



COP In [MyCity]

***Global Youth Mobilization to Inspire Meaningful Climate Action and
Impact Climate Change Negotiations***

Mobilization Toolkit

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Genesis of COP¹ in MyCity

A global youth-led and simultaneous effort to ensure the success of COP21

After the failure of Copenhagen in 2009 to deliver a globally binding agreement to fight climate change, 2015 is the new deadline that countries have set for themselves to get involved in a common effort, for the first time in the history of climate negotiations. The global, youth-led “*COP in MyCity*” initiative aims at ensuring that this deadline is met by striving to make the negotiations more open, innovative and democratic, closer to reality and local communities. Its objective is to create the momentum for a solid, inclusive and ambitious agreement in 2015.

From « MyCity+20 » and « Doha in Paris » to COP in MyCity:

The idea of launching the **COP in MyCity** project emerged from the realization of two student-led projects:

1 The **MyCity+20** movement, which aimed at empowering young people with the concept of “simul-action”, which consisted in a simulation of the Rio+20 Summit, paired with a debriefing phase and continued mobilization. In other words, MyCity+20 aimed at mobilizing youth around the world, educating them on the urgency of sustainable development issues and encouraging them to get involved in the negotiation process of Rio+20. The core idea was to prove that youth was ready to play an active part in international negotiations and to shape its own vision for a sustainable world.

2 The mobilization week organized by the REFEDD (French Student Network for Sustainable Development) in partnership with CliMates, happened in the French capital in December 2012: Doha in Paris. This event aimed at “inviting COP18 in Paris” in order to raise awareness among French citizens, especially the youth, about climate change issues and negotiation processes. The project also focused on bridging the gap between Paris-based participants and the delegation at COP18 in Doha via Skype calls, giving the feeling of seeing through the eyes of those who were in Doha. Many activities were proposed during the week such as a Flashmob, open workshops with citizens in public places, conferences with civil society representatives about the local issues of climate change and Skype calls with other mobilized youth movements such as “*Qatar in Brussels*” and the Youth Arab Climate Movement.

Both events were a success: MyCity+20, especially regarding the educational experience and the engagement following this experience; Doha in Paris, according to the initial objective of « bringing COP18 closer to home » and bridging the gap between those who stayed in Paris and those who went to Doha.

Building on these experiences, CliMates decided to step up the ambition of the project for the coming years by:

1. Adding an educational dimension through innovative pedagogical tools;
2. Adding an opportunity for research through simulations of climate negotiations and permanent interaction with CliMates' knowledge production;
3. Expanding the initiative from Paris to the international level and replicating the initiative from one year to the next, growing in ambition and scope, until COP21 in 2015 so that youth can send a strong, visible message.

The objective of **enhancing education** about climate change issues is to institutionalize the project in a long-term basis and trigger citizen participations at the local scale for the three years to come.

The objective of **furthering research** is to create a unique opportunity to experiment in the field of social sciences. Our project/simulations will necessarily be a simplification of the reality, which means we will have to refer to hypothesis for the modelling. Even more important is the possibility given to researchers to test their own hypothesis: what if more importance was given to the cities in the negotiation? What if future generations were represented as a delegation? It is also an opportunity to test different and innovative solutions methods.

The objective of **delocalizing and replicating** the project over time is educate, mobilize and empower as much young people as possible over the world until 2015. By doing so, CliMates wishes to foster a global and solidary movement about the issue of climate justice, deepen cultural exchanges between young people around the world, and foster local actions against climate change. Real impact would be made on the actual UNFCCC negotiation process **by interacting with national delegations** and creating a real and constructive pressure – notably by **conducting a meaningful number of simulations**, whose results could participate to the elaboration of the position of the youth for the COP21 summit, which will take place in Paris in 2015. The “COP in MyCity” initiative represents a global, youth-led and simultaneous effort to ensure this deadline is achieved. Global youth must be ready!

MyCity+20



The MyCity+20 team in the Rio+20 Earth Summit

Doha in Paris



Here are some photos of the Flashmob, our youth delegation in Doha (including one of the two young delegates in the official French delegation), conference about the negotiations process, citizen workshop.

COP in MyCity – Practical Information

In 2013, the round of climate negotiations (COP19) will be held in Warsaw; therefore, COP in MyCity actions for this year are regrouped under the name “Warsaw in MyCity”.

A COP in MyCity project will typically go through three major steps for the year 2013:

- 1 Education and awareness raising before COP19
- 2 Mobilization during COP19 (11th-22nd of November)
- 3 Debriefing after COP19

1 Education and Awareness-raising before COP19

This first phase is to build a durable community in your city mobilized around climate issues and negotiations, in order to make genuine changes happen. This can be achieved by using innovative pedagogical tools such as **simulations, open spaces, World Café and other forms of interactive trainings**.

Simulations: a simulation is a role-playing event in which you mimic the structure of an event with all its procedures.

Various formats of simulation are described in a **separate toolkit**¹.

(!) If you plan on building a large-scale simulation, you will need **more time** to prepare it. The simulations timing are up to the organising team in order to make it the most suitable for everyone. For instance, if you plan to organise a simulation with several classes of high school students, you will need to adapt to the teachers' schedules and to give time to students to prepare their positions. If necessary, you can delay these simulations until after COP19.

Open space/World Café: an *open space* and a *world café* are two similar activities to make participants discuss about different parts of a problem or issue (which can be wide or narrow). In an open space, the participants decide first the topics they are going to discuss and then change groups of discussion whenever they want. In a World Café the questions are set in advance and the groups of discussion change according to a timer. The important thing about these activities is to write a report about the ideas and thoughts that were produced during the session, possibly showcasing them on a Facebook page or blog afterwards.

¹ CliMates also provides a Simulation Toolkit. If you don't find this document, please send a mail to copinmycity@climates.fr

Here is more practical information about open space and world café:

- A [short description](#) of an open space event
- A [complete toolkit](#) to organise an open space event)
- An [introduction](#) to the World Café concept and practical information)



Simulation and Open Space during Paris+20, the French initiative of MyCity+20

Interactive trainings about climate change issues and negotiations process can be organised with high school students, university students and citizens. CliMates provides a **presentation**² in English that can be adapted to the local context.

2 Mobilization during COP19

COP19 is going to occur this year in Warsaw from the 11st to the 22nd of November. During this period, all **COP in MyCity** initiatives will organize activities to raise awareness and bridge the gap between the citizens (with a focus on youth) and the negotiations processes. This part of the COP in MyCity project also aims at creating a dialogue between national delegations, mobilized civil society and young climate movements. This would have two objectives: firstly, to **allow young people to become youth delegates**, taking part in their national delegation and carry the voice of young

² CliMates also provides a Power Point Simulation on the theme of climate change. If you don't find this document, please send a mail to copinmycity@climates.fr

people in their country; secondly, to **impact the positions of national delegations** with ideas from civil society.

Here is a list of activities you can implement in your city during COP19:

- **Ice-breaking activity, the “Green Dating”:** everyone knows the principle of speed dating. If you organise an activity or event in which participants come from very different backgrounds, a “green” dating can be a nice way to introduce everyone shortly by putting two rows of chairs in circle and asking people to change seat every 5 minutes. For any interactive workshops, an ice-breaking exercise is generally recommended to create a pleasant atmosphere.



Green Dating within the Major Group of Children and Youth (MGCY) in Rio+20

- **“Meet your negotiator”:** the purpose of this activity is to initiate a dialogue between the COP in MyCity youth climate movements and national delegates. You can first introduce yourself by email to one of your national delegates going to Warsaw, presenting the COP in MyCity initiative and your activities. Then, you can offer him or her to make a short interview on Skype during the COP. To increase your chances of success, mention that it would not concern your national positions during the negotiations but rather the atmosphere and the negotiation process.

- **Meet a youth delegate:** the purpose is to make an interview with a young delegate² (who may be from another country) in order to see the COP through the eyes of a young climate activist and make your participants feel like they “are” at COP19. Here is some more practical information about youth delegate programs: a [guide](#) to start a youth delegate program in your country and a [handbook](#).

- **Meet other COPs in MyCity:** you can organise a Skype call with another COP in MyCity movement in your country/region/other. It can be interesting for your public to be aware of other forms of mobilization in other part of the planet. CliMates will provide a

platform to facilitate contacts between the different COP in MyCity initiatives.

- **Tracking negotiations conference:** you can organise a conference with climate change experts, administration officials, journalists, scientists... in order to talk about climate issues, the negotiation process and the possible outcomes of COP19. Try to make every panel intergenerational and with both female and male speakers. Additionally, great attention should be paid to the interaction between the panel and the audience.

You can find very good information about climate negotiations processes in the UNFCCC [website](#). Here is the last IPCC report. You can also find information in the CliMates blog.

- **Flashmob** on your campus / public places: Flashmobs are a good way to attract people's attention and make them laugh/think/react. Here is some food for thought concerning Flashmobs:

- The [10 steps](#) to organize a flashmob
- What makes a protest effective according to the [New York Times](#),
- The [secrets](#) behind a smart viral video, by The Atlantic

- **Art exhibition and workshops:** music, dance, theatre... You can use Art to spread emotions and also make the students mobilised in the early phase or participate in a very creative way to the week of mobilisation. One example of artistic workshops is the "Vapour Poem". Participants are split into groups of 4-5 people and asked to focus on one aspect of the issue/one object. For climate change, it can be different scientific aspects for instance. Then each person has to write 4 short sentences about the theme/object of the group. When all groups finish writing, the organiser, as an orchestra conductor, calls one group after the other and points each person of the group to say their sentence, and the whole forms a Vapour Poem.

- **Street workshops – interacting with citizens:** with a camera and a microphone, you can interview citizens issue on the street or make them write about a theme linked to climate change or climate change negotiation processes. In Rio+20, a group of students asked participants to write on sheets of paper their impressions about the question "what will your children remember of Rio+20?", which was very successful. During Doha in Paris, members of the organising team asked people near a marketplace to write on the theme "*What do you fear most: the climate or the economic crisis?*"

Practical details about organization: don't forget to plan these activities the earliest you can in order to attract more participants! Use social networks and your community media in order to make your event's information available to all. You can create a blog, Facebook page and Twitter account to advertise your events and a closed Facebook group to organise the tasks within the COP in MyCity team. Photos, videos and short articles about the activities are very important to make your events attractive. A video can also help putting pressure on your national delegation by showing officials that

there is a constituency following their work, that is able to navigate in the complexity of negotiations.

City halls, university campuses, associations' house can be interesting places to organise activities and form interesting partnerships. For instance, Doha in Paris was organised in the City Hall of the 2nd district in Paris (held by the French Green Party) and most of Warsaw in Paris will happen in the same place.

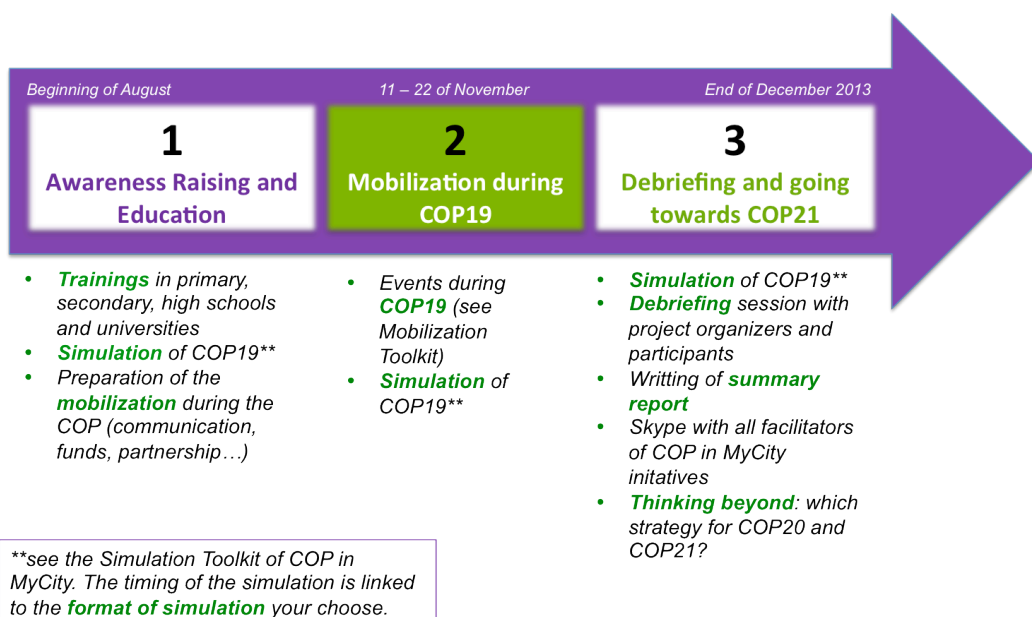
3 Debriefing after COP19

During the whole process of organisation, it is important to plan a phase, after COP19, for **debriefing** with the organizing teams and, if possible, with participants. This third step is meant to summarize all the activities that have been made during the mobilization week, the outcomes, best practices, what can be improved for next mobilizations, and also to give time for each participant and team member to talk about their own experience.

Then you can write down the most important points in a short report that would serve as best practices material for all **COP in MyCity** initiatives.

We will then organise a **Skype call** with all the coordinators of COP in MyCity during December 2013 in order to share our experiences and take it up a notch next year!

Warsaw in MyCity



Joining the COP in MyCity movement !

You are interested in joining the COP in MyCity adventure? Welcome! We are more than happy to have you on board!

All COP in Mycity initiatives are required to:

- Have 3 members minimum in the core organizing team;
- Provide a mail contact;
- Have a logo for your project:
- ✓ Create a personal logo or a logo from the template we provide to all COP in MyCity movements for the Warsaw mobilization of this year (Warsaw in MyCity).
- ✓ Important: we will need coherence to create a sense of simultaneity, so please make sure that the COP in MyCity logo appears in all of your communication materials (social media, blogs, documents...) and that you respect the essential graphic elements.
- Respect the “three steps” structure of COP in MyCity by
- ✓ Organizing at least a **simulation** (we provide you a toolkit to organise 3 different kinds of simulations, from very modest to elaborate);
- ✓ Organizing at least **one event** during COP19 in your city (from the 11th to the 22nd of November);
- ✓ Providing at least a **short debriefing report** summarizing your **COP in MyCity** mobilization, the good things and the things that can be improved for the coming years.

(!) The important take-away here is that despite this basic required framework, **the project is yours**. We encourage a large diversity of actions taking place during the mobilization week, which are adapted to your personal context and country. This framework is only here to build a unity in the COP in MyCity movement and allow us to step up climate change awareness at the global level.

Finally, we want to promote **collaboration** between all young climate movements in the world. We are aware of amazing climate-related youth initiatives around the world and we are open to any suggestion and ideas that would help us improve COP in MyCity.

Interested in joining us? Please shoot an email to copinmycity@climates.fr!