

BENELUX DAYS FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION

FOUNDATION FOR STRONGER AND MORE COLLABORATIVE CLIMATE EDUCATION IN THE BENELUX

These days took place on **March 26–27, 2025**, at the Biodiversum Camille Gira in Remerschen, Luxembourg. The seminar, organized as part of Luxembourg's presidency of the Benelux Union, brought together experts, teachers, young people and policy makers from the three Benelux countries to deepen climate education, exchange ideas and come up with concrete solutions to the climate crisis. The event also celebrated Benelux's 40-year commitment to environmental education – a milestone achieved by the three countries of the European Union – that testifies to a long tradition of collaboration and innovation.

Why this seminar?

Given the challenges of climate change, education is an essential tool to create awareness and get citizens moving. This meeting provided a space to discuss scientific insights, good pedagogical practices and psychological aspects such as ecoanxiety, along with inspiring initiatives to be emulated in and outside of education.

Who participated?

More than 100 participants – teachers, scientists, representatives of ministries, municipalities and associations – took part in the event. This diversity enriched the discussions and fostered cooperation among the three countries.

What do the participants say?

- "Thank you for these two very enriching days! Hopefully we will stay in touch."
- "A very interesting seminar, big thanks to the organizers!"
- "A great opportunity for networking and inspiring exchanges."

Retrospective

- [Detailed report](#) (in Dutch and French)
- [Photo gallery](#)
- [Toolkit](#) of good practice examples from the three countries, intended to inspire teachers and educators. (in Dutch and French)

A rich and engaging program

Day 1: Understanding and getting inspired

- **Opening speeches:** Luxembourg's Minister of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Serge Wilmes, Dutch Ambassador Carin Lobbezoo and Jean-Claude Meyer, Deputy Secretary General of the Benelux, highlighted the 40-year commitment to environmental education and looked ahead to the future.
- **Keynote:** Professor Jean-Pascal Van Ypersele, former vice president of the IPCC, presented the latest science on climate.
- **Workshops:** Participants explored psychological challenges such as eco-anxiety and attended a fair featuring good practice examples of innovative educational projects from the three countries.

Day 2: Moving on to action

- **Presentation of the Climate Youth Delegates:** young people from the Benelux shared their experiences and expectations. They highlighted the lack of climate education in schools and the need to actively involve young people in decision-making.
- **Practical workshops:** Parallel sessions focused on integrating climate education into school curricula and strategies to mobilize the general public.
- **Discussions:** Topics such as decarbonization, motivation for change and innovative learning methods were discussed.

And now?

The ideas shared will contribute to stronger climate education in schools and broader mobilisation of youth and the public.

Highlights

- **40 years of environmental education:** The anniversary celebration was an important moment, with speeches that referred to progress made and the importance of continued collective commitment.
- **Call for concerted action:** Minister Serge Wilmes stated, "Climate protection concerns us all. Education – at school and beyond – must mobilize all generations for sustainable change."
- **The voice of young people:** The Youth Delegates impressed with their call for collective commitment and their plea to not place responsibility solely on young people.
- **Borderless cooperation:** Deputy Secretary-general Jean-Claude Meyer emphasized, "The climate knows no borders. Strengthened cooperation within the Benelux and the EU is crucial to have an impact."

