

## **Pitch on the New European Bauhaus by Gina Gylver**

My name is Gina Gylver, I am nineteen years old and a climate activist from Oslo. I will start with a short introduction of my work.

I have been a climate activist since the age of twelve, and I have worked with these issues through different organizations and other platforms. We've organized concerts, festivals and demonstrations, we read reports and meet with politicians, we write to the newspapers and travel all around Norway to mobilize and inform youth. I have also been to the COP21 in Paris and COP25 in Madrid, again meeting with politician and the Norwegian delegation, arranging discussions with international activists, and contacting the press in Norway to make sure that everyone back home reads about COP.

Over the past few years, I have been giving speeches at numerous conferences and meetings, trying to reach out to those with power. I talked at the opening of European Green Capital 2019 in Oslo, also at the IFLA World Congress, the Urban Future Global Conference, and many other national events. My goal has been to reach out to, not only politicians, but to all those in position to make big change happen fast. The real estate sector, finance sector, waste management, municipal directors and others.

One thing I always try to communicate when I talk to politicians, CEOs and investors, is that they are building tomorrow's society today, a society that will belong to future generations. Still, that society is not based on the needs and demands from those same generations. Today we build highways, railway-systems, runways at airports, buildings and other infrastructure. Projects meant to stand for decades. Then the young generations should be included in the process and planning of those projects, because they will have such a big impact on our future. Not only by the project itself, but also the emissions and climate impact, and through the nature sacrificed to realize it.

I am a board member in Young Friends Of the Earth Norway, «Natur og Ungdom». That's the biggest environmental organization for youth in Norway. In 2021 I will also be board member in «Miljøagentene», that's the biggest environmental organization for children in Norway. I hope that I can bring their thoughts, reflections, hopes and demands into the New European Bauhaus.

I would like to say a bit about my relation to cities. I am born and raised in a city, and what I really appreciate in Oslo is its practicality, user-friendly design and green spaces. You should be able to breath in a city. Implementing natural elements into the city and preserving local nature and biodiversity is something very important to me. For our health and wellbeing of course, but also because I think that it really has an important effect on our mindset when it comes to climate action and nature preservation. If we get too isolated from every natural element, if nature and wildlife becomes something distant and invisible, then I think it will be harder to act on climate change, harder to change our mindsets.

I have also lived a year in Granada, Spain. A totally different city, with a lot of air pollution. It's a beautiful city filled with history, but there I learned a lot about energy efficiency. I am from Norway, but I have never experienced a winter as cold as the one in southern Spain, because heating those big old schools and houses was way to expensive. I also lived a year in

Antananarivo, Madagascar, in a slum area in the city center. That was a whole different city experience of course, and something that made a great impact on me. We lived with open sewage on both sides of the streets, almost no public transport, lots of air pollution and the great majority of our neighbors could never afford heating during the winter.

I have travelled in Europe by train 15 times, so I have seen a lot of European cities, and all of these experiences has formed my interest in city-planning, architecture and infrastructure. Together with my political work of course, which has given me the possibility to get a better insight in political processes, in the functionality of a city seen from a macro perspective, and some of the challenges one can face while trying to improve a city.

Of course, the New European Bauhaus should not only be a city-project, although it easily can become so. Still, lots of infrastructure and buildings must be built elsewhere as well, and I truly hope that this project will manage to think beyond the cities. Through Natur og Ungdom, I have learned a lot about decentralization, primary industry and challenges one can face living in smaller villages. We are an organization with members and local groups spread over the whole country, even on Svalbard. We also work with issues connected to the whole country, such as agriculture, fishery, railway-systems, forest-preservation, mining industry and indigenous rights for the sámi people. I hope that I can bring in some of these perspectives as well, getting input and ideas from my fellow activists all over the country.

I think that my most important contribution to the Roundtable will be my network and experience with political youth organizations. In “Natur og Ungdom” we are used to be creative in finding ways to be heard. It would mean a lot to get the possibility to have an impact in this project. Youth use the city in a different way than adults I think, and those perspectives are very important to bring to the table. Not only our perspectives and activism, but the sole act of bringing together multiple generations has a great value.

As young climate activists, we act on the preoccupations, the anger and fear, the hope and frustration of my generation, and the ones after us. As a society, we always have to be reminded of who we're doing this for, of the importance, the urgency, the big perspectives. And I will do my best to bring those feelings and thoughts into ideas and reflections that can be useful in the New European Bauhaus. I think that the project can learn a lot from young activists, but I also know that my networks will learn a lot from the ideas, processes and information that I can pass on to the organizations.