



# Annual Report SYFC

Report of Activities and Finances of Swiss Youth for Climate for 2021/2022



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## Swiss Youth for Climate

Founded in 2015, Swiss Youth for Climate (SYFC - <https://www.syfc.ch/about-us>) is the first youth movement for climate protection in Switzerland. It is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation whose main objective is to give youth a voice in the political debate on climate change at local, national and international level. We are the generation that will be most affected by climate policy decisions. A large majority of young people in Switzerland see climate change as the greatest threat.

In the face of the climate emergency, we have a moral duty to act and a right to participate, to be heard and to be informed. Discussions on climate change issues must take place at all levels for young people and with young people.

The main objectives of the association are:

- To advocate for a pragmatic and ambitious local, national and global climate policy;
- To make young people aware of climate issues and the importance of local, national and global actions and to inform them directly about the state of play in national and international negotiations;
- Participate in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conferences of the Parties (COP) as a representative of Swiss civil society and the federal delegation;
- Collaborate with the youth of the world and lay the foundations for a new international cooperation.

## Regional Groups

Considering the particularities of each region of Switzerland, Swiss Youth for Climate considered it important to develop regional groups where they could meet periodically and collaborate to develop local projects.

Since its foundation, Swiss Youth for Climate has had three regional groups: Lausanne, Zurich and Geneva. Over time, other regional groups have been created, broadening the spectrum of action of the association and were able to engage young people from the three linguistic regions of Switzerland. At the beginning of 2020, we were able to create one new Regiogroup based in Basel, totalling to 6 Regiogroups now including:

- Lausanne
- Genève
- Zurich
- Nyon
- Ticino
- Basel.

The different regional groups were created according to local demand. Normally, young people from the region contact us with an interest in getting involved in the fight against climate change in their town/canton.

Each regional group has one or more leaders ("regioleiters"), who are responsible for facilitating the management of the group, having an overview of the ongoing projects, the available finances and acting as a bridge to the national committee. Within the national committee, one person normally acts as the regioleiters' coordinator, organising monthly calls with all regions to exchange ideas, find solutions to possible local issues and exchange information between local and national activities.

The central concept of Swiss Youth for Climate's regional groups are the Climate Beers: these monthly meetings allow young people to get together with others from the region to discuss climate change issues, inspire each other and develop creative, innovative and original projects. These meetings have a strong potential for knowledge exchange and increase the participation of youth in the local climate policy debate. The monthly meetings are therefore essential to inform young people about our activities, to raise their awareness of climate change and to engage them in concrete projects of local or national scope. During the Climate Beers, projects and events are presented and everyone can contribute. Everyone is also free to join the project of their choice. If a new idea is proposed and receives enough support, someone will step forward to take the lead on the project.

Our most original and successful projects have come from Climate Beers.

## Summary of Regional Activities 2021/2022

Regional Activities were hard to conduct in the year of 2021/2022. Main reasons therefore are firstly the after-effects of the pandemic in regards to any volunteering work and thus the difficulty to recruit people willing to take up responsibility. Further contributing to that difficulty are the lack of a clear strategy for the regional groups. The scope of the regio group concept might be too large which makes targeted action difficult. For the new year of the association, Swiss Youth for Climate wants to go back to the roots and reinstate the climate beers as a social gathering and use them to redefine the focus of each regional group to one single project.

### Summary of Activities

#### Lausanne

For the regional group in Lausanne, it was difficult to launch new projects due to a lack of members and willingness to take up responsibility. We were invited to interesting events and collaborations (Fête du développement durable à Echallens, My Blue Planet, etc.) but we couldn't participate because we had no members available.

We have nevertheless started the year with a great team-building event with a brainstorming on new projects and an excursion in Champ-Pittet (VD). Some of our members also participated in August in the arrival of the Climate Express, which took place in Lausanne. We tried to collaborate with Geneva on the Climate Collage project, this hasn't come to fruition yet however. We organised 4 Climate Beers outside and we sent 3 Newsletters during the year.

It would now be necessary to focus on a membership campaign (especially at UNIL) with a motivating project.

#### Zürich

The Zurich group saw people coming and going over the year 2021/2022. Monthly meetings and/or climate beers were kept, but there was an overall difficulty in launching new projects due to a lack of members and motivation, probably also due to the hybrid setup. The group was organised around three main projects: a social media campaign on the topic of electrification, the wish to organise an event as part of the "sustainable finance" working group, and the Climate Fresk. Some new members participated in a Climate Fresk in order to become facilitators. As for the other two projects, they are on hold at the moment.

#### Nyon

The small regional group from Nyon organised and took part in various conferences and events during 2021. Most notably, in May, the group organised a small campaign in order to join forces in the final stretch of the CO<sub>2</sub>-law initiative by putting up posters in different restaurants and bars in Nyon.

Later in the year, Jean-Valentin and Raphaël participated in the Festival du Film Vert where the two regioleiters had the chance to discuss the movie, about Greta and

youth activism, and promote SYFC.

In addition, as part of the Sustainable Finance Working Group, a conference with Mr. Vincent Kaufmann, director of the Ethos Foundation was organised. The goal was to raise awareness on the issue of sustainable finance and especially the role that Switzerland plays in this.

A few climate beers were also organised during the year (2 outside and 1 online) to discuss members' ideas and projects.



Regional group Nyon during the “Festival du Film Vert” and a Climate Beer.

## Ticino

We managed to organise/attend several events this year.. In particular, we participated/will participate in a couple of conferences to represent the voice of young people (conference on sustainable development organised by the Università della Svizzera Italiana; conference on climate adaptation organised by MeteoSwitzerland and the Canton of Ticino; etc.). We are still the same 4-6 active people and we have not recruited any new members, but we have realised a strong network of contacts with several local entities in Ticino. This is a very positive aspect that we want to try to maintain in the future.

Besides our attendance to the conferences mentioned above, we participated in the second edition of the sustainability festival Greenday with a stand, as we did last year. In February we had a team building event: we went for a walk at the Motto della Croce (near Bellinzona), briefly visited the Bellinzona castles and had a climate beer. On the 10th of April we finally held our first event with Climate Fresk. We found the workshop very interesting and constructive. Fair attendance, with 8 members. We plan to organise the event to become facilitators. We are otherwise mainly active by carrying out background activities and not concrete events, such as writing a letter to the Radiotelevisione della Svizzera Italiana RSI criticising the lack of information in the media about the publication of the second IPCC report.

## Genève

Difficult times recruiting. Several new members joined this year, it's difficult to get them involved and engaged with few ongoing projects & difficult to get projects going with few people. The strategy we have adopted is to ask people to take on more responsibilities, which can be scary. During this year of the association, we only organised climate beers internally and thus met approximately once a year. Apart from others, our main projects for the year 2021/2022 were the following:



- We worked on creating an overarching regional group for SYFC which brings together all french speaking groups of SYFC, namely Geneva, Lausanne and Nyon.
- We kicked off a climate plan rating project. The aim is to produce a map/benchmarking of the all climate plans of Swiss municipalities. The start will be done in Geneva and Zürich.
- We have made several steps to increase our reach into further Suisse romande regions such as Fribourg & Neuchâtel.

## Basel

The regional group in Basel was newly founded and the outlines of the group and their main project - following the regional group approach for 2022/2023, namely to set a focus project for each group are described below.

Alexis Balimann and Urvashi Nagar are both master students of Sustainable Development at the University of Basel. They set up the group at the beginning of 2022 and organised the first climate beer at the beginning of May and the first working session on their new project two weeks later.

In short, their project "Sustainable Diary" represents a knowledge and coaching tool enabling anyone to understand and contribute to the biggest challenge in the history of humanity: guaranteeing the habitability of our planet in order to prosper.

The project can help turn the growing public interest in these issues into real action, by seeing climate change as an opportunity to create a better world and a society that lives within the planetary boundaries.

The project will be officially launched in the next year of the association.

## Treasury

The overall financial situation for the SYFC is as follows: the majority of the capital stems from the fundraising conducted for the climate express back in the year 2020. As there was no edition of the Climate Express organised in 2021, its expenses can only be attributed to the edition of 2020, which was carried out on a regional level due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the year 2021/2022 no fundraising activities were conducted, which means that a loss of 5191,16 CHF was budgeted. The actual loss excluding the Climate Express amounted to 3073 CHF which is approximately 2000 CHF lower than anticipated. Reasons being are almost no expenses for regional or national retreats and a similarly small amount of expenses by the regional groups during 2021/2022. The expenses for COP26 on the other hand were almost double of what was originally anticipated due to increased cost for accommodation.

Even though the actual loss was smaller than anticipated in the budget, fundraising activities have to be restarted in the year 2022/2023 in order to set SYFC on sustainable financial pillars.

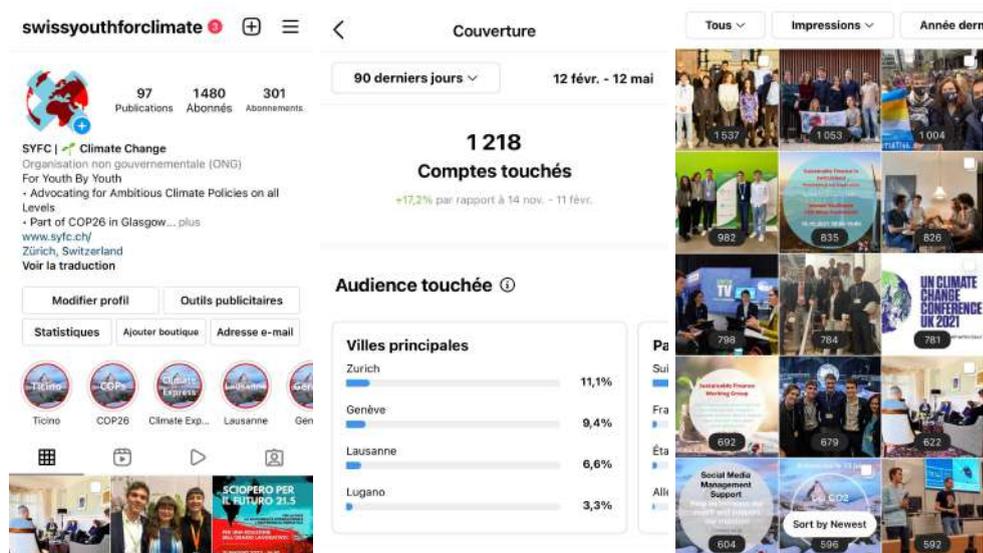
The sum of all of SYFC's assets amounted to 53'856,13 CHF at the end of the year of the association. The majority of this sum stems from the fundraising campaign for the climate express, whereby SFYC was able to raise 50'000 CHF for the project.

A detailed extract of the accounting documents is available and shared upon request.

# Social Media & Communication

## Instagram

On Instagram we have a great audience, 1'480 followers, which was increased by +430 followers in the past year. There is a great potential to grow our community, which will be the focus for the next year. In the past years we did 26 posts, with the best one attracting 1'537 impressions. Our followers (mostly young people in the age group 18-35 years) are very interested in our activities especially during COPs. This is our main channel of communication.



## Facebook

On Facebook we have in 2022 4'570 followers. This channel is used mostly to communicate our events, videos and share websites. In the past year we reached 16'400 users. Our number of followers did not change much unfortunately and would need to be improved in the next year. This has to be seen in the context of facebook losing its attractiveness as a social media however - especially for younger people.

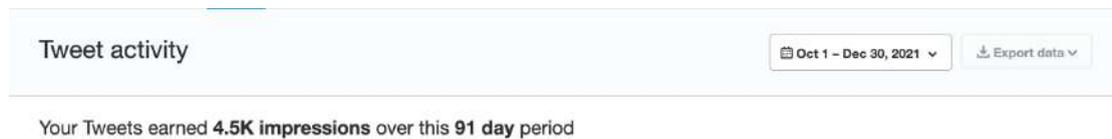
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 <b>Swiss Youth for Climate</b> Organisation à but non lucratif	16 432	2 261	328	26

## Twitter

On Twitter (1'267 followers), we tweet and retweet mostly on political topics, especially during COPs where it is a place to be in regards to political

communication. This was the case during COP26 where we communicated a lot through this channel.

Twitter activity during COP26 period :



## LinkedIn

LinkedIn was used to communicate for COP26, but more importantly for Sustainable Finance with our Working Group, as it is a professional topic interesting to communicate about on this media.

## Internal Newsletter

In 2021 we sent one main Newsletter in Summer and 1 in Winter after COP26. A part of the regional groups also have their own internal Newsletter. In May 2022 we had 572 contacts in our audience.

## National Activities

### Sustainable Finance

Finance plays a key role in the transition to a sustainable economy by allocating capital to projects and companies having a positive impact on the environment and society. Switzerland is a major financial centre and its role is to drive this transition. This is why, in 2021, we launched our Sustainable Finance Working Group, with the mission to raise awareness about sustainable finance among its members and more broadly the youth, and also, as a second step, to influence political decision makers as well as financial institutions towards a more sustainable economy. The objective is to have a Swiss and global policy framework enabling financial institutions to be part of the solution by increasing the share of sustainable investments and funding. SYFC decided to create a working group to raise awareness among youth on this topic, but also to have an influence on raising the share of sustainable companies in pension funds & private funds over the long term. Different divestment campaigns have already been led at SYFC with universities, and the idea is now to go further with a working group having a real influence in Switzerland.

The group is constituted of 20 members, with students with an economic and financial background as well. Some members already work in the field of sustainable finance as well. We organised a first online conference in October 2021 with the Ethos Foundation, participated at meetings with the Secretariat for International Finance Questions, attended the Building Bridges conference in Geneva and also had an article published on this topic in the WWF Magazine. We are also planning on developing strategic partnerships on this.

### Climate Express

After a successful crowdfunding campaign on WeMakelt in 2020-2021, supported by the *Impact Fund*, the Climate Express took place in late summer of 2021 on a smaller scale due to uncertainties regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 edition was only held in the french-speaking part of Switzerland, also thanks to a partnership with the city of Geneva. Overall, the Climate Express has to be professionalised in the year of the association 2022/2023 as the workload cannot be handled anymore by the original founders of the project.

## International Activities

### Conference of the Parties 26 - COP26 in Glasgow

We sent 12 members to the UN Climate Conference (UNFCCC COY16 and COP26) in November in Glasgow. Thanks to organisational efforts, a contact for spare badges was found at the last minute, Daniel Stauffacher, as well as the official delegation of Liechtenstein.

The presentation seminar brought together most of the members for a day in Zurich, including presentations by three professors on the following topics:

- Prof. Dr. Tobias Schmidt, ETH: Global Climate Politics, Comparison Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement
- Prof. Dr. Pascal Vuichard, HSG: Lecture and Simulation on COP Negotiations
- Prof. Dr. Axel Michaelowa, UZH: Article 6, COP26 for Newbies

Board members also gave presentations about climate change, COP, SYFC, and SYFC's previous engagements at COP.



The team of SYFC during the preparation day.

The COP in Glasgow was a great success. The week 1 team was made up of Ludwig Luz, Clémence Rügsegger, Kendra Edelmann, Lars Fattinger, Jean-Valentin de Saussure, and Miklós Veszprémi (for part of COY and part of the COP week 1). They arrived in Glasgow for the preliminary COY on October 27, where they contributed to drafting the Youth Statement across various workshops held. The Statement was read to Alok Sharma on the first Sunday, October 31.

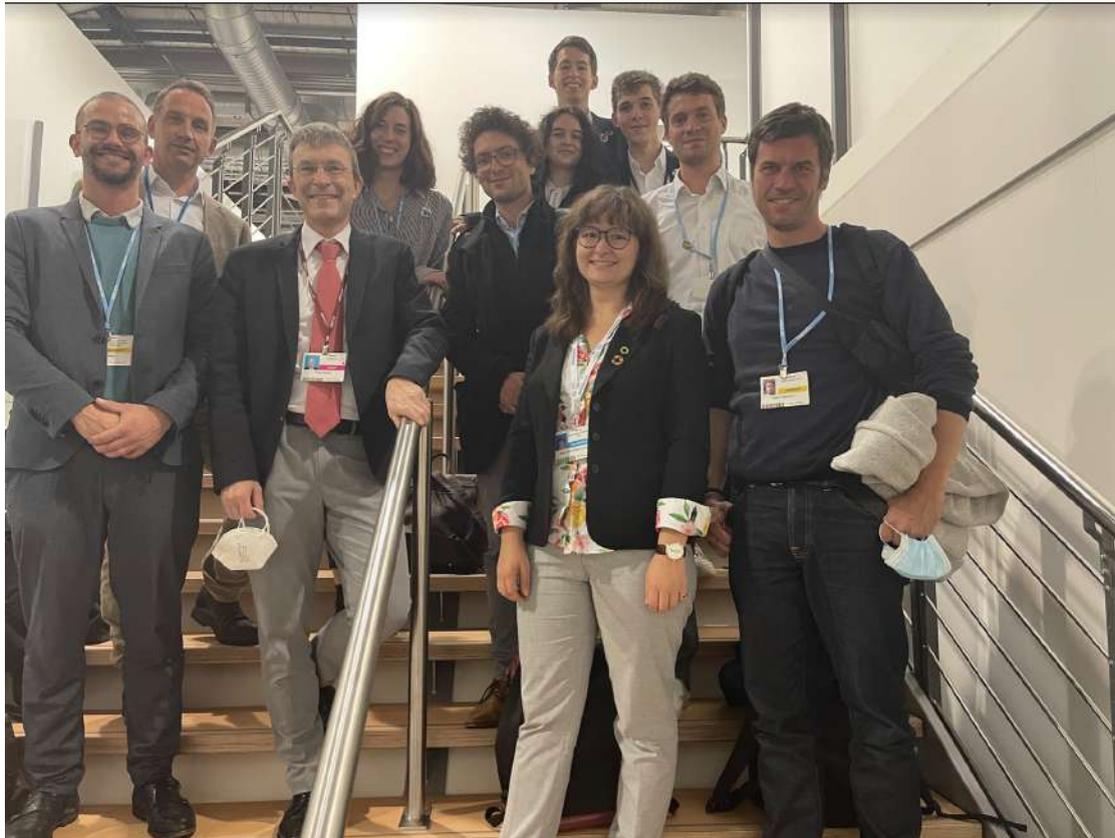


The team of SYFC at the COY in Glasgow.



The final night of COY brought together youth activists from around the world for an evening of networking.

Following was COP, where the full team shared an AirBnB flat in the outskirts of Glasgow. Following the 1h commute every morning, the team would attend the YOUNGO briefing at 9 am at the conference centre, where youth activists from across the world regrouped and planned initiatives for the day. Through avid networking efforts by the whole team, several connections for potential future collaborations could be made. The team met with the official Swiss delegation, where they voiced the perspectives of Swiss Youth to the negotiators, especially regarding the negotiation of Paris §6. They also had a brief exchange on those topics with the president of Switzerland, Guy Parmelin, ahead of his appearance.



The first delegation of SYFC after a meeting with the head of the Swiss Delegation.

The second week team consisted of Dorota Retelska, Maia Retelska, David Tschan, Alexis Balimann, Kilian Kolly, Miklós Veszprémi, and Ludwig Luz. As in the first week, the group met every morning and often evening to discuss the events of the day.

One of the main goals during the attendance of the conference is to communicate the happenings back to youth in Switzerland. This was effectively done by social media, but also by the number of media appearances that amplified the voice of Swiss Youth for Climate and pressured the Swiss Delegation to act according to the Paris Agreement, keeping the goal of 1,5 degrees alive.



Meeting with Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga during the last week.

SYFC had at least 21 media appearances in total, documented below.

Media Appearances

Newspaper

[24 heures, 18.10.21: “Les jeunes Suisses veulent une limite du réchauffement à 1,5°C”](#)

[Nau.ch, 18.10.21: “Junge Schweizer wollen sich an COP26 für 1,5 Grad-Ziel engagieren”](#)

[SwissInfo, 26.10.21: “COP26. la ricca Svizzera deve assumersi più responsabilità”](#)

[La Côte, 28.10.21: “Un jeune élu de Mies à la COP26: «C’est le combat de notre génération»”](#)

[Le Temps, 29.10.21: “COP26: Foin de beaux discours, il est temps d’agir en Suisse!”](#)

[SwissInfo, 1.11.21: “COP26: rich Switzerland must take on more responsibility”](#)

[SwissInfo, 3.11.21: “COP26: a rica Suíça deve assumir mais responsabilidade”](#)

[24 heures, 4.11.21: “«On est là pour observer et secouer les dirigeants!»”](#)

[Tribune de Genève, 4.11.21: “«On est là pour observer et secouer les dirigeants!»”](#)

[Le Nouvelliste, 11.11.21.: “Réchauffement climatique: la COP26 a dévié de l’objectif”](#)

[Krone, 11.11.21: “Klimagipfel: „Die Stimmung hier ist angespannt“](#)

[Swissinfo, 12.11.21: “Is Switzerland still a credible climate negotiator?”](#)

[RTS Info, 13.11.21: “Un jeune Vaudois à la COP26. Jean-Valentin de Saussure: “La COP26 est un test de crédibilité et de faisabilité””](#)

[RTS Info, 13.11.21: “Un bilan en demi-teinte pour Youth for Climate”](#)

[La Liberté, 13.11.21: “Prolongation requise”](#)

[Le Temps, 14.11.21: “Jean-Valentin de Saussure: «Tant que les lobbyistes des énergies fossiles seront admis aux négociations...»”](#)

TV

[RTS, 1.11.21: “Jean-Valentin de Saussure explique les revendications du Swiss Youth for Climate”](#)

[RTS, 12.11.21: “Jean-Valentin de Saussure et Guy Parmelin font le bilan de la COP26”](#)

Instagram

@Simonetta\_Sommaruga, 14.11.21: “Eine wichtige Stimme in Glasgow: Die der jungen Menschen. Gemeinsam können wir vorwärts kommen im #Klimaschutz. Austausch mit @swissyouthforclimate und unserem jüngsten Delegationsmitglied von Climate Youth Rep.”

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CWNfGYKqyz/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CWNfGYKqyz/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)