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## Invitation to Sign up!

### Virtual Brainstorming Group: Arctic Youth Dialogues 2025

The EU-funded *Youth Together For Arctic Futures* project is looking for Arctic and European youth with a passion for Arctic climate and biodiversity, and a desire to collaborate with other youth to on format and content of physical and virtual workshops leading up to the *EU-Arctic Youth Dialogue* (EU-AYD) as well as format and content of the EU-AYD. The EU-AYD is an annual event where Arctic and European youth present policy recommendations developed during pre-workshops to EU and Arctic policymakers. The Brainstorming group will assist in shaping the pre-workshops and the EU-AYD, ensuring that it is impactful, inclusive, and aligns with the goal of empowering Arctic and European youth. Any questions can be directed to Sissa Palmquist, Project Manager for *Youth Together for Arctic Futures*. [sisso.palmquist@wwf.se](mailto:sisso.palmquist@wwf.se). Please sign-up via this form after reading the whole information text and deliberating whether you can commit for all sessions. The deadline for applications is November 3rd 2024.

#### **About the “Youth Together for Arctic Futures” project:**

Youth Together for Arctic Futures is a project aimed at empowering Arctic and European youth to influence policy for a sustainable and resilient future. The project responds to the unique challenges facing Arctic youth, particularly their disproportionate exposure to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, which threatens Arctic ice, biodiversity, Indigenous ways of life, and overall regional stability. By equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and platforms to influence policy, the initiative creates opportunities for Arctic youth to shape their futures and encourages European youth to engage with Arctic people and issues. Youth Together for Arctic Futures is led by the WWF Global Arctic Programme, alongside Tromsø Municipality, the Saami Council, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, Arctic Mayors' Forum, Arctic Youth Network, and the European Youth Parliament. The EU-funded project is youth-led, with a representative Youth Board overseeing the project's direction and ensuring meaningful youth leadership. Read more about it [here](#).

#### **About the EU-Arctic Youth Dialogue:**

The EU-AYD takes place during the EU-Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue, a two to three day event organized by the European Commission and European External Action Service. The EU-AYD is part of the Youth Together for Arctic Futures project. During the EU-AYD, participants will present policy recommendations and engage with Arctic and EU policymakers. Ahead of the EU-AYD and EU-Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue, participants will attend a series of online workshops from March-June on Arctic and EU policy and will be expected to prepare for the discussions. In June, a three-day pre-conference preparatory event will take place. Participants in the pre-conference will develop policy recommendations to present during the EU-AYD. The intensive pre-conference will have a packed programme, allowing participants to engage with one another in person through various workshops and a policy creation process. 32 participants aged 18-35 from European and Arctic states will be selected to take part in the EU-AYD and its preparations. For an impression of the EU-AYD 2024, read more [here](#).

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### **Role of the Brainstorming group:**

The purpose of the AYD-Brainstorming group is to collaboratively discuss and give input on format and content of pre-workshops of AYD 2025 as well as the EU-AYD, ensuring they are impactful, inclusive, and align with the goal of empowering Arctic and European youth.

The Brainstorming group will provide input on the format, structure, and content of the following sessions:

#### **1. EU-Arctic Youth Dialogue**

##### **Outline:**

*The European Commission and the European External Action Service organizes the EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue every year, either in an Arctic City or in Brussels. Since 2024 the EU-AYD is part of the EU-Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples Dialogue, and has been added to the programme to ensure that youth perspectives are featured properly at the forum.*

*A broad range of Arctic stakeholders representing governments, international organizations, civil society, industry, research, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, will feed into the discussions during the forum and dialogues.*

*The EU-AYD gives the AYD cohort space to present their policy recommendations developed during pre-workshops, as well as opportunity to lead sessions and or panels on topics related to the chosen AYD theme. The AYD-theme is decided by the Youth Board and will be communicated to the Brainstorming group.*

##### **Goal:**

*To effectively present and advocate for the developed policy recommendations during the EU-AYD.*

##### **Role of the Brainstorming Group:**

*Provide input on shaping the format and content of the dialogue to be interactive, engaging, inclusive, and impactful.*

#### **2. Preparation for Speakers, Panelists, and Moderators at EU-Arctic Youth Dialogue**

##### **Outline:**

*During EU-AYD the AYD cohort gets the opportunity to participate in panels and sessions as speakers, panelists or moderators. One of the planned physical workshops aims to prepare the selected speakers, panelists and moderators for their respective assignment.*

##### **Goal:**

*To prepare all selected speakers in their roles, ensuring they feel equipped to effectively contribute to the dialogue.*

##### **Role of the Brainstorming Group:**

*Provide input on how rehearsals or preparatory sessions can be conducted to ensure clarity and confidence.*



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### 3. **Virtual Policy Training**

**Outline:**

*Prior to the physical AYD-workshops an online/virtual training in policy will be held and are mandatory for the selected participants.*

**Goal:**

*To provide participants with the essential foundation in policy development related to the Arctic and the EU.*

**Role of the Brainstorming Group:**

*Provide input on what materials and which knowledge that would be helpful when developing Arctic and EU policy (e.g., case studies and practical examples relevant to Arctic issues).*

### 4. **Networking Training**

**Outline:**

*During the pre-workshops a networking training will be held.*

**Goal:**

*To enhance the networking skills of participants, enabling them to build and maintain professional connections.*

**Role of the Brainstorming Group:**

*Provide input on effective exercises and information to enhance networking skills (e.g., speed-dating to practice conversation starters and introductions).*

*Suggest networking opportunities for youth participants during international events that are appreciated and feasible within an intensive week.*

### 5. **Negotiation Training**

**Outline:**

*During the pre-workshops a negotiation training will be held.*

**Goal:**

*To equip participants with negotiation skills, particularly in the context of policy discussions and advocacy.*

**Role of the Brainstorming Group:**

*Suggest exercises and information that can enhance negotiating skills (e.g., role-playing scenarios for real-life negotiation practice).*

*Provide input on curriculum content covering negotiation tactics, conflict resolution, and communication skills.*

### 6. **Team Building Workshop**

**Outline:**

*During the pre-workshops a Team Building workshop will be held.*

**Goal:**

*To foster collaboration, trust, and team cohesion among participants.*

**Role of the Brainstorming Group:**

*Suggest team-building exercises that cater to diverse groups and promote unity.*

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### **Commitment**

The Brainstorming Group will collaborate virtually in online meetings during November and December 2024, and between meetings contribute in shared documents. The expectation is that everyone in the group is committed to participate in at least three out of four online meetings. Online meetings and shared documents will be led by two youth facilitators. The Brainstorming group will be provided with materials from the previous EU-AYD and pre-workshops.

Online meetings:

November 13, 2024, Central European Time: 18:00 - 19:30

November 20, 2024, Central European Time: 18:00 - 19:30

November 27, 2024, Central European Time: 18:00 - 19:30

December 4, 2024, Central European Time: 18:00 - 19:30

### **What we are looking for:**

- Approx. 20 Arctic and European youth with a passion for Arctic Climate and Biodiversity (first come first serve)
- Aged: 18-35
- Open to collaborate with youth with various backgrounds
- Committed to consensus-based collaboration

### **What will you be getting:**

- Opportunity to shape and influence the coming EU-AYD, ensuring its impactful, inclusive, and aligns with the goal of empowering Arctic and European youth.
- Opportunity to work with fellow youth sharing your passion for Arctic policy, climate and biodiversity.
- Opportunity to work with youth from various backgrounds.
- Expansion of your professional network through connections with people from various organizations.

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