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20 Main Outcomes from Youth Policy Research

Brussels, Belgium

*Between January and June 2016, YouthMetre project undertook research about the latest EU youth policy developments and programmes for youth. The research included official documents, published scientific research and other articles investigating the impact of those policies on young Europeans. The outcomes were summarised in **20 key points**.*

The aims of the EU Youth Policy are to **provide more and equal opportunities for young people** in education and the job market as well as **encourage young people to actively participate in society**. The EU Youth Strategy proposes initiatives in Education and Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship, Health and Well-being, Participation, Voluntary Activities, Youth and the World, Creativity and Culture.

The outcomes of the research suggest tackling **youth and long term unemployment** is nowadays considered **an absolute priority**. European programmes are **succeeding in fostering the attainment of higher level of education**, however the improved levels of education **do not automatically lead to better working opportunities**. Youngsters find it **difficult to deal with their transition from education to the workplace**. The main cause for this is the **mismatch between the skills that they acquire at school and those demanded by the labour market**.

Furthermore, the economic crisis and the subsequent recession have had an extremely negative impact on young people in terms of **poverty and social exclusion**. Surveys and statistics show that young Europeans often **feel "marginalized" or "excluded" from economic and social life**.

In addition, our research shows that **indicators of voting and engagement in political parties are no longer adequate measures of youth participation**, as young people "participate differently". In terms of youth participation, youngsters **increasingly perceive a deterioration of their living conditions and future perspectives**. So they become **less confident in society and less engaged** in socio-political activities.

The YouthMetre project focuses on further empowerment of youth to engage with and have an impact on shaping the EU youth strategy and its implementation at local, regional and

national levels. The primary target audience for the YouthMetre project are young people aged 18-29. The project will connect with those working with youth and engage them as multipliers to empower youth in policy actions.

Please visit the YouthMetre website for the latest updates: <http://youthmetre.eu/>

For more information and inquiries, please contact:

Ms. Julie Mahlerová

Communication Officer

European Youth Press, e.V.

j.mahlerova@youthpress.org

Phone: 00420 734 485 924