

## Call for applications - « Youth for Energy Futures » Program

### Trinational study tour in France, Germany, and Italy



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*The publishing of the sixth IPCC report in spring 2022 recalls the extreme emergency to take significant measures to tackle climate change. The devastating impacts of climate change are already noticeable on all continents and as the temperature rises the situation is going to exacerbate, impacting especially populations that are already vulnerable.*

*To prevent a climate catastrophe, we need to amplify ecological and energy transition to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This requires deep changes in our energy mix and in numerous economic sectors that will affect the whole society at the risk of social upheavals if those changes are not anticipated and accompanied by governments and local authorities. In a nutshell, our society faces the important challenge of realizing in a very short time slot an ecological and energy transition that is socially just. That means choosing a system that distributes equally the efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and thus reduces social inequalities instead of exacerbating them.*

### Project presentation

The project “Youth for Energy Futures” offers an opportunity to identify solutions to meet the European climate goals by enabling 12 young adults from France, Germany, and Italy to participate in an exploration process based on study tours and workshops in all three countries. Field trips and meetings with local actors will allow them to discover the diversity of local and national issues that must be considered when engaging the European energy and ecological transition.

The project focuses on energy and ecological transition in the industry and energy sectors. Therefore, the regions that will be visited are characterized by an important industrial history marked by profound economic and social transformations: the Hauts-de-France region in France, the Rhin-Ruhr area in Germany and the Piedmont region in Italy. This gives the opportunity to visit former industrial sites, as well as current plants that are in operation or engaged in transformation process. The participants will be invited to learn from the past experiences of the visited territories to project themselves into the future by identifying solutions to the ecological and social challenges our societies are confronted with.

## Practical information

The project is based on four workshops that will take place between September 2022 and June 2023:

1st session	18th to 24th September 2022	Study tour in the Hauts-de-France region (France) during the first half of the week. Collective journey to Germany in the middle of the week. Study tour in the Rhin-Ruhr area during the second half of the week.
2nd session	In December 2022, half-day <i>Dates to be defined with the participants</i>	Digital meeting: workshop and discussions about the insights of the first session.
3rd session	In March 2023, five days <i>Dates to be defined with the participants</i>	Study tour in the Piedmont region (Italy).
4th session	In June 2023, half-day <i>Dates to be defined with the participants</i>	Digital meeting: closing session including an exchange with European actors on the identified solutions.

The travelling, accommodation and catering fees will be fully covered by the organizers of the project. The participation is entirely free for the participants. In return, the participants agree to contribute to the program by:

- Providing presentations on energy and climate issues in their home country;
- Providing an overview of the necessary technical vocabulary in French, German, Italian and English;
- Working out a resume of solutions for the closing sessions with European actors.

The participants will also be asked to keep an observation journal (impression, reflections, questions) and to write a report at the end of each session.

## Application process

The project is intended for young adults (18 to 27 years old) living in France, Germany, or Italy. We are looking for participants interested in energetic and ecological transition, social justice issues and intercultural exchange. Good English skills are necessary to follow the program and to assure that communication is possible between all participants.

To submit your application, send an curriculum vitae and a motivation letter in English to [rwangler@virage-energie.org](mailto:rwangler@virage-energie.org)

Deadline for application: 31th May 2022

## Project organizers

Specialized in energetic and societal projection, the NGO **Virage Énergie** realizes science awareness-building and decision-making tools since 2006. Furthermore, Virage Énergie supports public actors in the definition of strategies to create a sufficient and sustainable society. Based in France, Virage Énergie also contributes to the elaboration of European cooperation project on energy and climate issues.

The Heinrich Böll Foundation which has its premises in Berlin is one of the main German political foundations. As a think tank for green visions and projects, it disposes of a worldwide network with currently 30 international offices and promotes exchange and cooperation on the issue of just ecological transition, especially between civil society actors. The **Heinrich Böll Foundation's Paris office** contributes to the strengthening of French-German, Italian-German and European cooperation.