



# Evolution of Economics

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## **ABSTRACT**

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Climate change is a long term change in temperature and weather everywhere around the world. These changes can be natural, for example making variations in the solar cycle which is normal. But however, the biggest threat for climate change has been the actions of humans as we are burning fossil fuels like gas, oil and coal. When burning fossil fuels, it creates greenhouse gas emissions that work as a shield covering the earth from rising temperatures. This concerns everything, such as international organizations, governments, countries, individuals and businesses. Governments of each country are working together to find a solution for this world's biggest threat.

Mixed/techniques research were applied in this study, using an online survey. This survey was sent to the international students in Slovenia and Finland to find out their opinions about Climate change and increase their knowledge of The Venus Project.

The main purpose of the survey is to gather information from individuals about Climate Change. Mainly this survey is shared with international students in Slovenia because the author is living in Slovenia at this moment. The survey includes 9 questions and all the answers are anonymous to keep responders' identity safe. The goal of the survey is to gather minimum 30 responses from individual responders by the middle of June.

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Keywords: climate change, the venus project, climate actions, slovenia

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Climate change means that the temperature and weather in our globe is changing radically. It has been a problem to our planet for years. However, in the past 10 years, the threat of climate change has grown enormously since we humans have been burning more and more fossil fuels each year.

Climate change is occurring, is very likely caused by human actions and poses significant risks for a broad range of human and natural systems. Each additional ton of greenhouse gasses emitted commits us to further change and greater risks. In the judgment of the Committee on America's Climate Choices, the environmental, economic and humanitarian risks of climate change indicate a pressing need for substantial action to limit the magnitude of climate change and to prepare to adapt to its impact. (National Resource Council, 2011a, p.1).

James Vose, the Research Ecologist at the U.S. Forest Service is telling how Climate change is changing the forests in the USA. The rapidly growing climate change is affecting the ecosystems in the forests and not only in the US but also in every part of the world. In the past 100 years, the temperature has increased 1.4F globally. Because of this global temperature rise, it has caused a loss of Arctic ice, rising sea level by 8 inches and increasing in extreme temperatures and heat waves. (Climate Change Education: National Research Council, 2014, p.4).

### 1.1 Research purpose, questions and objectives

The purpose of this thesis is to research how climate change affects the world and our environment, what can we do to solve it, and if there are already solutions that exist. In addition to other solutions that exist, the thesis includes a project made by Jacque Fresco and Roxanne Meadows, who together

created The Venus Project to find solutions to the world's biggest problems such as climate change, hunger, war and poverty.

This study seek to respond on following questions such as:

- 1 . What are the impacts of Climate Change?
- 2 . Are there any solutions found?
- 3 . What can individuals do to help?

The results will act as a guideline for The Venus Project to gain more visibility and understanding from individuals to make the actual changes happening.

## **1.2. Research Structure**

The first part of this research starts by a brief introduction to climate change, moving to research questions, purposes and objectives. The second chapter presents a background which tells more about climate change and its impacts to the world.

The following chapter three focuses on The Venus Project by first describing what it is about and what kind of projects they are doing. The second part of this chapter explains their missions and goals for climate change.

The chapter four describes more about research methods and questions used in this study.

“Knowing is not enough; we must apply.

Willing is not enough; we must do”

-Goethe

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## 2 BACKGROUND

Climate change is the same thing as global warming, which is not very nice news to a human kind and other existing species. It is making more negative impacts in our everyday life. It has been one of the biggest threats for humankind for ages and the reason for this rapidly increasing global warming is due to people using oil, gas and coal at their homes, factories, businesses, public transportation etc. We must stop global warming from growing as soon as possible if we want to avoid the worst consequences of it. How to do this is said that we all must work together, all the nations and governments have to bring up their minds together and find a solution for this rapidly increasing problem.

Some decades ago, the impacts of climate change were not recognized as often as they are now. This proves that the actions of humans are making it worse.

### 2.1. Impacts of climate change

The biggest threats of climate change are the extreme weather changes which threaten livelihoods and create uninhabitable places where people and animals have to run away from their homes because it is dangerous to live in these dry areas since there is no water nor food. For example, the farms will turn into deserts. Some countries or even continents might miss rain seasons due to global warming.

According to the article from BBC News, extreme temperatures can increase the risk of wildfires as seen in Europe last summer. France and Germany recorded about seven times more landburn between January and middle of July 2022, compared with the average. (BBC News, What is Climate Change?).

Floods and dryness have been in mind a lot lately because climate change prevents rain from coming which causes more wildfires which causes the depletion of biodiversity in the soil and deserts. When deserts are facing depletion, animals that live in the deserts have to escape because it is no longer a safe place for them.

However, these are not all the impacts climate change is making. Also the life of seas and its inhabitants are under threat. Some scientists believe that if there are no actions taken in this century, over 500 species can go extinct.

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## 3 THE VENUS PROJECT

### 3.1. Background

The Venus Project is a non-profit organization based in Florida USA. The organization focuses on presenting a new socio-economic model using science and new-time technology towards social improvements to achieve a sustainable abundance for everyone without any exceptions. The organization was founded by an architect and social engineer Jacque Fresco and his partner Roxanne Meadows on 6th of April, 1985 in Florida. The idea of the organization came from a simple desire, to have a world where every human on this planet's needs are met, Earth Ecosystems protected and all the species can live in peace, without hunger, poverty or wars. Before starting the organization, Jacque Fresco used to work as an industrial design and social engineer and forerunner for Human Factors.

The organization is meant to make important connections between individuals and governments to solve the world's biggest problems and challenges the human race is facing, such as global resource mismanagement, poverty, climate change, hunger and war. In order to solve these challenges, the Venus Projects presents a solution by using both science and new technology to advance the potential to make more positive impacts. Before May 2018, the Venus Project was a private corporation for decades.

The organization has an operating center in Florida, where all the research comes from. It includes 21 acres and has constructed 10 different experimental structures ever since the organization started. Many people might think how did they fund it all, but as normal as it is, they both funded it with their full time jobs without using any sponsors or even going to a depth. This operating center was built to show how it is possible for technology and nature to work together to make a positive future together. The estimated cost of this 21 acre center including 10 buildings, was around 1.250.000 USD and

as mentioned, this was funded only by the founders Jacque Fresco and Roxanne Meadows.

The project itself has gained such a big amount of support and worldwide popularity within individuals and companies want to help. It has been represented in many languages in different countries in newspapers, tvs, radios, even in books. Today, the organization has tens of different collaborative teams that anyone can join. Such as marketing team, public speaking team, virtual reality team, graphics team, human resource and many other teams to choose with.

They have over 400 models, 5,500 sketches, videos and books in many different languages to learn more about them. In 2012, they created a documentary “Paradise or Oblivion” which was translated into over 30 languages.

Jacque Fresco, one of the co-founders of the organization has been awarded the Global Goals Award of Excellence and Leadership for Sustainable Cities and Communities in 2016 by the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs.

### **3.2. Vision and next steps**

Their vision shows how human activity is cooperating with nature and how all people and animals can live freely without stressing about poverty, hunger, wars, natural disasters etc. In order to achieve these visions, they are taking actions on a small-scale project in the center of Resource Management to increase global impact through replications.

They aim to create a globally working Resource Based Economy which will be an arising society, opposite what we have today. Resource Based Economy will recognize our Earth as a common heritage of all human beings and animals, provide a free and easy access to services and products, education

and to all that's needed. It will use the principles of science, tests and researchers with environmental preservation on its priority as well as utilize the work of experts in teams to look after in each area of society. This will also become automated to make the work more efficient.

The next steps to take will be developing the buildings, infrastructure and systems, populating the team with new experts with disciplines, acquiring and estimating the land for its whole complex and raising funds for constructions.

### **3.3. Their actions for Climate Change**

As we keep seeing agricultural burning all over the world at night, harbors being flooded, the atmosphere getting thinner and all the other environmental damages happening. The Venus Project has taken actions to decrease the threats of climate change. The project says that changing human behaviors can make a huge impact on lessening climate change because humans learn much faster and gather more information than any other species existing. Changing the behaviors means stopping the wars, hatred and violence happening. By investigating what forces are involved in human behavior makes it easier to learn how to deal with it.

It is often thought that modern new technology can save us from climate change but it is not reliable. Although technology has made our life much easier, most of the time it is helping us with our daily lives but sometimes it has no value. However, there is one type of technology we don't have but we certainly need to use is the technology of behavior. By changing human behavior, we must take a deep look at our attitudes and conduct.

“The sunflower does not turn to the sun. The sun makes it turn by pulling in membranes. The sailboat cannot sail, the wind moves it ” - Jacque Fresco

### **3.3. What are the other projects they are working on?**

The Venus Project is working for several projects such as climate change, hunger, transcription, food and agriculture and other kinds of projects.

They are looking for volunteers all over the world to help them with their projects. Anyone with an interest and experience on any of the projects they have are welcomed to join as a volunteer or work with them.

The most relevant topic they are focusing on is alternative thinking. This means that they accept a system that breeds inefficiencies and encourages the creation of shortages.

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## 4 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN SLOVENIA

As the author is currently based in Slovenia, the focus of this section will be on the local impacts. Slovenia is a small central European country with a land area of 20 273 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 2.1 million. It is a country of mountains and forests known for its beautiful and unique nature.

### 4.1 How is Climate Change affecting Slovenia

Slovenia is not immune to the impacts of climate change either. While Slovenia has a diverse climate due to its varied terrain, including Alpine, Mediterranean, and other regions, the effects of climate change are being discovered across the country. Main impacts of the climate change in Slovenia are:

**Rising Temperatures:** Slovenia, like many other parts of the world, has experienced a progressive increase in temperatures over the past century. Signs of warming have been observed throughout the country, leading to seasonal changes, such as shorter winters and longer, hotter summers.

**Changing Precipitation Patterns:** In Slovenia, there have been noticeable modifications in precipitation patterns, including changes in the intensity and frequency of rainfall. Certain regions have encountered frequently heavier rainfall events, leading to an increased risk of floods and landslides, whereas other areas have faced periods of drought.

**Glacier Retreat:** Slovenia is home to several glaciers in the Julian Alps. However, due to rising temperatures, these glaciers have been consistently shrinking over the past century. This decline in glacial ice carries consequences for the region's water resources and ecosystems.

**Forest Health and Wildfires:** Climate change has had an impact on forests in Slovenia, with rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns affecting the health and composition of tree species. Increased forest pests and diseases, such as bark beetles, have been observed. Additionally, the risk of wildfires has increased, especially during hot and dry periods.

**Water Supply:** Changes in precipitation levels can affect water resources, including rivers, lakes, and aquifers in Slovenia. Reduced snowfall and earlier snowmelt can lead to water scarcity, particularly during the summer months when demand is highest, having implications for agriculture, hydropower generation, and overall water security.

**Biodiversity and Ecosystems:** Climate change poses a grave threat to Slovenia's rich biodiversity and ecosystems. Species that are adapted to specific climatic conditions may face challenges in adapting to rapid changes. Alpine ecosystems, for instance, may see shifts in plant and animal species as warmer conditions allow certain species to move further up the mountains.

**Tourism and Agriculture:** Slovenia's tourism industry, which relies heavily on its natural beauty and outdoor attractions, may be impacted by climate through altered landscapes and decreased snowfall in winter resorts. Agriculture, another important sector, may face challenges due to changes in growing seasons, increased water scarcity and risk of pests and diseases.

To address these challenges, Slovenia has been taking steps to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The country has committed to international climate agreements, implemented renewable energy policies, promoted energy efficiency, and invested in research and development. Additionally, efforts are underway to improve water management practices, protect vulnerable ecosystems, and raise public awareness about climate change.

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## 5 METHODOLOGY

### 5.1. Questionnaires

As part of this research, a questionnaire was created and distributed to participants in Slovenia as a way to measure local opinion on the subject of climate change and its impacts. The survey includes 9 general questions regarding climate change. The aim for the survey was to gather 30 participants. However, as of the end of June, only 13 responses were received.

The first question was asking the gender of the participants. Out of 13 respondents, 6 were male (46,2%) and 7 female (53,8%). The second question determines age groups of participants. The purpose of these questions was to gain understanding of demographic distribution.

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What is your gender?

13 vastausta

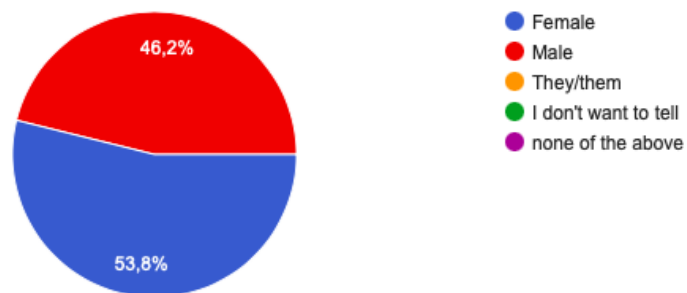


Figure 1. Genders

### How old are you?

13 vastausta

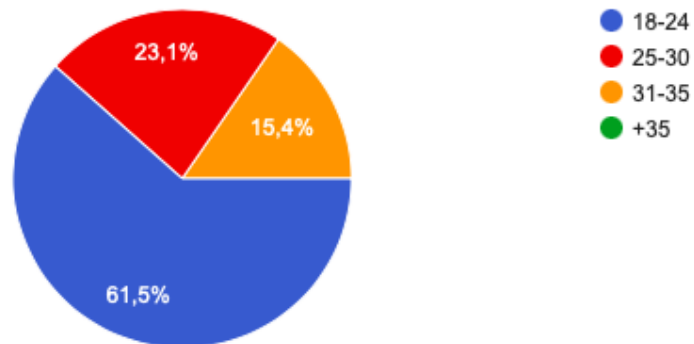


Figure 2. Ages of the participants

The third question assesses the participants' opinions on climate change. As shown in figure 3, most of the responses indicate that climate change is an important issue. The participants believe that the effects of climate change can be seen everywhere, and suggest that governments should work together to find solutions to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

### What do you think about climate change?

13 vastausta

It is important

climate change is likely going to destroy the world's economy, make every country faces catastrophic weather.

It is one of humanity's biggest challenges.

It's an existential threat to civilisation caused by human activity

It's worrying

Important matter

Is getting worst every year it goes

We see the effects everywhere

Important. Government has do to more, otherwise people do not really do enough

We have to be more aware of the problem it represent

Not enough measures are taken when it is urgent to do so

It's not avoidable that this problem will keep increasing, because governments do too little or move too slow to make a big difference

Climate change is very, very important. I wish people would stop looking at it like it's something not important, a "trend", something people only care because other's do, because it's cool. I think climate change should be something people act on. We keep saying the future, our kids, but it's happening now.

Figure 3. Opinions of the participants

The figure 4 asks participants if they have heard of The Venus Project before. As shown in the results, 53,8% of the responders (7/13) have never heard of the project before, 7,7% responders have heard of it (1/13) and 38,5% of responders (5/13) have not heard of it but claim to find it interesting.

Have you ever heard of The Venus Project? <https://www.thevenusproject.com/the-venus-project/>

13 vastausta

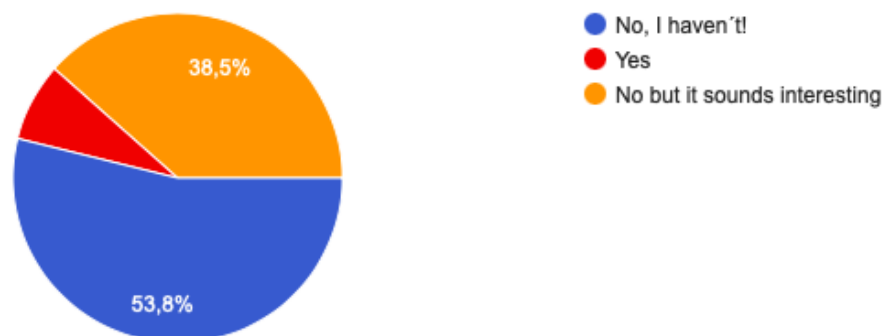


Figure 4. Venus Project

In figure 5, the participants give suggestions on what actions should be taken for decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions. The most common responses were support and actions taken by governments and big companies should change their behaviors towards climate change.

#### What actions should be taken for climate change?

13 vastausta

I thinks there should be coworking from each countries' governments

government should take action in order to stop or at least reduce the effects of climate change. And every country should be part of this movement.

There are too many things the write here.

Emissions reduction and transition to renewable energy sources

Changing our ways of life

Reduce production

Adopt better measures

The big companies should change their behavior

More laws to restrict

Consume less to make industries to slow down

reduce pollution from industrial activities

Support and development of technologies which not just diminish CO2 emissions , but also take CO2 out of the atmosphere binding it permanently

Controlled plane trips. Social responsibility by companies.

Figure 5. Ideas for actions taken for climate change

This diagram shows the results of participants responding by volunteering to help The Venus Project if they had a chance. 53,8%, 7 out of 13 responders would like to have more information about the project so they could decide whether to volunteer. 30,8%, 4 out of 13 responded to volunteer and rest 2 responders (15,4%) would not volunteer.

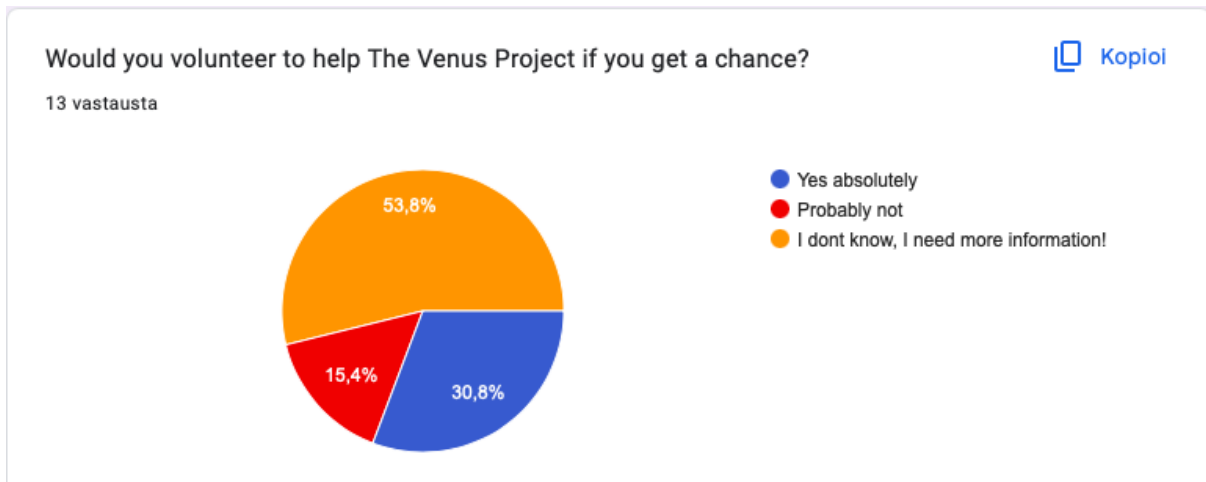
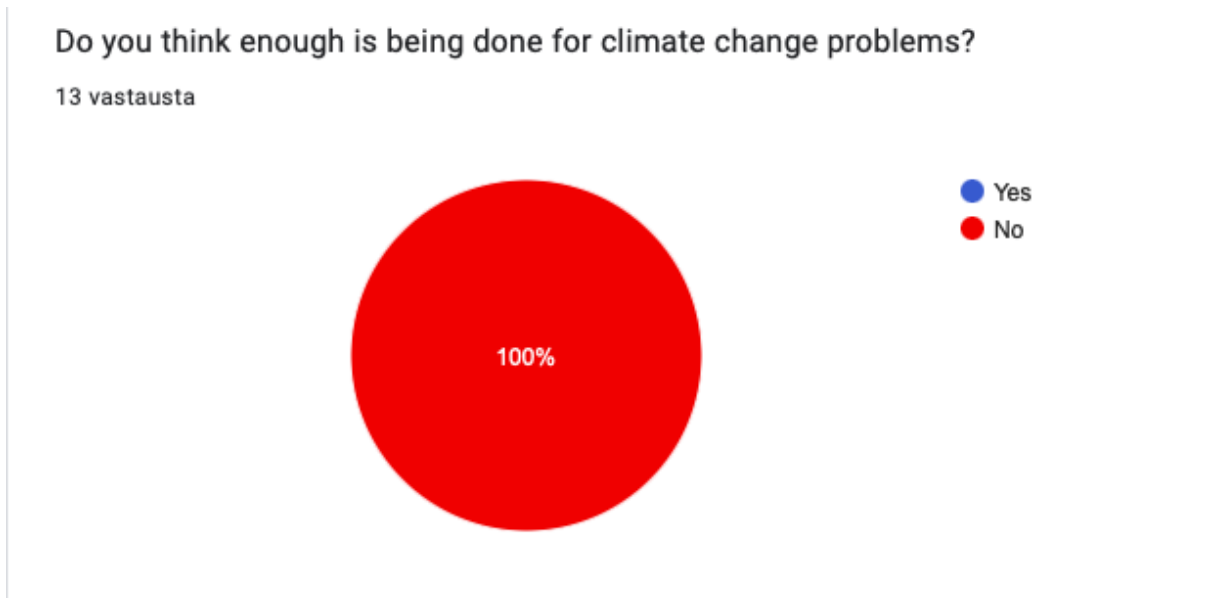


Figure 6. Volunteering

In figure 7, 100% of the participants responded no as there is not enough being done for climate change problems yet.



The figure 7. Climate change problems and what is being done

This figure is asking the participants whether they are aware of what is being done by their local government and other representatives on climate change issues. There are 13 responses, of which 11 are telling that they have no idea or they don't know what is happening in their local governments based on the greenhouse gas emissions issues. However, 2 other responses are telling that there will be heat engines in new cars from 2035 and creation of new bicycles to rent by reducing the use of vehicles.

Are you aware of what is being done by your local government and other representatives? If yes, what?

13 vastausta

No
no
Not enough...
Not aware
Yes of course, for example the creation of new bicycles to rent to reduce the use of vehicles
Don't know
The end of heat engines in new cars from 2035
I am not aware of details
No

Figure 8. Local Governments' actions

The figure 9 goes through the greener future by asking the participants whether they would vote for a candidate in Parliament. 69,2% responded yes as they would vote. However, 30,8% answered maybe.

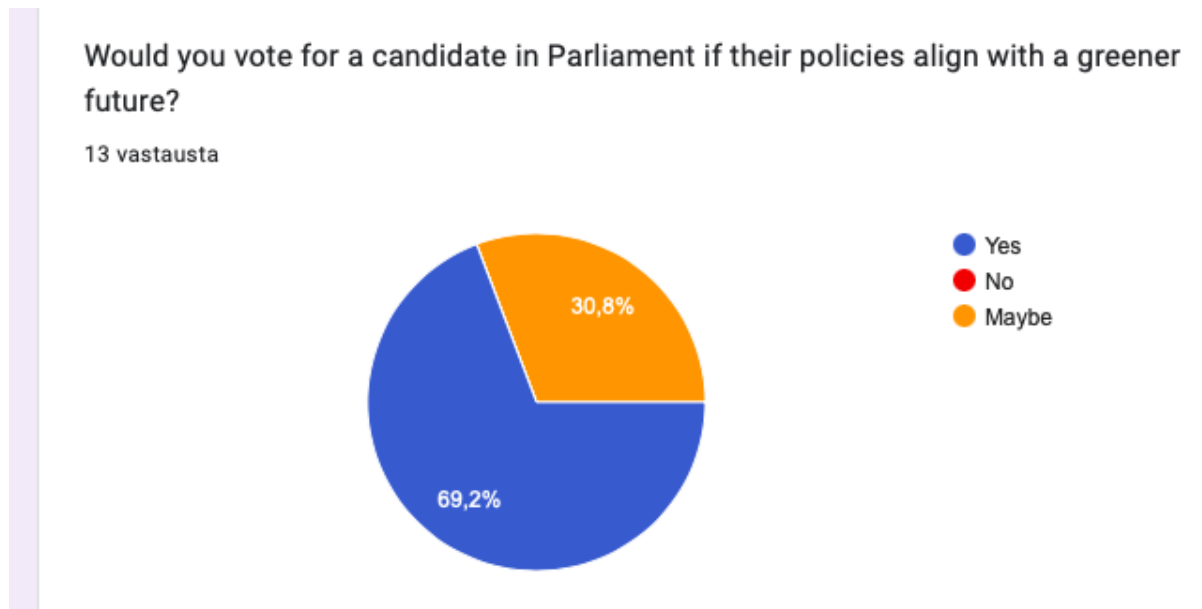


Figure 9. Voting a candidate

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## 6 CONCLUSION

Climate change will affect all sectors of the economy in every way in the near future. Its effects are going to be global, meaning that any one country or region can't solve the issue alone. The biggest impacts climate change is creating are increased global temperatures and resultantly more frequent extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, harming food security.

In research of The Venus Project, it is a non-profit organization based in the US. The organization focuses on presenting a new socio-economic model by using science and new-time technology towards social improvements to create a sustainable abundance for everyone without any exceptions. The goal of the project is to create a Resource Based Economy that works globally and raises a society which is completely opposite of today's society. The RBE provides free and easy access to services, products and education to all by using the principles of science, tests and research with environmental protection. They also aim to become automated as a part of increased work efficiency.

The organization has taken actions to decrease the issues of climate change by researching how human behaviors can affect global warming. Changing the ways of behaving, can make an enormous impact on climate change as humans learn faster and gather more information faster than any other existing species.

According to the results of research on global warming impacts in Slovenia, the main impacts are rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, water supply, biodiversity and ecosystems, forest health and wildfires. Slovenia has taken action to mitigate and adapt to climate change by implementing renewable energy policies, promoting energy efficiency and investing in research and information.

The results of the survey show the opinion of the participants leans towards governments taking more actions on mitigating climate change and helping the Venus Project to find solutions to it.

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