



CIRCULAR **E**ECONOMY FOR **Y**OUTH

Youth Forum on Circular Economy and Post Covid Recovery for Pontypridd

In 2019, young people and students from Europe and all over the world began to take to the streets to demand action to halt environmental and climate change. On one day of action in March organizers said there were more than 2,000 protests in 125 countries.

The student movement was inspired by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, now nominated for a Nobel Prize two years in a row, who kicked off a global movement after she sat outside Swedish parliament every Friday beginning last August. Young people have successfully elevated the need for the environment to be included in the school curriculum.

The development of the circular economy is seen as central to reducing damage to the environment and developing positive change. In 2015 the European Commission adopted an action plan to help accelerate Europe's transition towards a circular economy, boost global competitiveness, promote sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs. The Welsh Government is currently reviewing the responses to its 2020 consultation on circular economy which includes their ambition to become world leaders in zero waste, low carbon and sharing resources fairly.

The Circular Economy for Youth or CEYOU project started at the end of 2019 in the midst of climate strikes and extinction rebellion protests. Our aim, to promote circular economy initiatives to young people as a proactive way of combating the pressing issues of climate change and sustainability.

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CEYOU Project Objectives;

To develop guidelines for the establishment of permanent forums for dialogue between youth organisations and local authorities to promote circular economy practices.

To develop and implement training programmes and activities for young people in the field of circular economy.

To promote a dialogue through bringing together organisations in the field of Circular Economy and youth organisations on a European, national and regional basis and to promote an exchange of information and best practices.

To develop initiatives and projects (including the promotion of entrepreneurial enterprises) for young people in the field of the circular economy.

To develop and exchange Open Educational Resources (OERs) for young people to support the occupational profile of a circular economy facilitator

To develop a mobile application to guide young people in setting up initiatives around the Circular Economy.



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CEYOU Work so far

The project is active in North Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Belgium, France and Wales and despite current restrictions around physical meetings has been successful in supporting and initiating a number of initiatives. In Italy a series of online Hackathons were held where youth participants worked on ideas for a circular economy business with the best ideas being taken forward for development and a prize awarded to the winning team. In Wales a younger group of environmental activists participated in online workshops to produce a guide for 'Staying Green in Quarantine' and have also been involved in the new Grow Pontypridd initiative set up by CEYOU and Friends of The Earth Pontypridd.

A youth forum for Pontypridd

CEYOU wants groups of young people to work with their local authorities and elected representatives to produce achievable action plans. The forums should tackle the following topics;

- Sustainable production schemes (products-as-services business models, eco-design, sharing economy business models)
- Sustainable consumption lifestyles (tackling food waste, consumer-producer cooperation to support local loops, neighbourhood composting practices)
- Waste management (make recycling and recovery more attractive than landfill and incineration)
- Waste as a resource (empowering repair and re-use, anaerobic digestion of organic fraction, industrial symbiosis)

The work we do in Pontypridd will be used as a case study to inform a set of guidelines and a report aimed at local policy makers and youth leaders across Europe on how to replicate and sustain these processes.

As this initial forum will be online we felt that a small group would give the young people the best chance to participate in a meaningful way. We would welcome future events with different or larger groups of young people.

[HTTP://CEYOU.EU](http://ceyou.eu)



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Outline for the events

Session 1

A workshop with CEYOU and Young Friends of the Earth to introduce the concept of the Circular Economy and the four key topics to the young participants. Young FOE compile questions to ask and pick a topic to focus on in the next session.

Session 2

A round table discussion and workshop with local MP, AM and councillor. Young FOE present their ideas for discussion and ask questions of their representatives. The whole group works together to agree an action plan with responsibilities assigned.

Session 3

The group reconvenes at a convenient date in the future to revisit the action plan, review progress and agree next steps.

