

## EKO – Youth Exchange Participants' Report



### **COVID-19 effects on our planet: A perspective of the Greek team of young people**

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## Some thoughts over COVID-19 pandemic

At first glance, the Covid-19 outbreak seems to be completely unrelated with the long-established climate change in every aspect. In terms of origin, the former is clearly not man artifact, which is ubiquitously accepted in the scientific community, based on the Covid's RNA genome sequence. The latter, however, stems from the perennial, self-oriented and egoistic apathy towards global environmental decomposition. Moreover, the bombarding with information from the global media on the pandemic is completely asymmetric to the, progressively diminishing over years, focus on climate change issues. Nevertheless, there are similarities. The exponential spread of any disease is exactly correlated to the exponential growth of global consumerism.

Astonishingly, they both follow the same curve, the so-called S-curve, under different time scales. Moreover, this pandemic has vastly provoked an enormous wave of pseudoscience. Social media are brimming over with conspiracy theories and, thus, cultivating distrust against scientific methods. The so far “unswerving” public health systems of the most powerful states have been suddenly torn to shreds, which highlighted its fragility and vulnerability. At the same time when human kind was led to solitude, natural ecosystems began once again to flourish.

Despite the obvious pernicious impact of human avarice on climate change, people stay reticent to re-evaluate their consumptive needs. Undoubtedly the pandemic has forged a sense of unity and solidarity among people. Unfortunately though, it is rather tantalizing to assume that this will last when we return to our normal lives effortlessly. A radical political change is now, more than ever, required. Hoping, without it being accompanied by an active attitude, could only diffuse reassurance among people and reassurance could solely lead to indifference.

We should get ourselves involved, stand up for the environment, in order to reverse climate change. Half solutions are just inadequate and taking action fully essential. Sooner or later, this pandemic and its devastating consequences will be forgotten. It is up to all of us to determine the next day. Let the end of the pandemic find us inoculated with resolution and determination to claim a new green world.





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