



European  
Commission



# European Conference on the future EU Youth Strategy, Brussels, 3-4 May 2017

*Report*

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture  
Directorate B - Youth, Education and Erasmus+  
Unit B.3 - Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office

*European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels*

# **European Conference on the future EU Youth Strategy**

*Report*



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## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	5
The 2017 'Year of Listening': where are we? .....	6
Preparatory meetings .....	6
Where do we go from here: Ambitions for the future EU Youth Strategy .....	7
Workshops .....	7
Empowering young people to participate in society and express solidarity .....	7
Opening up the EU Youth Strategy's method of cooperation .....	8
Structured Dialogue or unstructuring dialogue? .....	9
EU Youth Strategy: all you need is funding... ..	10
The voice of youth outside youth policy: raising the volume or switching channel? ..	12
How to deliver the 'best ever' EU Youth Strategy? .....	13
The challenge ahead: Meeting the expectations of young people and their messages for the future EU Youth Strategy .....	14
Key outcomes .....	15
Annex 1: Outcomes of the focus groups .....	16
Annex 2: List of participants .....	17

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture invited 320 stakeholders to the conference '**Future EU Youth Strategy: Shape It, Move It, Be It**', as part of the European Youth Week. This report prepared with the help of a contractor<sup>1</sup> presents the key highlights and conclusions of the conference, including the outcomes from the plenary sessions and the six workshops.

## The 2017 'Year of Listening': where are we?

### Preparatory meetings

As part of the 2017 'Year of Listening', ahead of proposing a new EU Youth Strategy, the European Commission is harvesting stakeholders' views on the future of EU youth policy.

In preparation of the conference, the European Commission organised six focus groups in Brussels in March 2017, bringing together stakeholders from youth organisations and national governments to discuss topics identified through the mid-term evaluation of the current EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018)<sup>2</sup>. The outcomes of the focus groups were used as the basis for background papers for the conference workshops. Representatives from each of these focus groups shared the main outcomes of these discussions with the conference delegates (see summaries in Annex One).

Under the 'New Narrative for Europe' project, a series of discussions were held with young people across Europe, in partnership with youth organisations, for young people to have their say on the future of the EU. Delegates from these debates, as well as from 'Ideas Labs' organised ahead of the European Youth Week, were invited to share the outcomes of these discussions at the conference.

### The main messages included:

Young people across Europe appreciate the value of international mobility and volunteering, and are eager to see a continuation and potential expansion of the Erasmus+ programme, as well as a simplification of eligibility rules and application processes.

Common areas of interest for young people across Europe, where they would like to see a deeper involvement of policymakers, include education, mobility opportunities, civic participation, employment and labour market issues, human rights and social inclusion. In the field of education, delegates emphasised the need to better understand and integrate non-formal learning in education and training systems and frameworks, echoing the 2012 Council Recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning<sup>3</sup>. Conference participants called for an expanded range of mobility and volunteering opportunities to a wider circle of beneficiaries, using multipliers to raise awareness throughout the EU.

The debates also highlighted that young people value democracy and civic participation. Youth in many countries call for reinvigorated democratic processes at national and EU

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<sup>1</sup> Framework Service contract to provide expertise and support for European Cooperation in Education, Training, Youth and Sport EAC 07/2015 signed with a consortium led by **ECORYS UK Ltd**.

<sup>2</sup> European Commission (2016), Evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy and the Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the EU, Final Report, [https://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/20160531-eu-youth-strategy-evaluation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/20160531-eu-youth-strategy-evaluation_en)

<sup>3</sup> Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32012H1222%2801%29>

level, deepening the role of the European Parliament and raising awareness of mechanisms such as the European Citizen initiative or the Structured Dialogue. Young people also emphasised the links with other policy areas such as human rights, environmental challenges and social inclusion. An important pre-condition for the inclusion and participation of young people is their economic independence, which in turn requires a stable work situation and decent housing. This is not available to a number of young people across the EU.

### **Where do we go from here: Ambitions for the future EU Youth Strategy**

A panel - involving Mr Tibor NAVRACSICS, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Ms Petra KAMMEREVERT, MEP, Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education, Mr Luis ALVARADO, President of the European Youth Forum and Ms Miriam TEUMA, Chief Executive Officer, Youth Agency, Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU - discussed the achievements of the current EU Youth Strategy, the ambitions for future EU action on youth policy and how the future strategy could help to address the challenges faced by young people in Europe. The panel took questions from the audience, leading to a highly interactive session.

The discussion highlighted the achievements of the current strategy and its associated instruments such as the Structured Dialogue in creating a framework to discuss youth issues, in improving the visibility of challenges faced by youth across Europe and in establishing youth as an important transversal dimension of many policy initiatives. The strategy has also been a useful basis to share experiences and practices among Member States. Nonetheless, the main challenges faced by youth in Europe are still largely unresolved, requiring ongoing and concerted action. In particular, the participants discussed how EU youth policy could be used to promote coordinated action on youth unemployment, civic participation and personal development.

The debates underlined the importance that the future strategy has ambitious goals in a reduced number of areas, and maintains its added value as a platform for discussion, while going further in promoting action to overcome the main challenges for youth in Europe. The horizontal and cross-cutting dimension of the challenges faced by young people should also be reinforced in other policies, instruments and initiatives (e.g. Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps), within and outside of the remit of the European Commission's DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture.

In order to reach its objectives, the EU Youth Strategy also needs to involve other levels of governance, in particular local authorities, because of their direct interaction with young people, and recognising that youth policy is a national competence. Local governments could also contribute more to the dissemination of good practices in providing frontline services to young people, coordinating the different policy areas involved in improving young people's lives, and implementing innovative approaches. Stronger coordination with initiatives such as the Urban Agenda was recommended.

A point raised for further discussion was the geographical remit of the future EU Youth Strategy and its link with EU external policy.

## **Workshops**

### **Empowering young people to participate in society and express solidarity**

The workshop on 'Empowering young people to participate in society and express solidarity' explored how the EU Youth Strategy could help boost engagement, volunteering and working for social cohesion and inclusion. Key issues addressed in the workshop included:

- How can the future strategy support the creation of more cross-border volunteering opportunities at Member State level and facilitate closer cooperation with local stakeholders?
- How can the future strategy enhance the recognition of learning and skills that are acquired through volunteering, both in formal learning settings (universities, schools) as well as among employers?
- How can the strategy ensure that volunteering fosters social inclusion and strengthens the social fabric?

Workshop participants identified a number of key challenges in relation to cross-border volunteering opportunities for young people: benefits of volunteering not perceived widely in society; weak links between formal education and non-formal learning; lack of recognition by employers; loss of social welfare benefits in the home country (unemployment, pension, etc); and insufficient inclusion of young people from disadvantaged groups.

The workshop participants explored ways to overcome the challenges identified, and made a series of recommendations to support wider participation in cross-border volunteering opportunities:

- Firstly, the perception of volunteering should be mainstreamed to become the norm, for example through school cooperation programmes. These efforts to change perceptions would build on the achievements of the European Year of Volunteering, communicating on the learning opportunities provided by volunteering and showing how voluntary activities can provide people with new skills and competences that can even improve their employability;
- Secondly, the links between formal and informal education could be improved by opening the possibility to earn credits from volunteering experiences, enhancing the recognition and validation of learning through volunteering activities in the formal education system (schools, universities);
- Thirdly, to promote a better recognition of learning outcomes of volunteering activities in the workplace, employers should be involved in the adaptation of existing tools (e.g. Youthpass). Learning outcomes should be assessed through bilateral evaluation against a clear skills outcomes framework;
- Fourthly, the participants recommended the development of a Statute for Volunteers that would protect young people participating in cross-border volunteering projects and maintain their rights to access social benefits in their home country;
- Finally, more efforts should be made to improve the inclusion of young people from disadvantaged groups, using positive discrimination in the selection of volunteers. These efforts could focus on different target groups every year, on a rotating basis.

## **Opening up the EU Youth Strategy's method of cooperation**

The workshop on 'Opening the EU Youth Strategy's method of cooperation' aimed to identify actions and mechanisms to reach out to new actors working with young people to develop and implement the EU Youth Strategy. Key issues addressed in the workshop included:



- How can increased involvement of new stakeholders, practitioners, researchers, etc., be encouraged?
- How could we ensure that more inclusive youth policy cooperation reflects the decentralisation of youth policy and that local and regional voices are also heard?
- Could researchers or practitioners play the role as intermediaries or brokers between youth at local level and the EU Youth Strategy?

The key challenges identified by the workshop on opening the EU Youth Strategy's method of cooperation were to ensure that the voices of underprivileged/marginalised youth are equally heard, to engage influential decision-makers at all levels, to ensure the representation of the formal education sector, and to involve non-traditional actors influencing youth policies.

Solutions to address each of these challenges were discussed and agreed by workshop participants as follows:

- Firstly, local workshops and meetings should be held that include more diverse groups of people, including decision-makers, to involve more young people with fewer opportunities in international activities, such as EU Youth Week, to improve the accessibility of key information and opportunities to express views in all languages, and to improve the collaboration and sharing of information between youth information points and networks;
- Secondly, to engage influential decision makers at all levels, it is important to maintain and enhance the Structured Dialogue, to share surveys and other data on young people and promote and further develop data collection platforms such as Youth Wiki;
- Thirdly, a better representation of the formal education sector could be achieved through establishing an Ambassadors Programme to promote the Erasmus+ programme, disseminating Erasmus+ opportunities in the formal education system (inclusion in curriculum) and building the capacity of teachers to implement non-formal learning methods;
- Finally, to achieve a better involvement of non-traditional actors, the participants suggested broadening the scope to involve non-EU countries, to share and build upon country-specific good practices in involving various stakeholders, and to involve more youth researchers in the EU Youth Strategy.

### **Structured Dialogue or unstructuring dialogue?**

The workshop on 'Structured Dialogue or unstructuring dialogue?' explored the merits of either broadening the Structured Dialogue or developing complementary tools to ensure that the voice of youth people is captured. Key issues addressed in the workshop included:

- How to improve the outreach of the structured dialogue, both in terms of the number of young people involved and the quality of the discussions it facilitates?
- How to achieve more feedback within the structured dialogue mechanism?

- Could other EU participatory tools be used in a way that would be complementary to the structured dialogue? What other ways could be utilised to ensure a bottom up approach to gather young people's opinions?

Workshop participants identified a number of key challenges in relation to the structured dialogue including: the need to represent the perspective of all young people (e.g. including those who are least engaged in youth organisations or in remote areas); the difficulty in communicating and understanding what is meant by the term 'structured dialogue'; the importance of representing not only national but also local perspectives; the need to rethink the process to provide new themes and new energy; the difficulty of measuring the impact of the structured dialogue; and, the need to ensure wider participation in the structured dialogue, involving also public and private stakeholders.

The workshop participants went back to the roots of the structured dialogue in order to reflect on its original purpose and aims, in order to make a series of recommendations to shape its future implementation:

- Firstly, the number and diversity of young people involved in the process should be increased by thinking more broadly, for example by implementing e-platforms for developing recommendations. However, a focus must remain on the quality of the dialogue established, avoiding the trap of trading quality for quantity;
- Secondly, a more transversal approach should be introduced into the structured dialogue, involving also the non-youth sector. Youth workers should also be more involved in the process both as facilitators and stakeholders;
- Thirdly, the consultation processes should be constantly diversified and updated to sustain interest and energy. Pre-consultations should be carried out to decide on the topics for each cycle of the structured dialogue, and flexibility should be introduced to ensure that different topics can be discussed at different levels (EU, national, regional, local);
- Fourthly, means should be found to measure not only the impact of the recommendations emerging from the structured dialogue, but also the personal development of individuals involved in the process.
- Finally, all participants in the structured dialogue should be constantly encouraged to think 'outside of the box' to encourage innovation and new perspectives.

### **EU Youth Strategy: all you need is funding...**

The workshop on 'EU Youth strategy: all you need is funding' aimed to identify actions and governance structures to build the link between the EU Youth Strategy and funding sources. Key questions discussed in the workshop included:

- How can closer links be ensured between the strategy and the Erasmus+ programme?
- What concrete actions can be put in place to ensure greater coherence at EU level between the future strategy and Erasmus+? How can priorities be better aligned?
- How can stronger links be developed between the future strategy and the Erasmus+ programme at national level?

- How can funding sources for youth at EU, national and local levels be combined in a strategic way so that they usefully complement each other and develop a real impact on the ground?
- How can other funding providers (at EU, national or local level) be motivated to use their funding to contribute to the goals of the strategy?
- What can be done to ensure that monitoring and evaluation better capture the contributions of other funds and funding sources to the strategy and their impact?

The key challenges identified by the workshop on funding: were that: the timeframe and priorities of EU Youth Strategy and Erasmus+ are not aligned; funding for implementing the strategy is currently insufficient; and, funding sources which could be used for the strategy's implementation at EU, national and local levels are not coordinated.

Solutions to address each of these challenges were discussed and agreed by workshop participants as follows:

- Firstly, to ensure a better alignment between the future EU Youth Strategy and Erasmus+: the timeframe for implementation should be aligned (e.g. 2019-2027); the legal basis of Erasmus+ should be amended to clearly state that it supports the objectives of the strategy; common 'youth goals' should be defined for the EU Youth Strategy and Erasmus+; ministries for youth and Erasmus+ national agencies should be encouraged to work closer together; the 'Youth Initiatives' should be brought back to allow informal groups of young people to implement small projects relevant to their local communities; and Key Action 3 of Erasmus+ should be designed to be one of the main tools for EU Youth Strategy's implementation.
- Secondly, to increase the funding available for this implementation, the means should be found to combine different funding sources through: clearly referencing the EU Youth Strategy in all relevant EU funding programmes and earmarking projects and strands which contribute to the future strategy's objectives; creating a specific line in national budgets to support the implementation of the strategy; allowing the possibility to combine different EU funding sources on one project; ensuring that Erasmus+ funding has sufficient flexibility to respond to national and local realities; and, creating partnerships at local level – for example between public and private actors – to promote and coordinate new funding initiatives.
- Finally, to facilitate better coordination of EU Youth Strategy's implementation between all levels: a coordination system (e.g. involving a specific body) should be set up at national level to bridge the gap between EU policy and local implementation; advisory boards involving actors from all levels of government (local, regional and national) and civil society should be set up to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the strategy; concrete indicators should be developed to monitor the implementation of the strategy and link to various funding sources; and, local or regional contact points should be established to promote the strategy and provide information on means of implementation, including available funding sources.

## The voice of youth outside youth policy: raising the volume or switching channel?

The workshop on 'The voice of youth outside youth policy: raising the volume or switching channel?' aimed to identify effective instruments to increase cross-sectoral cooperation and to spread the outcomes from youth policy and dialogue to other policy areas. Key questions discussed in the workshop included:

- How to encourage the development of effective tools for tackling youth issues in a cross-sectoral dimension?
- How could awareness about already existing and proven policy tools for national youth policy makers be made better known to a larger share of national policy stakeholders?
- How to make sure that the future EU Youth Strategy addresses cross-sectoral cooperation in an operational way? What type of activities, such as mutual learning, could be supported at EU level that would improve the situation in relation to cross-sectoral cooperation?

The key challenge identified by the workshop participants was the ongoing existence of silo working in policy fields and in funding schemes. As a result, actors working in the field of youth tend to work with other actors in the same field. Learning and needs identified in the field of youth are not sufficiently mainstreamed into other policy fields or funding programmes. Cross-sectoral cooperation across policy areas (e.g. youth, education, employment, health, economic growth) must be increased in order to find effective and sustainable solutions and issues faced by young people and to ensure that the voice of youth is heard.

The workshop participants identified four main recommendations to increase the voice of youth in other policy fields:

- Firstly, the new European Youth Strategy needs to be more cross-sectoral, with specific goals which include and make clear common challenges with other policy fields. The new Youth Strategy should also have sufficient flexibility to allow Member States to develop their own priorities, involving actors from other policy fields as relevant. Monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the future strategy should also be improved, with clear reporting of progress against goals, in order to ensure effective implementation.
- Secondly, the new EU Youth Strategy needs to reach a wider audience, and the awareness must be raised on the need to work in a more cross-sectoral manner to succeed. Cross-sectoral working must become a priority at higher levels of government in order to provide clear leadership, commitment and coordination across policy fields and break down the silos in policies and funding schemes. Actors at local level should also be empowered to foster cross-sectoral cooperation, allowing the development of multi-sectoral dialogue at all levels of governance. All EU funds should earmark specific funding to tackle specific youth challenges. In order to reach a wider audience, existing communication channels (e.g. social media) in different sectors should be used, including youth channels (e.g. youth representatives). In a world overloaded by information, it is essential to have tailored and accessible messages, with a personal touch.

- Thirdly, mutual learning activities should be implemented to underpin cross-sectoral collaboration. Under the EU Youth Strategy, expert working groups should be set up which ensure cooperation between the formal and non-formal/informal learning sectors and which foster youth participation in decision-making. Both the European institutions (e.g. European Commission, European Parliament) should set up inter-ministerial (or inter-Commissioner) meetings focusing on youth issues. Conferences and other peer learning events should be organised to allow local actors from different policy areas to share best practices in addressing common challenges. Toolkits should be developed to help actors to work in a more cross-sectoral way across policy fields. More understanding of the links and complementarity between learning in formal and non-formal/informal settings should be developed in order to develop coherent pathways for young people; in particular, the added value of youth work should be better assessed and communicated.
- Finally, a more holistic approach to the EU Youth Strategy should be developed, with new and different tools to aid implementation. Existing tools from the youth sector should be promoted both through non-formal and informal learning, but also in formal education (e.g. through social and civic education). An observatory on the situation of young people should be founded to allow more evidence-based policy-making. Existing tools should however be simplified to increase accessibility. Particular attention should be paid to the participation and inclusion of young people and their concerns in the political agenda with representatives (spokespersons) in order to protect youth rights and promote youth interests. Implementation of the strategy should be carried out by a variety of stakeholders, not just actors within the youth policy field. Strategy's goals should be clearly linked to existing funding sources. Monitoring and evaluation of the strategy should assess the extent to which cross-sectoral cooperation is being achieved.

## How to deliver the 'best ever' EU Youth Strategy?

The workshop on 'How to deliver the 'best ever' EU Youth Strategy' aimed to identify the key ingredients for delivering effective results through shared action and strong commitment. Key questions discussed included:

- How to ensure that we have a monitoring framework which actually captures the achievements of the cooperation? How to use our knowledge and reporting tools better?
- If a set of European indicators / benchmarks were established for monitoring the impact of the EU Youth Strategy, how might the Commission go about defining them in practical terms?
- How to raise ownership of the cooperation by Member States, and their commitment level? Could mutual learning processes be used more to help successful implementation of national and European youth policies?
- How to make the Youth Strategy objectives more focused? How far should a common set of European objectives be pursued?

Key challenges identified by the workshop participants included: establishing an effective monitoring framework with clear benchmarks and indicators; increasing ownership and

commitment to the strategy by Member States and local actors; and, better focusing the strategy on a more limited number of objectives.

The main recommendations identified by the workshop participants for delivering the 'best ever' Youth Strategy were as follows:

- Firstly, the strategy must be young people-centred and participatory, reflecting the needs, wellbeing, ambitions and diversity of young people in Europe. It should be a 'living' strategy which can be reviewed and updated during its lifetime, and which is flexible, adaptable, accessible and usable;
- Secondly, the EU Youth Strategy should clearly integrate a local and regional approach, framing stakeholders' involvement at different levels and ensuring a feedback loop;
- Thirdly, the strategy should be aligned more closely to the new funding programmes, and better mainstreamed into other EU policies;
- Fourthly, co-management of the strategy should be ensured from design to evaluation through implementation, involving parliamentary representatives;
- Fifthly, peer learning should be used to support and enhance the implementation of the strategy at macro-regional, regional and local levels;
- Sixthly, benchmarking and assessment should be used to monitor the implementation of the strategy and ensure an ongoing process of improvement, using both qualitative and quantitative indicators. A 'youth-check' should be carried out by youth organisations and with the involvement of young people themselves;
- Finally, there should be a strategy label for stakeholders, combined with training and support.

## **The challenge ahead: Meeting the expectations of young people and their messages for the future EU Youth Strategy**

The plenary reporting on the workshops was followed by a final discussion panel with Mr Hassan AL HILOU from the Youthtalks Foundation, Mr Allan PÄLL of the European Youth Forum, Ms Cecilia PASSANITI of the European Student Think Tank, Ms Safi SABUNI from the Erasmus Student Network, Ms Ülly ENN, Counsellor for Youth Affairs at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU, and Ms Floor VAN HOUDT, Head of Unit for Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office Unit at the European Commission.

The panel discussion built upon the working group discussions and welcomed the high level of expectations for the new EU Youth Strategy, which should be ambitious and aim to improve outreach. The panellists agreed that the strategy should be more visible, suggesting for example that the EU adopt 'Youth goals' (on the model of Millennium goals) and that these goals should be mainstreamed, reinforcing the cross-sectoral dimension of youth policy, and underlining that the introduction of the youth dimension in other important policies would be a measure of success of the future youth strategy. They emphasised the need to reach outside of the educated, English-speaking group of international young people, engage more deeply with the private sector and explore ways

to leverage national budgets, which offer significantly more resources than the EU budget.

The conference closed with concluding remarks by the European Commission's Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Martine REICHERTS, and Professor Howard WILLIAMSON, who reiterated the usefulness of the EU Youth Strategy as a framework for youth policy across the EU to provide opportunities for young people and tackle new challenges such as the integration of young migrants, before celebrating the European Youth Week with Erasmus+ change-makers who presented their initiatives to change the lives of young people.

## Key outcomes

One of the conference's key outcomes is the conviction of many stakeholders that the EU Strategy should be transversal. According to them, the future strategy will only deliver sustainable results if embedded in – and closely aligned with – different policy fields, including education and training, culture, employment, entrepreneurship, migration and health. Youth policy is not an exclusive competence at EU level, and the EU also needs to associate other levels of governance in its design, implementation and monitoring. The future EU Youth Strategy should continue to actively engage with young people at all stages of design and implementation, but also strive to involve a more diverse range of actors and young people, increasing for example the role of youth workers in the design and implementation of the strategy. It should succeed to reach out locally, including in cities and rural areas.

The EU should also proactively seek to facilitate synergies with funding sources including Erasmus+, the EU Structural and Investment Funds, as well as national and regional funding. Participants stressed the need to include young people from disadvantaged and minority backgrounds in mobility, volunteering and other initiatives.

The debates also highlighted the need for accurate data and information, both on the young people's situation and on the implementation of the Youth Strategy. To make a real impact on the lives of young people, some felt that the EU should set targets at EU and national levels, and monitor progress in achieving them. The EU should also provide greater access to information for young people, building on existing and new networks and tools. In this context, the structured dialogue was mentioned as unique and inspiring, even if its practical implementation can be further improved.

*The information and views set out in this document are those of meetings participants and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. Neither the Commission nor any other person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.*



## Annex 1: Outcomes of the focus groups

In preparation of the conference, the European Commission organised six focus groups in Brussels in Spring 2017 on the following themes:

- Promoting youth engagement, in particular through volunteering
- Ensuring better links between funding sources for youth
- More efficient cross-sectoral tools
- Involving more actors in the cooperation
- Youth participation: reform of the Structured Dialogue and beyond
- Towards a more effective delivery of results

On the topic of youth engagement and volunteering, the focus group identified ways to support the creation of more cross-border opportunities and to raise awareness of these opportunities, and to enhance the recognition of learning and skills that are acquired through volunteering, both in formal learning settings (universities, schools) as well as among employers. The discussions recalled recommendations from the European Year of Volunteering and highlighted the role of education providers, both formal and informal.

With regards to funding, the focus group participants explored new ways to achieve a better coordination with the Erasmus+ programme but also to increase awareness of potential funding resources, to improve co-funding criteria and to mobilise funding from other sources, including through mainstreaming the EU Youth Strategy in regulations of other funding initiatives. Suggestions to reinforce the coherence between the strategy and Erasmus+ included setting common priorities (for example, mobility for specific target groups or strengthening civil society) and creating or re-directing specific funding lines to support initiatives under the EU Youth Strategy.

The focus group on cross-sectoral tools highlighted that, while the transversal nature of many youth issues can be a challenge, some tools already exist to enhance cross-sectoral dialogue which should be more widely used. For example, the implementation of the Youth Guarantee has fostered the development and institutionalisation of such cross-sectoral links and partnerships. One way to facilitate cross-sectoral approaches is to adopt joint workplans, which clearly identify the organisations responsible for the implementation of each action.

In terms of involving more actors in youth policy, the main challenge is to engage a wider group of young people, with more actors from the local level, and to make sure that their voices are heard at the EU level. A successful engagement strategy involves young people throughout the policy cycle, not only at the initial brainstorming stage, and achieves higher transparency and accountability.

With regards to the Structured Dialogue, the focus group discussions highlighted the need to improve the reach in terms of quality (a more diverse range of actors, including more young people, youth workers and alumni) rather than the quantity. Suggestions for improvement included a simplification of the 'structured dialogue' name and objectives, and a better connection with other tools, such as Erasmus+ Key Action 3 (support for policy reform).

In terms of delivery, there was a strong view that it was important to consult and listen to Member States and youth groups on their real priorities, enhancing the margin for prioritisation of specific areas and setting national objectives. Participants also recommended including unorganised youth in consultations and finding ways to monitor the EU Youth Strategy that do not involve overburdening Member States with reporting requirements, relying instead on tools such as Eurobarometer surveys and the Youth wiki.



## Annex 2: List of participants

Name	Organisation	Country
Bernard ABRIGNANI	French National Agency	FR
Paolo Emilio ADAMI	ENGSO Youth	IT
Daniel ADLER	Change Makers	DE
Natalia AGAPIOU	European Economic and Social Committee	
Gürkan AKCAER	System and Generation	TR
Hassan AL HILOU	Youth talks Foundation	BE
Adrien ALBERNI	Délégation de la Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	FR
Luis ALVARADO	European Youth Forum	
Emils ANSKENS	The National Youth Council of Latvia	LV
Valentina ANTIC	Yeu-International	RS
Daria ARLAVI	Permanent Representation of the Republic of Croatia to the EU	HR
Sigrídur ASGEIRSDOTTIR	Iceland National Agency	IS
Emirhan H. ASLAN	Youth Week Coordinator Turkish National agency	TR
Oli Orn ATLASON	European Confederation of Youth Clubs	IS
Nagy ATTILA	Change Makers	RO
Carina AUTENGRUBER	European Youth Forum	AT
Klemen BALANC	Mladinski svet Slovenije / Youth Council of Slovenia	SI
François BALATE	European Youth Forum	BE
Martyna BALCIUNAITE	European Union of the Deaf	BE
Pauline BARBIER	RAN young	
Alice BARBIERI	Liguria Region	IT
Joanna BASZTURA	European Commission	
Chiara BELLANI	European Commission	
Elfriede BELLEFLAMME	Change Makers	BE
Lynn BEMUS	European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL)	BE
Réka BENCSIK	Launch Pad Finland Ry	FI
Chloé BERTHELEMY	JEF Europe	BE
Violeta BIRZNIECE	European Commission	
Deborah BONNICI	Zghazagh Azzjoni Kattolika	MT
Giulia BORDIN	European Volunteer Centre	
Katarina BRAJDIC	Croatian National Agency	HR
Paul BUDDERY	Volunteering Matters	UK
Karolina BUZALJKO	European Commission	BE
Jordy CALDERÓN ORDÓÑEZ	Ideas Lab	ES
Janelle CAMILLERI	Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU	MT
Grazia CANNARSA	EURODESK	IT
Davide CAPECCHI	Partnership between the EC and the Council of Europe in the field of youth	
Hannah CARTER	European Commission	

Ilaria CAVO	Liguria Region	IT
Nourane CHALABY	Assistant to the Head of Executive Office of the Anna Lindh Foundation	
Una CLARKE	European Youth Forum	
Wannes CROONENBERGHS	The Outsider Club vzw	BE
Declan CROWE	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	IE
Lucio D'AMORE	Presidency of the Council - Dept. of Youth and National Civic Service	IT
Svetozar DASKALOV	Bulgarian National Agency	BG
Stella DAVID	Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU	BE
Radu-Andrei DAVID	Agentia Nationala pentru Programe Comunitare in Domeniul Educatiei si Formarii Profesionale	RO
Laura DE BONFILS	Volonteuroppe	BE
Ariella DE GENNARO	European Youth Event Unit, European Parliament	
Carlos DE LA FUENTE	Youth Worker	ES
Jana DE POORTER	Change Makers	BE
Jozanneke DE WAAL	National Agency Erasmus+ Youth The Netherlands	NL
Belinda DEAR	European Commission	
João DELGADO	European Commission	
Michelle DELGADO VAN DEMEN	Federation of Young European Greens	
Lilyana DERIBANOVA	Change Makers	BG
Christophe DEVETTE	International cooperation unit - Department of youth	FR
Morgane DEVRIES	Oservatoire enfance-jeunesse	BE
Youssef Simbo DIAKITE	ADYFE (African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe)	ML
Elena DIANA	Eurodesk	IT
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