

Youth4 Innovation

I4C Workshop Outcomes

Sevilla, Spain - 11 June 2025



ABOUT YOUTH4INNOVATION

Youth4Innovation is designed to bridge generational, sectoral, and cultural gaps by facilitating a meaningful exchange of knowledge and experience between private sector experts and up-and-coming innovators. At the 2025 Innovate4Climate conference in Sevilla, Spain, Connect4Climate (C4C) hosted a full-day Youth4Innovation workshop where a diverse cohort of participants joined small intergenerational working groups focused on specific challenges within three thematic areas: **Jobs**, **Resilience**, and **Investment**. Together, these groups were guided through a series of design thinking activities to define their respective challenges, ideate solutions, and develop implementation pathways to bring those solutions beyond the workshop and into the real world. The objective of the day was to harness the power of intergenerational cooperation and iterative design thinking to develop new approaches and actionable solutions that could be taken back to the participants' companies, organizations, and communities.

“ I believe this method of defining, developing, and delivering starts to formulate the type of questions necessary to create a compelling pitch for an investor.”

Valerie Hickey

Global Director, Climate Change Group,
World Bank



WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

The workshop utilized the Double Diamond design thinking methodology to facilitate creative problem solving and innovative idea development, beginning with the discovery and definition of challenges to overcome and ending with the development of concrete solutions and accompanying delivery plans. This interactive and participatory process guided the working groups through the “four W’s”: what is, what if, what wows, and what works. Resources and active facilitation were provided during the workshop to ensure a productive and inspiring experience as participants tackled real-world challenges together.

The workshop’s guiding themes were derived from outcome areas of the [World Bank Group Scorecard](#) that are essential to creating a world free of poverty on a livable planet: More and Better Jobs, Resilient Populations, and More Private Investment. Two working groups were assigned to each theme, co-creating intergenerational blueprints that were presented at the end of the day.

“The workshop provided a platform for us to really think about the problems that we have and how they affect us as youth, allowing us to create solutions that can drive development in the private sector.”

Solomon Atepo

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



**37 PARTICIPANTS
17 COUNTRIES**

23 YOUTH

1 GOVERNMENT

**9
PRIVATE
SECTOR**

**4 ACADEMIC
& THINK TANK**

BRAZIL

NEPAL

SPAIN

CYPRUS

PORTUGAL

PAKISTAN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UK

ITALY

KENYA

INDIA

JAMAICA

US

GERMANY

CHINA

COLOMBIA

TUNISIA



“ Sometimes we have an idea of the challenges related to green jobs for youth, but there are lots of other challenges that we didn’t have in mind and that of course exist. This exchange allowed us to see other realities and how everyone has a different view — it was very enriching.”

Cristina Moral

Senior Analyst, Climate Policies and
International Alliances, Iberdrola



INTERGENERATIONAL BLUEPRINTS

JOBS FROM SOIL TO SUCCESS

CHALLENGE

Building adaptive green skills for young farmers in Kenya.

Intergenerational need to solve

Skills mismatch and low economic growth at the community level due to lack of training opportunities for youth, contributing to job insecurity, unexplored potential, and brain drain. On the private sector side, there are risks associated with an unqualified workforce, as well as the loss of young talent, which may result in reduced creativity, innovation, and efficiency.

What if...

What if we fostered adaptive green skills within young farmers, using Kenya as a case study, by creating an innovation hub called From Soil to Success?

SOLUTION

Develop a phygital platform combining physical and digital elements. In the real world, it will bring together youth and experts on smart agriculture, green skills, and other topics, while virtually, it will provide users with access to tutorials, knowledge, and opportunities, serving as a powerful networking platform for local stakeholders.

Intergenerational delivery plan

The From Soil to Success platform will bridge the gap between the private sector and young Kenyan farmers by fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing. The private sector will provide skilled mentors, essential equipment, and advanced technology to support these young farmers, with farm visits to offer hands-on insight. Young people will be invited to engage with the hub's mentorship programs, capacity-building tools, and educational resources while contributing new ideas and solutions around seed quality, product development, and community engagement. Additionally, an agritech lab could be set up within the hub to enhance research and development capabilities and encourage intergenerational collaboration to tackle regenerative agriculture challenges.





CHALLENGE

Bridging the gaps between academia, the private sector, and youth to foster job creation from an early stage.

Intergenerational need to solve

The private sector is currently facing a shortage of skilled labor, while youth are struggling to find jobs and lack entrepreneurship skills, adequate training, education programs, and opportunities for advancement. Both groups share an interest in finding ways to upskill youth, develop new businesses, and match people with the right opportunities to create new jobs.

What if...

What if we built the missing bridges between academia, the private sector, and youth, creating pathways for job creation, skill development, and intergenerational inspiration where everyone can learn from each other?

SOLUTION

The solution is to create the Job Bridge platform by leveraging AI. This digital hub aims to pave the way for the synergies needed between academia, the private sector, and youth by connecting them in one single place. This platform will support knowledge transfer by bringing in existing educational entities to offer research, skills, and advice to young people, while the private sector will be able to provide online business mentorship, internship and job opportunities, and other technical support. The end goal of the Job Bridge is to connect the right people with the right opportunities.

Intergenerational delivery plan

The delivery plan involves the private sector providing expertise, donating computers and other essential equipment (for young people in vulnerable communities to be able to access the platform), and offering training resources and mentorship opportunities that address key skill gaps. Academia will play a crucial role in providing research and knowledge that align with industry needs, offering development support and working with the private sector to create internships and other collaborative projects that young people can access. Young people will contribute their entrepreneurial skills, innovative ideas, labor, and long-term vision. All parties will be expected to learn from each other, engage in cross-generational mentorship, and co-develop new business opportunities that support a livable future.

“The workshop was the perfect place for inter-stakeholder collaboration. We got the opportunity to meet people from different sectors and come together to start from a blank page. It provided us a safe space to think our ideas out loud, and I think that is really missing in the real world.”

Sanjana Chhantyal

Member of 30 for 2030 Network,
Young Climate Innovator





CHALLENGE

Creating a resilient Sevilla that can face climate challenges such as water scarcity, vulnerable infrastructure, higher temperatures, and intermittent renewable energy production.

Intergenerational need to solve

Climate challenges threaten Sevilla's economic stability, particularly in sectors like agriculture, food production, and manufacturing, while also impacting the quality of life for its residents. Focusing on the city's need to preserve its economy and enhance quality of life for future generations, the group considered what adaptation and mitigation measures could be developed. Such measures will necessitate the creation of sustainable infrastructure, the ensuring of water security, and the development of a resilient economy that can withstand climatic shocks, all of which hinge on strong government and private sector support.

What if...

What if Sevilla could be transformed into a climate-resilient city that leverages innovative solutions and community engagement to build a sustainable urban environment?

SOLUTION

The ideas proposed involve the implementation of nature-based solutions to: manage water resources more effectively, ensuring year-round access and making water scarcity less of a detriment to sectors like manufacturing and food and agriculture; implement infrastructure assessments to inform upgrade strategies, focusing on the most vulnerable areas first; invest in modern infrastructure that can withstand climatic shocks, including the development of green buildings to reduce extreme heat and promote energy efficiency; empower youth to lead climate resilience initiatives through community-based organizations providing education and real-world experience to grow their skills and capacity; and encourage the private sector to adopt green certifications, invest in nature-based solutions, and modernize infrastructure, leveraging the support of governments to reduce operational costs and enhance reputation.

Intergenerational delivery plan

Implementation of these solutions will rely on a broad public awareness campaign led by academia, local community organizations, and youth. This campaign will be complemented by a "resilience hub" designed to serve as a collaborative space where youth and the private sector can innovate and implement climate resilience strategies together with support from local government through incentives, networking, and community engagement.

RESILIENCE

DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE HUB

CHALLENGE

The energy sector faces a dual challenge: companies are seeking clear policy direction to pursue decarbonization, while young people lack both understanding of the sector's technicalities and job opportunities.

Intergenerational need to solve

There is a pressing need to bridge the gap between the energy sector and the younger generation. Doing so will involve overcoming ideological barriers, developing entry-level and growth opportunities within the industry, and focusing on technological solutions and knowledge-sharing in pursuit of large-scale decarbonization.

What if...

What if we built a Digital Knowledge Hub to make the expertise of energy companies more accessible to youth and policymakers?

SOLUTION

The Digital Knowledge Hub will serve as a centralized resource for scientific records, fact-checking materials, and information on ongoing projects. It will provide comprehensive data on energy projects, their objectives, and progress; a list of internships and job openings within the energy sector in Spain, reducing the need for young people to seek employment abroad; resources for learning new skills relevant to the energy sector; and opportunities for connection between companies and local communities (particularly young people), promoting mutual understanding and collaboration while reducing reputational business risks and enhancing service delivery.

Intergenerational delivery plan

The delivery plan involves: fostering collaboration between energy companies and policymakers to ensure alignment on policies and regulations at the national and international levels and to accelerate the growth of public-private sector partnerships; establishing new partnerships between the private sector and academia to promote the Digital Knowledge Hub among student bodies, facilitating new opportunities for skill development and capacity building; and sustained engagement with the private sector to provide opportunities for youth (internships, mentorship programs, etc.) and populate the Hub accordingly.





“This is a platform where brilliant ideas were brought to the table. It is very positive for companies to know that young people are willing to make a change, participate, and work towards a shared goal with enthusiasm.”

Martina Maggioni

Foreign Public Affairs, Italgas





INVESTMENT

YOUTH FINNOVATION CONNECT

CHALLENGE

Increasing investment in youth projects and ideas and building a shared understanding of long-term objectives for youth and the private sector.

Intergenerational need to solve

There is a need for intergenerational collaboration to address the gap in funding for youth-led initiatives. The private sector's focus on quick profits, scalability, and short-term goals often overlooks sustainable perspectives and innovative ideas proposed by young people, which may have potential for significant societal impact even if their short-term profitability is unclear. There is a need to create a collective sense of responsibility, facilitate knowledge sharing, and create channels of communication between youth and the private sector.

What if...

What if we could create a platform that bridges the gap between investors and youth-led projects?

SOLUTION

The solution is developing a digital platform to match investors with youth-led projects: Youth Finnovation Connect. The platform will allow youth to showcase their projects, secure investment, and access valuable data, resources, and opportunities to increase their visibility. For its part, the private sector will be able to showcase investment priorities and criteria, amplify their investment portfolio, and quickly identify ready-to-implement youth-led sustainable projects to fund.

Intergenerational delivery plan

The plan will necessitate conducting market analysis and engaging with stakeholders to design a user-friendly platform that works for both the private sector and young people. In addition to matching youth-led projects with investors, the platform will also offer networking opportunities, resources to improve pitching skills, and impact assessment tools, all of which will serve to build trust between youth and the private sector while expanding the effectiveness and reach of the platform.



INVESTMENT **FIG-NADI**

CHALLENGE

Overcoming the dominance of short-term vision in investment and financing frameworks.

Intergenerational need to solve

There is a need to bridge the gap between the private sector and the next generation to facilitate the long-term vision required to build pathways to a livable future. The prevailing short-term vision in investment and financial frameworks is influenced by the private sector's drive for profit, time pressures, prevailing investment trends, and geopolitical variables that limit long-term thinking and incentives. Meanwhile, youth face barriers to investment, financial literacy gaps, and a lack of experience, but embody an inherent future-forward perspective.

What if...

"CLICK"! We could create a platform, as well as a set of activities, where youth and the private sector could come together to support long-term investment opportunities?

SOLUTION

The solution involves delivering a digital platform to promote dialogue, align expectations, and build trust between the private sector and youth — all with just one "CLICK". This platform will match youth and private sector leaders based on expectations, needs, and understanding and provide a robust program of events and a virtual marketplace to facilitate collaboration, investment, and capacity-building opportunities. The platform will rely on the private sector's participation to offer youth a curated pipeline of training, mentorship, and job opportunities. Young people will feed their solutions and profiles into an idea and talent database that the private sector can access, explore, and filter according to its needs.

Intergenerational delivery plan

The delivery plan will involve organizing events, workshops, and networking activities that bring youth and private-sector companies together to collectively shape this digital platform, ensuring it grows into an effective marketplace for both parties to access ideas and opportunities.

KEY OUTCOMES

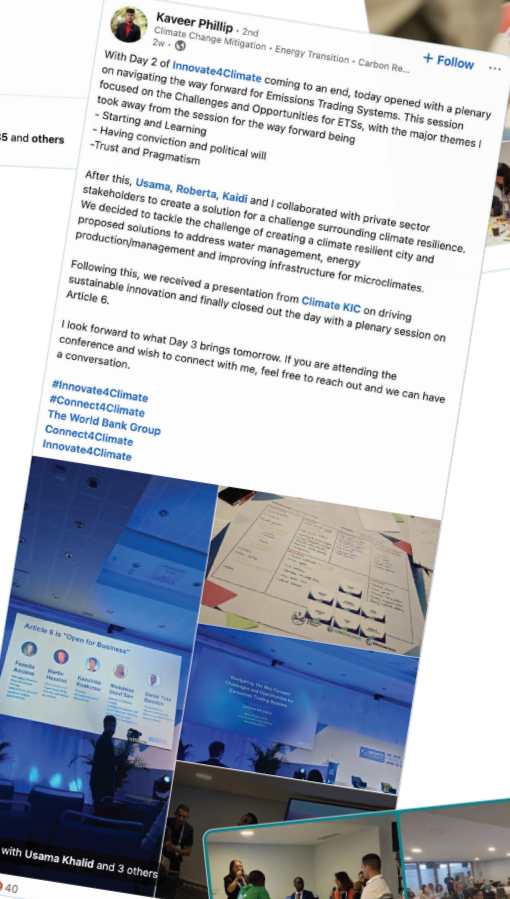
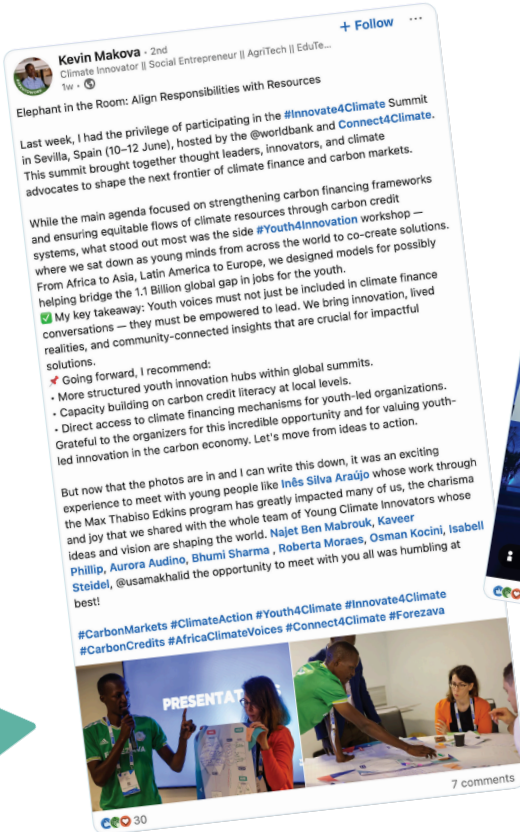
The workshop underscored the significance of intentional intergenerational collaboration in building trust between youth and the private sector and laying the groundwork for a shared definition of success. Young people often report feeling excluded and underestimated, while business leaders are unsure how to tap into the innovation of younger generations when their track records and experience are so limited. Participants valued the opportunity to work within groups of diverse ages, reporting that it helped open their eyes to alternative viewpoints and values, facilitating the creation of bolder, more sustainable, and more inclusive solutions. Following the workshop, more than 80% of the group expressed an interest in seeking out additional opportunities for intergenerational collaboration.

Participants' favorite aspects of the Youth4Innovation workshop included getting to meet people with similar interests from diverse backgrounds and reframing the challenges of others as opportunities for collaborative solutions. The design thinking process and interactive environment of the workshop were seen to encourage authentic collaboration that led to fruitful co-creation of ideas tackling current and future challenges. Participants appreciated the exchange of perspectives, with older generations contributing their experience and knowledge and youth bringing creativity and boldness to the conversation.

The majority of participants felt confident that they had created lasting connections during the workshop, enhancing a sense of community and shared purpose. Two thirds of the group felt that the solutions they developed together have the potential to be enacted in the real world, while a third reported that they aim to implement some of the proposals going forward. Participants shared a variety of intentions and plans to bring learnings from the workshop back to their communities, companies, and organizations. For example, one of the Young Climate Innovators plans to launch an initiative called White Heart, Kind Souls to share what they learned during the workshop and drive dialogue and transformation within their oasis community.



SOCIAL MEDIA STORIES FROM PARTICIPANTS



THANK YOU!

