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JEUN 109
EDUC 167
EMPL 203
SOC 354
GENDER 99
SAN 276
ENV 512
SUSTDEV 62
CLIMA 200

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Conclusions of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022

Delegations will find attached the abovementioned conclusions approved by the Council (Education, Youth, Culture and Sport) at its meeting on 13-14 May 2024.

Conclusions of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022

THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

DECLARE that in building a prosperous, inclusive, secure and sustainable future, the creativity, energy and diverse talents of all citizens, especially young people, are needed to sustain democracy, secure peace, stand firm on European values and make the most of the green and digital transitions. The European Year of Youth ('the Year')¹ recalled that Europe needs all its young people and emphasised how the European Union (EU) adds value to young people's lives, supports their personal development and equips them with the key resources and skills to become active citizens and agents for solidarity and positive change. The Year also demonstrated young people's expectations that there should be a youth perspective in relevant Union policy fields, in particular through youth mainstreaming.²

STRESS that the Year proved to be a pinnacle of European cooperation, and that its legacy must live on to leave the world a better place for the coming generations. Every action that the EU takes should be inspired by solidarity between generations. To sustain the European Union's commitment to Europe's young people, with special attention given to young people with fewer opportunities, European Youth Policy cooperation, as embodied in the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, must be adjusted to the new developments and needs identified during the Year. Further steps forward must be taken to deliver tangible results for and with young people.

¹ As envisaged in Decision (EU) 2021/2316 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 2021 on a European Year of Youth (2022) , OJ L 462, 28.12.2021.

² Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on promoting youth mainstreaming in policy decision-making processes in the European Union (C/2023/1342), and in particular paragraphs 30 and 32.

EMPHASISE the important role played by youth councils, youth organisations and youth work organisations and youth workers at all levels, as well as national authorities, amongst others, in mobilising and advocating for young people, as witnessed during the Year.

REAFFIRM that youth mainstreaming and anchoring a strong youth perspective across all relevant Union policies are important areas of work for the European Union.

WELCOME the various initiatives aimed at addressing the legacy of the Year,³ as well as the ambition of the Communication on the European Year of Youth⁴ to take action forward in two key areas: giving young people a stronger voice in EU policymaking and addressing youth concerns across policy areas.

TAKE NOTE of the key actions proposed in the Communication in response to young people's concerns in five key policy fields relevant to them: health and well-being, environment and climate, education and training, international cooperation and European values, employment and inclusion.

³ These initiatives include the Claim the Future Conference held on 6 December 2022 as the closing event of the European Year of Youth, the policy event organised on 26 April 2023 on an EU Youth test/check, and the mainstreaming youth policy event addressing the legacy of the Year, held on 19 June 2023, which took place in Brussels.

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Year of Youth 2022, COM(2024)1.

CALLS UPON the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, within their respective competences, to work with and for youth to:

1. Promote and support youth mainstreaming across policy areas. In doing so, support and promote the exchange of best practices and capacity-building between Member States and relevant stakeholders – including national coordinators, where they exist – in relation to addressing youth concerns across the board.
2. Making use of the momentum, continue the co-creation, and set up and deploy mutual learning activities⁵, such as expert groups, peer learning activities or the new Youth Stakeholders' platform, to explore concrete mainstreaming instruments – such as a youth check or a youth test or similar tool to be implemented at EU level – together with young people and other relevant stakeholders such as the Council of Europe, organisations representing young people across the European Union, and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development. The mainstreaming instruments should comply with the principles of good governance, transparency, evidence-based considerations and objectivity, particularly in terms of assessment and selectivity.

⁵ 'Mutual learning between Member States, the European Commission and relevant stakeholders should be a tool for the advancement of youth policy with regard to both core and cross-sectoral areas. Expert groups will continue to develop policy guidance, practical tools and share good practices; this strategy will offer new tools for mutual learning, such as peer reviews and peer counselling, high-level forums, analysis and studies, following the priorities of the EU Youth Strategy at large, and within the triennial Work Plans. It will pursue a more systematic approach to quality youth information, outreach and dissemination, building on its existing networks.' Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, (2018/C 456/01).

3. Strengthen the quality, visibility and outreach of the EU Youth Dialogue, in accordance with relevant inclusion strategies, and establish links with the work programme of the European Commission, having due regard to the specificity of the EU Youth Dialogue and the framework within which it is organised. This could be done in the framework of the mid-term review of the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and in revising the resolution of the Council establishing guidelines on the governance of the EU Youth Dialogue — European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 to adapt these resolutions to new developments and needs, and by establishing a communication strategy⁶ for the EU Youth Dialogue, among others.
4. In a concerted effort, reflect further upon and shape the role, mandate, purpose and composition of the new Youth Stakeholders platform, having due regard to the competences concerned.
5. Pursue further efforts to communicate information on opportunities via the European Youth Portal, to young people in youth-friendly language, in an accessible manner and in formats appropriate to their needs, particularly the needs of those with fewer opportunities, in particular in the areas of democratic participation and inclusive societies, as well as in making use of their EU citizenship rights.

⁶ See paragraph 35 of the Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the outcomes of the 9th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (2023/C 185/04), paragraph 34 of the Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the outcomes of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (2021/C 504/01) and paragraph 14 of the Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the overview of the structured dialogue process including social inclusion of young people (2014/C 183/01).

6. Further shape the proposed key actions mentioned above, working with the Member States' National Youth Councils, and, where relevant, at regional or local levels, whilst also providing opportunities for including young people of diverse backgrounds, with fewer opportunities, including those from the rural, remote, peripheral, less-developed areas and outermost regions as well as those in vulnerable situations.
7. Recalling the importance of the EU Youth programmes, such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, continue providing opportunities through these programmes and make them more accessible and inclusive, in particular through the introduction of micro-grants and through the development of synergies between national and EU youth mobility programmes and activities.
8. Ensure that the legacy of the Year is incorporated in the revision of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 to sustain the European Union's commitment to Europe's young people.
9. Use the EU Youth Work Plans to address common areas of work identified in these conclusions.
10. Provide the Council and its Member States with a follow-up on the implementation of the measures above in the EU Youth report, as set out in the EU Youth Strategy.