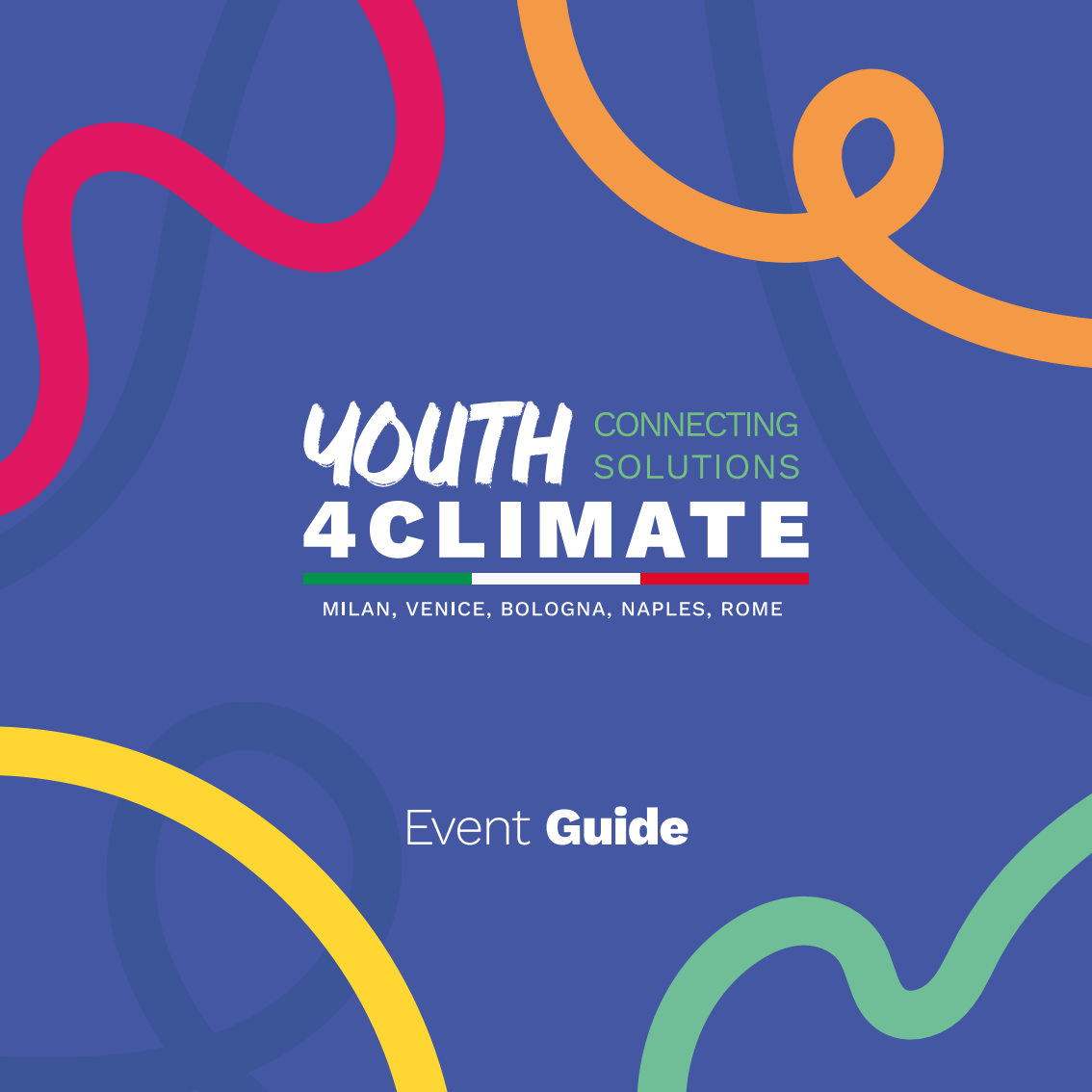




YOUTH 4CLIMATE

CONNECTING
SOLUTIONS

MILAN, VENICE, BOLOGNA, NAPLES, ROME

Event **Guide**



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Young people around the world are already developing solutions to the climate challenges affecting their communities, but many still lack the funding, knowledge and connections needed to take those ideas further.

Youth4Climate was created to help close that gap.

Co-led by the Government of Italy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Youth4Climate supports young climate innovators through direct funding, capacity development, mentorship, visibility and access to a growing global network.

Since 2023, Youth4Climate has supported 200 youth-led solutions across 69 countries, providing more than USD 5 million in direct support. Beyond funding, the initiative helps young people strengthen their projects, learn from experts and peers, and connect with institutions and partners that can help their solutions grow.

69

countries

200

solutions

5 mln +

USD in direct support

7.000 +

applications

35.000 +

community

YOUTH 4CLIMATE

CONNECTING
SOLUTIONS

MILAN, VENICE, BOLOGNA, NAPLES, ROME

**In 2026, the event returns to Italy...
with a new format.**

From 19-23 October, Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions will take around 60 young climate innovators from more than 40 countries across Milan, Venice, Bologna, Naples and Rome.

Instead of gathering in one place, this year's event brings participants directly into some of Italy's leading ecosystems for climate action, research and innovation. Across five days, they will meet universities, companies, public institutions and local

organisations, explore solutions in practice and build connections that can help strengthen their own work.

Each city brings a different perspective to the event: innovation and partnerships in Milan; oceans, design and adaptation in Venice; circular systems in Bologna; digital innovation and agritech in Naples; and policy and global partnerships in Rome.

The event culminates in Rome with the 2026 Youth4Climate Awards Ceremony, recognising the new cohort of youth-led climate solutions supported through Youth4Climate.

5 CITIES

6 AREAS OF CLIMATE ACTION

60 INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

1 EVENT CONNECTING SOLUTIONS



MEET
THE 2026
AWARDEES

Get to know the
young innovators
and their projects



Since its launch in Milan in 2021, Youth4Climate has brought young climate leaders together with governments, institutions and partners through its Youth4Climate Flagship Events in **New York, Rome, Turin and Brasília.**



Milan
2021



New York
2022



Rome
2023



Turin
2024



Brasília
2025



Connecting Solutions
2026



Make the most of the event

There is a lot packed into five days. You do not need to remember everything, but try to leave each city with something you did not have when you arrived.



ASK

Ask experts how things really work, what failed, what they would do differently and what they think your project needs.

CONNECT

Introduce yourself beyond your usual field. The person who can unlock your next step may not work in the same sector as you.



LOOK CLOSELY

Site visits are not only about what you are shown. Pay attention to how solutions are financed, maintained, communicated and integrated into existing systems.

SHARE

Tell people what you are building. Be clear about what you need: knowledge, introductions, technical expertise, partners, finance or something else.



CAPTURE

Use the reflection pages in this guide to note down names, ideas, questions and commitments while they are still fresh.

FOLLOW UP

A connection made during the week only becomes useful if the conversation continues afterwards.



Share your experience

WE WANT PEOPLE AROUND
THE WORLD TO EXPERIENCE
THE EVENT WITH US!

Share the moments that interest you: a conversation that changed your perspective, something you discovered during a visit, a project from another participant, or simply what it feels like to be part of this global community.

When you post, please tag **Youth4Climate**

Also, feel free to **reshare official Youth4Climate content throughout the week!**



@youth4climate_
(you can also send a collaboration request)



@UNDP Rome Centre

MILAN | 19 OCTOBER

CLUSTER A&B

Innovation, Partnerships & Scaling Solutions

VENICE | 20-21 OCTOBER

CLUSTER A

Oceans, Design & Climate Adaptation

BOLOGNA | 20 OCTOBER

CLUSTER B

Science, Systems & Circular Innovation

NAPLES | 21 OCTOBER

CLUSTER B

Digital Innovation & Agritech

ROME | 22-23 OCTOBER

CLUSTER A&B

Policy, Partnerships & Global Leadership

Cluster A Tour
Cluster B Tour

Milan
Cluster A&B

Venice
Cluster A

Bologna
Cluster B

Rome
Cluster A&B

Naples
Cluster B



**SCAN THE
QR CODE**

to read the
full agendas
for each city

DAY 1 CLUSTER A&B

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

MILANO

Innovation,
Leadership and
Partnerships for
Climate Action

MILANO



Why Milano?

Youth4Climate returns to the city where its story began. Launched in Milan in 2021, ahead of COP26, Youth4Climate comes back five years later with a new generation of young innovators and a new question: what does it take to move a promising climate solution forward?

Milan is a fitting place to start that conversation. The city brings together universities and research centres, businesses, financial institutions, public authorities, fashion experts and entrepreneurs within a dense innovation ecosystem. It has also built much of its international identity around the ability to connect creativity with industry and turn ideas into products, services and new ways of doing things. Milan's own positioning increasingly emphasises the connections between universities, businesses, technology and local communities, and the long-term value created when these worlds interact.

During this first stop, participants will be brought directly into Milan's innovation ecosystem. Through conversations with institutions, businesses, universities and other innovators, they will have the chance to test their ideas with people working across different sectors, identify what may be holding their projects back, and explore the partnerships, expertise and support that could help move their solutions beyond the pilot stage.

DID YOU KNOW?

Trams everywhere.

Milan has one of Europe's largest tram networks, offering a lower-emission way to move around the city as part of its extensive public transport system.

Its iconic yellow trams have been running through Milan since 1928.

Try to spot the Y4C tram when visiting the city!



Practical Information

- **Getting around:** Milan has an extensive metro, tram and bus network. Palazzo Marino is in the historic centre, a short walk from Duomo metro station;
- **Weather:** October is generally mild and autumnal, with some chance of rain. Bring a light jacket and an umbrella;
- **On foot:** Many of the main sights in the historic centre are within walking distance of each other, so comfortable shoes are recommended;
- **Try while you're here:** Risotto alla Milanese, the city's classic saffron risotto;
- **Don't miss:** Duomo di Milano, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Brera district and Pinacoteca di Brera, Castello Sforzesco and Parco Sempione, Navigli canal district.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



Comune di
Milano

The City of Milan is the local authority serving Milan and its communities. Its work spans urban development, mobility, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, culture and economic development. The city's approach combines long-term planning with collaboration across public institutions, universities, businesses and local communities, with the aim of making Milan more inclusive, sustainable, innovative and resilient.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

The City of Milan is hosting the opening of Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions on 19 October. As the city where Youth4Climate was launched in 2021, Milan is pleased to welcome young climate innovators from around the world and open this year's five-city journey across Italy. The event offers an opportunity to connect participants with Milan's institutions, universities, businesses and innovation ecosystem, while encouraging exchange around youth-led climate action and practical solutions.

We hope participants will gain insight into how a city government can help create the conditions for climate innovation through policy, partnerships and collaboration with local actors. We also hope the exchange gives them new perspectives, useful connections and practical ideas they can take back to their own projects and communities.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



Camera Nazionale
della Moda Italiana

Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana (CNMI) is the non-profit association that disciplines, co-ordinates and promotes the development of Italian fashion. Representing over 200 premier brands, CNMI is committed to supporting young talent, fostering international relations, and driving the industry's transition toward sustainable growth, preserving the unique heritage of Italian craftsmanship worldwide.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

CNMI is proud to join Youth4Climate to support and amplify the voices of young changemakers redefining global industries. Fashion is a powerful vehicle for cultural and environmental change, and tomorrow's solutions rely on the creativity and urgency of youth leadership.

We participate to foster cross-generational dialogue, linking our industry's expertise with cutting-edge, sustainable innovations developed by global youth. Our goal is to accelerate the adoption of circular models and ethical practices, ensuring that the passion of young climate leaders inspires collaborative growth across the entire fashion ecosystem.

We hope that through this cross-generational dialogue participants gain direct access to the Italian fashion ecosystem, bridging the gap between youth innovation and industry expertise. By engaging with CNMI, young changemakers will find opportunities for mentorship, visibility, and professional networking.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



Generali is a global insurance and asset management Group committed to being a Lifetime Partner to its customers and creating long-term value for all stakeholders. Through its Lifetime Partner 27: Driving Excellence strategy, Generali combines innovation, AI and data with a human-centric approach. Its GPeople27: People Powered Excellence strategy empowers employees through an inclusive culture, future-ready skills, talent development and agile ways of working.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

Generali is participating in Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions to empower future generations and contribute to a just and green transition. Through its collaboration with UNDP, Generali supports young climate innovators by expanding access to capacity-building, mentoring, technical expertise and international networks. This partnership reflects the Group's commitment to investing in talent, nurturing future-ready skills and turning innovative ideas into effective, scalable solutions. By connecting youth, institutions and industry experts, Generali aims to help accelerate meaningful climate action and create impact in communities worldwide.

Generali hopes participants will gain practical insights, new connections and greater confidence in developing impactful climate solutions. Through mentoring, technical guidance and dialogue with its experts, young innovators can strengthen their skills in areas such as project design, budgeting and solution development. They will also have opportunities to connect with stakeholders and potential partners who can help their initiatives grow, scale and deliver lasting impact.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



One Ocean Foundation (OOF) is a non-profit organization advancing marine conservation through science, marine management, and stakeholder engagement. OOF mission is to accelerate solutions to ocean issues by expanding scientific research, spreading ocean knowledge, and fostering opportunities for businesses and individuals to take an active role in the protection of the marine ecosystems.



We hope to showcase how we deliver our mission while promoting the idea that sustainable economic growth and a healthy ocean are mutually reinforcing.

Your Milan Challenge

- ☐ Ask a speaker or expert which innovation they believe will have the greatest climate impact over the next decade.
- ☐ Pair up with another awardee and introduce each other's projects in a 30-second pitch.
- ☐ Spot one example of how Milan is trying to rethink urban space: green infrastructure, mobility, adaptive reuse or public space. Take a photo and note one idea your own city could borrow.

Some of the best insights come from taking a moment to reflect. Use this space to record your thoughts, new connections and key takeaways as you travel through Italy's climate innovation ecosystem.

DAY 2&3

CLUSTER A

TUE 20 & WED 21 OCTOBER

VE NE ZIA

VENEZIA

Oceans,
Design & Climate
Adaptation



Why Venezia?

Venice is one of the clearest examples of how a city's identity can be shaped by its environment. Built across a lagoon of 118 islands, it has always depended on a delicate balance between water, land, architecture and human activity. Today, that relationship is becoming even more complex as the city faces rising seas, flooding, erosion and pressure on its lagoon ecosystem. UNESCO describes Venice and its lagoon as an inseparable system, shaped over centuries by the interaction between people and the natural environment.

That makes Venice an especially relevant place to think about climate adaptation. Here, resilience is not only about protecting buildings from water. It also means thinking about how communities live, how public spaces remain accessible, how cultural heritage is preserved and how cities can adapt without losing what makes them unique.

During the Venice programme, participants will explore these questions through the lenses of architecture, design, urban planning, culture and the blue economy, with opportunities to look at how climate solutions can respond to local realities while balancing environmental, social and cultural needs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Controlling the high tides.

When exceptionally high tides threaten Venice, the MOSE system can raise mobile barriers at the lagoon's entrances to temporarily separate it from the Adriatic Sea.

It is one of the most visible examples of the scale of infrastructure being used to protect the city from flooding.



Practical Information

- **Getting around:** In Venice, the two main ways to move are on foot and by water. The city's public water buses, the vaporetti, connect different parts of Venice and the surrounding islands. Tickets must be validated when entering the waterbus system, and contactless payment is available across the ACTV network. Comfortable shoes are essential;
- **Weather:** October is usually mild but can be damp, with cooler mornings and evenings and a chance of rain. A light waterproof layer and umbrella are worth keeping with you;
- **Try while you're here:** Cicchetti (small Venetian snacks);
- **Don't miss:** Piazza San Marco, Rialto Bridge, Grand Canal, Arsenale, Giardini della Biennale, Dorsoduro.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



The Human Safety Net is Generali's global foundation, dedicated to unlocking the potential of people living in vulnerable circumstances. Through two programmes, it supports families with children aged 0–6 and refugees through employment and entrepreneurship. Active in 25 countries with over 98 NGO partners, the Foundation has its Home in Venice's historic Procuratie, where it amplifies its mission and hosts “A World of Potential”, an interactive exhibition for visitors.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

THSN is taking part in Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions to open The Home in Venice as a space for dialogue between young innovators, institutions and practitioners. The foundation's mission - unlocking the potential of people and communities - resonates with the spirit of the initiative, which invests in the potential of young people to turn ideas into lasting solutions. By hosting the Youth4Climate delegation, THSN extends its everyday work of building partnerships across institutions, academia and civil society, and contributes to a broader culture of empowering the next generation to create impact.

At The Home of The Human Safety Net, through the interactive exhibition “A World of Potential”, participants will have the opportunity to take part in an immersive experience to discover their own strengths whilst also connecting to The Human Safety Net's programmes as well as discovering the architectural transformation of the Procuratie and the way Generali invests in preserving and enhancing historical heritage, making it vibrant, accessible and resilient over time.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**

I
- -
U
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A
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V
Università
luav
di Venezia

Università luav di Venezia is a university dedicated to design and the arts, with internationally recognised expertise in architecture, urban and regional planning, design, fashion, visual arts and theatre. Established in 1926 and based in Venice, luav combines research, education and practice through interdisciplinary and workshop-based approaches, addressing complex urban, environmental and societal challenges, including climate adaptation, resilience and sustainable transformation.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

Iuav is co-organising the Venice workshop to build on the collaboration launched with UNDP during Venice Climate Week 2026. The event creates a bridge between Iuav students and Youth4Climate innovators from around the world, enabling them to work together on real urban adaptation challenges. By bringing architecture, planning and design into dialogue with technology, nature-based solutions, community knowledge and implementation experience, Iuav aims to contribute to a multidisciplinary exchange on how climate challenges can become opportunities for more resilient and inclusive urban transformation.

Participants will engage with Iuav's design-led and interdisciplinary approach to climate adaptation while working alongside students on concrete urban challenges. The exchange will connect creative thinking with implementation experience, showing how solutions must respond to local environmental, social and institutional contexts. Participants will also build peer-to-peer connections across disciplines, countries and professional backgrounds.

Institutions and organisations to **discover**.



The UNESCO Ocean Literacy Programme fosters a global understanding of the Ocean's influence on humanity and humanity's influence on the Ocean. Through education, collaboration and action, the Programme works to build an ocean-literate society, one that understands the Ocean's importance, is able to make informed decisions, and is empowered to contribute to its sustainable future.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

The UNESCO Ocean Literacy Programme is participating to bring the ocean literacy perspective into broader climate discussions and to connect with young people developing innovative solutions for climate action. Youth4Climate provides a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and partnership-building, while offering an opportunity to highlight how ocean literacy can support and empower youth-led action for a sustainable future.

We hope participants will gain a deeper understanding of the Ocean's role in our lives and of the connections between Ocean, climate and society. Through their visit to the SEA BEYOND Ocean Literacy Centre, we hope they will experience how interactive education and knowledge-sharing can make complex ocean issues accessible, inspire curiosity, and encourage young people to translate knowledge into action.

Institutions and organisations to **discover**.

LOCAL ACTION

Agenda 2030 is becoming a reality thanks to the dedicated efforts of cities, provinces, regions, counties, and territories worldwide. Local governments are leading SDG implementation at local level, using the SDGs as a tool for long-term planning, integrating SDG targets and indicators in their local policies and budgets, enhancing service delivery, and using Agenda 2030 to better communicate public action to their own citizens.



Why we are part of Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions

As part of the UNDP Venice Winter School, cities and local governments around the world will gather in Venice on the week of 19 October to study how to innovate in public service delivery.

Four City case studies will be presented and examined in depth, sharing challenges, solutions and how to create more efficient and inclusive city services.

THE WINTER SCHOOL IS:

Open to 120 representatives from cities, local and regional governments, and their associations.

Focus on four city services that will be shared and analyzed by cities worldwide. An opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge of how other cities deliver public services.

Explore innovative data visualizations on the impact of city work on people's lives.



Your Venice Challenge

- ☐ Pair up with someone from another continent and discuss how climate change is affecting your communities differently. What challenges do you share, and where do your experiences differ?
- ☐ Identify one feature of Venice that helps the city live with or adapt to high water. What does it tell you about adapting to climate risks in a place with such a distinctive geography and heritage?
- ☐ As you move through Venice on foot and by water, pay attention to how the absence of cars changes your experience of the city. What feels different and is there anything other cities could learn from it?
- ☐ Choose one word that captures Venice's relationship with climate and its environment. Compare your word with other awardees. Did you choose the same one? Why or why not?

Some of the best insights come from taking a moment to reflect. Use this space to record your thoughts, new connections and key takeaways as you travel through Italy's climate innovation ecosystem.

DAY 2

CLUSTER B

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER

BO LO GNA

Science,
Systems &
Circular Innovation

BOLOGNA



Why Bologna?

Climate challenges rarely exist in isolation. Energy affects how we produce and move things. The materials we use determine what eventually becomes waste. Food, water, infrastructure and cities all depend on systems that constantly interact with one another.

Bologna is a fitting place to explore those connections. The city sits at the heart of Emilia-Romagna, a region known for advanced manufacturing, agri-food excellence, cooperative traditions and public utilities that operate at territorial scale. Its close links between research, industry, public services and innovation make it an ideal setting to look beyond individual solutions and consider the wider systems they depend on.

During the Bologna programme, participants will explore how the energy transition, circular economy, materials and resource management connect in practice. Through discussions with experts working on these challenges at scale, young innovators will be encouraged to look at their own projects as part of a bigger picture: what systems does your solution depend on, where are the bottlenecks, and what would need to change for it to create impact at a larger scale?

DID YOU KNOW?

The city slowed down.

Bologna became Italy's first major city to introduce a widespread 30 km/h urban speed model, designed to make streets safer and support more sustainable mobility.

By 2025, the city reported lower traffic volumes, increased cycling and bike-sharing use, and reduced traffic-related nitrogen dioxide compared with the pre-implementation period.



Practical Information

- **Getting around:** Bologna's historic centre is compact and easy to explore on foot, while buses connect the centre with the wider city.
- **Weather:** October is typically mild and autumnal, with cooler mornings and evenings and the possibility of rain. Bring a light jacket and umbrella.
- **On foot:** Expect plenty of walking. Luckily, Bologna's porticoes provide shelter from both rain and sun. Comfortable shoes are recommended.
- **Try while you're here:** Tortellini, traditionally served in brodo (in broth).
- **Don't miss:** Piazza Maggiore, Basilica di San Petronio, Le Due Torri, Quadrilatero, Santo Stefano, Bologna's porticoes.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



Hera Group is Italy's leading aggregation of municipally owned utility companies. Founded in 2002 and listed on the Italian Stock Exchange since 2003, it provides energy, water, environmental services, public lighting, and telecommunications. Through a multi-business model focused on shared value, Hera promotes innovation, the circular economy, and ecological transition. More than 10,500 employees serve 7,5 million citizens across 316 municipalities in five Italian regions.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

Our organisation is participating in Youth4Climate because we believe that building a sustainable future requires the active engagement of younger generations. This event offers a valuable opportunity to connect with young innovators, exchange ideas and experiences, and contribute our expertise while developing partnerships that can accelerate innovation and sustainability. We also see Youth4Climate as a platform to strengthen collaboration among institutions, businesses and youth-led initiatives, fostering skills, awareness and concrete actions that support climate goals and create long-term value for both society and the planet.

We hope participants will gain a practical understanding of how the climate transition depends on the transformation of interconnected systems, from energy and materials to food. Through real-world examples and expert insights, we hope to inspire new ideas, highlight future skills needs, and show how innovation, circularity and collaboration can drive a more sustainable and resilient future.

Your Bologna Challenge

- ☐ Choose one resource connected to your project (energy, water, food, materials or waste). Trace what happens before it reaches you and after you use it. Compare your system with another awardee's.
- ☐ Ask an expert you meet today: "What is one thing that becomes more difficult when a climate solution moves from a pilot to large-scale implementation?"
- ☐ While walking through Bologna, pay attention to its porticoes. Beyond their original purpose, what climate or social function do they provide today? What already exists in your own city that could be adapted for a new purpose?
- ☐ Identify one example during the day where something traditionally considered waste, an output or a problem becomes an input or resource for something else. How could the same kind of thinking apply to your own solution?

Some of the best insights come from taking a moment to reflect. Use this space to record your thoughts, new connections and key takeaways as you travel through Italy's climate innovation ecosystem.

DAY 3

CLUSTER B

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER

NAPOLI

Digital Innovation
& Agritech

NAPOLI



Why **Napoli?**

Climate solutions are strongest when they respond to the realities of the places and communities they are designed for. Naples offers a particularly interesting setting to explore that relationship.

Located on the Mediterranean and at the heart of Campania, the city is surrounded by a region with deep agricultural traditions, a strong agri-food economy and a growing research and innovation ecosystem. At the same time, southern Italy is experiencing many of the pressures that climate change is intensifying across the Mediterranean, including extreme heat, water stress and changing conditions for food production.

The Naples programme will explore how digital tools, research and entrepreneurship can help respond to these challenges, with a particular focus on technology, agriculture and food systems. Participants will have the chance to see how new technologies can be developed around real needs, and to think about how innovation can remain useful and accessible to the people it is ultimately meant to serve.

DID YOU KNOW?

A city between **a volcano and the sea.**

Naples sits between the Mediterranean Sea and Mount Vesuvius, creating a landscape that has shaped the area's agriculture, food culture and settlement for centuries.

Volcanic soils around Vesuvius are particularly fertile and support the cultivation of crops closely associated with the region.



Practical **Information**

- **Getting around:** Naples has metro, bus and funicular networks, while much of the historic centre is best explored on foot. Be prepared for hills, stairs and uneven streets. Comfortable shoes are recommended.
- **Weather:** October is generally mild, although rain is possible. A light jacket and umbrella are useful, particularly in the morning and evening.
- **Try while you're here:** Pizza Napoletana - Naples is the birthplace of one of Italy's most famous foods.
- **Don't miss:** Spaccanapoli, Piazza del Plebiscito, Via Toledo, Quartieri Spagnoli, Lungomare, Santa Chiara.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



The University of Napoli Federico II is the oldest state university in the world. With 75.000 students, 3000 professors and thousands of PhD students and researchers is one of the largest academic institutions in Europe and among the top ranked for research and education. With 26 departments organized in 4 schools the University of Napoli Federico II covers hundreds of scientific disciplines from Life Sciences to Humanities, Sciences and Engineering



Why we are part of Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions

The University of Naples Federico II is participating in Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions to support UNDP's work on climate action and connect young innovators with its research and innovation ecosystem. Home to the Apple Developer Academy and the National Research Centre on Agricultural Technologies (Agritech), the University brings together expertise in digital technologies, entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence and sustainable agriculture.

We hope participants will gain new perspectives on how digital technologies, artificial intelligence and agricultural research can contribute to more resilient food systems and stronger climate solutions.

Your Naples Challenge

- ☐ Choose one ingredient you encounter in Naples and think backwards: Where was it grown? What does it depend on: water, soil, energy, transport, labour? What could climate change disrupt along that chain?
- ☐ Choose one climate challenge and imagine the person most affected by it. If you had to build a simple app for them, what would it actually need to do? What feature would you include or leave out?
- ☐ If you could add just one digital feature to your own project tomorrow, what would make the biggest difference: better data, easier access, stronger communication, monitoring, payments, mapping, or something else? Compare your answer with another awardee.
- ☐ Think of one agritech innovation you encounter today. What would have to be true for a small farmer to actually adopt it (cost, maintenance, training, connectivity, trust)?

Some of the best insights come from taking a moment to reflect. Use this space to record your thoughts, new connections and key takeaways as you travel through Italy's climate innovation ecosystem.

DAY 4&5 CLUSTER A&B

THU 22 & FRI 23 OCTOBER

ROMA

Policy,
Partnerships &
Global Leadership



Why Roma?

After travelling through different cities and thematic tracks, the full Youth4Climate cohort comes back together in Rome for the final stage of the journey.

As Italy's institutional and diplomatic capital, Rome is home to national ministries, embassies, international organisations, cultural institutions and major companies. This concentration of actors makes the city an ideal place for policy dialogue, international exchange and opportunities to bring youth-led solutions into conversations with institutions and organisations working at national and global levels.

The Rome programme is designed to reconnect participants after the thematic clusters and create space to share what they have learned, reflect on their experiences and look ahead. Discussions will connect their work with wider conversations around the road to COP31, food systems, mobility and private-sector engagement, while also bringing attention to the particular climate challenges and leadership of Small Island Developing States. Throughout the programme, participants will have opportunities to engage with different actors and consider how their solutions can connect with broader policy priorities, partnerships and international processes.

The event concludes with the Youth4Climate Awards Ceremony, offering a final moment to recognise this year's young innovators, celebrate their work and strengthen the connections built throughout the week.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some UN agencies **call Rome home.**

Rome is home to the UNDP Rome Centre, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The city is also set to strengthen its UN presence further, with the process underway to move UNCDF Headquarters management functions to Rome. Together, these organisations place the city at the centre of global conversations around climate, food security, agriculture, rural development and development finance.



Practical Information

- **Getting around:** Rome has metro, bus and tram services, although many central areas are best explored on foot. Comfortable shoes are recommended.
- **Weather:** October is generally mild, with warm periods during the day and cooler evenings. Rain is possible, so a light jacket and umbrella are useful.
- **Try while you're here:** Cacio e pepe - one of Rome's classic pasta dishes, made simply with pecorino romano and black pepper.
- **Don't miss:** Colosseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona, Trastevere, Villa Borghese.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With 194 members - 193 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

FAO's participation reflects our commitment to empowering the next generation of innovators driving climate and agrifood systems transformation. As achieving sustainable agrifood systems requires investing in young people and their ideas, the event provides a valuable platform to engage with promising youth-led climate solutions from around the world. It also offers an opportunity to connect these innovations with FAO's technical expertise and innovation ecosystem, while showcasing how innovation, entrepreneurship and partnerships can contribute to more sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems.

Participants will gain insights into some of the most promising innovations transforming agrifood systems and learn how innovation and the right tools can accelerate sustainable development outcomes. Through engagement with FAO, we hope young innovators will better understand the critical role of agrifood systems in addressing climate challenges and recognize the far-reaching social, economic and environmental benefits that can result from investing in their transformation.

Your Rome Challenge

- ☐ Think about one policy, regulation or public decision that could make it easier for your solution to succeed. Compare your answer with another awardee working in a different country.
- ☐ Before the journey ends, identify one person or organisation you want to stay in touch with after Rome. What could you realistically do together, and what is the first follow-up you will make?
- ☐ If you had 30 seconds to speak directly to climate decision-makers at COP31, what is the one thing you would want them to understand about young people building climate solutions on the ground?
- ☐ Look back at the week and identify one idea you want to apply, one connection you want to keep, one thing you will do differently when you return home.

Some of the best insights come from taking a moment to reflect. Use this space to record your thoughts, new connections and key takeaways as you travel through Italy's climate innovation ecosystem.

The Organizers



About UNDP Rome Centre

UNDP is the leading UN agency for international development: at global level, the organization supports countries and local communities in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, working in around 170 countries and territories to end poverty, reduce inequality and tackle the climate crisis.

Inaugurated in 2019 in the framework of the G7, the UNDP Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition is a global platform for the strategic partnership between UNDP and the Italian ecosystem. It supports developing countries in advancing clean energy, climate resilience and climate innovation. UNDP Rome Centre works with governments, project developers, financial institutions and civil society to move climate and energy solutions from early concept towards investment and implementation. The Centre provides technical support across project

development, financial structuring, environmental and social assessments, and engagement with public and private financiers, while also supporting youth-led climate solutions through direct catalytic financing, mentorship and partnerships. Working through UNDP's global network and in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, the Rome Centre currently supports programmes across +70 countries, with a focus on unlocking finance and building stronger pipelines of investable, locally grounded climate solutions.

About the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of Italy

The Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MEES) is the founding donor and a driving force behind Youth4Climate.

The initiative originated in Milan in 2021, when Italy, in the context of its Co-Presidency of COP26, hosted the first Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition event, bringing together hundreds of young climate leaders from around the world. Their ideas and priorities were captured in the Youth4Climate Manifesto, which brought youth perspectives directly into the international climate process.

Building on the momentum generated in Milan, in 2022 MEES and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) transformed Youth4Climate into a permanent global initiative, combining youth engagement in climate policy with concrete support for youth-led climate solutions worldwide.

Since then, MASE has continued to provide strategic leadership and financial support to the initiative, working with UNDP to expand its global community and turn young people's ideas into action. Annual Youth4Climate gatherings and award ceremonies held in 2023, 2024 and 2025 have celebrated new cohorts of young innovators, strengthened international partnerships and showcased the growing portfolio of youth-led solutions supported through the initiative.

The Youth4Climate Study Tour 2026 represents the next step in this journey, connecting young climate leaders with Italian institutions, universities, businesses and centres of excellence, and creating new opportunities for learning, collaboration and impact.

Stay Connected

Connecting Solutions may end in Rome, but the conversations, partnerships and ideas built along the way do not have to.

Stay connected with the Youth4Climate team and community, follow the progress of this year's innovators and keep building on the connections you made across Italy.

Email

For programme enquiries, partnerships and collaboration:
youth4climate@undp.org

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Website



Youth4Climate:
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