Mission Report

Report on European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) Presence at COP29

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Executive summary

The **European Youth Energy Network (EYEN)** significantly amplified its presence and impact at COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 - 22, 2024. With a delegation of nine volunteers, EYEN organized five side events, participated in 14 speaking engagements, and held 15 bilateral meetings with key institutions and organizations. These activities highlighted youth perspectives on critical topics such as green talent development, urban energy systems, and just energy transitions. Following COP, EYEN also welcomed four new member organizations, further expanding its reach and influence across Europe.

Despite some progress at COP29 - such as agreements on the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement - many key issues, including fossil fuel phaseouts and equitable adaptation finance, remain unresolved. EYEN leveraged its presence to advocate for stronger accountability, inclusive decision-making, and actionable solutions, building on its initiatives like the Energy Transition Careers Compass and insights from the European Youth Energy Forum.

This report offers a detailed overview of EYEN's engagement at COP29, outlining its objectives, key activities, and significant achievements. It captures the organization’s contributions to the conference, including its advocacy efforts, collaborative initiatives, and impact on global discussions around youth inclusion and energy transitions.

Moving forward, EYEN remains committed to empowering youth, fostering international partnerships, and driving meaningful contributions to global energy and climate policy.

I. What is EYEN

The European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) is the **think tank placing youth at the centre of the European energy transition**. We believe in a future where the European youth is instrumental in shaping a just and sustainable energy transition. EYEN will achieve this by building intergenerational trust, equipping youth with adequate knowledge and skills, and creating spaces for them to act.

EYEN is a **non-profit volunteer-led association now uniting 25 youth energy-focused organizations** (our Members) consisting of over 2000 young professionals and students operating in more than 15 countries at European, national, and local levels. EYEN also engages and cooperates with more than 25 international organizations, institutions, and firms to support and execute youth projects in the energy transition.
EYEN has a track record of **coordinating youth engagement at international levels** such as IRENA (IRENA Youth Council), SE4All (Youth Energy Transition Commission), UNDP-MASE Youth4Climate Initiative, RES4Africa Foundation Youth Task Force.
We participate in international conferences such as **EU Sustainable Energy Week, COP, and IRENA General Assembly**, while working closely with other global youth organizations such as Student Energy and SDG7 Youth Constituency. EYEN is also gaining experience with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for the implementation of the EU Youth Test.

Within the scope of its workstreams and dedicated projects, EYEN takes part with its own delegation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC.

II. What is COP

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established to address the growing concerns of climate change, COP meetings have been held annually since 1995 (COP1, held in Berlin). These conferences bring together representatives from nearly every country (currently 197 countries, plus the European Union), as well as observers from intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, activists and other stakeholders. The primary objective of COP meetings is to review the implementation of the UNFCCC, assess progress, and negotiate agreements and commitments aimed at mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts.

The COP meetings are structured to include plenary sessions, where all participants gather to discuss and negotiate overarching issues, as well as smaller working groups and committees that focus on specific topics such as finance, technology, and adaptation. Decisions are made by consensus, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in the final outcomes. In addition to the official negotiations, COP also features numerous side events, exhibitions, and networking opportunities, allowing participants, including companies from the private sector, to share knowledge, build partnerships, and explore innovative solutions to climate change.

COP is typically divided into two main zones: the "green zone" and the "blue zone." The green zone is open to the public and functions as an exhibition area where companies and organizations showcase their products, services and innovations to some extent related to climate change. The blue zone, reserved for badge-holders such as negotiating parties, press, and observer organizations, is where the actual negotiations take place. This area includes large rooms for plenary sessions and negotiations, as well as pavilions hosted by countries and major international organizations like UN agencies, the International Renewable Energy Agency

(IRENA), the Global Renewables Alliance, and the World Bank. These pavilions host various side events, workshops, and debates regularly.

About COP29

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 24 November 2024 (originally planned to close on 22 November). With over 55,000[1] delegates who attended (net of organizing staff and volunteers), it was the second most participated COP ever after the one held last year in Dubai, UAE (ca. 85,000 net attendees).

The original expectations on the Conference mainly revolved around the following topics:

- The definition of a **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)**, to update the previous target of 100 billion dollars of fundings from the Global North to the Global South, agreed in Copenhagen in 2009 and now deemed inadequate. Thanks to this very important objective, COP29 has gained the "nickname" of the "Finance COP";
- The finalization of an agreement regarding the **implementation of the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**, concerning carbon credits and carbon markets;
- The **reinforcement of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**, the international framework for climate adaptation established under the Paris Agreement and already discussed at COP28.

Furthermore, with the new five-year cycle of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due in February 2025, COP29 was anticipated to serve as a platform for many countries to present their updated NDCs. The conference was also expected to play a critical role in advocating for ambitious reforms to national commitments.

[1] https://unfccc.int/news/cop29-un-climate-conference-agrees-to-triple-finance-to-developing-countries-protecting-lives-and

A short summary of the Conference outcomes is provided in Section 4.

III. EYEN Presence at COP Through History

1. EYEN's Impact at COP26: Representing European youth at international fora

Conference Context

The 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), held in Glasgow, UK from October 31 to November 12, brought together governments, youth representatives, industry leaders, and researchers to accelerate climate action. At COP26, the global community focused on revisiting and strengthening Nationally Determined Contributions, phasing down coal, and mobilizing climate finance to protect the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

Three Key Outcomes of COP26:

1. **The Glasgow Climate Pact**
   Countries committed to more frequent updates of their NDCs, thereby increasing accountability and driving urgent efforts to slash emissions and pursue a net-zero future.

2. **Phasing Down Coal and Fossil Fuel Subsidies**
   Although the language shifted from "phase out" to "phase down," COP26 still marked an important step in acknowledging the necessity of reducing coal use and cutting inefficient fossil fuel subsidies to meet global climate targets.

3. **Enhanced Climate Finance and Adaptation Support**
   Parties agreed to double adaptation finance by 2025, highlighting a greater emphasis on helping the most climate-vulnerable regions adapt to and recover from climate impacts. This aimed at bridging the gap between pledged support and the substantial resources needed on the ground.

EYEN's Involvement at COP26:

- **Delegates:** 3 representatives from EYEN;
- **Side Events Organized:** 3 sessions focusing on the urban energy transition and the role of citizens in shaping local energy policies;
- **Pavilions & Venues:** Events were held at the Russian Pavilion, the EU Pavilion, and the Official UNFCCC Pavilion;
- **Partner Organizations:** YES DC, YES EU, and BRICS Youth Energy, broadening the conversation and outreach;
- **People Engaged:** Approximately 200 attendees participated in EYEN's activities, workshops, and networking opportunities.

Reshaping the Urban Energy Landscape Project:

In the push for urban decarbonization, city governments need comprehensive policy portfolios to reach their energy targets. Youth organizations, such as EYEN, can serve as intermediaries, empowering local youth groups to engage more deeply in shaping and executing city-level energy transition roadmaps.

This concept materialized through a series of key events:

- **Youth4Climate & All4Climate Events in Milan:** Prior to COP26, these gatherings provided a platform for youth to participate in workshops and training sessions, focusing on city-level policies and energy transition roadmaps. During the All4Climate workshop, participants developed urban energy transition plans for Milan, Amsterdam, and São Paulo. An interactive shared whiteboard allowed them to analyse city-specific data, identify challenges, propose solutions, and gather collective insights.

- **COP26 Event in Glasgow:** Building on the groundwork laid in Milan, the initiative continued at COP26, promoting youth-driven analysis and policy recommendations in an international forum.

Feedback & Future Directions:

Following the workshops and events, EYEN conducted a close-out review to gather feedback. This evaluation revealed that the interactive workshop tool has significant potential as a ready-to-use resource for local EYEN member organizations. It can be leveraged to:

1. Host workshops and training sessions for policy analysis and advocacy, engaging both community members and organizational boards.

2. Help generate informed analyses and policy suggestions to guide youth advocacy activities, ensuring that the voices of young people shape local decision-making in energy and climate.

By refining and distributing this tool, EYEN enables youth-led organizations to directly influence urban energy transitions, ensuring that the next generations play a meaningful and informed role in designing more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities.

2. EYEN's Impact at COP28: From small steps to leading the youth inclusion

Conference Context

The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) took place in Dubai from November 30 to December 12. It provided a global platform for countries, youth representatives, industry leaders, and researchers to discuss the urgent measures

needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Amid these high-level negotiations and dialogues, **EYEN** actively contributed to shaping discussions, offering tangible tools and strategies to support the global energy transition.

Three key outcomes stood out:

1. **The First Global Stocktake & The First Youth Stocktake**
   COP28 concluded the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, providing a comprehensive assessment of collective progress toward limiting global warming. This process highlighted where current efforts lag behind goals and helped drive commitments towards more ambitious NDCs.

2. **Operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund**
   Building on the momentum from previous negotiations, COP28 finalized the structure and operational guidelines for the Loss and Damage Fund. This fund aims to provide financial support to countries most affected by climate impacts, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive practical assistance for adaptation and recovery.

3. **Strengthened Targets for Renewable Energy and Efficiency**
   Countries agreed to scale up renewable energy deployment and enhance energy efficiency measures. By setting clear targets - such as tripling global renewable capacity by 2030 - COP28 fostered a new level of ambition, aligning governments, businesses, and civil society in accelerating the transition to cleaner energy systems.

EYEN's Involvement:

- **Delegates:** 7 representatives from EYEN;
- **Side Events Organized:** 3 events featuring youth and global stakeholders;
- **Speaking Opportunities:** 8 sessions where EYEN contributed insights;
- **People Engaged:** 1,000 people overall attendees;

- **Funding:** €5k secured for activities and initiatives.

Key EYEN Initiatives at COP28

- **Launch of the Energy Transition Careers Compass (ETCC)**
  EYEN's COP28 Task Force introduced the Energy Transition Careers Compass, an online tool designed to help youth and professionals discover opportunities and develop skills relevant to the emerging clean energy workforce. This free, continuously updated platform:
    - Maps a broad range of green energy job roles;
    - Highlights essential skills and pathways within the energy transition sector;
    - Addresses the looming talent gap in the transition to renewables and energy efficiency, where over 30 million jobs could be created by 2030 (IEA data), yet skill shortages persist.

- **High-Level Side Events and Speaking Engagements**
  EYEN organized and participated in three side events alongside our member YES-Europe. These sessions brought together stakeholders from the Global South and Global North to:
    - Emphasize the critical role of youth as stakeholders in the energy transition;
    - Present data-driven insights, essential skill sets, and case studies demonstrating how young professionals can contribute effectively to decarbonization efforts;
    - Foster dialogue on boosting youth capacity, ensuring they are prepared for future roles in clean energy systems.

- **International Collaboration and Networking**
  Beyond formal events, EYEN leveraged COP28's international stage, particularly the IRENA Pavillion, to build lasting partnerships and connect with a wide network of youth organizations and stakeholders. We gathered

more than 100 youth alongside Student Energy, YES EUROPE, Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition Youth, BRICS Youth Energy. Through these efforts:

- New avenues for collaborative projects emerged, focusing on scaling up solutions in renewable energy, storage, and energy efficiency;
- Greater awareness of the ETCC platform prompted invitations to share best practices, creating a multiplier effect in disseminating information about green career opportunities.

EYEN's Strategic Approach to Youth Empowerment

The organization's involvement at COP28 illustrates a broader vision: nurturing the next generation of climate leaders. By equipping youth with knowledge, tools, and career pathways, EYEN ensures that the energy transition is not just a technical shift but also a social, inclusive evolution where young professionals feel empowered and recognized.

Reflections from the COP28 Task Force

Members of EYEN's COP28 Task Force underscored the importance of integrating youth perspectives, stressing that:

- The transformation to net-zero economies must include a rethinking of energy access, ownership, and empowerment;
- The ETCC and similar initiatives can bridge the existing skills gap, making it easier for youth to enter and thrive in the clean energy sector.

Conclusion

EYEN's participation at COP28 marked a significant step towards ensuring that the conversation around climate solutions includes the vital ingredient of youth empowerment. By introducing the Energy Transition Careers Compass, hosting influential side events, and forging international alliances, EYEN has not only amplified youth voices at COP28 but also provided a tangible resource that helps translate climate ambition into green career action.

IV. COP29 and EYEN's Achievements

1. About COP29 – outcomes and EYEN perspective

COP29 took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, against a backdrop of intensified calls for greater ambition in both mitigation and adaptation. While countries made some forward progress - particularly on climate finance - other critical issues, like phasing out fossil fuels, were deferred, leaving many developing nations dissatisfied with the final outcomes.

Three Key Outcomes of COP29:

1. **New Climate Finance Goal Set - But Insufficient:**
   Countries agreed to a new climate finance goal of at least **$300 billion annually by 2035**, tripling the original $100 billion target set for 2020–2025. While this represents an increase, it falls short of the financial needs expressed by developing countries. Negotiators also introduced a broader aim of mobilizing **$1.3 trillion** by 2035, encompassing both the $300 billion "core" and additional finance from other sources. A "Baku to Belém Roadmap" was launched to guide efforts towards reaching this $1.3 trillion figure. The final agreement encourages steps to improve access to climate finance but remains light on specifics, leaving vulnerable countries concerned about whether these funds will reach those who need them most.

2. **Limited Progress on Fossil Fuels and Global Stocktake Follow-Up:**
   COP29 struggled to carry forward the momentum from previous climate summits that called for transitioning away from fossil fuels. Countries failed to reach consensus on how - or even whether - to formally acknowledge the need for a fossil fuel phaseout, deferring these discussions to future meetings. Similarly, disagreements persisted on how to implement key

recommendations from the Global Stocktake, with countries unable to fully align on the path forward for scaling up climate action across sectors like energy, transport, and forests.

3. **Incremental Steps on Adaptation, Loss and Damage, and Carbon Markets:**
    - **Adaptation:** Negotiators progressed on a global framework for building climate resilience, agreeing on a two-year work program to refine indicators. However, they deferred decisions on crucial details - such as how to track and ensure equitable distribution of adaptation finance - leaving major gaps in support for the most vulnerable countries.
    - **Loss and Damage:** While additional pledges were made to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), the sums remain woefully inadequate compared to the billions in annual losses predicted by 2030. Key decisions on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage were postponed to future sessions.
    - **Carbon Markets:** Countries took steps to operationalize Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, clarifying some rules for international carbon trading. Although this provides a starting point, much work remains to ensure carbon credits are credible, safeguard environmental integrity, and benefit local communities.

Other Notable Developments

- **National Climate Commitments:** A few countries, including the UAE, the UK, and Brazil, announced or updated their NDCs. While these moves offer some positive signals, the overall global trajectory remains insufficient to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

- **Cooperative Initiatives:** New coalitions and declarations were formed to accelerate methane emissions reduction, ramp up global energy storage, and enhance urban climate action. Yet, the real test will be whether these non-binding initiatives will yield measurable, on-the-ground progress.

2. About COP29 – outcomes and EYEN perspective

EYEN's Involvement at COP29

The European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) significantly expanded its presence and influence at COP29 through a variety of initiatives and engagements, explained in more detail in the next paragraphs:

- **9 Delegates:** 9 EYEN volunteers were on the ground, including members of EYEN's leadership and task force teams.

- **5 Side Events Organized:** EYEN hosted 5 events, covering topics from green talent development to youth-led transformations of urban energy systems. These were held at prime locations such as the Portuguese Pavilion, the Official UNFCCC side event rooms, and the Global Renewables Hub.

- **14 Speaking Opportunities:** EYEN representatives actively participated as speakers in 14 different events, bringing youth perspectives to discussions on green jobs, innovation in urban systems, intergenerational justice, and best practices for just energy transitions.

- **7 Partners engaged**: EYEN got the support from YES Europe and YES DC (Member organizations), Youth4Climate (UNDP / Italian Ministry of Energy), Polytechnic university of Tourin, Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), ICLEI, IRENA, GRA, EESC, Deloitte, SE4ALL, YOUNGO Energy Working Group.

- **15 Bilateral Meetings:** EYEN held 15 bilateral meetings with institutions, companies, and associations, fostering international partnerships, aligning interests, and developing pathways for long-term collaboration and funding.

- **4 New EYEN Members:** 4 new members from across Europe joined EYEN's network, strengthening its capacity to influence energy policy and support youth-led initiatives.

Reflections from the COP29 Task Force

Volunteers of EYEN's COP29 Task Force left Baku with a mix of optimism and resolve. On the one hand, the agreements reached and the continued recognition of youth engagement affirmed that progress, although incremental, is possible.

This year, we surpassed our initial targets and ambitions for EYEN's involvement at COP, and we are pleased with the results. Our presence on the ground offered a unique opportunity to directly engage with key decision-makers, allowing us to influence and contribute to meaningful policy dialogues. We recognize how fortunate we are to participate at this level, bringing the outcomes of both the European Youth Energy Forum (EYEF) 2024 - including our position paper - and the Energy Transition Careers Compass (ETCC) to the table. By connecting the dots between these initiatives, our engagement is both substantive and impactful, ensuring that our COP participation is not just symbolic, but geared towards producing tangible and ready-to-implement solutions.

On the other hand, the deferral of key decisions on fossil fuels phase out and adaptation, and the limited improvements on finance goals, underscored the urgency for deeper ambition and more inclusive processes.

EYEN COP29 Task Force members stressed the need to:

- **Push for Greater Accountability:** To ensure that finance commitments reach those most in need and that decision-making structures become more responsive to youth and marginalized communities;

- **Maintain Momentum between COPs:** With COP30 on the horizon, the Task Force emphasized building on lessons learned, strengthening coalitions among youth lead organizations, and honing youth-driven policy proposals that can tip the scales toward more decisive climate action;

- **Promote Practical Tools and Policy Solutions:** Youth advocates will continue developing and disseminating ready-to-use frameworks and analytical tools to empower local organizations, enabling them to actively influence energy transition policies in their cities and regions;

- **Include a dedicated energy negotiations track at COPs,** to implement and hold into account the commitments made at COP28 of tripling renewables capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030, while raising ambition across the energy system (cfr. Section V of this Report).

2.1 EYEN Delegation

A delegation of **9 EYEN volunteers** was on the ground at COP29 in Baku, from November 13th to 21st:

1. Federico Barbieri – EYEN president
2. Marco Gervasi – EYEN board member, development
3. Leonardo Cangelmi – COP29 task-force manager
4. Lydia Sanz Lozano – COP29 policy coordinator
5. Costanza Lopasso - COP29 task-force deputy manager
6. Vera Allue – COP29 communication
7. Pedro Sereno – ETCC manager
8. Margarida Marques – EYEF 2024 manager
9. Max Haizmann – partnerships & funding manager

2.2 Side Events Organised

EYEN Task Force organised or co-organised, in collaboration with other entities, a total of 5 side-events. Here below are outlined the key details:

1. "**Portugal at the Forefront of the Next Generation of Green Talent: Reality or Myth?**" at the Portuguese pavilion on 16/11/2024.
    - **Opening remarks** by Neuza Rosa, Coordinator of Strategy, Planning and Policy, ADENE – Portuguese Energy Agency;
    - **Panel** moderated by EYEN ETCC's Task Force Manager Pedro Sereno, with the participation of:
        - Alice Khouri, Head of Legal, Helexia Portugal & Founder, Women in ESG Portugal;
        - Francisco Ferreira, President, Zero - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável;
        - João Verdelho, Global Head of Talent Management, EDP;
        - Mariana Gomes, President, Último Recurso;

2. "**Challenges and Opportunities in the Energy Transition for the Leaders of Today and Tomorrow**" at the Portuguese pavilion on 16/11/2024.
    - **Opening remarks** by Raul Alfaro-Pelico, Director of Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA);
    - **Panel** moderated by EYEN's Pedro Sereno, with the participation of:
        - Raul Alfaro-Pelico, Director at IRENA;
        - Júlia Seixas, Pro-Rector and Energy and Climate Expert, Nova University of Lisbon (UNL);
        - Joyce Mendez, Secretary-General's Youth Climate Advisor, United Nations (UN);

- Federico Barbieri; Youth Energy Transition Commission & EYEN president.

3. "**Youth-Driven Sustainable Cities: Advancing Just Transformations of Urban Systems**", official UNFCCC side event held on 19/11/2024 and co-organized with YES Europe, Politecnico di Torino and ParyavaranMitra.
    - **Opening remarks** by Prof. Francesco Corvaro, Special Envoy of Climate Change for Italy;
    - **Master of Ceremony:** Lydia Sanz Lozano, EYEN COP29 policy coordinator;
    - **Panel I**: "Youth-Driven Innovation: Transforming Cities and Regions for a Sustainable Future" moderated by YES-Europe COP29 Team Lead Inez Brogowska, with the participation of:
        - Ayodeji Stephen - YES-Europe Concept Lead of Africa-Europe Transition Program;
        - Margarida Marques - European Youth Energy Forum Manager;
        - Simbarashe Gwenzi - Youth4Climate awardee;
        - Mahesh Pandya - ParyavaranMitra Director;
        - Efua Nyamekye Appiah - Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) Energy and Just Transition Coordinator.

    - **Panel II**: "Collaborative Pathways: Engaging Youth in the Sustainability Transition Across Sectors" moderated by EYEN COP29 Task-force Manager Leonardo Cangelmi, with 5 distinguished panellists:
        - Diandra Ni Bhuachalla - European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) COP Youth Delegate;
        - Roxáni Roushas - UNDP Youth4Climate Coordinator;

- Patrizia Lombardi - Politecnico di Torino Vice-Rector for Sustainable Campus & Living lab and President of the RUS - Rete Università Sostenibili;;
- Karishma Asarpota - ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Officer, Climate Action and Youth Engagement Liaison;
- Himanshu Banker - VIKALP Founder and Managing Director.
- A 6th panellist, Milena Megre - Researcher at the Observatory of Latin America Geopolitics of Energy (OLAGE) and co-chair at T20 (in G20 Brazil), could unfortunately not make it to the event, due to issues with her flights.

4. **"Amplifying Connections: Youth-Lead World Café for Just Energy Transition Leaders"** at the Global Renewables Hub on 20/11/2024, organized in collaboration with the IRENA Youth Council and YOUNGO Energy Working Group. 30 youth leaders registered, and additional 8 senior experts participated:
    - From IRENA: Samah Elsayed, Programme Officer - Renewable Energy Education;
    - From the Italian government: Francesco Corvaro, Special Envoy of Climate Change for Italy;
    - From WECF (Women Engage for a Common Future): Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director;
    - From the Italian government: Francesco Corvaro, Special Envoy of Climate Change Italy;
    - From Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL): Stefano Marguccio, Deputy CEO;
    - From the International Labour Organization (ILO): Olga Strietska-Ilina, Team Leader "Skills Strategies for Future Labour Markets";

- From Deloitte: Freedom-Kay Philips, Director Centre of Sustainable Progress;
- From Deloitte: Crystal Upperman, Senior Manager.

5. **IRENA institutional meeting** to facilitate communication between **IRENA's Director General Francesco La Camera**, and over 30 youth leaders, held at the Global Renewables Hub on 19/11/2024.

2.3 Additional Speaking Opportunities

Alongside the events directly hosted by EYEN, our volunteers were invited to speak and bring up EYEN's and the youth voice at 14 side events. These were organized by ministries, institutions, other youth organizations, etc.
In particular:

Marco Gervasi, EYEN board member for development, was a panellist in the following events:

- "Italy-IRENA Action for Climate toolkit" held at the Italian Pavilion on 14/11/2024, organized by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Renewable Energy Agency;
- "Youth High-Level Segment - Mediterranean Youth in Action: Leading Climate Solutions for Regional Resilience" at the Union for Mediterranean pavilion, on 18/11/2024;
- "Knowledge Transfer and Competencies to Meet Our Climate Targets" at the Greek pavilion, on 20/11/2024.

Federico Barbieri, EYEN president, spoke at:

- "How to attract youth to green innovative opportunities?", a roundtable held by Iberdrola at the Capacity Building Hub on 18/11/2024;
- "How Responsible Governance Can Catalyse Renewable Energy Financing" at Global Renewables Hub, on 20/11/2024.

Costanza Lopasso, EYEN COP29 task-force deputy manager, attended:

- "Empowering Africa's Youth for the Green Transition: Leveraging youth-led innovation to accelerate climate resilience" at the Global Climate Mobility Pavilion, on 18/11/2024;
- "International Youth Collaboration for a Just Energy Transition" at Commonwealth Pavilion, on 18/11/2024.

Vera Allue, EYEN COP29 communication specialist, intervened at:

- "The Future of Climate: The Key Role of Youth in Climate Action. Empowering the Leaders of Tomorrow at COP29" at the Italian pavilion, on 21/11/2024;
- "Empowering Young Women in the Energy Sector: Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Future" at UNIDO pavilion, on 21/11/2024.

Pedro Sereno, ETCC manager, participated to:

- "Empowering Youth for Climate Action: Ambitions, Careers, and Global Impact" at UAE Pavilion, on 18/11/2024;
- "Climate Careers and the Challenges for young people" at Portuguese Pavilion, on 18/11/2024;
- "A shared tomorrow: intergenerational justice and climate action" at Portuguese Pavilion on 18/11/2024;
- "Circular Economy and Waste Reduction: Youth Pioneering the Path to Zero Waste" at UAE Pavilion, on 18/11/2024;

Lastly, **Margarida Marques, EYEF 2024 manager**, moderated the panel "Electrifying the future: Accelerating decarbonisation through high-use public vehicles electrification" at the Portuguese pavilion, on 20/11/2024.

2.4 Bilateral meetings with associations, companies, institutions

COP29, as one of the largest global gatherings on climate action, brings together tens of thousands of people - policymakers, industry leaders, youth advocates, and experts - mostly united by a shared goal of addressing the climate crisis. In such a

dynamic setting, networking becomes more than a side activity; it is the foundation for driving meaningful collaborations, sparking innovation, and ensuring diverse voices contribute to the global conversation. EYEN seized this opportunity, organizing about 15 bilateral meetings with institutions, the private sector and youth organizations, both at a European and at a global scale.

Each of these meetings had a clear purpose. With institutions, EYEN worked to amplify youth voices in decision-making processes, emphasizing the importance of youth inclusion in shaping policies and frameworks for a just and sustainable energy future.

Meetings with companies focused on securing sponsorships and exploring avenues for collaboration, ensuring the resources and partnerships needed to scale youth-led initiatives.

Engaging with youth associations allowed EYEN to exchange ideas, strengthen connections, and expand its network, fostering a united youth movement in the energy transition. Indeed, we are glad to announce that thanks to the dissemination and the connections that were made at COP29, 4 new youth associations learned about EYEN and just joined the network, marking an excellent result. Other engaged organisations are also planning to join, but with a longer timeframe.

These targeted efforts illustrate the transformative potential of networking at COP29. By building bridges between youth and key stakeholders, EYEN not only advocated for young people's perspectives but also laid the groundwork for long-term partnerships that will drive climate and energy solutions forward. Our objective is now to build up on these first contacts that were made at COP, to establish durable and effective partnerships.

V. Call for a dedicated UNFCCC energy negotiation track[2]

At COP29, in collaboration with YOUNGO Energy Working Group and several other youth associations, EYEN laid out a **request for a dedicated energy negotiations track at the Conference of Parties, in order to implement and hold into accounts the commitments made at COP28 of tripling renewables capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030**, while raising ambition across the energy system.

Indeed, today, around 80% of anthropogenic emissions are energy-related but the current climate governance framework system still lacks mechanisms to govern energy systems effectively. The energy agenda is spread across several negotiation tracks, and often ends up deprioritized altogether. The Global Stocktake (GST), which only happens every five years, is far from sufficient.

Progress today - whether on scaling up renewables, phasing out fossil fuels, or just transition financing - more often comes out of non-negotiated agreements on the sidelines of the conference with few binding agreements. The global multilateral governance framework must do better to address the primary cause of climate change: a fossil-based energy system.

A dedicated energy negotiation track provides a unified framework that streamlines existing mechanisms, includes all relevant stakeholders and integrates key commitments made under the last GST and beyond. This would facilitate a just and equitable energy transition, decarbonizing our energy system, while providing essential access to electricity. Together, we can reshape international energy governance to be fit to cultivate a future that is secure, equitable, and sustainable.

[2] The text within this paragraph was largely taken, with some modifications, from the flyer by the same title prepared and disseminated at COP together with YOUNGO Energy Working Group and several other youth associations.

VI. Next Steps & COP30 Belém!

About COP30

COP30, set to take place in Belém, Brazil in 2025, will be a defining moment in the global climate agenda. Building on the outcomes of prior conferences and the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, countries are required to submit updated or new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by February 2025. These NDCs should reflect greater ambition, chart clearer pathways toward net-zero emissions, and ensure equitable, climate-resilient development.

The Amazonian setting underscores the urgency of protecting vital ecosystems, embracing nature-based solutions, and integrating indigenous and local knowledge. This regional focus also highlights the importance of a just and inclusive transition that respects biodiversity and fosters long-term social and economic well-being.

Why COP30 Matters

- **Enhanced Ambition:** Countries will be expected to present stronger climate targets that align more closely with the 1.5°C threshold, including rapid decarbonization, large-scale renewable energy deployment, and ecosystem restoration;

- **Implementation and Finance:** With greater demands for tangible support, COP30 will evaluate whether previous finance commitments are translating into real-world benefits. Developing countries will look for evidence of accessible, scaled-up funding, capacity-building, and technology transfer;

- **Local & Regional Context:** Holding COP30 in Belém will spotlight frontline communities facing climate impacts now. This venue underscores the need

to integrate justice, local governance, and indigenous leadership into the global climate dialogue.

EYEN's Key Objectives for COP30

Building on its growing presence in global climate forums, the European Youth Energy Network aims to deepen its impact at COP30. EYEN's strategic objectives include:

1. **Securing More Badges:** Increase the number of accredited EYEN delegates, amplifying youth voices and ensuring broader representation in critical discussions.

2. **Comprehensive Funding:** Mobilize financial resources to fully cover costs for volunteers, fostering inclusive participation regardless of economic background.

3. **Consultancy and Support Services:** Offer professional guidance to organizations and companies, helping them meaningfully integrate youth perspectives and expertise into their climate strategies.

4. **Influencing the Agenda and Outcomes:** Engage more deeply with negotiators and stakeholders to shape the conference agenda, emphasizing just transitions, equitable finance, and tangible climate solutions.

5. **Presenting Tangible Tools:** Highlight practical solutions and frameworks developed by EYEN, such as the Energy Transition Careers Compass (ETCC) and outcomes from the European Youth Energy Forum (EYEF), ensuring that youth-driven innovation translates into actionable policies and programs.

VII. Acknowledgements

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the organizations that made our participation in COP29 possible by providing us with accreditation badges. These include our valued member organizations, YES DC and YES Europe, as well as the Portuguese Pavilion and the Italian Delegation. Your support was instrumental in amplifying youth voices at this pivotal global platform.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the global network of youth energy and climate associations and organizations for fostering an environment of collaboration, inspiration, and mutual support. The stimulating conversations, productive bilateral meetings, and collective efforts remind us of the strength and potential of united action. We are excited to continue working together to achieve a more just and sustainable future.

Special thanks go to IRENA, whose unwavering support and guidance have been invaluable. Your collaboration in facilitating high-level events, bilateral meetings, and the use of the Global Renewables Hub has been crucial in advancing our mission and enabling impactful discussions with key stakeholders.

Finally, we would like to thank all the institutions, organizations, and companies we engaged with during COP29. Your interest in our mission and endeavors reinforces our commitment to driving meaningful change. We look forward to building and strengthening partnerships as we work together toward a sustainable energy future.

VIII. Call to action!

Want to join the COP30 Team - Join here!

Want to support EYEN participation? - Look here!

Want to co-develop a plan? or are you curious to discover how we can help having an impact at COPs? - Write at info@youthenergy.eu

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