Gefördert durch



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

















## EMPOWER YOUNG LEADERS TO RESTORE AND PROTECT NATURE

TRUST IN YOUTH

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.





## **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

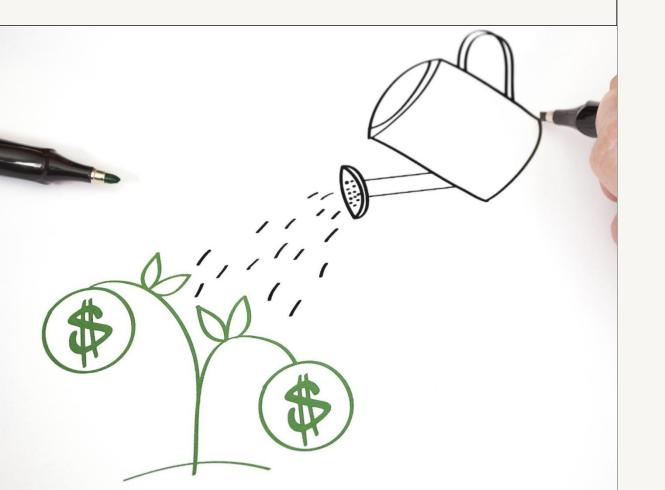
Promotes sustainable practices and raises public awareness about ecological and climate issues.

#### **Climate Resilience Contribution**

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

9/19/2025

## FUNDING AND SUPPORT STRUCTURE



#### 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.

FOOTER TEXT 9/19/2025

# 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.

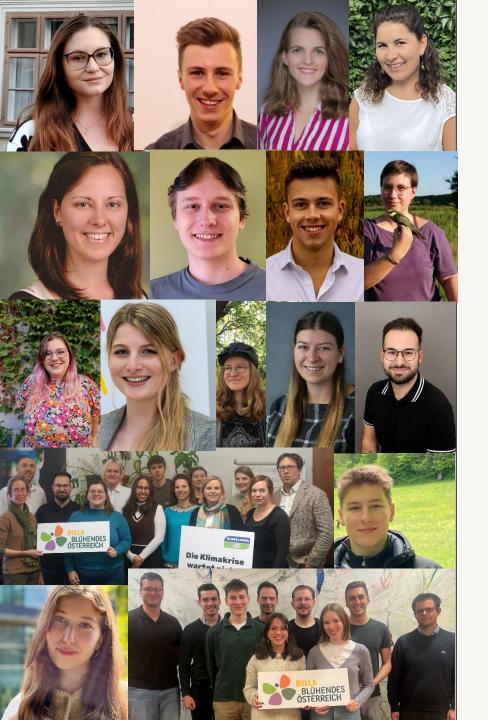
#### **Protection of Endangered Species**

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

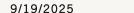
The academy offers workshops and training in project management, communication, and advocacy to empower changemakers.

#### 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.



they don't just

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# IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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

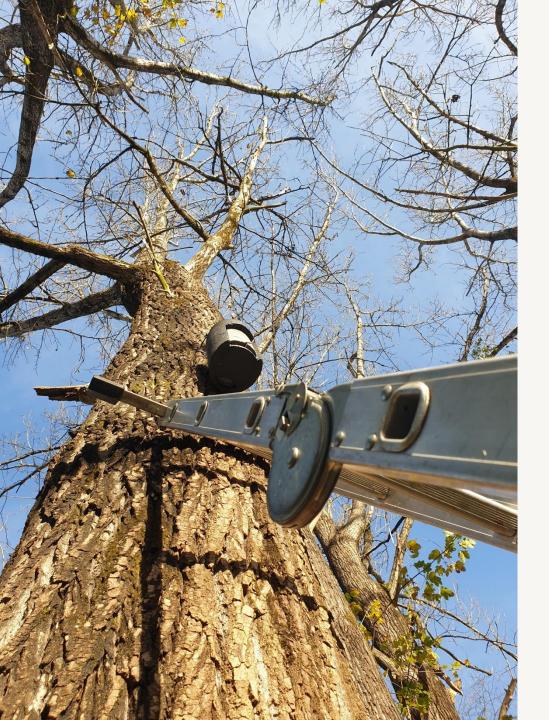
#### Youth Empowerment

- 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-Kammmolch (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**

Ronald Würflinger

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