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Slovensko predsedovanje Svetu Evropske unije
Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Joint recommendations of the 8th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue YOUth for Europe and Europe for YOU

The third and final EU Youth Conference of the 8th EU Youth Dialogue Cycle took place in Maribor between 26th and 30th September 2021. Participants formulated a set of recommendations based on the outcomes of the previous two conferences of the Cycle in Germany and Portugal, and the results of the qualitative and quantitative research conducted in the Cycle.

The recommendations are divided into seven sections based on the seven targets of the 9th EU Youth Goal “Space and Participation for All”.

Target 1: “Ensuring young people have influence on decision making”

- A. We request that both the Member States and the European Commission always give concrete feedback to young people and ensure a mutual evaluation process whenever they involve them in their decision-making process in order to make sure that the participation is real.
- B. We recommend the Member States to adopt or further develop the legislation for securing the sustainable youth co-management systems in decision and policy-making processes at national and local levels, among others to protect and expand the youth civic spaces.

Target 2: “Ensuring equal access to participation”

- A. We recommend the Member States and the European Commission to increase the diversity in participation structures and tackle the lack of inclusion by providing easily accessible information for minority groups.



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- B. We encourage all Member States to support local stakeholders in providing extracurricular activities for young people with fewer opportunities.

Target 3: “Participation in elections and representation in elected bodies”

- A. We encourage Member States to establish an EU wide symbolic voting process for EU parliament elections for age groups not yet allowed to vote, in cooperation with local youth centers and National Youth Councils, in order to encourage young people under the currently legal voting age to take an active part in political decision-making processes and thus strengthen a culture of recognition of young people's opinion in politics.
- B. We recommend the European Commission and Member States to develop strategies to support young people who would like to run for an office at local, national and EU level, by developing a common youth-friendly platform at European level for young people who are planning to stand for elections, and by providing materials to further develop similar structures for national elections.
- C. We recommend the Member States to provide quality citizenship education in schools for all young people in every member state and adopt a common EU framework, to make young people confident in their ability for meaningful and representative political participation.
- D. We recommend the European Commission and Member States to strengthen the credibility of political institutions and encourage them to base their actions on scientific facts with the goal of benefiting the whole society in order to avoid youth disillusionment towards decision-making and politics.



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Target 4: “Ensuring physical youth spaces”

- A. We recommend the European Commission and Member States to raise awareness and promote funding opportunities targeted towards creating and sustaining physical spaces for young people.
- B. We invite the Member States to change national-level educational policies and provide EU-wide monitoring systems to create and promote youth-friendly safe spaces and initiatives.
- C. We recommend the European Commission and Member States to introduce monitoring of the safeguarding of physical civic spaces for young people in order to ensure young people’s rights to keeping their physical spaces safe from various threats such as commercialisation and increasing rents.
- D. We recommend the European Commission and Member States to make physical youth spaces comprehensive and accessible by providing more youth-friendly and accessible information about them.

Target 5: “Ensuring Digitalised Youth Spaces”

- A. We encourage Member States to ensure a minimum digital standard throughout Europe with regards to infrastructure that includes free wifi/internet and basic digital tools to be used by young people.
- B. We encourage the European Commission to allocate specific funds to the youth sector to empower and educate young people in developing digital skills with special emphasis on youth with fewer opportunities.



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- C. We recommend the European Commission to develop a framework at European level that measures the youth friendliness of virtual spaces so that the existing spaces and tools can be given clear and up-to-date guidelines on accessible language usage and centralising information, in order to remove barriers to young people's active engagement in social and political processes.
- D. We recommend that Member States empower educators in formal and non-formal sectors to ensure young people have the competences and tools necessary to protect themselves from misinformation and hate speech in virtual spaces by stimulating their ability to form judgement in an objective way.

Target 6: "Ensuring sustainable funding for youth participation"

- A. We recommend that Member States give more visibility to youth work by increasing its accessibility (notably through incentives for mobile youth work in rural and remote areas and with less accessible youth) and its recognition (through formal recognition of the occupation, active partnerships with formal education and local actors).
- B. We recommend the Member States to consolidate the position and role of youth work in societal matters (partnerships in local initiatives, events, competitions and projects) and secure its societal acknowledgment (valorisation of youth work).
- C. We recommend that Member States and European Commission support and commit to creating a general Youth-Recovery Plan in the EU, with specific actions to be taken at European, national and local level that focus on youth work & youth participation in order to overcome the issues the pandemic has augmented.



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Target 7: “Providing youth-friendly, relevant information”

- A. We recommend that Member States introduce regular media and information literacy lessons in primary and secondary education into national curricula, prepared and thoroughly monitored in cooperation with relevant youth organisations at national, regional and local levels as well as with media practitioners, while ensuring regular and nation-wide teachers' training co-funded by the EU budget.
- B. We invite Member States and the European Commission to include the provision of quality youth information and counselling in accordance with the European Youth Information Charter in their youth strategies and to resource a national youth information coordination body so that young people can access relevant information at the European, national, regional and local level.
- C. We recommend that the European Commission establishes an EU Youth Communication Strategy that provides guidance to Member States on co-creating communications with young people regarding youth-relevant policies and publications, ensuring these communications are published on the European Youth Portal where youth discussion and dialogue can take place.



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