Evaluation of the Youth policy cooperation in the EU - public consultation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

INTRODUCTION

Overview

This consultation is about how European Union (EU) countries work together on policy for young people. We want to find out how useful and effective you think EU youth policy is.

Tell us what you think

We want to know if you know about:

- the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018)
- the EU Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers in the EU.

We'd also like to hear what you think about these initiatives, and how you think we can improve cooperation on youth policy.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

Deadline: 16 October 2016

What happens next?

The results of this consultation will be used to plan future EU youth policy measures.

We will publish a report on the results of this consultation, summarise the views people have expressed and suggest follow-up action.

Background

What is the EU Youth Strategy?

The focus areas and methods for EU countries to cooperate on youth policy are set out in the EU Youth Strategy (http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth_strategy/index_en.htm), which covers the period 2010-2018.

The Strategy aims to:

- provide more and equal opportunities for young people in education and the job market,
- encourage young people to play an active role in society.

It supports actions in 8 priority areas of activity:

- education and training
- employment and entrepreneurship
- participation
- voluntary activities
- social inclusion
- health and well-being
- creativity and culture
- youth and the world.

The strategy is being implemented in a number of ways: knowledge- and evidence-building, mutual learning (learning from peers in other EU countries), progress reporting, publishing findings, monitoring the process, consultations and structured dialogue with young people and youth
organisations, mobilisation of EU funding.

The EU Youth Strategy encourages Member States to adopt a dual approach based on:

1) addressing core youth topics: participation, voluntary activities, youth work;
2) integrating youth issues into other policy areas.

What is the Council Recommendation on the mobility of Young Volunteers across the EU?

The Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the EU (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008H1213%2801%29) was adopted in 2008. It aims to create more cross-border volunteering opportunities and encourages Member States to ensure that every young person who wishes to volunteer has the opportunity to do so.

The Recommendation encourages EU countries to:

- raise more awareness about the benefits of volunteering abroad;
- develop opportunities for volunteering abroad;
- promote quality through the development of self-assessment tools;
- recognise learning outcomes of voluntary activities through schemes such as Europass and Youthpass;
- promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations;
- pay particular attention to young people with fewer opportunities.

Find out more about the EU Youth Strategy and the Council Recommendation on the European Commission’s website (http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm).

You can also find more about the mid-term evaluation of these initiatives by reading the findings of a report (http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/2016/0531-eu-youth-strategy-evaluation_en.htm) prepared by independent experts for the Commission.

A. ABOUT YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION

Surname

Costongs

First name

Caroline

* Country (where you live, or where your organisation is based)

- EU level
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
Email address

c.costongs@eurohealthnet.eu

* Are you answering as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

- Individual
- Organisation

* Is your organisation registered in the Transparency Register (http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index_en.htm)?

- Yes
- No

Please enter your Transparency Register registration number (numbers only)

48562122691-12

* Name of your organisation

EuroHealthNet

Type of the organisation

- National public authority
- Regional or local public authority
- International institution
- Youth organisation
- Research organisation/university
- Other

* Your reply:

- **Can be published with your personal information** (I consent to publication of all the information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- **Can be published anonymously** (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution except my name/the name of my organisation and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- **Cannot be published - keep it confidential** (The contribution will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

B. THE EU YOUTH STRATEGY
1. Were you aware (before reading the introduction to this consultation) that the European Union is active in youth policy, through the EU Youth Strategy?
   • Yes
   • No

2. Have you taken part in any activities under the EU Youth Strategy since 2010 (e.g. conference, structured dialogue process, a 'mutual learning activity' - learning from peers in other EU countries), or under the EU youth programmes (Youth in Action until 2013, Erasmus+ youth since 2014)?
   • Yes
   • No
   • I don’t know

3. How much has the EU Youth Strategy helped...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very much</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...national/regional policies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>...youth organisations and young people</td>
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</table>

Outcomes expected under the EU Youth strategy include: (1) **for policymakers**: improved knowledge of the situation of young people, learning from peers in other EU countries; better, participatory and evidence-based policymaking, recognition of value of non-formal learning, volunteering and youth work; (2) **for youth organisations and young people**: better quality of opportunities (including cross-border ones), young people better represented and supported, increased recognition of the value of non-formal learning, volunteering and youth work.

4. Are the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy (as listed in the introduction) in line with national policies?
   • Yes, completely
   • Yes, somewhat
   • No
   • I don’t know

5. In your opinion, what is the added value of the EU Youth Strategy compared with measures at a local, regional or national level?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It helps develop a youth strategy or a consistent approach to young people and youth policy at national level</td>
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<tr>
<td>It helps to put young people higher on the EU political agenda</td>
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<td>It helps to improve coherence between national/regional and EU-wide youth-related measures</td>
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<td>It helps allocate more national public funding to specific activities or initiatives in the youth sector</td>
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<td>It helps to encourage young people to take part in the decision-making process at all levels</td>
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<td>It helps to make young people’s voice heard in the European policy-shaping process</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Strategy has no added value over national/regional/local measures</td>
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</table>

6. In your opinion, do the priority areas of the EU Youth Strategy address young people’s needs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education and Training</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment and entrepreneurship</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellbeing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Inclusion in society

- Getting involved into democratic and civic life
- Volunteering
- Access to cultural activities
- Awareness of global challenges and contact with regions outside Europe

7. In the future, what are the main areas that the EU should contribute to in the field of youth policy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>High priority</th>
<th>Medium priority</th>
<th>Low priority</th>
<th>Don't know/no opinion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting and developing youth work &amp; non-formal learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting the involvement of youth organisations and young people in policy-making and other democratic processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting volunteering among young people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowering youth unemployment and inactivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting the health and well-being of young people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving the social situation of young people at risk of poverty or exclusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting the inclusion of young people with a migrant background</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encouraging the integration of recently arrived young migrants including refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encouraging young people's creativity and improving access to culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving young people's digital literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting young people's access to information and knowledge of their rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encouraging youth engagement in the European project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preventing marginalisation or violent radicalisation among young people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaging with youth stakeholders outside Europe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other areas (please specify)

8. In the future, where do you see the focus of the European youth policy cooperation should be?

- Promoting policies and actions specifically targeted at young people (e.g. non-formal learning, participation, voluntary activities, youth work, mobility)
- Mainstream youth issues better into other policy areas: education and training, getting a job or setting up a business, youth-specific health issues, social exclusion of young people
- Develop efforts in both directions: core activities of youth policies and mainstreaming
- I don’t think there is a need for future EU action on youth policy

9. What steps should be taken to improve the effectiveness of the EU policy action in the youth sector?

- Develop deeper synergies between EU and national measures
- Increase knowledge-building in the youth sector
C. COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON THE MOBILITY OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE EU

11. Were you aware (before reading the introduction to this consultation) that a Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the EU was adopted in 2008, to create more cross-border volunteering opportunities?

○ Yes
12. Did you ever take part in a voluntary activity abroad in the EU as an organisation or an individual?
- Yes, under the European Voluntary Service (http://ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/mobility/european-voluntary-service_en.htm)
- Yes, but not under the European Voluntary Service
- No

13. Are the objectives of the Council Recommendation on creating more cross-border volunteering opportunities still relevant to the needs of...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...youth policymakers</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>...youth organisations and young people</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

14. What is the added value of the Council Recommendation compared with actions at a local, regional or national level?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributes to raise awareness of opportunities to volunteer abroad</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helps increase the quality of volunteering projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supports development of opportunities for cross-border volunteering within and beyond the European Voluntary Service scheme</td>
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<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helps simplify procedures for cross-border volunteering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotes recognition and validation of the skills gained through volunteering experiences</td>
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<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourages people to pay particular attention to young people with fewer opportunities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

15. Are there any other issues you would like to share with us in relation to the Council Recommendation?

EuroHealthNet would like to take this opportunity to suggest the opening of more opportunities regarding health and well-being under the European Voluntary Service scheme, as a way to allow students and young/future professionals to develop and make practical use of their skills in a transnational context, facilitating also processes of knowledge-sharing and good practices exchanges between the countries comprised by the EVS exchange and financed under the Erasmus+ programme.

Contact
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