

Gefördert durch



Finanziert von der
Europäischen Union
NextGenerationEU



Bundesministerium
Land- und Forstwirtschaft,
Klima- und Umweltschutz,
Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft



CHANGEMAKER #NATURE – YOUTH LEAD THE CHANGE



EMPOWER YOUNG LEADERS TO RESTORE AND PROTECT NATURE

TRUST IN
YOUTH

UNLOCK
ENERGY AND
CREATIVITY

BRIDGE
RURAL & URBAN
YOUTH
ORGANSIATION

Bringing together people who are dedicated to agriculture, nature conservation and climate protection and private sector

Support activities for non-profit-organisations and youth Initiatives

Strengthen civil society engagement

Boosting knowledge and capacity for biodiversity in youth organisations





INTRODUCTION TO CHANGEMAKER #NATURE

Financial and Educational Support

Funding of € 500,000 supports projects, while workshops and media training equip participants with essential skills and provision of experts

Inclusive Decision-Making

Youth are integrated into decision-making, allowing them to influence sustainable development policies effectively. The Jury is the decisive body.

Strong Program Backing

The initiative is co-financed by the Austrian Biodiversity Fund and NextGenerationEU, ensuring impactful ecological change.



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GOALS OF THE INITIATIVE

Youth Empowerment

The initiative empowers youth aged 14 to 27 to actively engage in biodiversity conservation and climate action.

Habitat Restoration

Focus on restoring and protecting endangered biotopes and natural habitats to preserve biodiversity.

Sustainable Development

Promotes sustainable practices and raises public awareness about ecological and climate issues.

Climate Resilience Contribution

Aligns youth efforts with Austria's goals for ecological preservation and climate resilience.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT STRUCTURE



9/19/2025

5

Financial Support for Youth Projects

The initiative allocates over €300,000 over three years to fund biodiversity-focused youth projects, with up to €10,000 per project.

Structured Funding Calls

Funding is distributed through three calls, with the final call opening on September 18, 2024, providing multiple opportunities for applicants.

Inclusive Selection Process

A two-stage evaluation includes expert screening followed by a youth jury aged 14 to 27 to ensure scientific and youth perspectives.

Comprehensive Support Network

Supported by partners providing a strong network to aid youth-led environmental initiatives and foster collaboration.



ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Participant Eligibility

Young individuals aged 14 to 27 and youth organizations in Austria are eligible to participate in the initiative.

Project Focus Areas

Projects should aim to restore endangered habitats and support biodiversity and climate protection efforts.

Inclusive Participation

The program welcomes a broad range of youth groups, fostering diverse perspectives and innovative ecological solutions.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDED PROJECTS

Project Funding and Selection

41 projects

110 hectares biotope effect

578.862 € total costs of projects

306.323,51 € funding from Blühendes Österreich and Biodiversity Fund & EU NextGen

Habitat Restoration Efforts

Projects focus on restoring dry grasslands, wet meadows, salt marshes, and orchard meadows to promote biodiversity.

Protection of Endangered Species

Initiatives protect endangered birds like Auerwild and Rebhuhn and rare plants such as Helm-Knabenkraut and Große Kuhschelle.

Youth-led Environmental Impact

Young changemakers demonstrate creativity and commitment in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.





JURY AND SELECTION PROCESS

Preliminary Expert Review

Experts from Blühendes Österreich conduct an initial review to shortlist promising project proposals.

Youth Jury Composition

A diverse jury of up to twelve young people aged 14 to 27 evaluates shortlisted projects, ensuring youth representation. Application through partner Youth Organisations

Evaluation Criteria

Projects are assessed based on ecological impact, feasibility, and innovation, combining scientific and community standards.

Empowering Youth Decision-Making

This inclusive process empowers youth to make meaningful decisions in environmental governance.



CHANGEMAKER ACADEMY

Comprehensive Skill Building

The academy offers workshops and training in project management, communication, and advocacy to empower changemakers.

Networking and Collaboration

Participants engage in networking opportunities fostering collaboration and experience sharing to amplify their impact.

Youth Leadership in Ecology

The academy nurtures youth leadership, preparing participants to lead long-term ecological change initiatives effectively.



IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

*they don't just
plant trees*

Projects and activities in National Parks, 2 Biosphere Reserves, 5 Nature Parks and 12 NATURA 2000 Areas

Youth Empowerment

- Young people founded organisations
- Young people increased members and supporters
- Young people leveraged more fundings
- Young people started professional co-operations with municipalities and LEADER-Managements

Public Awareness and Connectivity

Projects enhance ecological connectivity and raise awareness about environmental challenges among the public.

SPECIES AND HABITAT IMPACT

they don't just
plant trees

- Hummel-Ragwurz (*Ophrys sphegodes*) Rote Liste Österreichs: EN (stark gefährdet)
- Feuchtwiesen-Prachtnelke (*Dianthus superbus* L. subsp. *Superbus*)
- Baumschläfer (*Dryomys nitedula*) FFH-Richtlinie (Anhang IV) und Berner Convention (Anhang III)
- Wachtelkönig (*Crex crex*) (Ennstal) Red List Austria: CR
- Alpen-Kammolch (*Triturus carnifex*) Rote Liste Österreich: VU (gefährdet), FFH-List
- Auerhahn (*Tetrao urogallus*) Red List Austria : VU (gefährdet), FFH
- Mopsfledermaus (*Barbastella barbastellus*) Red List Austria: (VU)



THANK YOU

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“Young people willing to push super hard to make something happen are among the most powerful forces in the world.”