



## Brokerage Event



11 OCTOBER 2019, Athens – Greece  
“Kostis Palamas”, Akadimias 48 and Sina street

12<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

# Youth Contest ‘Clean Energy in the Combat for Climate Change’

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# Introduction

- The Association of Greek Physicists (Hellenic Physical Society - E.E.F.) and the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) with the latter holding the dual status of the United Nations Academic Initiative (UNAI) Hub for the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7) and Coordinator of the Green Energy Network (GEN) of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), agree on the need to seek and implement proposals for the promotion of actions and programs relevant with the SDG7 as this is defined by the United Nations (UN).

# The Proposal

- One of these proposals that has already been launched in Greece is the Contest “Clean energy for the combat against Climate Change”. The purpose of the Contest is the creative and innovative mobilisation of young people, at national, regional and international level, in actions that promote the initiatives of the UNAI Hub for the SDG7, and lead to measurable reductions of Global Heating Gas (GHG) emissions. The ultimate aim is to increase the ambition of local communities to accelerate the "green" transformation of local economies (SDG7) as a prerequisite for economic development and support for climate change response efforts (SDG13).

# The Contest

- The “Clean energy for the combat against Climate Change” Contest is a two-year International Youth Contest in Greece to develop and implement Clean Energy (SDG7) action plans in **educational building facilities** leading to measurable GHG reductions (SDG13).
- High school/university students aggregated in groups and motivated by their professors, in close cooperation with public authorities and market forces, will develop and implement action plans. Students will not only design it on paper, but will be called to put their thinking and plans on actual execution.

# The Contest

- The first annual round of the contest awards the best national action plans. The second awards the highest achieved GHG emission reductions through these action plans. Additional awards are foreseen for the best impact in local societies. Annual summer schools are foreseen for motivators and delegates from the youth-groups.
- Further planning includes webinars for knowledge transfer for motivators and groups, a “group of excellence” from students and awards for innovative proposals.
- Outcomes will be disseminated to the countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and worldwide (UNAI Hub for SDG7).

# Target Groups

- Key activities concern all target groups. Students are expected to be multipliers for know-how in Electronic Evolution (EE) issues throughout their country, Europe & world.
- End-users: School-aged/universities students today, responsible energy-users tomorrow. Contest motivates them along with families/local societies in: behavioural change in energy use; climate change mitigation; adoption of EE technologies; dialogue within local communities for climate action.
- Local market forces: Planned actions support economic development & penetration of EE technologies/services from local market due to motivated youth.
- Municipal authorities: key activities facilitate them in achieving SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plan); exchange knowledge, experience/best practices; develop local/regional EE concepts, test them in pilot projects; share successful approaches with other entities in EU.
- Central government: 3% of the total floor area of heated and/or cooled buildings owned/occupied by central government ought to be renovated annually (EE Directive).

# Impacts

- Contribution to national targets for GHG emissions: More environmentally sensitive citizens, more effective policies.
- Establishment of a long-term coordination mechanism that activates all target groups in the educational field, not only nationally, but regionally (BSEC), European and internationally (UNAI): KEPA is the UNAI Hub for SDG7 and is able step by step to promote internationally the contest.
- Support national, regional and international efforts in meeting the long-term energy/climate goals: The contest supports SDGs & Paris Agreement targets. It channels the youth climate change protests into actions.

# Impacts

- Gradual inclusion of topics about Climate Change, EE/RES, SDGs and green economy in educational field: One of the main barriers for policy implementation is inadequate awareness and lack of knowledge on these issues. The contest creates the framework and the momentum to enrich the skills and capacities of youngsters and encourage them to think differently, while opening new horizons for future employment and professional development and fostering environmental awareness.

# Conclusion

- Energy saving is a priority of the National Plan for Energy and Climate, which was submitted to the European Commission in January 2019.
- The country has an obligation as a Member State of the European Union to contribute to joint efforts for tackling climate change and achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- The competition is an opening to the interest and awareness expressed by young people across Europe concerning energy and environmental issues, seeking to secure the future of the planet in which we live.
- We only have one planet and we must take care of it!

*Thank you very much!*

<https://youthcontestzeroenergyschools.wordpress.com>