University**

Passion for Perfection - Is That How You Describe Yourself? If not, then you are not ready for great discoveries. To achieve them, one must have the desire.

Passion is a strong force that drives meaningful change. When people have a deep desire to make a difference, they become catalysts for transformation and progress. Passion sparks creativity, determination, and resilience, enabling individuals to go beyond their limits and find innovative solutions to complex problems. This dedication in creating a better world fuels the motivation to take action and make a lasting impact. By cultivating passion in ourselves and inspiring it in others, we unlock the potential to address the environmental crisis and create a sustainable future. All of these aspects I could be able to observe in the ideas of the participants of the FuturEU.

The FuturEU program brings together passionate students from different universities who share a common enthusiasm for making a difference. This collective feeling of implementing changes creates an exciting environment where ideas are shared, collaboration thrives, and transformative projects take shape. The program not only empowers students to tackle environmental challenges but also supports their personal growth and development. By participating in sustainability initiatives and environmental preservation efforts, students enhance their skills, expand their knowledge, and gain valuable hands-on experience. The FuturEU program magnifies the impact of these passionate students by providing resources and support to turn their visions into reality and inspire others to join the cause.

The most significant lesson I learned was that we, as individuals, have the power to make a difference. It all begins with taking responsibility for our own actions. What particularly impressed me was witnessing the remarkable organizational skills and unwavering motivation displayed by the young individuals who spearheaded this massive program. Their dedication and enthusiasm were truly inspiring, demonstrating that age or perceived limitations should never hinder us from pursuing meaningful initiatives.

The concept of starting small and making personal changes is a powerful notion when it comes to addressing environmental issues. It emphasizes the significance of individual actions and their potential cumulative impact. By taking small steps in our daily lives, such as reducing transportation usage or adopting sustainable practices, we can contribute to a larger movement for ecological preservation. Recognizing that change begins with oneself empowers individuals to take ownership of their actions and inspires others to follow suit. Each small action, when multiplied across individuals, can lead to substantial positive change for the environment and future generations.

In recent years, the escalating environmental degradation has brought our planet perilously close to irreversible ecocide. The urgency to protect our environment and secure a sustainable future for generations to come cannot be overstated. Students who participated in a policy brief competition have demonstrated their readiness to address environmental challenges in the European area. Their engagement signifies a growing awareness of the need to take immediate action to mitigate the detrimental impact of human activities on our planet.

Ecocide, which involves the widespread destruction of ecosystems, poses a grave threat to biodiversity, climate stability, and the overall health of our planet. Human activities such as deforestation, pollution, overconsumption, and greenhouse gas emissions have accelerated the pace of environmental degradation, endangering not only current generations but also future ones who will inherit an irreparably damaged Earth. The consequences of ecocide are far-reaching, affecting ecosystems, wildlife, and ultimately, the well-being of humanity itself.

Addressing the impending ecological crisis requires collective commitment and collaboration. Individuals, communities, governments, and international organizations must work together to implement effective policies and initiatives that prioritize sustainability and environmental preservation. The students who participated in the FuturEU competition have showcased their deep understanding of ecological problems and offered innovative ideas and practical approaches to mitigate environmental degradation. Their enthusiasm and readiness to be agents of change are encouraging signs of progress and hope for a brighter future.

Furthermore, it is essential to recognize that environmental issues transcend borders. The proposed policies and actions formulated by the competition participants hold significance not only for Europe but also for global environmental preservation. The interconnectedness between social justice and environmental protection becomes evident, highlighting the need to address gender inequality, among other factors, to safeguard ecosystems worldwide. Additionally, it is crucial for Ukrainians to have support of other countries. My country has suffered severe ecological consequences due to the proximity to heavily industrialized areas and the ecocide committed by Russia. By offering assistance and solidarity, European Commission can empower Ukrainians in our struggle against environmental degradation and foster a healthier and more sustainable environment for all.

Ukraine, known for its remarkable biodiversity, is facing a significant setback in its environmental preservation efforts due to the recent collapse of the Kakhovka dam. This unfortunate incident, occurring amidst Russia's aggression towards Ukraine, has far-reaching consequences beyond the human toll. The collapse has resulted in extensive damage to the surrounding biosystems, including the destruction of irrigation systems, agricultural lands, and the potential spread of animal diseases. President Volodymyr Zelensky has officially described the attack on the dam by Russia as an act of ecocide.

Given the invasion of Russian forces and their impact on Ukraine, it has become increasingly critical to address the issue of ecocide in the country. Failing to take immediate action could have dire consequences, and there is a sense of urgency to act before it is too late. As the part of the Ukrainian delegation, I am delighted to participate in the efforts to enhance the ecological situation and witness the support extended by European communities, exemplified by the invitation from FuturEU to be a part of this significant event.

Some of the participants presented innovative ideas for reduction transportation usage, especially in the aviation industry. By starting small and gradually implementing changes, we can collectively achieve substantial reductions in carbon emissions and resource consumption while maintaining mobility and connectivity.

One intriguing concept proposed by participants is the utilization of night trains. Operating during off-peak hours, these trains offer reduced passenger load and increased comfort. By capitalizing on this opportunity, we can optimize resource utilization and provide efficient transportation solutions. Night trains save energy and promote a more sustainable transportation system.

While some ideas gained attention, it is essential to assess their feasibility and compatibility with different societal contexts. For instance, the proposal to reduce the number of working days may not align with the needs and demands of certain societies, considering cultural and industrial factors. For instance, the notion of work holds great significance in Ukrainian culture, and considering the social perspective and future industrial development, this approach is not appropriate or timely at present.

One of the most remarkable cases was the mention of the link between social inequality and ecological challenges which is just a thought-provoking perspective presented by the participants. The idea that gender inequality and patriarchal systems contribute to environmental problems highlights the interconnectedness of social justice and environmental sustainability. By striving for gender equality, equal access to resources, and inclusive decision-making processes, we can foster a more harmonious relationship with the environment. Recognizing and addressing social inequalities is crucial in building a sustainable future, where all individuals have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from environmental initiatives.

All the participants displayed their remarkable qualities during the event. The students from various disciplines conducted thorough research and demonstrated incredible competence. Each idea presented had the potential to be a frontrunner. As an enthusiastic observer, I rooted for all the participants since their policy briefs were exceptional. The students exhibited great potential and a strong drive to shape the future. The jury members demonstrated their professionalism by providing fair evaluations and showing genuine interest in each participant. Moreover, arranging such an event and bringing together such a diverse and motivated group of individuals was undoubtedly a challenging task for the organizers. However, it is essential to express sincere gratitude to them. Their careful planning and attention to detail in gathering a diverse and motivated group of individuals deserve high praise. Their hard work and dedication deserve recognition for making this event a resounding success.

To sum up the takeaways of the event, it is needed to be highlighted that starting the journey of change and pursuing ecological goals at an individual level has the potential for far-reaching global implications. By starting with ourselves and igniting a passion for environmental stewardship, we can inspire others and create a ripple effect that transcends borders and continents. The FuturEU program exemplifies the collective efforts to realize the vision of ecological development within the European Union. However, its influence extends beyond European borders, serving as a source of inspiration and a testament to the power of individual actions in shaping a sustainable future for all.



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# THANK YOU!

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