

Press release
For immediate release

Sade and Joni invite young people all over the world to a new climate event in Kuusamo: “We need better solutions”

Kuusamo Summit, a new international climate event for youth will be held in Kuusamo on 9 – 11 October 2020. At the event, young people look for solutions on how to keep the earth viable, with the help of the best experts in the field. The high school students Sade Raatikainen and Joni Saastamoinen invite young people all over the world to their home town Kuusamo to come up with solutions to climate change. Global warming is threatening the white winters of Kuusamo, a place famous for its beautiful nature.

- We are surrounded by three national parks and the vulnerable nature, which is of immeasurable importance to us. There are already active measures to preserve our environment, but we need better solutions. Please come and help solve these issues with us, **Sade Raatikainen** and **Joni Saastamoinen** say.

Worry over the earth’s future has gathered young people together, in Finland and globally, for marches and climate strikes, demanding that decision-makers take action. According to a national survey on feelings regarding climate change – carried out by Sitra in 2019 – 58% of Finns were worried about global warming. Over a fourth (27%) of over 15 year olds Finns felt that the word anxiety accurately describes their feelings on climate change. Under 30 year olds were more prone to feeling anxiety than others. Young people were also more frequent in reporting that these feelings have a negative effect on their ability to work and study.

The climate event Kuusamo Summit, held on 9 – 11 October 2020, focuses on how young people themselves can make a difference. The event invites along the best experts in the field as well as all the youth across Finland and the world who are interested in keeping the earth livable.

- The emphasis will be on actions rather than words. Instead of young people merely hearing speeches on the subject, they will get to take action concretely. That way, they have a chance to see that their own actions really do matter, says the event’s project coordinator **Jonna Kalliomäki**.

The event has four themes related to young people’s everyday life: the clothing industry, food and drink, cosmetics and travel. The themes will be tackled in workshops where the participants can learn and discover how they can make choices in their everyday life.

- It's important to highlight personal choices instead of just repeating the mantra that emissions elsewhere are so high that your own decisions don't matter. So far young people here do not have a forum to actively discuss these issues, says **Elise Ylitalo**, the president of the Kuusamo 4H association which is in charge of the event.

In addition to the climate event, there is an ongoing scheme in Kuusamo to develop a program that encourages active youth participation. Kuusamo Summit 2020 has received funding from the Koillismaa Leader association. The total budget is 57 750 euros, of which 90% comes from public funding.

Kuusamo Summit is free for the participants. Travel, accommodation and meal costs are the responsibility of the participants.

Kuusamo Summit 2020, the youth climate event, will be held on 9 – 11 October 2020.

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