

# Subsection 1: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

## Article 1: Young Citizen Science for climate protection and ESD. The climate station network of UNESCO Associated Schools

*Klaus Schilling, German Commission for UNESCO*

In the climate station network of UNESCO Associated Schools, which was set up by the German Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Heidelberg UNESCO Chair of Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund and dm-drogerie markt, 13 schools are active with their climate/weather stations set up during the project period. The schools work together in these joint events to promote climate protection and education for sustainable development (ESD). Highlights include the annual climate camps for students from the UNESCO Associated Schools in Heidelberg and the observation tasks to collect local climate data. The data from eight stations in the network is already available to the public and can therefore also be used by other partners and stakeholders in the local communities.

The Paul Robeson School is using its climate station in a joint project with the Leipzig Botanical Garden to closely analyse the annual development stages of eleven different plants. The data on germination, the first leaves, flower formation, fruit formation and wilting of the plants are precisely recorded. This data is compared with the physical measurements from the climate station and can then be put in relation to climate change over the years. For example, the schools collect data on local apple blossoms throughout Germany. The data recorded on this can then be compared with the data series from the climate stations on temperature and precipitation trends. Together with the support of the UNESCO Chair team, the data series are analysed and processed in a Germany-wide comparison of the different locations. The network's online events and the multi-day climate camps in Heidelberg provide an important forum for this. The measurement data can be used to visualise the specific consequences of climate change on site and inform the local public accordingly.

The examples of the observation assignments in the climate station network show how the work with the climate stations functions in terms of a research-oriented, science-propaganda approach and the value of such collaborations in Young Citizen Science projects for all sides. dm-drogerie markt is also actively involved in the project and has set up its own climate station on the grounds of the company headquarters in Karlsruhe. In line with the Whole School Approach of the UNESCO Associated Schools, the climate stations are embedded in a corresponding school and lesson development programme as well as close cooperation with school authorities, local authorities and other local initiatives in order to promote sustainable development for a climate-neutral school and society.

The commitment of young people also plays a key role here. At the annual camps and online events, they can network with each other and share important experiences and insights - for example, on the establishment of climate parliaments or participation in municipal youth parliaments. Together with the municipal climate protection officers, a separate online event was also held in 2022 to highlight the potential of climate stations as an anchor for climate-friendly local development. Together, the interdisciplinary network of all participants is thus making a contribution to ESD and climate protection. In the future, data from other locations in the global network of UNESCO Associated Schools and the Young Climate Action for World Heritage project will also be added.

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***„ More trilateral exchange is needed to share ideas and find solutions, be it in the form of volunteering, internships, university or research programmes“***

*A participant of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Youth Conference*

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## **Article 2: Trilateral Wadden Sea Youth Conference**

*Simone Prestes Dürrnagel, Joint Wadden Sea Secretariat*

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Youth Conference (TYC) promoted youth ownership by raising awareness, sharing insights on existing young adult engagement and identifying their interests and visions for cooperation. The conference took place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 in St. Peter-Ording, Germany, and brought together 46 young adults from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands who were already involved or passionate about the Wadden Sea World Heritage. The conference was attended by young people from different backgrounds - students, volunteers, young professionals and entrepreneurs. "The TYC was a great opportunity for us young people who are committed to the Wadden Sea to network, stay in touch and continue to work on expanding existing projects and increasing the impact of youth on the conservation of the Wadden Sea," said one of the conference participants.

The event was organised by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) on behalf of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) and supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). The Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park Authority hosted the event on site. The event was moderated by Anja Szczesinski from WWF Germany, Irina Bartmann, moderator and coach, and a team from the UNESCO Chair for Futures Literacy at the University of Hanze and One Resilient Earth (ORE).

The stakeholders were in regular dialogue for three months in order to increase their influence on the protection of the Wadden Sea. The follow-up process was both youth-orientated and youth-led, and was coordinated by the CWSS. The CWSS organised a series of webinars on the history and work of the cooperation, coordinated the network for sustainable tourism in the region and presented examples of youth engagement on an international level. The UNESCO Chair and ORE developed mentoring sessions to support the elaboration of the message the young people want to convey and to explore presentation formats. The young adults organised working groups to refine their perspectives, communicate successes and prepare contributions for the 14th Trilateral Governing Conference (TGC14), which took place in Wilhelmshaven at the end of November 2022.

At TGC14, the young people's contributions were presented by 16 representatives in the form of a speech and an exhibition. They also discussed further opportunities with the members of the Wadden Sea National Park Board. Their main messages covered topics such as conservation of the area, sustainable economic practices, communication and education, transformation and youth participation. In addition, they are building a trilateral youth network to continuously involve and connect young adults in the three countries and represent them in political decision-making processes. The detailed organisational structure, an online platform and other activities are currently being planned.