

FOUNDATION YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

RAIL TO THE COP

During the first quarter the focus of YFST laid on evaluating Rail to the COP internally with volunteers, with committed participants and with partners. We did so through group meetings and one-on-one conversations.

Besides evaluations there were some administrative tasks to be done and some communication efforts to participants, on social media and to partners.

TIME TO EXPLANE

In early 2022, ExPlane focused on recruiting new volunteers to be able to further expand its reach and ensure continuity after some former members were less active. This resulted in the publishing of a number of possible positions as well as meetings presenting Explane's work (one public, two for those who had contacted ExPlane and voiced interest in participating), which were advertised using its social media platforms as well as existing network. Two meetings also involved Latin American activists as one goal had been to diversify the perspectives within the organization itself. While exchange with these activists and other interested individuals was enriching for active members, it unfortunately did not result in lasting collaborations.

The rest of the year was shaped by ExPlane's involvement in the Stay Grounded project Reframe, Rethink, Reshape, which included the launch of the Common Destination Guide that focused on "reframing aviation to ensure a safe landing and lay the tracks towards a fair planet", as well as the building of a so-called multiplier network throughout Europe. Explane's engagement concentrated on the latter part, more specifically targeting the academic sector. ExPlane members co-developed material for a training module on grounding organizations, giving feedback especially in the context of research and higher education institutions.

Together with Stay Grounded and representatives from other partner organizations (Robin Wood in Germany and Ecologistas en Acción in Spain), two of ExPlane's members participated in an in-person meeting in Paris from 02 - 04 March 2022. This "Train the Trainer" gathering served to discuss early versions of the modules and their respective powerpoint presentations, general strategies for project communication, as well as important considerations for workshop facilitation. After the integration of feedback from this meeting, the five modules and their material were tested in virtual trial runs in April 2022.

Once all material for the training addressing climate justice and aviation, and its successful communication had been finalized, project partners set out to find suitable participants that would later become 'multipliers' knowledgeable on the topic and able to take over workshop requests and spread the message on their own. ExPlane conducted two training sessions with three modules respectively in June and November / December, which had eight participants throughout the sessions and resulted in five trained multipliers for ExPlane. Due to its project involvement, ExPlane's earlier weekly-meetings were replaced by more task-based meetings from April 2022.

Other meetings and events that ExPlane participated in included an exchange with researchers from ICTA - Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University Barcelona (March, 2022) working on practical solutions for reducing academic air travel, a virtual workshop on Academic aeromobility in a post-pandemic future (March, 2022) hosted by the Tyndall Center for Climate Change Research, and the panel discussion Erasmus Goes Green! Empowering sustainable exchange (June, 2022) organized by Erasmus University Rotterdam. ExPlane was further approached by the Dutch European Climate Pact country coordinator, Fons Janssen, who presented the Climate Pact and its role in connecting European stakeholders for climate action during a meeting, and discussed possibilities for ExPlane as an organization in August 2022.

ANTI-RACISM

At COP26 in Glasgow several volunteers of our group had dialogues about racism within the climate movement and in spaces like UNFCCC's COP. We therefore committed, as a collective of volunteers related to YFST, to get educated and educate ourselves on racism and acts of antiracism. This included reading groups and dialogues amongst each other in Q1 and Q2.

LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CLIMATE SCHOLARSHIPS

In Q4 we were approached by one volunteer of YFST, who was involved in both Sail to the COP and Rail to the COP, with a new project idea. She had already developed some ideas for this project with 3 others and we decided to take-up the initiative in 2023. The overall aim of this project is to achieve meaningful, inclusive and continuous involvement of Latin American BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) youth in international climate spaces. Therefore, the scholars will get the opportunity to attend three different conferences. <https://www.laycs.org/>