



# EU **DEAR Programme** exchange HUB

## Migrations, Climate Change and Youth Engagement

*Tallinn, Estonia, 28-30 September 2022*

## REPORT

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# Summary

**THIS REPORT** provides an overview of the DEAR Exchange Hub devoted to the nexus between climate change and migration, held in Tallinn, Estonia on 28-30 September 2022.

**DEAR EXCHANGE HUBS** are regular peer-learning events for the DEAR Programme implementers.

The Exchange Hub brought together **39 participants from 10 EU DEAR projects and 14 countries**, DG INTPA and the DEAR Support Team.

**DEAR PROJECTS** represented:

Food Wave 1Planet4All I am European ClimAct/SPARK People & Planet	#ClimateOfChange Game on! Our Food Our Future - OFOF ( <i>previously</i> Go EAThics) MindChangers EU Presidency Project
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**OBJECTIVES** of the Tallinn's Hub:

- Reflect on DEAR project experiences in addressing climate change and migration issues through youth engagement
- Facilitate peer learning between DEAR projects on working with the nexus between migration and climate change
- Showcase DEAR good practices, methodologies, workshops, etc.
- Highlight the potential of youth engagement approaches in DEAR/GCE

**THE PREPARATION PROCESS** was based on the principles of active contribution from all participants and **co-creation of the programme** by DEAR projects, the DEAR Support Team (DST) and DG INTPA.

**THE HUB PROGRAMME** unfolded over two and a half days and was built around three strands:

- DEAR Hub-specific activities (across all three days)
- The Open Estonia Conference (29 September afternoon)
- The youth-led event with DEAR projects' contribution (30 September afternoon)

Participants engaged in a range of activities including small group work, presentations, workshops, panel discussions and individual work on issues related to DEAR/global citizenship education, climate change, migration and youth engagement.

**MULTIMEDIA** - Watch some **video-interviews** (by *MindChangers* reporters) and a **photogallery** from the event [HERE](#).

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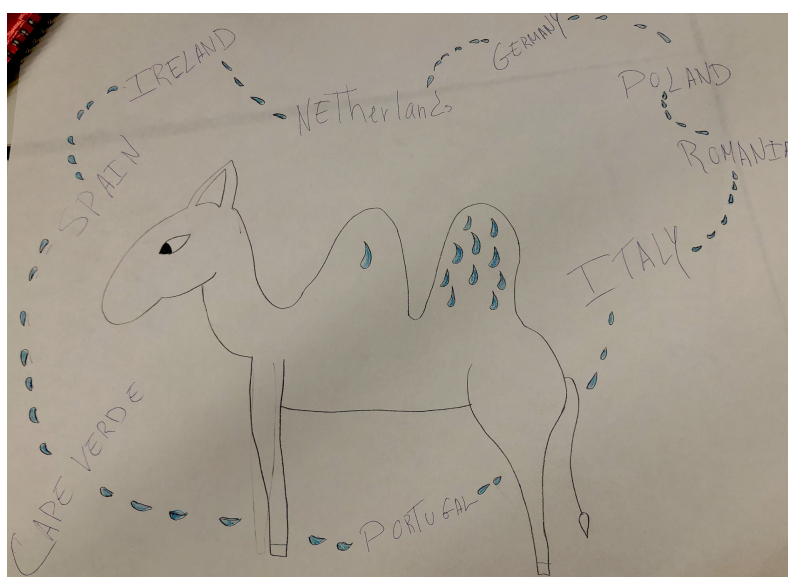
**Report by:** Max Fras and Francesca Vanoni | DEAR Support Team (Oct. 2022)

## Key Takeaways

- The awareness about the **social implications of climate change**, including the climate-migration nexus, is limited among the European public - including youth.
- There is **ample potential** for further DEAR work on this nexus, although systematic and reliable data on climate-related mobility is missing.
- Some DEAR projects provide an interesting evidence base for action on the climate change-migration nexus through **research, surveys**, as well as learning and awareness-raising resources.
- The **terminology** related to environmental crises and migrations is loosely applied. Delving into the nuances and political implications of the terms used is necessary, and welcomed by practitioners.
- Europeans can be mobilised more effectively on these issues if we regularly **connect global phenomena with their local reality**: both in space, showing the effects in people's immediate surroundings, and in time, showing that the impacts are already in the present and no longer in the (far) future.
- Tackling the migration-climate change nexus requires **moving beyond the 'consenting bubble'**. Global citizenship education and awareness-raising activities should acknowledge the tensions associated with climate justice debates and just transition solutions. Those bring to the surface contrasting interests and visions of rights and responsibilities that require careful handling in DEAR projects.
- The **inclusion of voices from outside the EU**, while challenging, would allow for debates and perspectives beyond Europe.

## Exchange Hub session by session

To get familiar with each other, all 10 DEAR projects shared stories and visuals of their engagement in the key themes of the Hub.



For example the *People and Planet* project shared the story of their '[Water of the Future](#)' campaign, with the slogan 'We are not camels'. The campaign brings the reality of water scarcity closer to young European citizens, and shows how they can make a difference. Eco-museums, hiking tours, as well as street art and actions - everyone is involved.

The project *Game On!* shared the story of their '[Wilderness camps](#)'. The camps provide an opportunity to go back to the roots and early lifestyles and to learn about them. A total of 52 Wilderness Camps, between 2021 and 2023, engage children and youth in seven countries and link climate change, lifestyles, and ecosystem decline.

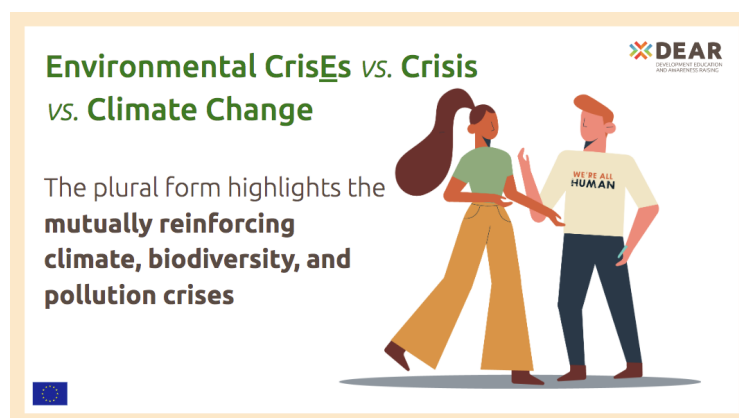


All projects attending the hub, with their profiles and approaches can be found [HERE](#).

## Basic terminology, facts & figures

Sharing a common language and developing an understanding of some terms is important when raising awareness and discussing the climate change-migration nexus. Many terms in the area of environmental migration are now a part of the migration discourse and climate-induced mobility is gaining recognition. However, any glossary should be a constant work in progress that reflects the evolving use of the language. Also, terms take shape in different institutional environments like the EU or UN agencies, each of them specifying their meaning in that particular setting.

For example, **climate migration** is defined as a very broad term by the international Organisation for Migration (IOM) as the movement of persons/groups who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment due to climate change, are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, or choose to do so - either temporarily or permanently, within a State or across an international border.



Although used in advocacy actions to push for their legal protection, the expression **climate (or environmental) refugees** is now widely considered misleading, as these people do not fall under the legal definition of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. "Environmental migrant/displaced person" should be used instead.

**Climate justice** is another grounding term when discussing the ecological transition and is defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as justice that links development and human rights [...], and is often discussed in combination with the concept of **just transition**, because people who are (or will become) most vulnerable with the climate transition need support.

Besides defining key terms, one Hub session also provided insights into some **facts and figures**. Preliminarily, it should be noted that comprehensive and systematic data collection and analysis on climate-related mobility is missing. However, it is a fact that the vast majority of people displaced in the context of natural disasters and environmental degradation resettle within the borders of their country.

Vulnerable communities are most likely to feel the pressure toward climate-induced migration. In fact, countries with a combination of low adaptive capacities, vulnerable geographies and fragile ecosystems are more prone to migration. However, oftentimes the most vulnerable people (poors, women, people of colour, indigenous communities, children) do not have the resources or capacity to leave.

Finally, strong attention should be given to policies and public investments, acknowledging that one third of the world's public climate finance comes from the EU and its Member States. In 2020, the European Commission provided EUR 2.6 billion in climate finance to developing economies, the majority of which geared towards climate adaptation.

The full list of terms discussed and used during the Hub, together with some guiding glossaries and some facts and figures can be found [HERE](#).

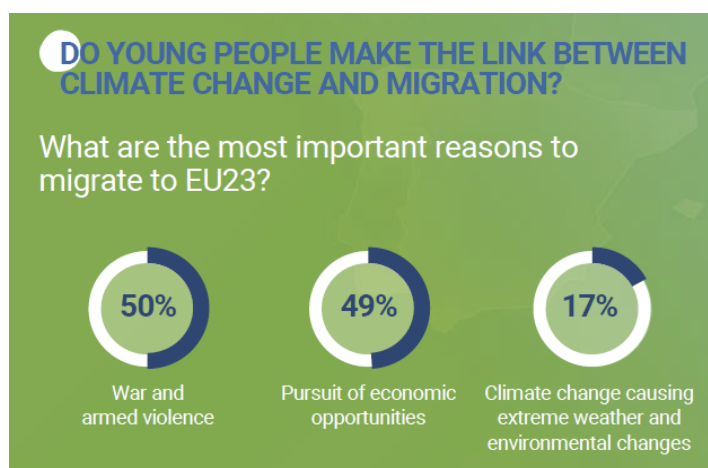
## DEAR project research

The discussion on the climate change-migration nexus needs to be grounded on sound evidence. Two DEAR projects have recently worked on the migration-climate change nexus through research activities and surveys exploring European youth's attitudes and views.

Some of the insights were shared at the Hub.



The **first piece of work, by the Climate of Change project**, was a survey of young people (aged 15-35) on the perceptions of young people in Europe on the interlinkages between climate change and migration. The survey, conducted in 23 European countries in November 2020, involved a total of 22,377 interviews.



The survey offers very interesting insights into each issue and the nexus between them: close to half (46%) of young people in Europe consider climate change to be among the most serious problems facing the world, which puts it in first place among problems listed, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In second place comes

“environmental degradation, including for example air pollution, deforestation and the

extinction of animals” (44%), while 13% of young people consider “large-scale migration” to be among the most serious problems facing the world.

### How much have young people heard about the term “climate migrants”?

A great deal/  
A fair amount



32%

Not very much/  
Nothing at all



68%

The **second piece of research, by the ClimAct/Spark project**, is a survey of over 6,000 young adults aged 18–35 across 6 European countries, plus 20 in-depth workshops in 9 European countries with young adults aged 18–29, on youth perceptions and attitudes in relation to climate justice. The research explores youth attitudes to the interrelated issues of climate change, development, and gender equality, and will culminate in a Youth Climate Narratives Guide in 2022.

The Spark survey shows that, while young people express concern about climate change, they are largely not deeply engaged in taking action. These ‘persuadable’ young adults are a particular focus of the project’s work and are a core audience for climate advocates. The follow-up workshops with this group provided rich data on how ‘persuadable’ young adults in Europe respond to climate justice messaging and can be engaged in climate justice arguments. Survey and workshop data were then used to create a series of recommendations on how to work with young people and climate justice.

**Research findings** highlights from both projects:

- Climate change is a major concern for young people in Europe. Migration is not.
- Climate change’s social aspects are largely under-explored, notably in comparison with environmental aspects.
- The links between climate change and human mobility are not obvious to many young people in Europe.
- Global solidarity is not extended to all aspects of climate change: whereas many young interviewees see the need for all countries to cooperate on climate change mitigation and adaptation, there is no agreement on the fact that high-income countries should contribute more to finding (and funding) solutions than low-income countries, or that climate migrants should enjoy the same rights as those protected by the UN 1951 Refugee Convention.
- The same message does not resonate to all groups. A refined and tailored approach, considering attitudes, age and values of specific audiences is required in awareness-raising and education.

## Climate Diaries, by University of Bologna


DEAR project research is mostly used to inform DEAR projects’ educational, advocacy, and awareness-raising activities. The University of Bologna (UniBo), partner of the *Climate of Change* project, carried out a multidisciplinary research and designed educational activities related to the climate change-migration nexus. Among other quantitative and qualitative tools, visual methods were applied as a means to test and challenge the stigmatised representations of the climate crisis and of climate migrants as victims or as a threat.

An innovative 'Climate Diaries' methodology (Giacomelli & Walker, 2021) was adopted by asking participants in each case study country (Cambodia, Guatemala, Kenya, Senegal) to share photos and perceptions of the climate crisis over a four-week period through a WhatsApp group. Climate Diaries were chosen as a suitable method for a number of reasons:

- They help visualise the impact on the lives and livelihoods of those on the frontline of the climate crisis.
- They allow testing an inclusive and accessible methodology to give time and space to participants so they can give their personal perspective in a creative way.
- They help to better understand the real perception of the climate crises.
- They help to bring out the connections between the climate crisis and the mobility of people.
- They help to understand how the economic, social, political and cultural background affects the perception of the climate crisis.
- They allow testing a digital tool as a research medium.

Further to the introduction to the methodology and its application by UniBo, Hub

### Change over time: Dakar



**Dioumblack:**

"I chose these photos [of Hann Bay] taken in 1957 and 2021... Before, the population number was low, particularly in Hann and there were not many industries. Climate change has natural causes but the main causes are due to human activities. Now, Hann Bel air is an industrial zone if you look at the number of industries that are located here. These industries don't abide by the environmental regulations because they dump through open air channels their waste water into the sea. Their waste water contains toxic products that now prevent people from bathing in the sea."

participants engaged in an interactive experiential learning activity. All Hub participants were asked to contribute to a Climate Diary set up by UniBo before the Hub, that then served as a basis for a discussion on their local realities and later for a debriefing of the method itself.

Details of the Climate Diaries methodology and its use by UniBo can be found in the [Climate Diaries Presentation](#).

## Open Society Forum

The Open Society Forum is an annual event held in Estonia since 1997. Each year, the Open Estonia Foundation brings together local civil society actors with international scholars,

activists, decision-makers and institutions to discuss issues of concern. This year, representatives of all current DEAR projects were invited by their colleagues of NGO Mondo (Estonia) to attend the event, and took the occasion to go beyond their immediate project environment.

This XXV edition was titled 'Two Sides of the Same Coin: Climate Change Meets Migration' and meant to contribute to better climate-, environmental- and migration-related literacy in the society, as well as to empower young people in having a say about their future.

See [HERE](#) the full programme of the event.



#### Selected **takeaways**:

- Together with mitigation measures, **climate adaptation** must be in the focus of public debate and action - some areas cannot adapt anymore, as they reached the 'tipping point'. However, in other areas, adapting to rising temperatures and new living conditions is still possible: urgent strategies must be developed and adopted.
- Climate transition brings out **contrasting rights** - this can be a source of conflict, tackling them is fundamental for a just transition.
- To some extent, **migration can be seen as an adaptive response** to environmental crises. However, environmental-induced migration can become a new driver of brain drain. Also, migration needs resources and mobility opportunities. This implies that the most vulnerable communities and people (being subject to the highest pressure to migrate) often do not have the choice between staying or resettling.
- Generally, **young people know the basics of climate change** and, in some cases, are 'fluent' in it - however the older generations are behind political strategies and decisions.
- **Young people demand** to be involved in the decision-making and in finding solutions to the climate crisis that will affect their future.
- **The ethical dimension of choices** must find its space in political processes.
- A **generational gap** has emerged in recent years and it brings tensions in the conversation: young activists often point at the urgency of phasing out fossil fuels; grown-ups (and institutions) often indicate longer term strategies and point at root causes, and long-term solutions such as education.
- Awareness-raising alone does not lead to **behavioural change**; a profound re-thinking of our lifestyles is urgent.

A recording of the Forum can be found [HERE](#).

## HeatWave in your city, by CliMates

As highlighted in the research outputs shared at the Hub (see above), there is a certain disconnect between the perceptions of climate change as a 'natural' phenomenon and its social aspects. There is therefore an acute need to develop instruments to bring the reality of climate change closer to home, using accessible and participatory learning approaches.

[CliMates](#) is a French organisation and a partner in the *ClimAct/SPARK* DEAR project. Together with UNICEF, they have developed a simulation workshop on heatwaves in urban environments. During the simulation, each participant takes on the role of an actor/stakeholder facing the imminent arrival of an extreme heat wave in their city - this includes local residents, business owners, decision-makers, researchers and civil society organisations. Together, all stakeholders have to pool their assets and ideas to implement innovative solutions to reduce the impact of the heat wave and lead their city on the path to resilience.

The workshop engaged the entire group in an active process of negotiating and prioritising solutions to alleviate the consequences of a heatwave in their city.



As the discussion involved mostly already experienced climate change and global citizenship education activists, experts and professionals, the discussion was mostly amicable and did not bring out all potential tensions and conflicting rights.

A presentation of the activity can be found [HERE](#).

## Inspired! Youth-led workshops

Youth participation is central in the DEAR Programme, especially with regards to delivery of activities organised by, for and with young people directly. The Hub involved an equal number of young people (activists, volunteers, young ambassadors) as other project staff and stakeholders. As the final part of the Hub, participants have immersed themselves in an entire block of youth-led and youth-evaluated activities.

The DEAR project *1Planet4All* designed and hosted [a youth-led event on climate change](#) that all Hub participants attended, in some cases in the capacity of workshop facilitators.

The focus of the *Inspired!* youth event was to share stories, methodologies and inspiration for action on climate change. Over a dozen in person, online and hybrid workshops led by young participants of DEAR projects were held, bringing together youth from all over Europe.

The two main contributors to the event were the DEAR projects *1Planet4All* and *I Am European* with a rich menu of activities. Other consortia contributed three workshops to the event.

### ❖ **SoulFood ForestFarms - designing a green street action, *FoodWave***

[Soulfood Forest Farms](#), a partner in the *FoodWave* project, is an association that focuses on the ecological restoration of abandoned urban or semi urban areas and wants to highlight the connection between ecological regeneration and wellbeing. The workshop, run by Lorenzo, a Soulfood Forestfarms activist, was based on the regenerative agro-forestry methods, in which food and timber production are joined together, and soil is used in a regenerative way. The participants created concepts for green street actions, to raise awareness and take action about environmental degradation.



### ❖ **Reverse Climate Action Bingo, *Climate Of Change***



#### 4. *How do green roofs or rooftop gardens contribute to mitigating floods?*



How to cope with the impact of climate change? What solutions can we brainstorm together to address it locally? Which cities and countries are most affected? Why should we replace our lawns with drought-resistant vegetation? How many people on Earth are vulnerable to climate change? Those were some of the questions posed by Climate Of Change young ambassadors, Denisa and Anna (connected remotely), during the 'Reverse Climate Action Bingo' workshop.

The workshop proved to be the most popular activity of the entire youth-led workshop event, with dynamic moderation and a team-oriented format with thought-provoking questions.

The full list of questions from the workshop is available [HERE](#).

### ❖ New life for your t-shirt, *Game On!*

As much as 10% of global CO2 emissions are related to the textile industry - this is why reducing, reusing and recycling of our clothes are crucial. This is the background behind the 'Another life for your t-shirt' workshop led by youth activists Constantin and Denisa from the Game on! project - they have prepared and facilitated a workshop helping participants to re-use existing material to make new clothes using just scissors and a crochet!



### ❖ Youth reporters, *MindChangers*

Throughout the three-day Hub, two young reporters from the DEAR project *#Mindchangers* acted as reporters and covered the event with video interviews and articles. Both reporters



are part of an editorial team of young reporters who attend popular events (e.g. the Eurovision song contest) to collect voices and reflections of people from all over the world on DEAR-related topics. The initiative aims to move beyond the activities of the Mindchangers project and stimulate a reflection on climate change and

migrations among a more diverse and broader audience.

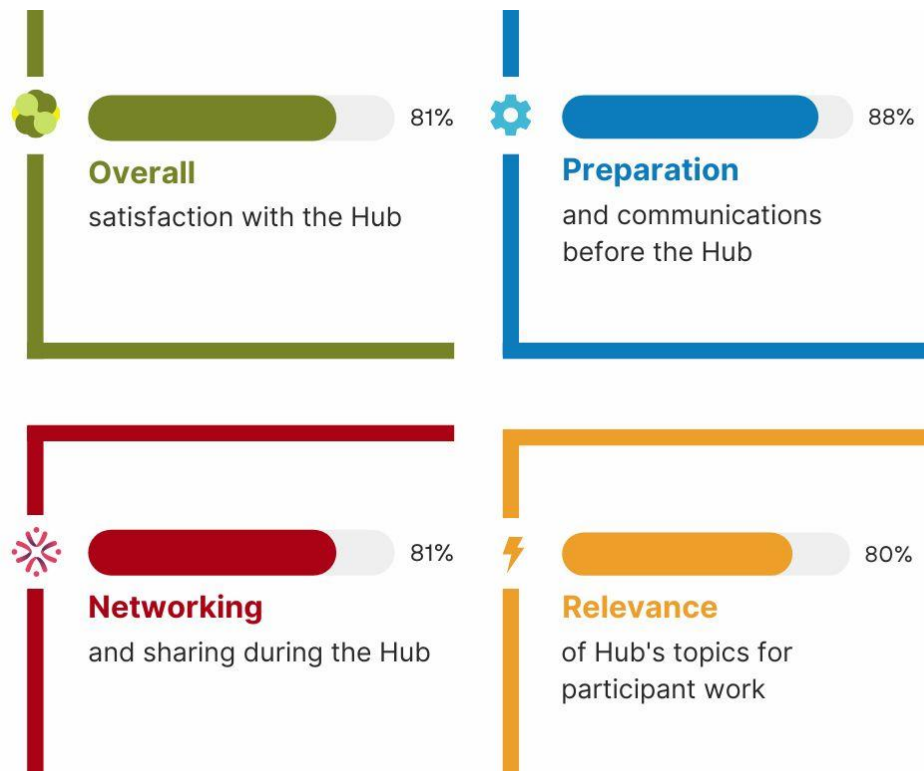
The results of their hard work at the DEAR Hub is available [HERE](#). You can also stay tuned on Mindchangers social media channels!

At the end of the youth-led workshops, online and in person participants shared their **motivation and commitments to take action**.

To mention a few: Reduce food waste | Research more positive actions and good practices in my community | Advocate to local policy makers in-between elections | Keep a positive attitude and encourage hope in others | Learn more about climate legislation | Talk more in my school community about climate change and the role of individuals | Buy second hand clothes | Connect more politically | Work harder to build an environmentally-educated youth in my country.



# DEAR Exchange Hub - Evaluation Summary



A total number of 29 evaluation responses have been received, scoring the four elements between 1 (dislike) and 5 (maximum appreciation).

## Overall satisfaction - key takeaways & quotes

- Overall satisfaction with the Exchange Hub is rated very high at 4.07 out of 5.
- Interactive and participative approaches, as well as connecting the Hub to external events in Estonia was appreciated by the participants.
- Most of the participants were satisfied with the topics and contents of the Hub, and appreciated this opportunity to share best practices, along with struggles, with likeminded people.
- Many participants stated the need for further opportunities to network and collaborate among peers.
- Some participants suggested the programme could have been longer, however an equal number of comments suggested it should have been shorter.

*"High appreciation for participatory approach and connection with external events. The duration is challenging, both of the hub itself and of the workshops. External experts to provide food for thought would be an asset".*

*"It was very good to participate in activities done by DEAR projects themselves. Moreover, the idea of sharing activities led by the young ambassadors was very good and it also allowed them to develop connections with people working on similar topics or allowing them to find new collaborative approaches".*

*"It was really great to meet different people all around Europe and share our experience and knowledge. But I expected to learn more about migration and climate change, reflect together on the causes, the consequences and, above all, the solutions and how to implement them at our level as NGOs".*

## Preparation and communication - key takeaways & quotes

- All participants indicated that the necessary information for travelling and lodging was shared in advance and updated when necessary and all communication efforts were highly rated.
- Some participants stated that the timing of invitation and deadlines should be considered carefully during planning.
- Some participants would have appreciated having the flexibility to purchase their own tickets and getting reimbursed afterwards.
- Some participants indicated they would have appreciated having more options for climate-friendly means of travel that would better align with the programme values.

*"Everything was properly informed in advance and constantly. Having the Whatsapp group allowed for direct communications, which was very appreciated".*

*"The organization before, during and after the event was excellent. The communication was very effective and concrete, as well as the material provided for us".*

## Networking and sharing during the Hub - key takeaways & quotes

- Most participants considered the Hub a very useful networking experience and have extended their national and international networks thanks to the event.
- Some participants reflected that beyond the coffee breaks and small pockets of discussions, there was insufficient time for networking.
- Some participants showed the need for a session solely dedicated for organisations to introduce themselves in more depth and socialise afterwards.

*"I think there could have been a lot more time for having a discussion. The agenda was quite full, so having a talk with someone while still managing the things related to a project/workshop was quite difficult"*

*"I got to talk with people who not only work in different DEAR projects, but also with the people who also work within my DEAR project. I discovered a lot of similarities between the project I work in (Our Food Our Future) and Food Wave for example, which allowed me to think of future collaborations"*

## Relevance of the Hub topics to participants' work - key takeaways & quotes

- Participants appreciated the opportunity to network and collaborate with other colleagues working in similar fields.
- A number of participants stated that although the focus in their respective organisations was not directly related to all Hub themes, they took advantage of the event to better understand other DEAR-supported projects.
- Some participants stated the need to learn more new and innovative methodologies to better perform as an organisation.

*"Interesting overview of the DEAR projects. To get more inputs on innovative approaches, ideas, solutions to the challenges we face would be great".*

*"Overall, very good and I liked some of the approaches and novelties mentioned. Still, I consider that time for project managers to meet and discuss [...] (organisation of an activity, development of a product, solving specific problems, etc.) would be extremely useful for knowledge exchange and peer learning".*