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## **Innovative initiative empowers European youth to influence policy**

BERLIN, GERMANY

Many young Europeans across the continent are increasingly losing faith in their ability to shape policies concerning their future and feel alienated from political decision-makers. By empowering young people to influence youth-related decisions and hold local authorities accountable, the YouthMetre, a new European initiative, will provide young people innovative and engaging channels of information and participation.

Encompassing a website and a mobile app, the YouthMetre offers an interactive data dashboard and visualization of EU Policy achievements, allowing for the outcomes of public authorities' actions to be measured and compared.

"We want to fundamentally **close the gap between youth and policymakers**. Firstly, we want to provide overarching data about youth policy from young people's perspectives, and secondly, highlight some best practices that have already enabled young people to take an active role in political processes", says project coordinator Karl Donert.

Apart from focusing on empowering youth, the YouthMetre project also supports local authorities in EU Member Countries in carrying out effective policy reforms in the field of youth, in line with the indicators provided by the EU Youth Strategy and according to young Europeans' priorities. The local authorities will receive evaluations of their initiatives, while being able to find out about best practices achieved in other municipalities across Europe.

The project is initiated by a group of nongovernmental and educational organisations. Project partners include the European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO), ARS for Progress for People (ARS4P), European Youth Press, the University of Zaragoza, the Association of Local Democratic Agencies (ALDA), and CESIE. Please visit the YouthMetre website for the latest updates: <http://youthmetre.eu/>

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