

Summary of National ACE Focal Points Academy

The National ACE Focal Points Academy was organized virtually over three days from 18 – 20 October 2022 supported by the [Action for Climate Empowerment Hub \(ACE Hub\)](#) and the [ACE_{AT} Action for Climate Empowerment Innovation Project](#).

The overall objective of the ACE Focal Points Academy was to strengthen the network of National ACE Focal Points at the international and regional level, including by facilitating regular exchanges of views, good practices and lessons learned to build and strengthen capacity and skills, and by facilitating peer support for ACE implementation.

The ACE Focal Points Academy this year focused on national ACE strategies and meaningful engagement of youth at the national level. National ACE Focal Points from 24 countries and 5 regions participated in the event. A variety of training modules were delivered, and National ACE focal points had the opportunity to interact with experts in the relevant fields as well as share experiences among themselves.

Ina Parvanova, the Director of the Communications and Engagement Division at UNFCCC during the opening of the academy addressed the essentiality of the work of National ACE Focal Points. She said, “The Glasgow work programme on ACE adopted at COP26 calls on governments to place ACE strategically at the heart of national action plans and strategies on climate change and to designate National ACE Focal Points to coordinate these efforts. So far, 66% of the countries worldwide have nominated ACE National Focal Points. Countries stand to benefit from designating ACE National Focal Points, particularly when providing them with an enabling environment that empowers them to fulfill their role.”

During the event, National ACE Focal Points focused on different topics. Various skills-building components were integrated into daily sessions to strengthen key skills National ACE Focal Points can utilize in their daily work. Besides receiving hands-on and interactive training, ACE Focal Points engaged in meaningful discussions and peer consultations through diverse formats such as panel discussions and breakout groups to allow for discussion of topics.

On Day 1, the session focused on strengthening the National ACE Focal Points network. Focal points from different countries, who had never had the opportunity to engage before were able to share wins, identify challenges and opportunities, and deepen connections.

On Day 2, the session focused on building the capacities of ACE Focal Points to develop their national strategies. Speakers from EUROCLIMA+ shared their experience and expertise on processes and methodologies that could be considered when developing a National ACE Strategy. Representatives from Chile and Argentina who have made some strides in developing their ACE strategies also had an opportunity to share. On the other hand, UNITAR’s intervention focused on methods to raise national visibility for ACE strategies and events. ACE Focal Points were encouraged to leverage on the network by initiating bilateral engagements to request and receive support from each other.

On Day 3, the session focused on youth engagement at the national level to highlight opportunities and best practices for ACE Focal Points to engage with youth effectively. Representatives from Care about Climate and NDC Partnership presented their actions for meaningful youth engagement. National ACE Focal Points also presented their good practices in the main plenary, such as mobilizing existing resources to engage youth and teachers. In the last peer consultation session, National ACE Focal Points inspired each other by sharing the actions items they strive to implement in the next six months.

The Academy successfully provided National ACE Focal Points an opportunity to share national experiences, exchange ideas and good practices, and learn from each other within and across regions.

***Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)** is a term adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to denote work under Article 6 of the Convention (1992) and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement/ The over-arching goal of ACE is to empower all member of society to engage in climate action through six elements including education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these issues.

For more information on ACE, click [here](#).