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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Permanent Representatives Committee/Council |
| Subject: | Follow-up to the outcomes of the EU Youth Conference, held on 2-5 March 2024 in Ghent - <i>Policy debate</i> |

Following consultation of the members of the Youth Working Party, the Presidency has prepared the attached background document as the basis for the policy debate at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 13-14 May 2024.

Follow-up to the outcomes of the EU Youth Conference, held on 2-5 March 2024 in Ghent

Background document

The EU Youth Dialogue is a forum for continuous joint reflection and the consultation of young Europeans on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the field of youth. Next to its specific policy objectives, the dialogue supports the implementation of EU youth policy and constitutes the most important and most comprehensive youth participation mechanism in EU policy-making. This participatory process with young people and youth organisations involves policy and decision-makers, as well as experts, researchers and other relevant civil society actors from all over the European Union. The Belgian presidency team has produced a number of short videos on the matter¹.

As part of the 10th cycle of the European Youth dialogue and focussing on thematic European youth goal #3 on inclusive societies, the Belgian Presidency hosted the Belgian EU Youth conference in Ghent from 2-5 March 2024.

Over three hundred and fifty attendees, most of whom were EU youth delegates, took part in the conference and in ten working groups discussed six themes² concerning inclusive societies: (1) structural barriers to inclusion, (2) the role of information, (3) health and mental wellbeing, (4) formal inclusive learning environments, (5) non-formal and informal inclusive learning environments and (6) challenging discriminatory attitudes and cultures. The work during the conference was based on the consultation report³, which reflects the views and opinions of more than 28.000 young people.

¹ [Cracking the Code: EU Youth Dialogue & EU Youth Conference Explained](#)

² [Working-group-topics-descriptions.pdf \(euyouth2024.be\)](#)

³ Moxon, Dan and Bárta, Ondřej, EUYD10 Results of the Consultation Phase: We Need Youth, February 2024.

The aim was to create a robust foundation for political action, using the outcomes of these discussions as powerful tools to shape policies across Europe. The conference led to three distinct outcomes, as included in the Council conclusions on inclusive societies for young people (doc. 8673/24) and annex 3 of the Final Conference Report⁴

1. **Recommendations:** Six recommendations emerged from discussions within the conference's working groups. These recommendations cover various aspects of inclusion, including on the six themes mentioned above. A dedicated editing team, consisting of a youth representative of the Belgian National Youth Councils, a representative of the European Youth Forum, the researchers involved in analysing the outcomes of the consultation process, an expert from SALTO Inclusion and Diversity, and a Presidency representative, drafted and refined these recommendations based on input and feedback of the participants from conference participants. The recommendations have been incorporated in the Council conclusions on inclusive societies for young people.
2. **Possible implementing measures:** Young people directly proposed thirty-four possible implementing measures to put the six recommendations into practice. These measures aim to translate the youth ideas outlined in the recommendations into tangible actions. Each proposed measure specifies the policy level at which it could potentially be implemented. These proposals are put forward for the consideration of the European Union and its Member States and have been added to the annex of the Council conclusions on inclusive societies for young people.

⁴ Bárta, Ondřej and Moxon, Dan, EUYD10 EU Youth Conference in Ghent, Belgium. Final Conference Report: Deliberation on Inclusion Practices, April 2024.

3. **Call for monitoring of and feedback on the EUYD:** A critical aspect highlighted in the conference was the need for appropriate and suitable mechanisms to monitor the follow-up to EU Youth Dialogue outcomes and to provide feedback to young people. This is essential to uphold the European Union's commitment to its youth and maintain a genuine dialogue between young people and policymakers.⁵ This call is also reflected in the Council conclusions on inclusive societies.

As the aim of the EU Youth conference, organised by the Belgian presidency as part of the 10th EUYD cycle was to create a solid foundation for political action, using the outcomes of these discussions as powerful tools to shape policies across Europe, the Belgian Presidency would like to invite Ministers to reflect on the following questions (allocated speaking time for each Member State: 3 minutes)⁶.

⁵ This is also stressed in the Review of the 9 cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue (2010-2022): “The connection between the cycles could be reinforced, in terms of planning and promotion of activities and EUYD feedback and follow-up, to allow young people to better understand how the dialogue is integrated in decision making.”, Youth Partnership, Review of the 9 cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue (2010-2022), Executive summary, February 2024.

⁶ More information about the EU Youth dialogue can be found here: [What is the EU Youth Dialogue? | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://euyouth2024.be/en/what-is-the-eu-youth-dialogue/)

More information about the review of the 9 cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue: Review of the 9 cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue (2010-2022), Youth Partnership, Review of the 9 cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue (2010-2022), Executive summary, February 2024.

More information about the Belgian Presidency in the field of Youth can be found here: [Connecting young minds to empower Europe - EU Needs Youth \(euyouth2024.be\)](https://euyouth2024.be/en/connecting-young-minds-to-empower-europe-eu-needs-youth/).

Based on the cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary, and cross-ministerial nature of the recommendations and implementing measures and on the holistic view of young people's lives and considering the dual approach of the EU Youth Strategy of mainstreaming youth issues across policy areas alongside specific youth initiatives:

- **Monitoring Mechanisms** – How can the monitoring and feedback process regarding the outcomes of the EU Youth Dialogue at the political level be enhanced at EU, national, regional and local level to better cater to young people's needs and expectations for the EU Youth Dialogue?
 - **Possible Implementing Measures** – Which of the possible implementing measures could be implemented in your country at national, regional and local level to foster inclusive societies for young people?
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