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From Science to Action: Youth Advocacy and Research for Effective Climate Change Policies

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Abstract

Scientific research is essential for developing effective climate change policies, yet a significant gap remains between knowledge generation and policy implementation. Bridging this gap is crucial for informed decision-making, but challenges persist in translating scientific insights into actionable policies due to political inertia, communication barriers, and the complexity of integrating interdisciplinary data. A new generation of young climate experts is emerging to address this issue, not only through activism but actively engaging in research, policy analysis, and advocacy. These young professionals play a key role in shaping climate governance by ensuring that scientific evidence informs regulatory frameworks and decision-making processes at multiple levels.

This intervention will explore the role of youth-led organizations composed of researchers and policy analysts who contribute to climate governance by producing scientific reports, evaluating regulatory frameworks, and fostering direct dialogue with decision-makers. These groups work to integrate climate science into policy discussions, ensuring that decisions are both evidence-based and forward-thinking. Their contributions go beyond awareness-raising, as they actively participate in drafting legislative proposals, advising institutions, and ensuring that climate policies align with scientific recommendations. By engaging in technical assessments, publishing policy briefs, and collaborating with international bodies, these experts enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of climate policies.

The growing need for young professionals with critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of climate governance is evident. Strengthening the science-policy interface requires investment in education, interdisciplinary collaboration, and structured mechanisms for youth inclusion in decision-making processes. By equipping emerging experts with both technical knowledge and advocacy skills, we can accelerate the integration of climate science into governance. This will help build more resilient and sustainable policies for the future, ensuring that climate action is guided by robust scientific evidence while being responsive to societal needs and political realities.

Keywords

Science-policy interface; climate governance; youth expertise; research and advocacy; policy engagement; sustainability policies; knowledge transfer; environmental decision-making; interdisciplinary collaboration; climate action.

Biography (150 words limit)

I am an environmental scientist specialized in climate change adaptation, public advocacy and the analysis of sustainability and climate action policies at the European Union and International levels. I am currently Deputy Director of Training at *Europa Sostenible* -at a youth-led organisation called *Equipo Europa*-, where I lead initiatives to train young people in environmental governance and participation in decision-making.

My work focuses on bridging the gap between scientific research and policy formulation, ensuring that decisions on sustainability and climate change are evidence-based. I have participated in the drafting of technical reports, environmental impact assessments, and environmental licensing processes, as well as collaborated on interdisciplinary projects related to climate resilience.

Through my experience in training and policy analysis, I am to strengthen the role of new generations in climate governance, promoting their access to decision-making spaces and their ability to influence environmental policies based on scientific knowledge.

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