



Funded by
the European Union



YOUTH EXCHANGE: Blue Horizon: Unlocking the Potential of Blue Carbon for Climate Resilience

Location: Fethiye, Muğla | **Dates:** 25-31 October, 2026

Theme: Blue Carbon, Coastal Ecosystems, COP31 Alignment, Environmental Awareness, Robotics & AI, Youth Advocacy

1. Project Overview & Vision

Organized by [System and Generation \(Türkiye\)](#), this Youth Exchange serves as a vibrant meeting point for young people dedicated to enhancing the impact of youth-led sustainability projects across Europe and beyond. As the world prepares for the critical [COP31](#) agenda, the preservation of our oceans and coastal ecosystems has emerged as one of the most vital frontiers in the global fight against climate change. "Blue Horizon" is an immersive Youth Exchange hosted in the coastal beauty of Fethiye, Türkiye, designed to empower young people to become the next generation of "Ocean Guardians." This project focuses on the transformative potential of Blue Carbon the carbon sequestered by marine and coastal ecosystems and explores how protecting these natural sinks is essential for achieving climate resilience.

Our programme brings together young people aged 15 to 23 to bridge the gap between academic research and grassroots climate advocacy. Throughout the exchange, participants will immerse themselves in the intersection of environmental science, local biodiversity, and global policy. A highlight of the project is a specialized conference organized in collaboration with [Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University](#) (Fethiye Faculty of Business), where participants will engage directly with experts to discuss the crucial role of marine ecosystem restoration. Beyond the academic environment, the exchange offers hands-on field activities that allow participants to connect with Fethiye's unique coastal landscape, turning theoretical knowledge into practical understanding.

2. Core Themes & Multidisciplinary Pillars

The youth exchange is structured around six integrative pillars designed to address contemporary environmental challenges:

- **Blue Carbon & Coastal Ecosystems:** Exploring the role of oceans, seagrasses, and coastal wetlands as critical natural carbon sinks in alignment with [COP31](#) goals.
- **Environmental Awareness Workshops:** Practical fashion upcycling activities for environmental awareness and workshops on integrating robotic coding & AI technologies into green practices.
- **Hands-On Field Cleaning Actions:** Direct ecological field actions, including clean-up activities at Kayaköy and Çalış Beach.
- **Academic & Policy Dialogue:** Active participation in an official Environment Week event featuring speakers from the Ministry of Environment, university faculty, high school representatives, and youth leaders.
- **Community Inclusion & Solidarity Actions:** Participation in national celebrations, international student interactions, and launches for Bicycle and Disability-Friendly Businesses.

- **Youth Advocacy & Leadership:** Equipping youth with communication tools, scientific literacy, and leadership skills to translate global [COP31](#) objectives into tangible local initiatives.

3. Program Methodology

We utilize a 5-day non-formal education curriculum. Our approach focuses on hands-on experiential learning, peer-to-peer exchange, and youth empowerment. Through structured reflection sessions, coastal clean-ups, interactive AI/robotics workshops, and expert-led discussions, participants will move beyond theory to inspire one another, explore creative solutions, and foster ongoing collaboration for ocean advocacy in their local communities.

4. Participant Profile & Invitation

Participant Profile:

We welcome youth organizations, schools, and NGOs active in sustainability, environmental education, youth empowerment, non-formal learning, and community engagement. The project is open to young participants aged 15 to 23 and group leaders of all ages. To ensure meaningful engagement and quality interaction, total participant capacity is set to 35.

Invitation to Future Ocean Guardians:

Each partner organization is invited to send a delegation of **5 participants (4 young participants aged 15–23 + 1 group leader aged 18+)** to build an international network of young environmental leaders. Organizations are strongly encouraged to ensure gender balance and include young people with fewer opportunities to foster inclusive climate action.

This integration of professional knowledge and active youth engagement will establish an informal network committed to advancing Blue Carbon initiatives, driving cross-border collaboration, and delivering exceptional quality in eco-friendly youth work.

Application: Please fill out the application form at the [Link](#)

5. Venue, Logistics, & Reimbursement

Venue: Our project will take place at [Demsal Villas](#), located in the scenic coastal region of **Fethiye, Muğla, Türkiye**. The accommodation consists of fully equipped villas, where each villa features 3 comfortable bedrooms, every single one with its own private bathroom for ultimate comfort and convenience. Surrounded by Fethiye's natural beauty, this venue provides a serene and spacious environment, perfectly suited for both group reflection sessions, team-building, and communal activities throughout our Blue Carbon project.



Travel costs are reimbursed according to [Erasmus+ distance calculation](#) rules upon submission of valid travel documents (invoices, tickets, boarding passes). Travel insurance is covered up to 25 Euros.

Distance (km)	Standard Travel Amount	Green Travel Amount
10-99	28 Euro	56 Euro
100-499	211 Euro	285 Euro
500-1999	309 Euro	417 Euro
2000-2999	395 Euro	535 Euro
3000-3999	580 Euro	785 Euro
4000-7999	1188 Euro	1188 Euro
8000+	1735 Euro	1735 Euro

Note: Due to the expected high volume of applications, only selected organizations will be contacted for further steps. Thank you for your interest and commitment to quality in youth work.



<https://linktr.ee/systemandgeneration>

Contact Information

Gürkan Akçaer: +90 533 425 52 99 | **Ahmet Hamza Yüksel:** +90 545 959 09 45

Emil Shivaxanov: +994 50 272 83 38

