



AENOL A.E.

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Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης Ν. Λάρισας

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A Conversation with the Mayor of Elassona and President of AENOL

At the end of one of the PeakED Regional Youth Camp activities, participants gathered around the Mayor of Elassona and President of AENOL for an informal discussion. Inspired by everything they had experienced, they eagerly shared their thoughts and questions.

Young Participant: *Mr. Mayor, after everything we've experienced these days, do you really believe young people can make a difference?*

Mayor: Absolutely! In fact, I believe that young people are already making the difference. Every idea you shared, every discussion you joined, every step you took on the mountain proved that change begins with people who care. Our role, as local authorities, is to give you opportunities, trust your ideas, and stand beside you.

Young Participant: *What makes Mount Olympus and our region so special for projects like PeakED?*

Mayor: Olympus is much more than a beautiful mountain. It is a place where nature, history, culture and people meet. It teaches us resilience and respect. Through projects like PeakED we show that mountain areas are not remote places—they are laboratories of innovation, sustainability and hope for Europe's future.



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Young Participant: *What would you like to see happen after this project ends?*

Mayor: I hope this is only the beginning. I would like to see you return—not just as visitors, but as partners, entrepreneurs, researchers, volunteers and future leaders. The ideas born here can become new initiatives, new businesses and new collaborations that will benefit our communities for many years.

Young Participant: *What message would you like to leave to all young people across Europe?*

Mayor: Never underestimate the power of your ideas. Protect your environment, respect your local culture, work together and never stop learning. Europe needs young people who are optimistic, creative and willing to build bridges between communities. I hope that one day you will look back at PeakED and say: *"This is where our journey towards making a difference truly began."*

Young Participant: *Mr. Mayor, during the workshops we learned that climate change is expected to affect mountain ecosystems much faster than we imagined. Honestly, it made many of us worried. Are you optimistic about the future?*

Mayor: I understand your concern because I share it. The scientific evidence is clear, and we cannot ignore it. But I remain optimistic because I also see something equally powerful: people who are willing to act. Every generation faces its own challenges. Yours has the knowledge, the technology and the ability to work together across



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borders. If we combine science, local experience and your energy, I truly believe we can protect our mountains and create a more resilient future.

Young Participant: *What will happen after PeakED? We don't want this experience to end here.*

Mayor: Neither do we. A successful European project should never end with its final report. For AENOL, PeakED has created new partnerships, new ideas and, most importantly, a community of young people who care. We want to continue supporting initiatives on environmental education, sustainable tourism, innovation and youth participation. I hope many of you will come back—not because of another project, but because you feel this place is also your home.

Young Participant: *If you could ask us to do one thing when we return home, what would it be?*

Mayor: Become ambassadors of change. Share what you have learned with your families, your friends, your universities and your communities. Small actions inspire bigger ones. Plant a tree, organise a local initiative, speak about climate change, support sustainable businesses, volunteer. Never believe that one person cannot make a difference. Every great movement begins with someone who decides to take the first step. And looking at all of you today, I am convinced that many first steps have already been taken.