D3

Discussion

Proposer: Green Youth of Serbia (decided on: 17.11.2026)

Title: **Who Pays for the Green Transition? Beyond Extractivism**

The transition towards a climate-neutral economy requires significant resources, including critical raw materials needed for renewable energy technologies and other green industries. However, the extraction of these resources can create substantial environmental and social costs for the communities and territories where they are found. This raises an important question: who benefits from the green transition, and who bears its costs?
The Jadar lithium project in Serbia provides a relevant starting point for examining these tensions. It illustrates the challenges of balancing economic development, environmental protection and the interests of local communities, while also raising broader questions about green colonialism and extractivist development models in Eastern Europe.
This session will explore how the costs and benefits of resource extraction are distributed at local, national and European levels. Participants will critically examine the idea that economic growth and environmental protection are necessarily in conflict, and consider alternative development models that place biodiversity, social wellbeing and long-term sustainability at their centre.