ecogenia
γενιά με όραμα

PROJECT REPORT · 2026

Ecogenia 2026 Civic Service Projects

#Olympus2026 | #TravelingCrew2026

May to August 2026 · Mount Olympus and Northern Greece

ecogenia.org

About Ecogenia

GREECE'S FIRST YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS

Ecogenia is a Greek civic-service organisation building **Greece's first Youth Climate Corps**. Founded in 2021, it recruits, trains and pays young people, aged 18 to 30, to deliver practical environmental and community service.

Cohort Members are **civic-service crews**: they undertake structured, paid placements combining fieldwork, professional development and community engagement. Typical activities include wildfire prevention, trail restoration, biodiversity monitoring, environmental education, visitor engagement and citizen science.

Ecogenia's model is place-based and delivered in partnership with municipalities and local stakeholders, public authorities, funders and international partners, positioning young people as **agents of practical climate action**.

Ecogenia cohort members in the field

With your support, we are creating a new generation of active climate citizens.

Youth in Action

Community Impact

Nature & Climate

Ecogenia to date:

65 youth service positions	**32,500+** cumulative hours of service
9,000+ hours of training	**25,000+** people reached

€5.74 of social value generated per €1 invested

*Impact as of September 2026

Two Crews, One Model

OLYMPUS CREW 2026 AND TRAVELING CREW 2026

In 2026, Ecogenia ran two civic-service crews that tested its Youth Climate Corps model in different forms: a 13-week placement based in a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and a mobile crew moving across key communities in Northern Greece.

Combined, the two projects placed young people in paid service across mountain, forest and coastal landscapes in Greece.

Olympus Crew 2026

A 13-week paid civic-service placement based in Litochoro, delivering trail work, wildfire prevention, citizen science and community engagement across Mount Olympus.

Period	18 May to 14 August 2026
Location	Mount Olympus, Municipality of Dion-Olympus
Cohort	7 Cohort Members, 1 Team Leader

Traveling Crew 2026

Ecogenia's first mobile civic-service crew, travelling across field sites across Northern Greece, delivered jointly with the California Conservation Corps.

Period	18 May to 31 July 2026
Location	Drama, Paranesti, Xanthi, Frakto Forest, Mount Olympus
Cohort	3 Cohort Members, 1 Team Leader, 8 Guests from CCCs

Olympus 2026 Civic Service Project

THIRTEEN WEEKS ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

Eight young people delivered a **13-week paid civic-service placement** based in **Litochoro**, combining trail maintenance, wildfire prevention, citizen science and community engagement across the Municipality of **Dion-Olympus** and the wider **Mt. Olympus** area.

The crew maintained **18 km of trails**, completed **28.20 acres** of wildfire-prevention buffer zones, secured 400 metres of water-supply infrastructure at high altitude near Petrostrouga Refuge, and removed **1,405 kg of waste**, including more than 650 kg of waste recovered above the Christos Kakkalos Refuge alongside the Travelling Crew and the California Conservation Corps.

Trail maintenance and wildfire buffer-zone work

Securing water-supply infrastructure at Petrostrouga

4,373
total hours served

18 km
trail work completed

6,923
people engaged, directly and indirectly

1,405
kg of waste removed

28.20
acres of wildfire buffer zones

542
biodiversity observations

Citizen Science, Training & Community

BEYOND FIELD SERVICE

Field service ran alongside a parallel program of citizen science, community engagement and professional development across the thirteen weeks.

Citizen Science

8 Biodiversity Walks recorded **542 observations** with **63 participants**, including a session with KDAP MEA IRIDA designed for inclusive environmental learning.

Community Engagement

18 volunteer days engaged **117 volunteers** across **561 hours** of community work, with the Litochoro Info Kiosk reaching **1,462 people** directly.

Training & Development

8 Professional Development workshops and **6 guest speakers** covered First Aid, wildfire safety, Climate Fresk, soil literacy and leadership.

Litochoro EcoFestival & Community BioBlitz

The Olympus crew closed the summer with an **EcoFestival & BioBlitz** bringing together the Olympus and Traveling Crews, the California Conservation Corps and local residents, with iNaturalist biodiversity walks, a "**Climate Citizen Passport**" activity for children and Leave No Trace Behind stations. The event coincided with the announcement of **Mount Olympus' inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.**

Traveling Crew 2026 Civic Service Project

A MOBILE CREW ACROSS NORTHERN GREECE

Ecogenia's **first mobile youth service crew** brought trained young people and practical environmental capacity to different ecosystems and communities across Northern Greece, travelling between Drama, Paranesti, Xanthi and Frakto Forest. A defining component was the collaboration with the **California Conservation Corps (CCC)** , who lived and worked alongside Ecogenia's crew.

The crew cleared and maintained **17.95 km of trails** , including sections of the European E6, worked across **31.02 acres** of wildfire buffer zones and cleaned 43 cabins as part of a defensible-space project. In Frakto, working with reLife Earth and the University of Ioannina, the team helped catalogue approximately **17.30 acres of mature forest** that had not been mapped before. On Mount Olympus the crew joined the Olympus Crew to recover **650 kg** of abandoned waste.

Engaging the local communities the crew hosted open BioBlitz events that allowed citizens to "**be biodiversity scientists**" for a day.

The Traveling Crew and California Conservation Corps

An open BioBlitz in Xanthi

4,568
total hours served (Ecogenia + CCC)

17.95 km
trails cleared and maintained

5,081
people engaged, directly and indirectly

17.30
acres of forest surveyed for the first time

31.02
acres of wildfire buffer zones

248
Biodiversity observations

Forest Documentation & Fire Prevention

FIELDWORK FOR FOREST RESILIENCE

Moving between field sites, the Traveling Crew documented forest areas that had not been mapped before and carried out defensible-space work ahead of fire season.

Forest Documentation

In Frakto, the crew helped catalogue approximately **17.30 acres** of mature forest that had not been mapped before, applying a scientific protocol developed by the **University of Ioannina** with **reLife Earth.**

Defensible Space

43 cabins cleaned, **7.15 acres** of buffer zones and **1.63 km of drainage infrastructure** cleaned, reducing risk ahead of emergencies.

Trail Infrastructure

50 signage elements created or repaired, including reopened sections of the **European E6 trail** affected by dense vegetation.

Citizen Science & Local Partnerships

Three iNaturalist projects, Rhodope Range 2026, Xanthi BioBlitz and Drama BioBlitz, recorded 248 biodiversity observations. Open BioBlitz events in Xanthi and Drama **invited residents, families and children** to take part alongside the Ecogenia and CCC teams.

Across the project, **13 partner organisations and stakeholders** were engaged and 2 **MOUs signed**.

Travelling Crew repairing the trail infrastructure

Where the Crews Worked

FROM MOUNT OLYMPUS TO NORTHERN GREECE

- **Mount Olympus, Litochoro**
  Base for the Olympus Crew: trail work, wildfire prevention and biodiversity activities.
  Final joint deployment point, where the Olympus Crew and Travelling Crew came together for shared service activities.

- **Drama**
  Traveling Crew deployment: wildfire buffer zones and a community BioBlitz.

- **Paranesti**
  Traveling Crew deployment: trail maintenance and defensible-space work along the European E6.

- **Xanthi**
  Traveling Crew deployment: trail maintenance, biodiversity monitoring and an open BioBlitz with local volunteers.

- **Frakto Forest**
  Traveling Crew deployment: forest documentation with reLife Earth and the University of Ioannina.

Olympus Crew 2026 Traveling Crew 2026

The Cohort Members

2026 CREWS COMPOSITION

Olympus Crew Cohort

Maria Nika
Team Leader

Despoina Markante
Environmental Data Lead

Eleni Svarna
Volunteer Engagement Lead

Elpida Kalamaraki
Community Engagement Lead

Sophia Mavraki
Safety Lead

Danae Charalampopoulou
Storytelling Lead

Iro Fragkou
Mapping & Signage Lead

Paraskevi Nika
Tools Lead

Traveling Crew Cohort

Nikoleta Habib
Team Leader · Biology

Thanasis Vrachnis
Storytelling Lead

Konstantinos Ravanis
Safety & Tools Lead

Marina Kontopoulou
Impact & Data Lead

The crew also included seven Guest Cohort Members and a Staff Member from the **California Conservation Corps**, who lived and worked alongside Ecogenia's team throughout the project.

"Through Ecogenia, I discovered new trails and worked alongside my team to restore and maintain them. Being immersed in the beauty of the natural environment made me realize that protecting it requires collective action and commitment."

Eleni Svarna
Cohort Member, Olympus 2026

"This experience opened up a whole new world of what work and service can mean for young people. It showed me that creating change also means facing resistance and real challenges and that true commitment is choosing to keep going anyway."

Konstantinos Ravanis
Cohort Member, Traveling Crew 2026

Community & Cohort Member Impact

WHAT THE 2026 SEASON DELIVERED

Community Impact

Practical environmental stewardship: Trail maintenance, wildfire-prevention and defensible-space interventions, waste removal, public-space maintenance and protection of critical mountain infrastructure **strengthened environmental resilience** across Mount Olympus and Northern Greece.

Safer and more resilient natural areas: Regular trail clearance, erosion-control works, drainage improvements, signage and hazard mitigation supported **safer visitor access** and improved the condition and **accessibility of forest infrastructure.**

Community participation in climate action: Volunteer days, Biodiversity Walks and open BioBlitz events **brought residents, families, children and visitors directly** in contact with their local environment and raised their **environmental stewardship**.

Environmental awareness and community ownership: Public engagement through the Info Kiosk, community events and citizen-science activities increased **ecological literacy** and created opportunities for communities to participate directly in the stewardship of **local ecosystems**.

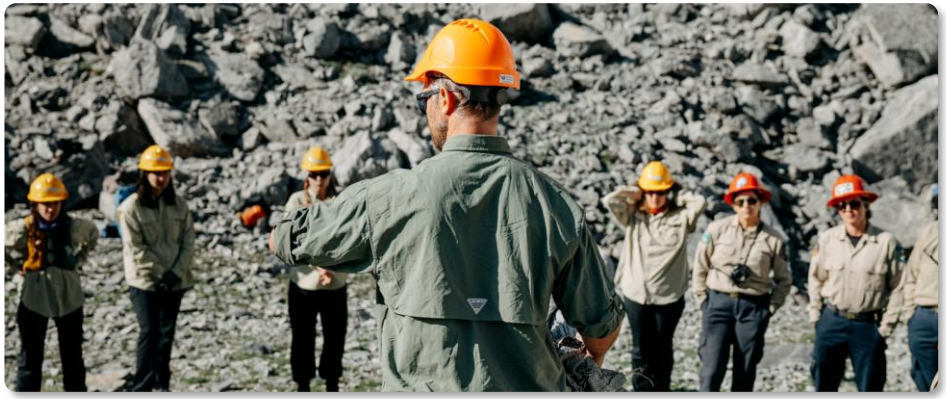
Cohort Member Impact

Practical green skills: Cohort Members developed hands-on skills in field safety and tool use, trail maintenance, wildfire prevention, environmental stewardship, biodiversity monitoring, citizen science and environmental data collection.

Leadership through real responsibility: Dedicated crew roles enabled Cohort Members to practise **leadership**, project **coordination**, **safety**, environmental **data collection**, **storytelling**, volunteer **engagement**, community engagement, tools management, mapping and signage in real operational conditions.

Professional and interpersonal development: Professional Development Days and field service strengthened **leadership, communication, teamwork**, **adaptability** and **problem-solving**, alongside employability skills for the green transition.

International and cross-cultural learning: Through the collaboration with the **California Conservation Corps**, participants exchanged approaches to conservation service and climate resilience while developing cross-cultural communication and teamwork through communal living and daily field service.



Media & Public Visibility

2026 COMMUNICATION RESULTS

Across the **Olympus 2026** and **Traveling Crew 2026** Civic Service Projects, Ecogenia's work reached wider audiences through media coverage, partner channels and social media.

Coverage highlighted the crews' work on trail restoration, wildfire prevention, biodiversity monitoring, environmental stewardship and youth civic service, including the **collaboration with the California Conservation Corps.**

> 140 Social Media Posts

Content published across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok.

> 800,000 Impressions

Total number of times Ecogenia content was viewed across digital channels.

> 136,000 Reach

Unique users organically exposed to Ecogenia content.

> 26,500 Engagements

Likes, comments, shares, saves, and other interactions with published content.

> 28 Press Mentions

Earned media coverage in national and international outlets.

Supporters & Partners

WHO MADE THE PROJECTS POSSIBLE

The Olympus 2026 and Traveling Crew 2026 Civic Service Projects were delivered with the **support of a broad network of funders, individual supporters, public institutions and operational partners**.

Their financial contributions, institutional cooperation, technical expertise and local coordination enabled Ecogenia's teams to implement field activities across Mount Olympus and Northern Greece and to engage communities throughout both projects.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Raycap

The Hellenic Initiative Canada

Ancestors of Tomorrow

Columbia Sportswear Company

CCC Foundation

Firehouse Fund: Cultivating Sparks

FEE FOR SERVICE CONTRACT

greenlife

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Ministry of Environment & Energy

Δασική Υπηρεσία

Εθνικό Αναπτυξιακό Ταμείο Hellenic Growth Fund

Ο.Φ.Υ.Π.Ε.Κ.Α. Οργανισμός Φυσικού Περιβάλλοντος και Κλιματικής Αλλαγής

Δήμος Δίου-Ολύμπου

Δήμος Παρανεστίου

Δήμος Σαμοθράκης

Δήμος Δράμας

NOTEWORTHY PROGRAM PARTNERS

California Conservation Corps CCC Est. 1976

reLife Earth

Ε.Ο.Σ. Λιτοχώρου

Fire Service of Litochoro

Powered by Ch. Kakalos 2.648

We extend our sincere thanks to the individual donors and sponsors whose support contributed directly to the delivery of Ecogenia's 2026 Civic Service Projects. Special thanks to Andreas Stavropoulos and Chrysoula Dosiou for their significant contribution and continued support.

ecogenia

γενιά με όραμα

WEBSITE
ecogenia.org

EMAIL
info@ecogenia.org

SOCIALS
@ecogenia