11-year-old Finlay Pringle, climate activist from Scotland addresses the audience during the closing press conference.
Greta (16), student from Sweden.
Participants display newly created poster in anticipation of the March in Lausanne
Day 5 – practicing for the March at University of Lausanne (UNIL) – Sorge campus
Day 5 – Getting ready to march
Ready to go!
Practising the chants learned in the workshop.
Day 5 – Before leaving UNIL / Sorge Campus, and taking the Metro to march for the Climate
Day 5 – Leaving UNIL – Scenes from the March for the Climate, SMILE Summit, August 2019 – Lausanne.

Metro – Lausanne
Profile on a Participant

Spain: The New ‘Indignados!’ on Ecology are younger and younger

by MCP

For África Clota, a university student from Spain, and indeed for many participants, mobility is an important issue. Says África: “In Girona, to go to the university with my bike, there is no reserved bike lane on a sustained basis – all of a sudden the bike lanes just disappear. So you find yourself on the road, because there is no other option.”
Regarding the current wave of strikers in her country, África notes that “in Spain some time ago there was the ‘Indignados!’ movement, which now resurfaces but with an over-arching theme which is the environmental crisis. However, it is not only an ecology movement, it is also concerned with refugees, economic precariousness, inequality... Its perspective is intersectionality.”

The people joining this more recent movement in Spain are younger and younger. “There are two Scottish students here at the conference, and they are 9 and 11 years old!” she exclaims suddenly, with emotion.

In some countries, there is a prohibition on minors striking from school, and this was one of the topics students placed on the agenda for the week, on Day 1. África explains that in Spain, there are growing numbers of university students who strike for the climate. She calculates that in some universities the number has reached 50% of the student body. In high schools in Girona, however, students must obtain the signature of their parents and the class teacher, which makes it more difficult to participate. “If only the faculty had a higher level of climate awareness,” she sighs.

This student believes striking once a week is excessive for secondary school students, but “once a month, yes” she says. In her opinion students who ask for the required signatures from parents and teachers and don’t obtain them, should consider demonstrating for the climate during their free time.

She reflects on another issue: a significant number of participants in the SMILE event come from rural regions, where there is now the thorny problem of migration to urban areas. “We cannot look for solutions in the cities, which don’t have the tools (for sustainability),” she says insistently. “We must listen to the people who have a relationship to Nature. If development must take into account the limits of Nature, then we have to see how these people have been living over centuries.”
Profile: A 22-year entrepreneur creates sustainable fashion apparel

“Understanding the textile industry’s carbon footprint was a trigger for me.”

by MCP

“Movements for social change there have already been in history,” says Mikel I., from País Vasco, Spain, “but we haven’t seen a young person like Greta with such force and innocence at the same time. She is such a small girl, but she has so much strength. She is so ‘above’ it - and she needs to get it out.”

Mikel takes a pause after ‘getting out’ his admiration for Greta Thunberg. He then begins to explain his own, personal journey to ecological awareness.

“I was studying in London two years ago, and it was a setting for so much learning! The London School of Economics allowed for a great deal of critique of existing models,” he explains. “I learned about the need for supply change, especially in the textile industry which has such a high impact on the environment. We dress without any awareness of this..”

Mikel loves fashion, and understanding the textile industry’s carbon footprint was like a trigger for him. So now Mikel has created a new clothing brand which is both sustainable and ethical, and has received an eco-label for sustainability. The motto of the company is: ‘The decisions we take define

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1 Sustainability in this context is defined as fair trade, dignified working conditions, and organic, non-toxic, sustainable materials & packaging.
who we are. At our company we think we need to take care of the planet and of people.’

This enthusiastic 22-yr old entrepreneur is convinced that living, producing and consuming within Nature’s limits is actually an opportunity. “There are huge opportunities for innovation! It is already happening, in solar energy, in other fields. We’re going toward a completely new world.”

“I believe the concept of the circular economy will change the world. Ownership is the critical issue. Imagine if we don’t own our washing machine, or our printer. They don’t belong to you.”

Mikel is referring to the concept of the circular economy whereby, once the life-cycle of a durable (ie, long-lasting) product reaches its end, the company is responsible for re-using the parts and components to create other products in a regenerative process that is circular, rather than linear and waste-producing as is the case in our current economic system. The person using the original product has access to a replacement product conceived in the same regenerative model of production.2

In contrast to innovative ideas like the circular economy, advocating ‘Living Simply’ is a minimalist approach, Mikel says, that won’t appeal to many people. “If we say to them that we will have to give up our comforts, people won’t want Change. Of course, we might have to give up some things,” he concedes momentarily. However, he is convinced an exciting world of innovation is waiting out there.

“What we have to do is to create a narrative that includes them,” he concludes.

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2 For more information on the circular economy see https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/concept
Mikel I. (22), from Basque country in Spain, had his ‘ecological awakening’ when he attended the London School of Economics: “We had huge discussions there about capitalism, what it is, how it works. There were a lot of points of view!”
“My perspective is that we have to start trying new things. Personally, I relate everything to business. In business, it’s not just theories. Rather, there are three factors for success: execution, execution, execution,” says Mikel.
“There are huge opportunities for innovation. It’s already happening (…) Industry is going to change. We’re moving to a completely new world.”
Youth unite behind core declaration

European ‘SMILE for Future’ Summit demands

Climate Justice and Equity

by Marie-Claire Pret

The week-long conference held in Lausanne from August 5 to 9 ended with 450 FFF activists from mostly European countries united behind a core declaration and three fundamental demands directed to those in power:

- Ensure climate justice and equity.
- Keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial levels.
- Listen to the best united science currently available.

The document is a non-binding statement by SMILE participants on consensually approved points during the week and, along with the “SMILE Working Papers” elaborated during the meeting, will support the international Fridays For Future (FFF) movement in the months to come.

According to organizers, the evolving grassroots movement illustrates “on the one hand, the acute need to pull the emergency break against the inaction of the governments by means of civil disobedience such as striking” in schools and elsewhere. “On the other hand, it seeks just as much to understand and debate the foundations of a sustainable society and the rules leading to and enabling such a transformation.”

The next stage of the Fridays for Future movement will be what is being dubbed the largest climate strike mobilisation in history. Participants of the summit and activists in many countries are organizing a wave of climate strikes this coming September surrounding the UN Climate Summit. “Pressure on the UN, national decision makers and those in power will be increased and brought to a new level,” state organizers of the summit. “This will be the first General
and Global Strike for Climate; students and workers will stand together in unity for a sustainable future for our planet”.

“The creativity, commitment, enthusiasm I saw over the past two days among these young people, inspired by Greta Thunberg, give me hope for the future of climate action. The IPCC report, however important it is, can quickly be hidden in a drawer. Those young people looking at political leaders and company CEOs in the eyes, asking them to act to save their future, are much more difficult to ignore. Their work helps the work of the IPCC scientists in an extraordinary way.”

Prof. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (@JPvanYpersele), Université Catholique Louvain, Belgium, Former IPCC Vice-Chair

Full Consensus reached on the Declaration of Intent
by MCP

The declaration below reached full consensus, meaning that no voting participant raised an objection.

“We have come together in Lausanne because we care.

We are at a crossroads in history. The collapse of our society and our ecosystems are on the horizon and time is running out. What happens in the next months and years will determine how the future of humankind will look like. Our collective extinction is a scarily realistic outcome.
Politicians all over the world are ignoring the emergency. But we have decided that we cannot wait any longer. We have come together in Lausanne because we are united by our common fears and goals and the time to act is now. We care about the future.

In five days of international exchange in Lausanne we have discovered that we have differences. We are all individuals, coming from 38 different countries, talking in 29 different languages, living 421 different lives and calling upon 38 different governments to take action. There are people in this world who will try to use this in order to drive us apart. This is why we have decided to show them that our united vision is stronger. In our hearts we all carry the same concerns, goals and values and they connect us in every moment, no matter where we are and what challenges we face. The climate crisis knows no borders and neither do we.

Together we will change this world for the better. For us and for all generations to come.”

‘Working papers’ will be available to grassroots groups for input.

Demands that did not reach complete consensus in line with the decision-making process of the movement, but which gathered support from about 95% of participants, were collected in an annex that will be made available to local groups for improvement and ratification.

"I attended the IPCC Plenary meeting in Geneva, then came to address the Smile for Future summit in Lausanne. The IPCC adopted a landmark report, that will change the way agriculture, forests, biodiversity and soils will be managed in a changing climate. The SMILE group, while younger, adopted a landmark set of resolutions, which will help influence and change the way climate action takes place in Europe. Both achievements are remarkable.”

Prof. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (@JPvanYpersele), Université Catholique Louvain, Belgium, Former IPCC Vice-Chair
Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele seen among students at the Lausanne Climate March, August 2019.
DANES FOR FUTURE
Le poison du plastique n’épargne pas le Léman.
THE BEST KEPT SECRETS OF THE SWISS BANKING SYSTEM

- 90% of all the money flowing in our society are created by the banks through credit, only 10% are created by the government, the coins and notes.
- Because the Swiss banks create the vast majority of the money, they have the power to control the direction of our society.
- The Swiss banks create money out of nowhere. It is literally magic, and on top of that, they ask for interests. With a system like that, growth is inevitable.
- To have the money and the interests of a loan paid back, the Swiss banks need to invest the money into profitable enterprises and therefore into fossil-fuels activities. Like Credit Suisse and UBS which emitted 93.9 millions of tons of CO2 (2014, Greenpeace).
- The Swiss government itself, through the central bank SNB, was responsible for the emission of 48.5 millions of tons of CO2 (Report 2017, Les Artisans de la Transition).

→ This is one of the major cause for the actual climate crisis, often underestimated.

→ The solution on a national level is to divest and give the money creation back to common interest.

→ The solution on an individual level is to take your money out of the banks. They will crash anyways.
Young Climate Activists Thanked IPCC Climate Scientists for their Dedication and Commitment

*Geneva, Switzerland, 8 August 2019.* Following the launch of the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), some young climate activists met with scientists in Geneva to thank them for their work.

The young activists were attending a conference in nearby Lausanne, aimed at exchanging ideas around the future of the youth climate movement, Fridays For Future. They were aware that the IPCC (the UN’s climate science body) had spent the last five days approving a major new report on how the way humans treat the land we live on impacts the climate. They wanted to use the opportunity to express their gratitude to the scientists.

A group of 7 participants, met briefly with representatives of those who had been involved in writing the report. They handed over a letter they had written expressing their thanks for their dedication and commitment to understanding the scientific facts behind the climate emergency. Earlier in the day, the IPCC, which jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, held a press conference focused on the report.

Speaking ahead of the meeting Selin Goren, age 18 from Turkey said: “Thank you, thank you, thank you. Your work as climate scientists is essential to our future. How many more of these sobering reports do we need before governments take effective action? We will use this report to hold governments accountable for acting urgently to tackle the climate emergency.”
Adding to the comments of her colleague, Kristina, age 21 from Russia said: “As a group of young people around the world, we have come to Geneva to tell you that we unite behind the science. Your work is essential in understanding the problem as well as what we can do to solve it.”

“This report makes clear that certain types of land use are a major driver of climate change and must be tackled alongside fossil fuel use if Paris climate commitments are to be met,” said Julia Haddad, 16, from Lebanon. “Unless greenhouse gas emissions are cut rapidly, we may face food insecurity in many parts of the world. As a young woman who has grown up in Lebanon, I have seen first-hand the impact of food insecurity on everyday life and it is deeply worrying.”

Following the meeting with the IPCC, the young activists returned to the Lausanne gathering for the final sessions of their meeting which ended on Friday, 9th August.

The participants from the Lausanne meeting who met with the IPCC are:

- **Selin Gören**, 18 (Istanbul, Turkey).
  I'm a senior at high school. At March I started striking in Turkey with my other activist friends and I'm one of the national coordinators of FFF (Fridays For Future) Turkey. I'm also in the coordination committee of the Global Council for a Liveable Future which will be officially established in NYC on September.

- **Alejandro Martínez**, 25 (Madrid, Spain).
  In February I created FFF Madrid with other youth. Since then I have been the local strike organiser and speaker amongst other roles on local, national and international level to help to build the movement.

- **Julia Haddad**, 16 (Franco-Lebanese).
  I was born in France from Lebanese parents. Currently I am a high school student in a French lycée in Lebanon and I am planning to study political sciences. I have always been interested in ecology, but I became an activist since the first international protest for Fridays For Future on March 15th, when I realised that we really have to do something.
• **Mael, 14** (French and Mexican)
  I’ve been involved in the movement since February and I’ve helped spreading the message of the scientists and researchers.

• **Kristina Golubenko, 21** (Russia)
  I am a university student studying physics. I was an eco-activist and Greenpeace volunteer before the FFF. So, I joined the movement not only to protect the Earth but to encourage younger people to rise for their future.

• **Selin Gören, 18** (Turkey)
  I’m a high school student in Istanbul. I want to study biology/climate science at university. I’m one of the national coordinators of Fridays for Future Turkey. I got involved in FFF after seeing that our society in Turkey needs more young adults striking for the wellbeing of the earth due to the inefficiency of the current system.

• **Greta Thunberg, 16** (Sweden)
  I am a climate activist from Sweden. I started school striking in August last year and have been doing it every Friday since that. I am one of the organisers of the FFF in Stockholm.

• **Hannah Otto, 24** (Germany)
  I am a student from Germany living in Switzerland for one year. I have been climate striking since December when we had the first Swiss strikes to raise awareness to the climate crisis. The last weeks I have been organising a European meeting of FFF called Smile in Lausanne where we want to get to know other young people of our movement.

*For more information on this event in Geneva contact: Tobias Schuster: +49 1573 9102320*