What Can Youth Do On Environmental Governance?

Tirana and Shkodra, ALBANIA
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The #YouthTrail is organized within the framework of the project “Youth in Focus II: Promoting the Role of Youth in Peace and Security in Albania” – implemented by the OSCE Presence in Albania with funding from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Embassy of Greece in Albania, and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE.

In light of the environmental changes the world is facing, good environmental governance is a pivotal theme for the public and private sectors, as well as communities.

Environmental preservation as a cornerstone of sustainable development implies action from all society structures and national and international actors.

Environmental co-operation can help build trust and confidence and contribute to sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development further reinforced this close link by stating that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”.

Good environmental governance, including transparency, accountability, stakeholder dialogue, and public participation, has emerged as a cross-cutting issue in the thematic work of the OSCE.
The OSCE, in close collaboration with international partners such as UNEP, UNDP, UNECE, has been supporting the implementation of Aarhus Convention through the establishment and support of Aarhus Centers in 15 participating States, three of them in Albania.

Because environmental challenges are often transboundary in nature, the OSCE mainly through its office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), promotes dialogue and co-operation on environmental issues at transboundary level.

The OSCE has been supporting its participating States to promote and strengthen environmental governance, building on the convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters since 2002.

8th Edition of Youth Trail: What Can Youth Do On Environmental Governance?
The OSCE Presence in Albania acknowledges the crucial role of youth as change agents and encourages Albania’s youth to develop their skills and capacities, as well as participate by speaking out on topics that are crucial to youth both inside and outside of the country.

Since 2017, the OSCE has supported these flagship initiatives by building the capacities of young people from the region in a number of contemporary youth-relevant topics, such as security, media, intergenerational dialogue and many more.

The focus of this Youth Trail is on young people’s participation and action in environmental governance, and on the keen interest of young people in the area in taking environmental issues further. Anchoring in the believe that sustainable development is prerequisite for peace and security, this activity aims to increase the capacity of young people to understand inter-connections as well as the components of environmental governance together with its implication and inter-relation of the public, private and the civil society sector.

Furthermore, it will evoke the local, national and regional aspect of environmental governance through sharing the experience on environmental challenges and opportunities of Shkodra Municipality in Albania.

The complexity of environmental governance will be filtered through the lens of good practices that ease access to information for youth, raise youth and public participation in decision-making and access to justice for environmental matters.