

## JULY NEWSLETTER

### Monthly Digest

This month's newsletter features stories where environmental sustainability meets youth activism, European policy, and climate education. From water challenges in Switzerland to the latest EU budget proposals, new climate education programs and striking heatwaves across Europe.

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Sanja Đorđević, a journalist at Storyteller, dedicated to highlighting social and environmental issues through thoughtful storytelling and reporting. Passionate about sustainability, inclusive dialogue, and media's role in promoting environmental awareness, Sanja uses journalism as a tool to amplify marginalized voices and support the green transition.

We had the opportunity to ask Sanja about her professional journey, her perspectives on the youth engagement in sustainability and climate action, and the challenges journalists face while reporting on environmental issues.

*"I believe young people are deeply engaged, not only in Serbia but globally. The student and civic protests we see today clearly show that the youth is not politically passive, contrary to what earlier studies suggested. **It's not that young people don't care, it's that they reject the outdated models of political participation that were offered to them.**"*

[Read full interview here](#)

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## NEWS FROM ACROSS EUROPE

### Switzerland's Water Crisis - A Wake-Up Call for Europe

As global warming accelerates, even water-rich countries like Switzerland are facing a threat, water scarcity. Glacial melt, prolonged droughts, and increasing demand are stretching resources thin, leading to rationing and public concern.

From dried-up Alpine springs to cantonal debates on water rights, Switzerland's case highlights the urgent need for adaptive water governance across Europe. The Swiss example shows that no country is immune and that proactive management, cross-border cooperation, and public awareness are key.

*Source: Ekologika.rs*

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### Europe Swelters: Heatwaves Close Landmarks and Test Climate Preparedness

As July brought record-breaking temperatures, countries across southern Europe, including Greece, Spain, and Italy faced

life-threatening heatwaves.

The Acropolis in Athens was forced to close to protect tourists from extreme heat, with temperatures soaring

above 44°C.



#### According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

- The ongoing heat events coincide with the anniversary of the "Call to Action on Extreme Heat."
- Multiple Mediterranean countries have experienced record-breaking temperatures, increasing pressure on healthcare and emergency services.
- Spain's AEMET reported the hottest June 30th ever recorded, with "extreme danger" warnings issued.

#### Why it matters:

- Heatwaves are becoming longer, more frequent, and more severe, affecting millions.
- Vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, and outdoor

workers, are at increased risk.

- Urban planning, emergency response, and climate adaptation measures must be accelerated across Europe.

Sources:

[Al Jazeera – Acropolis closure](#)

[WMO – Anniversary of Call to Action](#)

[WMO – Extreme heat grips Europe](#)

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## What the New EU Budget Means for Erasmus+ and Youth Priorities

The European Commission recently came out with its proposal for the EU's long-term budget (2028-2034). The package is aiming to enhance Europe's strategic autonomy while funding key priorities like climate action, defense, and innovation.

However the European Youth Forum issued a strong reaction, calling for increased support for Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, and youth civic engagement. They argue that underfunding youth-oriented programmes would contradict the EU's commitment to intergenerational justice and long-term sustainability.

### Youth activists are demanding:

- Increase the Erasmus+ funding five times in order to increase its outreach towards more young people, and to systematically facilitate the access of marginalised young people and young people at risk of exclusion
- Keep the dedicated Youth Chapter of the Erasmus+ Programme regulation with a dedicated earmarking of minimum 15%
- Reformulate the objectives of the Regulation closer to active citizenship and lifelong learning instead of its current focus on the labour market
- Ensure the European Solidarity Corps is contained within the Youth Chapter of the Erasmus+ Programme with a dedicated earmarking
- Maintain the structure based on the three Key Actions, and ensure that each one is adequately funded.

Sources:

[European Youth Forum – Readstatement](#)

[European Commission – Budget proposal](#)

The Paris Climate School at Sciences Po has launched a new Master's in Ecological Transition, Risks & Governance. Designed for students eager to learn about financing the transition, ecological planning, risk and disaster management, the challenges of green industrialisation, the evolution of agricultural models, as well as mobility and water management, while taking into account the social and political dimensions of all decisions.

### Why it matters:

- It trains future leaders in climate diplomacy and green governance.
- It prepares students to manage complex ecological and social risks.
- It connects classroom theory with real-world sustainability challenges.

This program reflects a growing trend: embedding ecological literacy and climate risk analysis into mainstream higher education.

Learn more:  
[Sciences Po – Program page](#)

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### What's Next?

As the summer progresses, we'll be keeping an eye on:

- Final negotiations over the 2028-2034 EU budget.
- National-level heatwave preparedness plans in the face of rising climate risks.
- University-led initiatives on ecological education and green governance.

You can contribute too - by reporting on your own environmental actions, starting a green project at your school, or simply by staying informed and getting involved.

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If you have come this far means that you are really interested in these topics, if you wish to contribute to our coverage, don't hesitate to contact us at

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