EUROPEAN UNION



EUYD12 EU Youth Conference in Dublin, Ireland. Conference Report

27th – 30th September 2026

Erasmus+ Youth

Title: EUYD12 EU Youth Conference in Dublin, Ireland: Conference Report

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Published in November 2026 under the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.23737484

Please quote as follows:

Bárta O., Moxon D. (2026). EUYD12 EU Youth Conference in Dublin, Ireland: Conference Report. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.23737484

Disclaimer: The summaries of speeches and panels in this document were drafted with AI assistance, based on the Conference transcripts and notes of the researchers.

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A Starting Point: Setting the Stage

The EU Youth Conference (EUYC) took place in Dublin (Ireland) between 27th and 30th September 2026 under the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU. The EUYC Dublin was organised by the Department of Education and Youth (DEY) in partnership with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI). The EUYC Dublin was co-created with young people. Specifically, the EU Presidency Youth Advisory Group was involved. It comprised of youth representatives from youth organisations across Ireland and the three selected Irish EUYD youth delegates, and the body also consulted with the group of alumni Irish youth delegates from the past cycles of the EUYD. This EU Presidency Youth Advisory Group provided input on the development of the EUYC Dublin cultural programme, guest speakers, food, Delegate Handbook, Working Group themes for Youth Goal 4, merchandise, methodology and format of panel discussions, selection of content team staff members along with the agenda and flow of the EUYC Dublin. The Logo for EUYC Dublin was also developed by young people. Alongside the youth delegates, NYCI also supported two Irish youth journalists to collaborate with two journalists from the European Youth Press and two from Eurodesk. This team of six youth journalists developed content and interviewed their fellow young people during the conference.

The EUYC Dublin brought together 225 participants: 103 national youth delegates, 51 ministerial delegates, 16 delegates from International Youth Non-Governmental Organisations (IYNGOs), and 55 representatives of national and international stakeholders. The overarching thematic frame of the 12th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD12) was defined by the European Youth Goal number 4: Information & Constructive Dialogue.

The aims of the EUYC Dublin were to explore how young people can be empowered as creators, amplifying their voices and supporting them to shape narratives, lead fact-checking initiatives, and contribute confidently and ethically to public discourse. These aims were pursued through the creation of recommendations, which were subsequently included in the Irish Presidency Council Conclusions. Furthermore, the EUYC Dublin also aimed at furthering the revision of the European Youth Goals. This objective was pursued by creating the final versions of the renewed European Youth Goal, building on the outcomes of the previous steps, such as the public consultations.

There were two primary outcomes of the EUYC Dublin:

- recommendations tackling European Youth Goal no.4 “Information and Constructive Dialogue” were included in the Conclusions of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on empowering young people in an evolving information environment, and
- the revised European Youth Goals were shared with the representatives of the European Commission for follow-up and next steps.

This report summarises the proceedings and outcomes of the EUYC Dublin. The Annexes include the full conference programme and the full version of the revised European Youth Goals.



The Power of Diverse Voices: Backgrounds of Participants

The EUYC Dublin delegates brought a wide array of experiences. They were offered a chance to participate in a diversity survey where several questions concerning the background of the various delegates were asked. This chapter summarises the results of the survey.

In total, 142 participants took part in the survey, constituting a response rate of 63%. It is important to keep this response rate in mind as it clearly shows that not all of the EUYC Dublin participants took up the opportunity to fill in the survey and all results only refer to those who kindly did. All shares are rounded to full numbers for easy reading.

All in all, only a small minority of survey respondents was aged 16-18 (1%), while most respondents were aged 19-25 (48%) and 26-30 (28%), with a rather large group of respondents aged over 30 (23%). When only looking at the group of the youth delegates, most were 19-25 years of age (64%) and 26-30-years old (30%).

Overall, most of the survey respondents were female (65%) with about 1% of those who identified as other gender. The gender distribution was, however, very different in the groups of youth delegates and the ministerial ones: there were 60% of women, 38% of men, and 2% of those who identified as “other gender” among the youth delegates; but there were 76% of women and only 24% of men among the ministerial delegates.

When it comes to belonging to various minorities, survey respondents identified as belonging to the following:

- Ethnic minority: overall 7% (8% in the group of the youth delegates)
- Religious minority: overall 6% (7% in the group of the youth delegates)
- LGBT minority: overall 23% (27% in the group of the youth delegates)
- Linguistic minority: overall 4% (3% in the group of the youth delegates)
- Living with a disability: 4% (3% in the group of the youth delegates)
- Living with long-term health conditions: overall 13% (16% in the group of the youth delegates)
- Living in a rural or remote area: overall 10% (11% in the group of the youth delegates)

None of the survey respondents fell into the category of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs), with 59% of respondents working full time, 28% working part time, and 43% being in full time education. 58% of the survey respondents identified to come from families with university backgrounds and only 4% of the survey participants were deeply worried about financial matters in their everyday lives. Lastly, 61% of respondents reported to have been newcomers to the EUYD processes, with the EUYC Dublin being their first ever activity within the EUYD context.

The Conference Journey: Innovations and Interactions

A number of plenary sessions were held throughout the EUYC Dublin. These provided spaces for reflections in the wide group of EUYC Dublin participants. This chapter summarises the key points raised during these plenary interventions. Moreover, the plenary sessions have been enriched by many cultural performances throughout the EUYC Dublin.



Fatima Ismail (the national facilitator) and Spyros Papadatos (the European facilitator) welcomed everyone at the EU Youth Conference in Dublin, and provided information on practicalities, safety procedures, the Conference programme, and the 12th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue in general.

Ioannis Pagoulatos, representing the EUYD Secretariat, introduced the roles of the EUYD Secretariat and the European Steering Group (ESG). The EUYD Secretariat was recently established and is now fully operational for the EUYD12. The ESG is a long-standing governance body of the EUYD, consisting of the teams representing the current trio of Presidencies of the Council of the EU, National Youth Councils of the Presidency countries, representatives of the European Commission, representatives of the European Youth Forum, and the EUYD Secretariat. The ESG prepares the EUYD Cycle, including the background documents, organises conferences, disseminates information and outcomes, and ensures connections to other institutions and stakeholders. The ESG prepares the whole EUYD Cycle by outlining the ambitions of the Cycle, the timelines of the Cycle (e.g., consultation phase deadlines, etc.), and role and timings of the EU Youth Conferences taking place in each Presidency country.

Leo Galvin, an Irish Youth Delegate, stressed that the EUYC Dublin should tell a story, in line with the ancient Irish practice. “Seanchaí” was a traditional Irish storyteller and keeper of history in the form of stories. Information and constructive dialogue were therefore not only the topics of the conference, but also the soul of the Conference. Deliberations necessarily include disagreements, but that is only

one more reason to treat each other with respect, to show creativity, open mind, aspiration, and allow ourselves to be uncomfortable. It is such deliberations which will eventually flourish into wonderful recommendations. Ireland is a country of storytelling, and the participants were encouraged to go back home and tell the story of the EUYC Dublin.

Grace McManus, Policy and Campaigns Manager at the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), underlined that while there are local and national youth participation structures in the Irish context, and voices and perspectives of young people are taken into account, there is always room for improvement. Insights are gathered through reports, data, and discussions with youth workers, but direct consultations with young people remain essential for uncovering critical perspectives that would otherwise be missed. The EUYC Dublin is one of those essential opportunities for young people to speak up. It is key that youth delegates at the EUYC Dublin consider the wider public they represent and consider their peers as well as their own experience.

European Commission representatives were interviewed on stage by members of the Pool of Young Journalists, organised by Eurodesk. **Ingrid Bellander Todino, Head of the Youth and Intergenerational Fairness unit of the European Commission (DG EAC),** reminded everyone what young people bring to the table: raising unique topics and perspectives, creatively thinking outside of the box, challenging the status quo, thinking long-term and across generations, and demanding accountability from those who take decisions. She also highlighted that young people do make a difference. Greta Thunberg, from Sweden, is a good example of how one person can make a large impact across the globe. Similarly, two German students made a considerable impact by coming up with an idea which later became known as the DiscoverEU initiative and which allows hundreds of thousands of young people to travel around Europe.

Hélène Pétré, Policy Officer in the Youth and Intergenerational Fairness unit of the European Commission (DG EAC), stressed that young people are supported by the EU youth programmes to take action in areas such as sustainability, climate change, or environmental action, among others. She also appreciated young people leading the change by voicing their demands through democratic protest, and underlined the importance of meaningful shared participatory spaces. The EU Youth Conferences are such spaces, and they allow youth delegates and ministry delegates to work together towards improving the future of young people by creating specific and actionable recommendations which can be picked up by national and EU decisionmakers.

A panel discussion tackled the topic of “Youth, Information Integrity and Social Justice”, bringing together three Irish experts.

Vanessa Paszkowska, member of the Roma community and a youth worker with Irish Traveller Movement, acknowledged that misinformation disproportionately affects minorities by fuelling hatred and polarisation. This leads to extreme political, social, and economic divisions, preventing dignified and constructive dialogue among people. Democracy is a core EU value, and treatment of minorities needs to be considered when assessing the democratic qualities of any given country. She also emphasised that it is difficult to have a meaningful civic dialogue when (young) people are preoccupied with covering their basic needs such as housing, safety, or quality food due to rising costs and international insecurity.

Rebecca Ryan, a youth advocate at “Belong To” (a national LGBTQ+ youth organisation), underlined that youth advocacy is about sharing stories. Storytelling is a powerful tool to give voice to young people, allowing everyone to share their experience and contribute to important debates. Such personal stories can also serve as a powerful tool to push back again misinformation and hate in public discourse. She also acknowledged that social media poses a challenge, and stressed the importance of supporting young people in developing digital literacy and information verification techniques. At the same time, it is key to ensure that providers of the social media platforms protect vulnerable individuals, and are open on how the algorithms work and how the AI is trained.

Aaron Carey Sunderland, a socially engaged artist and youth worker (Rialto), stressed that young men can often feel overwhelmed. It is difficult to form an opinion when they are under constant attack by recieving various information. He underlined that reacting to crises in young people's lives means taking action too late. The key is to work with young people from an early age and prevent the crises from happening, especially in the minority communities. Investment in prevention is always needed in these contexts.

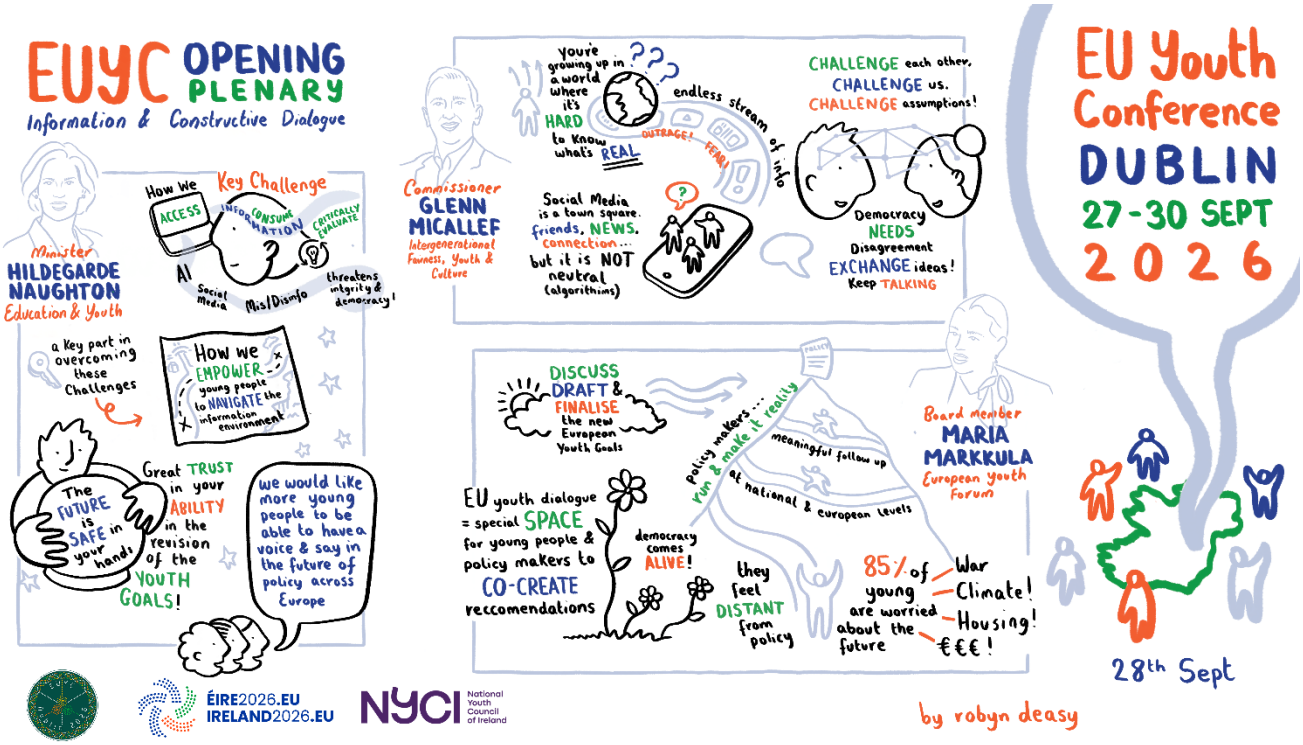


Hildegarde Naughton, Irish Minister for Education and Youth, stressed that how information is accessed, consumed and critically evaluated is a key challenge, especially within the context of social media and advances in AI technology. She also emphasised that disinformation and misinformation pose a significant threat to information integrity and democratic resilience. Speaking on ways to overcome these challenges, the Minister highlighted the need for cooperation and knowledge-sharing on how to empower young people to navigate the information environment safely. She recognised that advances in digital technology have led to challenges for young people while also creating valuable opportunities in the areas of learning, communication, creativity, civic participation, and access to information. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of the social connectedness that digital technology can offer to those experiencing geographical isolation, disability, social exclusion, or belonging to minority communities. The Minister also underlined the importance of the revision of the European Youth Goals. The European Youth Goals have been an integral part of the EU Youth Strategy, and it is key that the newly revised Youth Goals are just as useful in the future. She noted that despite a strong track record of youth work and youth information in Ireland, the Irish government is taking further steps to support the youth field.

Glenn Micallef, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, focused on how much time youth people spend stuck in the online environment specifically designed to keep them there. Moreover, the information delivered through these services are a mix of truth, fake, and deliberately placed misinformation. Social media therefore has become the 'town squares' of the young generations, but these town squares are not neutral - they are full of fear, anger, controversy, and information bubbles. These information bubbles damage democracy, because they prevent people from talking to one another. He urged youth delegates not to say what they think policymakers want to hear, but what the policymakers need to hear, and to boldly bring up uncomfortable topics. He joined the Irish

Minister in stressing that the revision of the European Youth Goals is key, as it may once again become part of the new EU Youth Strategy. Lots has changed over recent years, and especially for young people who live in times of multiple crises, and the Youth Goals need to reflect that. Youth delegates need to make sure that the Youth Goals are challenging, and tackle the urgencies of today on behalf of young people.

Maria Markkula, board member of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), emphasised the opportunity of the youth delegates at the EUYC Dubln to directly co-create recommendations shaping the EU youth policy over the next decade. The Conference addresses current challenges such as rising housing costs, climate change, and European security, alongside the primary focus on countering disinformation and building media literacy by updating and re-drafting the European Youth Goals. She urged decision-makers to move beyond mere consultation, by including a structured follow-up, concrete implementation steps, and youth mainstreaming across all government sectors at all levels.



Ondřej Bárta, European youth researcher supporting the 12th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD12), summarised the EUYD12 context. The EUYD12 is led by the Trio Presidencies of Ireland, Lithuania, and Greece, spanning from July 2026 through December 2027. The Cycle is structured into two phases: a Consultation Phase led by the Irish and Lithuanian Presidencies, followed by an Implementation Phase under the Lithuanian and Greek Presidencies. The overarching theme focuses on the European Youth Goal no.4, "Information and Constructive Dialogue," which aims to ensure young people have access to reliable information, are able to strengthen their critical evaluation skills, and can facilitate constructive dialogue in polarized times. Serving as the first EU Youth Conference of the cycle, the EUYC Dublin launched this work across five dedicated working groups addressing the modern information environment, trust and media credibility, constructive dialogue, the evolution of digital platforms and AI algorithms, and safe physical and digital youth spaces.

Furthermore, work on the revision of the European Youth Goals was also conducted at the EUYC Dublin, as introduced by **Dan Moxon, European youth researcher supporting the 12th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD12).** Dr. Moxon shared the wider context, stating that the European Youth Goals were originally established about ten years ago during the 6th Cycle of the EUYD, with input from nearly 50 000 young people, and annexed to the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027. With the current

strategy concluding in 2027 and consultations from EUYD11 identifying key missing themes, a multi-step revision process was launched involving a Youth Goals Taskforce, delegate voting at the EUYC Nicosia in Cyprus, and supplementary consultations. In Dublin, the Conference working groups were tasked with updating some of the existing Youth Goals and with drafting some new ones as well.He stressed that the ultimate decision to incorporate these revised Youth Goals into the post-2027 EU Youth Strategy lies with the European Commission and the Council of the EU.

A panel discussion covering the topic of “Constructive Dialogue in the age of AI” brought together **Hope Omoregie (Irish Youth Delegate), Reuban Murray (National Youth Council of Ireland, NYCI), and Charlie Beaudelot (Spunout youth organisation)**. The panel discussion explored how AI has become an ambient presence in young people's daily routines, and what educational and regulatory structures are needed to support young people in meaningfully using this tool. AI tools now permeate everyday activities, ranging from graphic design and spontaneous conversational searches to hidden assistance with university essay writing. This shift accelerates access to information by replacing time-intensive research with rapid digital answers, but it simultaneously makes distinguishing human-authored content from AI-generated outputs far more difficult. To address these challenges, the panel highlighted the urgent need for structured AI usage guidance, expanded digital education, and reliable verification mechanisms like expert tagging or watermarking. Additionally, while young people’s voices are starting to be recognised in the online safety regulation debate, regulatory bodies must move toward incorporating young people’s voices across every phase of decision-making. Participatory models such as youth juries (a scaled-down form of citizens' assemblies) demonstrate how structured youth engagement can produce concrete policy recommendations, proving how cross-sector collaboration and international insights can merge youth energy with administrative accountability.

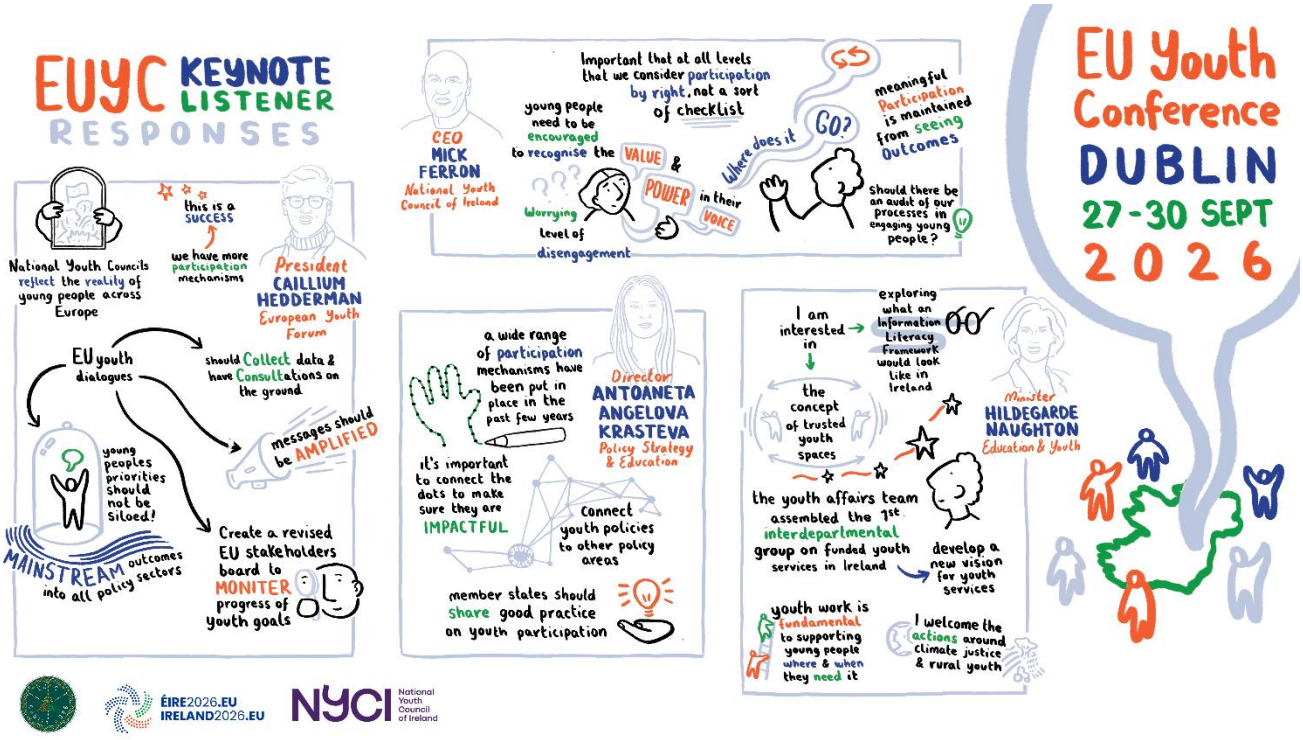
At the end of the EUYC Dublin, several actors commented on the outcomes of the conference. **Antoaneta Angelova Krasteva, Director for Policy Strategy, Country Intelligence and Youth at the European Commission (DG EAC),** expressed gratitude to the Irish Presidency, the National Youth Council of Ireland and the European Youth Forum, and praised the delegates for their vibrant democratic participation during the Conference. Impressed by the depth of the proposals, the Director assured participants that their work would not remain static in the room, but would directly inform European Commission reflections for the upcoming EU Youth Strategy. The Director highlighted ongoing European initiatives concerning digital skills, online safety, and platform algorithm governance, reaffirming that the European Youth Goals must remain authentically youth-led and youth-designed. Applauding the delegates for updating existing priorities and introducing critical new dimensions like “Peace and Security”, the Director concluded that the main challenge, and at the same time a key opportunity, lies in multi-level implementation across European, national, regional, and local levels to turn these recommendations into concrete actions.

Hildegarde Naughton, Irish Minister for Education and Youth, commended delegates for their energy, critical thinking, and constructive collaboration. Reflecting on the conference outcomes, the Minister underscored the importance of slowing down the rapid flow of information to enable critical reflection and open dialogue across differing viewpoints. She highlighted specific delegate recommendations, including the establishment of trusted youth spaces, introduction of an information literacy framework, and targeted support for climate justice and rural youth work. Confirming the practical impact of these proposals, Minister Naughton noted that the conference outcomes will directly inform the next EU Youth Strategy and shape the Council Conclusions prepared by the Irish Presidency. She concluded by expressing gratitude to the National Youth Council of Ireland, workshop facilitators and harvesters, and departmental teams for their organisation, while warmly welcoming delegates to enjoy Irish culture and hospitality.

Mick Ferron, CEO of the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), shared his appreciation for the Conference outcomes, emphasizing the privilege of watching youth delegates advocate on behalf of the millions of young Europeans who contributed throughout the EU Youth Dialogue processes. He asserted that young people must not be treated as passive witnesses, but as active co-designers of

solutions, noting that empowering those who are not present in the room remains the core strength of youth work. Addressing systemic challenges, Mr. Ferron highlighted a major deficit in accountability, particularly regarding social media corporations deflecting responsibility for safety issues on their platforms. To improve youth service delivery, he advocated using tools like a youth map to identify coverage gaps and called for directly resolving facility constraints facing service providers. Ultimately, he underscored that genuine democratic participation requires helping young people recognise the power of their own voice by ensuring their energy leads to tangible, actionable outcomes and structured engagement across all levels.

Caillum Hedderman, President of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), expressed pride in witnessing the EU Youth Conference taking place in Dublin, underscoring that trust in democratic processes relies on delivering tangible outcomes. To tackle youth precarity and ensure dignified living, he called for concrete policy actions on core necessities such as affordable housing, quality employment and internships, and accessible transport. Mr. Hedderman stressed that access to quality, fit-for-purpose information must not depend on a young person's geographic location, urging decision-makers to treat funding as a political choice by backing flagship EU youth programmes and local youth organisations with dedicated budgets. Furthermore, asserting that representation and impact are inseparable, he advocated for formal policy recognition of National Youth Councils as key actors, while calling for the mainstreaming of youth recommendations across all relevant Directorates-General of the European Commission, and systematic monitoring through tools like the EU Youth Check.



Finally, the representatives of the Irish young people, namely **Caillum Hedderman, President of the European Youth Forum (YFJ),** and **Billy Campbell, Irish Youth Delegate**, delivered closing remarks in which they asserted that the EUYC Dublin recommendations must yield formal, public, and timebound responses from the European Commission and the Council of the EU. To ensure true inclusivity across Europe, they called for eliminating visa and financial barriers for delegates from candidate countries in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership while providing dedicated funding for non-EU National Youth Councils. They outlined three concrete policy demands for the next EU Youth Strategy: implementing a rigorous Youth Check to measure real policy impacts, creating a dedicated fourth pillar on supporting the civic space, and driving policy coherence by linking recommendations directly to funding resources (e.g., Erasmus+ funding, the Multiannual Financial Framework), and to

policies on affordable housing, as well as to ban unpaid internships. Stating that young people must be trusted and followed rather than merely consulted, they commended the spirit of collaboration within the Conference working groups and expressed gratitude to the facilitators, harvesters, and departmental teams who supported the event.

Eventually, a handover to incoming Lithuanian Presidency took place, and **Umberto Masi, President of the Lithuanian Youth Council,** presented three symbolic gifts to the Irish hosts: a traditional “šakotis” tree cake representing continuity, honey symbolising diverse European "beehives" working toward a common goal, and a copy of Lithuania's 1918 Act of Independence to remind delegates that young people under 30 years old have historically spearheaded major democratic transformations. Addressing modern crises such as propaganda, foreign interference, ongoing geopolitical conflicts, and rising xenophobia, he forcefully asserted that youth powerlessness and global suffering are not inevitable. He calls on both leaders and delegates to break out of inertia, dismantle self-imposed barriers to engagement, and move beyond empathetic declarations to deliver practical, material improvements in young people's everyday lives. Expressing deep appreciation for the Irish Presidency's organisation, Mr. Masi concluded by warmly inviting participants to continue their work at the next EU Youth Conference in Lithuania.

Additionally, an innovative Market Place showcasing local youth work initiatives was featured during the first two days of the EUYC Dublin. It was important to the Irish Presidency EUYC organising team to create opporunities for the wider Irish Youth work Sector to be part of the conference. An invitation was issued to the sector inviting organisations to showcase their work as part of the Market Place initiaitive. 30 Irish Youth work Organisaions set up interactive stands in the central coffee break area. This gave participants the opportunity to explore local practices through informal conversations with service providers, and at times even try some of the innovative methodology, such as Virtual Reality.



The Conference Journey: Working Groups

The EUYC Dublin was structured as a deliberative event focusing on bringing youth voices to the EU policymaking by (1) contributing to the Irish Presidency Council Conclusions via recommendations on Youth Goal number 4; and by (2) contributing to the revision of the European Youth Goals. The deliberations took place in 10 working groups of 10-20 participants each in order to allow for a genuine exchange of ideas and a smooth creation of final recommendations.

Five Working Groups (WGs) focusing on the European Youth Goal no.4 “Information and Constructive Dialogue” tackled the following topics:

WG1: Navigating Today’s Information Environment

“The environments where information exists and how they shape dialogue”

High Level Themes: Information Environments, Young People as consumers and Producers, Policy Interventions

This Working Group explores how young people navigate today’s complex information landscape. What does the system look like right now? Participants will reflect on how day-to-day information is shaped by different actors, platforms, and power structures, and whether the environment is shared or increasingly fragmented. This group focuses on the spaces and systems in which information is created and accessed. Through collaborative mapping, groups will identify barriers, opportunities, and the role young people play as rights holders and participants within the system. The session will lead to concrete insights and recommendations on how the information environment can better support young people’s rights to informed participation and inclusive democratic dialogue.

WG2: Trust, Credibility and Young People

“How information is trusted and how it shapes dialogue”

High level theme: Young People’s agency, Access, Information Quality, Trust and Verification

This Working Group explores how young people gauge trust and credibility of the Information they engage with. Participants will discuss sources of information and how trust is developed between sources and consumers of information. What makes a source trustworthy? Who decides credibility? How can we strengthen trust and safeguard credible information? This group focuses on how information is verified and evaluated across different contexts. Participants will identify key factors that shape trust and develop recommendations to create credible and trustworthy democratic information spaces.

WG3: Constructive Dialogue in Polarised Times

“How can meaningful dialogue happen in increasingly polarised societies?”

High Level Themes: Dialogue, Polarisation, Democratic Participation.

This Working Group creates a space for structured, respectful discussion around tensions such as free speech, misinformation and online hostility. Rather than debating who is “right”, participants will focus on what enables or impedes constructive exchange across differences. The session will generate clear, experience-based insights on how young people engage in dialogue in polarised contexts, identifying the key barriers and enabling conditions needed to support constructive, respectful participation.

WG4: Evolution of Information: Past, Present and Future

“How information is always changing and what this means for future democratic resilience”

High Level Themes: Temporality, Future of Information, Power and Change, Democratic Resilience

This Working Group explores how the role and value of information in democracies has evolved over time. How did we get here, and where are we going? Participants will collaboratively explore a timeline mapping key moments in the evolution of information, from traditional information gatekeepers to today’s digital and algorithm-driven environments, to better understand shifts in power and access. Through guided discussion, groups will reflect on how these changes shape the present and what they may mean for the future, including challenges such as misinformation, information overload, and the emergence of a “post-truth” era. By connecting past trends to future possibilities, participants will identify emerging risks and the skills, supports and policy approaches needed to strengthen democratic resilience in the future.

WG5: Inclusive Youth Participation and Trusted Spaces

“Who is included/excluded in information and dialogue spaces”

High Level Themes: Youth Spaces, Youth Work, Youth Information, Empowerment, Participation

This Working Group explores current participation structures, barriers to access, and examples of youth-led dialogue. What makes a participation space truly inclusive and trustworthy for young people? Participants will map gaps and opportunities to strengthen engagement. The session will generate clear, experience-based insights on what makes participation spaces inclusive, safe and trustworthy for young people across Europe, identifying the key barriers and priority actions needed to strengthen meaningful youth engagement and constructive dialogue.

Five Working Groups (WGs) focusing on the revision of the European Youth Goals tackled the following tasks:

WG6: Updating Three Existing Youth Goals: Youth Organisations & European Programmes, Moving Rural Youth Forward, and Information & Constructive Dialogue.

As part of the process to revise the current EU Youth Goals, there are three Youth Goals which need amendments made to them. These are the goals on ‘*Youth Organisations & European Programmes*’, ‘*Moving Rural Youth Forward’,* and ‘*Information and Constructive Dialogue’.* Working Group participants will use the results of consultations and past cycles of EUYD to make amendments to all three of these goals to make sure they reflect the current situation of young people today. The Youth Goals summarise the issues that affect young people in Europe and the political priorities that are important to them. The Youth Goals show in which areas change still has to happen so that young people in Europe can use their full potential. The current goals are annexed to the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) and you can read more about them at youth-goals.eu.

WG7: Creating a Youth Goal for Participation and Democracy

As part of the process to revise the current EU Youth Goals, this Working Group will be tasked with creating a Youth Goal on the topic of ‘*Participation and Democracy’*. This goal will replace the existing Youth Goal on ‘*Space and Participation For All’* and will need to focus on young people’s involvement in democracy. Working Group participants will use the results of consultations and past cycles of EUYD to write and create the content of this goal. The Youth Goals summarise the issues that affect young people in Europe and the political priorities that are important to them. The Youth Goals show in which areas change still has to happen so that young people in Europe can use their full potential. The current goals are annexed to the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) and you can read more about them at youth-goals.eu.

WG8: Creating a Youth Goal for Quality of Life

As part of the process to revise the current EU Youth Goals, this working group will be tasked with creating a youth goal on the topic of '*Quality of Life'.* This new Youth Goal will need to address issues such as economic inequality, cost-of-living, housing costs, and poverty. Working group participants will use the results of consultations and past cycles of EUYD to write and create the content of this goal. The Youth Goals summarise the issues that affect young people in Europe and the political priorities that are important to them. The Youth Goals show in which areas change still has to happen so that young people in Europe can use their full potential. The current goals are annexed to the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) and you can read more about them at youth-goals.eu.

WG9: Creating a Youth Goal for Peace and Security

As part of the process to revise the current EU Youth Goals, this Working Group will be tasked with creating a youth goal on the topic of '*Peace and Security*'. This new Youth Goal will need to address issues such as young people's contributions to peace, security, and resilience. Working Group participants will use the results of consultations and past cycles of EUYD to write and create the content of this goal. The Youth Goals summarise the issues that affect young people in Europe and the political priorities that are important to them. The Youth Goals show in which areas change still has to happen so that young people in Europe can use their full potential. The current goals are annexed to the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) and you can read more about them at youth-goals.eu.

WG10: Creating a Youth Goal for Climate Justice and Sustainability

As part of the process to revise the current EU Youth Goals, this Working Group will be tasked with creating a Youth Goal on the topic of '*Climate Justice and Sustainability'.* This Youth Goal will replace the current goal called *'Sustainable Green Europe'* and will have a stronger focus on climate justice. Working group participants will use the results of consultations and past cycles of EUYD to write and create the content of this goal. The Youth Goals summarise the issues that affect young people in Europe and the political priorities that are important to them. The Youth Goals show in which areas change still has to happen so that young people in Europe can use their full potential. The current goals are annexed to the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) and you can read more about them at youth-goals.eu.

Each of the Working Groups tasked with the European Youth Goals revisions was supported by a background paper which summarised the topic, introduced related results of the EUYD consultations, outlined key information, and provided the participants with detailed steps to tackle the tasks. All participants were also provided with guidance on participant roles and code of conduct.

Each of the Working Groups was supported by a facilitator who encouraged all youth delegates to engage in deliberations and also ensured that the discussions stayed within the thematic focus of the Working Group, and a harvester who took notes during the deliberations and ensured that the final product is noted down and agreed on by the whole Working Group. The Working Groups tasked with the European Youth Goals revisions followed specific steps, such as reviewing the standing Youth Goals, identifying gaps and adjusting them accordingly and in line with the results of previous consultations. In case of the Working Groups focusing on Youth Goal no.4, deliberations started by identifying problems and issues in the given domain, proceeded by looking for desired changes related to these issues, and finally led to each Working Group creating one implementing measure (recommendation). The recommendations were created by the youth delegates, in collaboration with the harvesters, using a template with clear guidance on format and length of the text. All of the outcomes, the recommendations as well as the revised European Youth Goals, were then submitted to the Editing Team for proofreading. The Editing Team consisted of the representatives of the Irish Presidency Team, the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), an Irish youth delegate, and the two EUYD researchers.

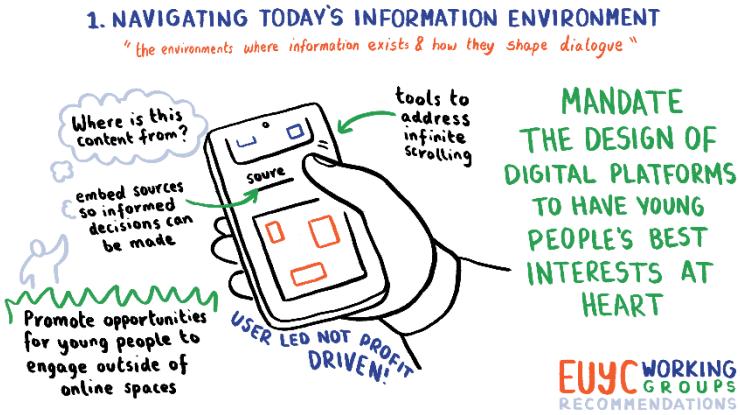
EUYC Dublin Outcomes: Recommendations

Five of the Working Groups were each invited to submit one recommendation related to the European Youth Goal no.4 “Information and Constructive Dialogue” They were asked to align with formatting guidance, specifically: to provide a simple sentence introducing the implementing measure of no more than 10 words, and a description of no more than 60 words. Each of the Working Groups submitted one implementing measure, totalling five recommendations on the Youth Goal no.4, as follows:

Recommendation from the WG1 focusing on “Navigating Today’s Information Environment”

Mandate the design of digital platforms to have young people’s best interests at heart

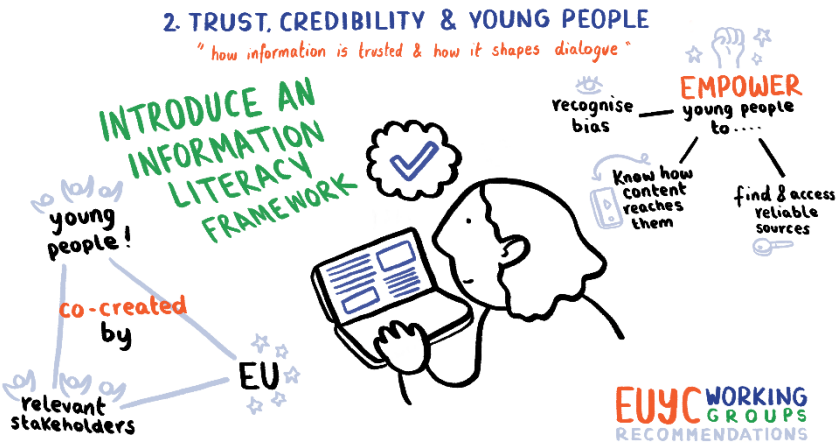
The EU should ensure that digital platforms are user led instead of driven by profit. More transparency is needed on what content is shown to young people so that they can understand where the content is coming from and make informed choices (e.g., through embedded fields identifying sources). Better tools are needed to address features like infinite scrolling. These tools must be embedded by design in the platforms. Digital platforms must promote opportunities for young people to engage outside of online spaces.



Recommendation from the WG2 focusing on “Trust, Credibility and Young People”

Introduce an Information Literacy Framework

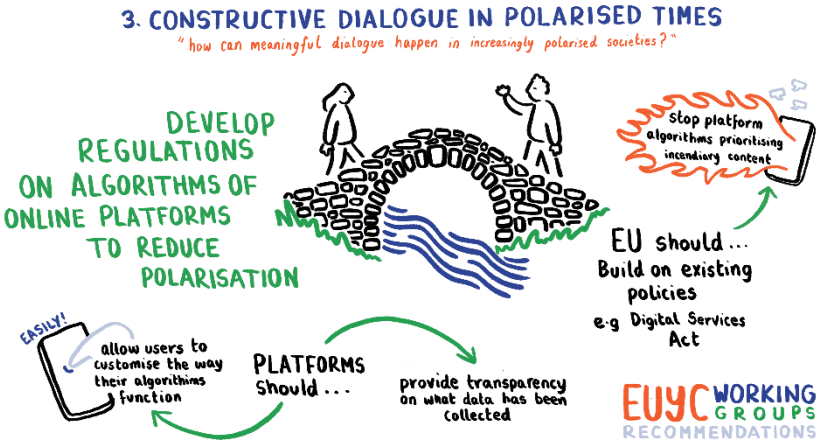
The EU should introduce an Information Literacy Framework, empowering young people to navigate today's information landscape, co-created by young people, the EU and relevant stakeholders. The Framework should support young people to find and assess reliable sources, recognise bias within information, understand how content reaches them, and foster accountability in reporting mechanisms. Relevant stakeholders should share the accessible and applicable Framework through diverse channels.



Recommendation from the WG3 focusing on “Constructive Dialogue in Polarised Times”

Develop regulations on algorithms of online platforms to reduce polarisation

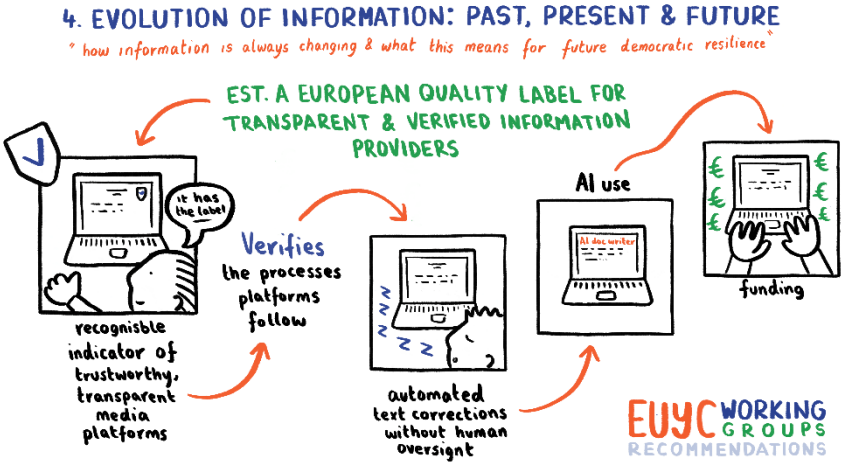
Building upon existing policy such as the Digital Services Act, the EU should combat recommender algorithms and their ranking systems, without censoring content itself. These algorithms and ranking systems prioritise incendiary content to maximise user engagement. Furthermore, all platforms should provide users with a more accessible way to customise the way their algorithms function, as well as provide transparency on what data has been collected.



Recommendation from the WG4 focusing on “Evolution of Information: Past, Present and Future”

Establish a European Quality Label for Transparent and Verified Information Providers

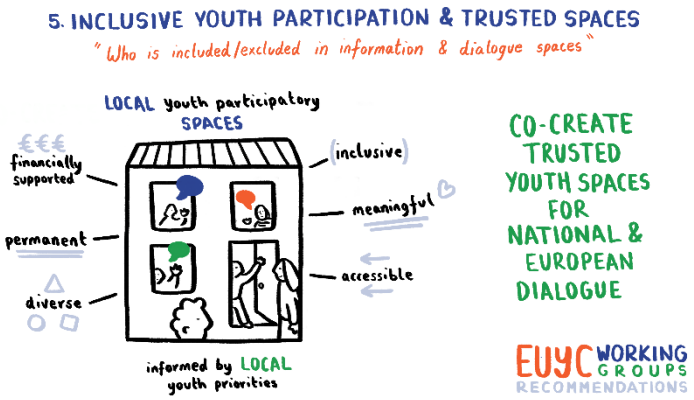
Establish a European Quality Label, issued by an independent third-party institution with national branches, providing a clear and recognisable indicator of verified, trustworthy, transparent, and accountable information providers. The Quality Label is a safety tool to be used on media platforms to verify the transparency of the processes they follow, including sources, AI use, funding, and automated text corrections used without human oversight.



Recommendation from the WG5 focusing on “Inclusive Youth Participation and Trusted Spaces”

Co-create trusted youth spaces for national and European dialogue

EU Member States should create strengthened national iterations of the EU Youth Dialogue framework, informed by local youth priorities and connected to national and European decision-making. This should include permanent, inclusive, and co-created local youth participatory spaces, ensuring diverse and underrepresented young people are involved. National governments and municipalities should ensure meaningful, accessible, financially supported, and sustainable participation, by partnering with civil society organisations.



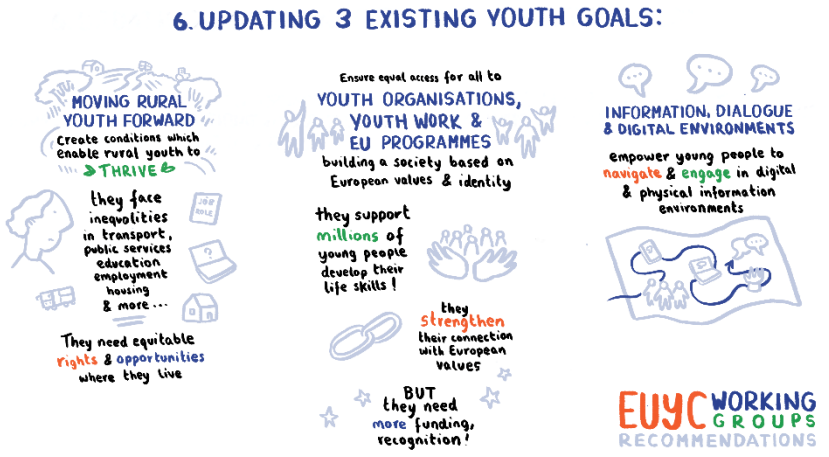
EUYC Dublin Outcomes: Revised European Youth Goals

Five working groups (WGs) worked on revisions of the European Youth Goals. The revised Youth Goals were created by the youth delegates and the ministry delegates in working groups with various objectives (e.g., creation of new Youth Goals, or adjustments of standing ones), and subsequently proofread by an Editing Team. This chapter quotes the final European Youth Goals verbatim in their final proofread form, differentiating them by the distinct Working Group which created them.

Outcomes from the WG6 tasked with updating three Youth Goals: “Information and Constructive Dialogue”, “Moving Rural Youth Forward”, and “Youth Organisations & European Programmes”

EYG#4: INFORMATION, DIALOGUE AND DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS

Background: Young people experience difficulties in verifying the accuracy and reliability of information, both online and offline. They need to be more adequately equipped to navigate the media and digital landscapes, to understand, exercise and enjoy their digital rights, to strengthen their digital literacy, and to participate in constructive dialogue in safe and inclusive digital environments.



Goal: Empower young people to effectively navigate and engage in digital and physical information environments.

Subgoals:

a) Empower young people to be critical thinkers as well as responsible users and producers of information.

b) Ensure young people have the ability to recognise misleading information, verify the accuracy of information sources, and have easy ways to report misleading information, with a guarantee of accountability from relevant authorities.
c) Ensure young people have the ability to recognise and address hate speech, abuse and discrimination both online and offline.
d) Ensure young people can engage in respectful, tolerant and non-violent dialogue, both online and offline.
e) Ensure easy access to understandable, youth-friendly information that follows codes of ethics and quality standards, in line with relevant legislative frameworks.
f) Ensure parents and carers, and all those involved with educating and training young people, are equipped with media and digital literacy skills and are reliable information sources for young people.
g) Implement transparent AI and digital platform regulations that empower young people to navigate safely within age-appropriate digital landscapes.

EYG#6: MOVING RURAL YOUTH FORWARD

Background: Young people in rural and remote areas face territorial inequalities in access to transport, public services, education, employment, housing, digital connectivity, youth work, and participation. They need access to equitable rights and opportunities regardless of where they live and have a genuine choice to stay, leave or return to their communities.

Goal: Create conditions which enable young people to thrive within rural areas.

Subgoals:

a) Ensure appropriate and affordable infrastructure in rural and remote areas in order to provide equitable delivery of transport, public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people.
b) Increase young people's access to sustainable, high-quality jobs in rural and remote areas, and enhance their ability to commute to other areas or work remotely.
c) Ensure diverse activities and structures for young people, which are designed with rural and remote areas in mind and decentralised, in order to support young people's inclusion in rural and remote communities.
d) Ensure that young people in rural and remote areas have access to civic spaces and are actively participating in decision-making processes.
e) Ensure equitable access to high-quality formal and non-formal education, training and lifelong learning opportunities for young people in rural and remote communities.
f) Support a positive image of remote and rural areas by protecting and promoting their cultural life and heritage.

YG#11: YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, YOUTH WORK AND EU PROGRAMMES

Background: Youth organisations, youth work and EU youth programmes involve millions of young people. They support young people's active citizenship, develop their life skills and strengthen their connection with European values. However, youth organisations, youth work and EU youth programmes remain underfunded and lack recognition and accessibility, shrinking the civic space for young people

Goal: Ensure equal access for all young people to youth organisations, youth work and the EU youth programmes, building a society based on European values and identity.

Subgoals:

a) Ensure equal opportunities to participate in youth organisations, youth groups, youth work and EU youth programmes for all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities
b) Increase the visibility of youth organisations, youth work, and EU youth programmes, and provide quality information on them.
c) Ensure youth organisations, youth work, and EU youth programmes are fully linked with educational systems, and recognise youth organisations and youth workers as actors who foster life skills, democracy, and active citizenship.
d) Increase the resources and diversify the grants and initiatives available for youth organisations, youth groups and youth work.
e) Commit to accessible, inclusive, and adequately funded European youth programmes that provide structural, financial, and individual support for youth work, youth organisations, and informal groups of young people.
f) Ensure EU programmes provide sufficient resources for youth organisations to develop projects, access structural support, carry out their missions, and support their work.
g) Ensure meaningful participation of young people in the governance processes of EU youth programmes.

Outcomes from the WG7 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic "Participation and Democracy"

EYG#1: DEMOCRACY AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Background: An increasing number of young people lack trust in democratic institutions, with young people being underrepresented and not meaningfully involved. Young people need to have an active role in democracy.

Goal: Strengthen democracy and young people's trust in democratic institutions through meaningful participation and education.



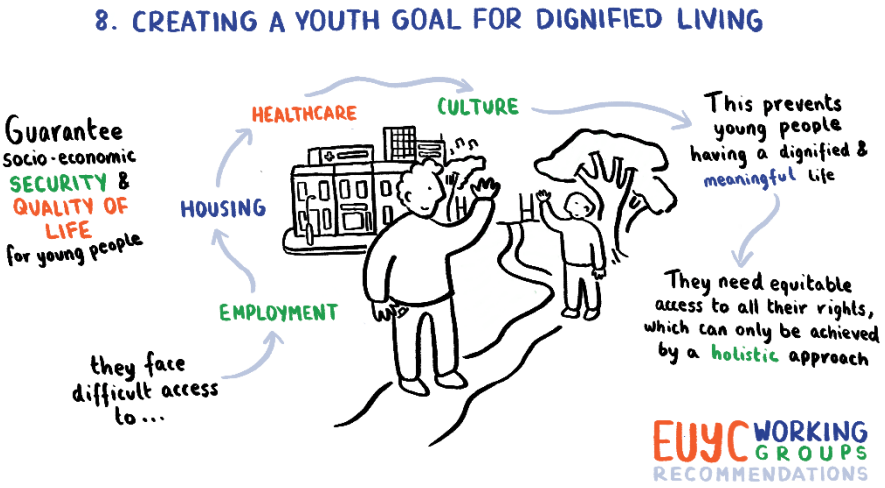
Subgoals:

a) Build young people's trust in the political institutions and processes by addressing the democratic deficit, the influence of money on politics and the lack of transparency and information.
b) Ensure safe and accessible youth spaces for every young person that provide young people with access to opportunities for meaningful youth participation, dialogue and democratic representation at all levels.
c) Guarantee access to quality citizenship and democracy education within non-formal and formal settings, including youth spaces.
d) Ensure systematic, inclusive, accessible and representative youth participation across all sectors in order to achieve youth mainstreaming.
e) Promote young people's agency in democratic processes by lowering the voting age to 16 and better supporting young people seeking elected office.
f) Guarantee transparency within youth participation processes from start to finish, enabling feedback, follow-up, and further dialogue between young people and decision-makers.

Outcomes from the WG8 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic “Quality of Life”

EYG#9: DIGNIFIED LIVING

Background:
Increasingly, young people face difficult access to quality housing, economic security, healthcare, employment and culture. This prevents young people from claiming a dignified, meaningful life. More than their basic needs, young people require equitable access to all their rights, which can only be achieved through a holistic approach.



Goal: Guarantee socio-economic security and quality of life for young people.

Subgoals:

a) Ensure all young people have access to quality, secure, and affordable housing, especially young people with fewer opportunities and at risk of homelessness and poverty, respecting principles of intergenerational fairness.
b) Improve the holistic and intersectional understanding and use of data beyond economic indicators on young people’s quality of life, ensuring that their realities and needs are included in decision-making and public policies.
c) Support young people’s autonomy and transition into adulthood with stronger support mechanisms for gaining financial security and skills needed to build their independent future.
d) Enable young people to overcome the rising cost of living, which disproportionately affects them, by providing sufficient, equitable support, resources, and opportunities.
e) Promote young people’s right to health by ensuring access to quality healthcare, prevention measures, and opportunities for physical recreation across rural and urban communities.
f) Maintain and expand public spaces, cultural amenities and infrastructure to be youth-friendly, through co-creation, ensuring they are inclusive, accessible, and wisely located.

Outcomes from the WG9 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic “Peace and Security”

EYG#12: PEACE AND SECURITY

Background: Security is a growing concern for young people across Europe. Domestic and global security issues affect all areas of life, amplifying the vulnerabilities of our society. Young people should be educated, supported, recognised and included in creating a peaceful world.

Goal: Enable and empower young people to contribute to a peaceful and safe Europe.



Subgoals:

a) Recognise and engage young people inclusively and meaningfully, as actors in building sustainable peace, and contributors to participatory decision-making processes, while holding stakeholders accountable.
b) Ensure young people can exercise their freedom of speech, protest and other civic rights safely in online and offline spaces.
c) Guarantee peace and human rights education through non-formal learning and formal education, so young people gain the competences and values to ensure peace and build resilient societies.
d) Ensure young people are protected from physical, psychological, verbal and other forms of violence, while also providing targeted support to those who have been affected.
e) Empower the youth sector to strengthen crisis preparedness and response through knowledge, skills and sustainable resources.
f) Ensure young people are able to resist and tackle the influence of radicalisation and polarisation.
g) Recognise and support vulnerable and marginalised groups who are disproportionately affected by conflict and crisis situations.

Outcomes from the WG10 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic “Climate Justice and Sustainability”

EYG#10: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE



Background: The impacts of climate change and environmental crisis are rapidly worsening, impacting the present and future of young people. A just transition requires urgent actions that are backed by science-based evidence and consider intergenerational fairness and equity. These actions must consider and prioritise disproportionately affected communities.

Goal: Achieve an equitable, sustainable and climate-neutral Europe, through urgent action, and stronger accountability, where young people are fully integrated into policy and decision-making

Subgoals:

a) Ensure a just transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral Europe that creates opportunities for all people, and that does not widen existing inequalities.
b) Ensure institutions urgently develop, implement and enforce ambitious existing and future legislation on sustainability.
c) Use legislative and financial measures to support urgent climate adaptation in order to protect vulnerable groups and create resilience.
d) Develop more effective legislation to hold corporations financially and legally accountable for their impact on climate change.
e) Ensure equitable access to an affordable and sustainable way of living for all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities or facing socio-economic barriers.
f) Guarantee that young people have an influential role throughout the entire decision-making process and at all levels of climate and sustainability governance.
g) Acknowledge that the climate crisis contributes to conflict affecting young people and respond with internationally coordinated peace-building and solidarity measures.

Summary of Discussions within the Working Groups

This chapter provides a short summary of the deliberations which took place in the Working Groups (WGs) and which led to the outcomes presented previously. These summaries were provided by the Harvesters taking notes in each of the WGs, and they allow for a deeper understanding of the final WG outcomes.

Discussions within the WG1 focusing on "Navigating Today's Information Environment"



The WG started their deliberations by exploring how navigating today's information environment has become increasingly complex. At the individual level, people are overexposed and overstimulated by a constant flow of information, with real consequences for their mental health. This permanent stream also undermines critical thinking and makes access to reliable information harder, creating fertile ground for polarisation. Some drivers behind this situation cannot be ignored: tech companies whose algorithms are designed around monetisation or engagement, rather than the public interest, lack of media literacy and a trend of growing individualism.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following key issue: *The design of digital platforms does not keep the best interest of young people at heart.*

Subsequently, the WG deliberations stressed the importance to focus on young people themselves, or on the information environment they navigate in, and ultimately acknowledge the importance to focus on the latter. Participants pointed out that digital platforms are designed to serve other interests, such as profit, rather than the needs of their users, especially young people. They highlighted several consequences of this: platforms can fuel polarisation, harm young people's wellbeing, keep them from living in the moment, and make it harder for them to connect with themselves or common understanding and develop critical thinking.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following desired social change: *Digital platforms are designed to revolve around the best interests of young people.*

Discussions within the WG2 focusing on "Trust, Credibility and Young People"

The WG started their deliberations by gathering in three subgroups to brainstorm about attributes that make information trustworthy. These were presented in plenary, after which the subgroups reconvened and identified one key issue in relation to this topic. These were presented to the whole group as well, during which our delegates noticed a number or overlaps among them. The agreed key issue includes elements from the findings of each of the three groups, synthesising these overlaps and thus building up a comprehensively formulated key issue. The final key issue reflects a very strong group consensus.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following key issue: *Lack of critical curiosity in an overwhelming information environment.*

Subsequently, the delegates worked in different small groups and imagined a future in which the key issue has been meaningfully addressed, based on prompts such as “What would change for young people?”, “Who would be doing something differently?”. The three proposed changes were as follows: media and information literacy and critical thinking are strengthened through formal and non-formal education; access to information is facilitated through more trustworthy sources; and young people are responsible consumers and producers of information, and use AI in a conscious and literate way. Instead of picking one of these, the group preferred to integrate elements of each proposal to formulate a more comprehensive and overarching social change.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following desired social change: *Young people will be empowered to positively contribute to a healthy information environment by becoming responsible, confident and active consumers and producers of information.*

Discussions within the WG3 focusing on “Constructive Dialogue in Polarised Times”

The WG started their deliberations by exploring the effects of a polarised society such as excessive labelling, increased prejudice and lack of critical nuance increases exclusion, which in turn impacts mental health and societal and democratic participation. Social media, led by divisive and opaque algorithms, pushes for division, which creates loss of nuance, for fear of group or individual repercussions (such as judgement and rejection). When this occurs on both sides of an issue (as it often does), participatory constructive dialogue breaks down. Furthermore, the links between online spaces and physical ones can further polarisation but can also help to create constructive dialogue.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following key issue: *Increasingly polarised spaces can fuel ingroup superiority and block the intergroup understanding that constructive dialogue depends on, resulting in rising youth loneliness, disengagement, and fear.*

Subsequently, the WG deliberations covered how increases in critical thinking, fact checking, media literacy would ideally lead to more spaces for diverse intergroup dialogue and exposure to different views, along with guarantees for safety when speaking out on contentious issues. This can assist young people in becoming intercommunity communicators, can help to promote the use of verified, unbiased media sources and can increase rural informational and educational opportunities. Fundamentally, young people need to have access to accurate information to empower them to build intergroup and democratic resilience, and this should be through the regulation of social media companies.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following desired social change: *Diverse and accessible third spaces are available and promoted to all young people, aiming to create dialogue, provide mediation, promote interpersonal and intercultural exchanges, and encourage learning fueled by increases in critical thinking, fact checking, and social media regulation*.

Discussions within the WG4 focusing on “Evolution of Information: Past, Present and Future”

The WG started their deliberations by stressing that human-made information is in decline, while algorithms offer emotion over facts. They amplify extremist and provocative content and push society towards polarisation. As a result, information is increasingly disconnected from truth, and there are no efficient tools to verify it. Personal information is being weaponised, and the growing overload of information comes alongside falling factual scientific knowledge and trust. At the same time, the job market is changing for today's youth and for future generations. The recurring themes are uncertainty, lack of transparency and disconnect. A few participants stressed that these issues affect people of all ages, not only the young, but the general view was that they probably weigh more heavily on younger generations.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following key issue: *The increasing abundance of information and lack of transparency do not lead to greater understanding, meaningful dialogue or informed democratic participation among young people, which creates uncertainty in the society.*



Subsequently, WG deliberations explored an ideal future world where AI uses better sources and is transparent about them. Society draws on a wider range of sources, not only AI and websites, so people depend less on any single type of source, and young people are able to choose their sources critically themselves. There is less hate, and society moves from passive consumption to meaningful participation. Education builds critical thinking, reflection and communication skills and amplifies diversity. Young people, and others too, have access to decision-making processes and transparent information, and government initiatives should aim for exactly that. There are open social places, and engagement processes are transparent, inclusive and continuous. The focus needs to be on all of society, and the WG stressed that ideas like these are easily misused for youthwashing. The group also brainstormed first implementing measures and agreed they should be among the most important: better control over AI development, better moderation by developers, good budgeting for these processes, follow-up and education. It also said that face-to-face communication remains the most relevant form of communication. It added that young people need financial support and accessibility to take part in democratic participation, since they are ready for the action-reaction political process. The group agreed that both of these points fall outside the core topic

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following desired social change: *Society that moves from passive consumption of abundant information to active, meaningful and responsible participation in the information environment and democratic dialogue; society is able to critically assess information reliability.*

Discussions within the WG5 focusing on “Inclusive Youth Participation and Trusted Spaces”

The WG started their deliberations by focusing on the challenges of creating inclusive, accessible and trustworthy physical and online spaces for young people to participate in dialogue and decision-making. Participants reflected on what youth consultations currently look and feel like, considering issues such as overly formal formats, inaccessible language and information, physical and financial barriers, lack of trust in institutions, and concerns that participation can be tokenistic or that outcomes are already decided. The WG also discussed who is typically included and who remains unheard, including the importance of intersectionality and avoiding reliance on a small group of already-active young people to represent all young people. Participants identified and prioritised key challenges through an anonymous ranking system using an online tool. This process highlighted the formality and format of consultations, accessibility of events, and accessibility of information as key concerns, while the discussion also explored how these issues overlap with questions of legitimacy, representation and whether young people feel they genuinely share power in decision-making.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following key issue: *Young people, particularly those who are underrepresented or face barriers to access, are not meaningfully included in information and decision-making spaces. Information, language, formats and participation structures can exclude people, while a lack of representation, trust and genuine influence leaves young people feeling that their voices are not valued or heard.*



Subsequently, WG participants discussed the need for more diverse representation, accessible communication, meaningful participation, and stronger feedback loops to create safer spaces for young people. Through a ranking method, participants prioritised the proposed social changes, with the strongest focus on ensuring every young person can access an open space to raise their issues and be taken seriously. The group also discussed replacing the term "AGORA" with "open public forum" to make the concept clearer and more inclusive, and clarified that participation should not depend on EU citizenship. Following the AGORA session, the group decided to review the wording and remove the implied institutional aspect by changing the word invite.

Based on these deliberations, the WG identified the following desired social change: *Every young person, regardless of their background or citizenship status, can access inclusive and trusted spaces where they feel welcome, supported and empowered to bring forward their issues and have true influence*.

Discussions within the WG6 tasked with updating three Youth Goals: "Information and Constructive Dialogue", "Moving Rural Youth Forward", and "Youth Organisations & European Programmes"

When working on the Youth Goal "Information and Constructive Dialogue", the WG deliberations centered on modernising the Youth Goal to address the increasingly complex digital realities young people face today. Recognising the growing difficulty in verifying the accuracy of both online and offline information, the group expanded the Goal's scope beyond basic media literacy to explicitly encompass digital rights, artificial intelligence, and digital platform regulation. Discussions emphasised the necessity of equipping not only youth but also parents and educators with robust digital skills to combat misinformation, hate speech, and online abuse. Ultimately, deliberations highlighted that fostering safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate digital environments with transparent accountability mechanisms is essential to ensuring young people can safely practice critical thinking and engage in constructive, respectful dialogue.

When working on the Youth Goal "Moving Rural Youth Forward", WG deliberations centered on addressing the persistent territorial inequalities faced by young people in rural and remote areas compared to their urban counterparts. Despite ongoing EU commitments to rural development and the fact that nearly a third of the EU population resides in these regions, rural youth continue to experience significant barriers in accessing essential services such as public transport, high-quality education, sustainable employment, affordable housing, and digital connectivity. The discussions focused on the urgent need to close this urban-rural divide by creating equitable conditions, decentralising activities, and building infrastructure that empowers young people to fulfill their potential, actively participate in decision-making, and have a genuine choice to stay, leave, or return to their local communities.

When working on the Youth Goal “Youth Organisations & European Programmes”, WG deliberations focused on addressing the challenges of shrinking civic spaces, chronic underfunding, and the lack of recognition currently facing youth organisations and European youth programmes. Participants emphasized a crucial shift from merely facilitating youth participation to empowering young people to actively create change, recognising youth work and organisations as essential democratic infrastructure. Discussions highlighted the critical need for accessible, inclusive, and adequately funded structural support, streamlined youth-friendly administrative processes, and the strategic bridging of non-formal youth work with formal educational systems. Ultimately, the group concluded that ensuring equal opportunities, especially for marginalised youth with fewer opportunities, and securing meaningful youth involvement in programme governance are vital to fostering a thriving civic space rooted in European values.

Discussions within the WG7 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic “Participation and Democracy”

When working on the Youth Goal “Participation and Democracy”, WG deliberations began by discussing what democracy actually means and what conditions are necessary for a society to be considered genuinely democratic and participatory. Participants raised the topic of voting as an essential element of democracy while emphasising that simply the opportunity to participate in elections is not sufficient for a genuine democratic society. The importance of wider democratic standards and meaningful participation were discussed. The deliberations then explored key challenges affecting young people’s participation in democratic life such as the quality of citizen education; transparency and trust in political decision-making; youth representation and political influence; and unequal access to participation. In addition, the WG also considered how young people can contribute to strengthening democracy and the importance of having constructive dialogue and adequate representation. Throughout the discussion, participants considered which existing elements remained relevant to the new Youth Goal on Participation and Democracy and prioritised issues that directly relate to young people’s ability to understand, influence and meaningfully participate in democratic processes.



Deliberations subsequently built on the key issues identified during the previous session, and these were then translated into desired social changes and used as the basis for developing the proposed subgoals. Discussions covered quality civic and democratic education, inclusion and accessibility, reaching young people, voting and electoral participation, meaningful youth participation, and structures and approaches to participation, alongside the emerging issue of money and political influence. As the deliberations progressed, participants critically reviewed the wording and scope of each subgoal, with a particular focus on making them more encompassing. Participants discussed whether democratic education should be retained and considered the role of youth spaces, including for example aspects why “settings” had replaced “youth spaces” in the wording. Feedback from other WGs reinforced the importance of youth spaces, particularly as places where young people can build meaningful relationships. Overall, amendments were primarily made to broaden the proposed subgoals.

Referring to the explanatory notes on Youth Goal no.1 and Youth Goal no.9, participants built their own explanatory note, taking into account the previous WG discussions. The WG came up with an initial sentence as follows: an increasing number of people of young people lack trust in the democratic institutions, with young people being underrepresented and not meaningfully involved in decision-making processes; they need to be enable to take an active role in society. Discussions were largely focused on refining the sentence, and ensuring everyone agrees on the wording of the final explanatory note.

Regarding the title, participants agreed that the word “democracy” should be prioritised and appear first. Several options were considered, including “Democracy and Youth Participation”, “Democracy and Youth Empowerment”, “Democracy and Meaningful Youth Participation”, and “Democracy and Empowered Youth Participation”. Following discussion, the group agreed on “Democracy and Meaningful Participation”, emphasising both democracy and the importance of participation being meaningful. For the one-sentence description of the desired societal change, participants built on their previous discussions, particularly the issues of lack of trust and transparency in democratic institutions. The WG also discussed the importance of presenting meaningful youth participation as a means of strengthening democracy, while also incorporating the role of education. These considerations were reflected in the final sentence agreed by the group.

Discussions within the WG8 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic “Quality of Life”

When working on the Youth Goal “Quality of Life”, WG delegates discussed the background paper in smaller groups. In the final round about half of the group expressed their individual reflections, building on each other's contributions. Discussion continued in the next session in order to form the subgoals. A concern was raised by some participants to avoid simply accommodating any topics which are not mentioned in other Goals.

Six sub-groups worked in parallel on six subgoals, based on their initial preference. Subsequently, the group was divided into four sub-groups, one working on the proposal for the explanatory note, and three other groups revising two subgoals each, incorporating feedback from other WGs. Before splitting into sub-groups, delegates proposed words or phrases they would like to avoid and those they would like to see used in the explanatory note. There has been a discussion in one of the sub-groups regarding including the intergenerational fairness. The final session was used to finalise the wording of the sub-goals and the explanatory note, with minor wording changes being introduced and agreed on by the group. The WG then moved on to work on the the desired change in the society the Goal should aim at.

Discussions within the WG9 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic “Peace and Security”

When working on the Youth Goal “Peace and Security”, WG delegates discussed peace and security as a broad concept that extends beyond the absence of war and includes the social, political, educational, and economic conditions needed for young people to live secure and fulfilling lives. Discussions highlighted concerns about the securitisation of migration and borders, misinformation, limited peace education, and the exclusion of young people from decision-making processes. Delegates also reflected on the ongoing impact of generational trauma, inherited divisions, and hatred, noting the importance of reconciliation and dialogue. The WG emphasised that many young people are facing growing insecurity due to conflict, geopolitical tensions, housing challenges, limited resources, and a lack of safe spaces. Throughout the discussion, there was strong agreement that young people should be empowered as active actors in peacebuilding, diplomacy, and security policy, with meaningful opportunities to shape the decisions that affect their lives and futures.

Delegates worked in six small groups to build on the key issues identified during the first session and translate these into potential sub-goals for the Peace and Security Youth Goal before presenting their proposals and refining them collectively. Discussions focused on defining the key conditions needed to build peaceful, secure, and inclusive societies for young people, with particular attention given to

education, youth participation, human rights, social inclusion, access to resources, and the lasting impacts of conflict and division. A strong area of consensus was the importance of peace education, with delegates calling for young people to be equipped with practical skills, knowledge, and tools to respond to crises, prevent conflict, and build resilient societies. Delegates also explored what constitutes a safe society, including protection from physical, psychological, and verbal violence; the creation of safe spaces for freedom of expression and non-violent dialogue; and meaningful youth involvement in decision-making and peacebuilding processes. Further discussions highlighted the role of critical thinking and media literacy in preventing radicalisation and misinformation, as well as the inclusion of refugees, migrants, minority groups, and other vulnerable communities in creating welcoming and cohesive societies. Delegates also considered the relationship between peace and broader issues such as economic insecurity, access to basic needs, discrimination, and barriers to participation, while debating the appropriate scope of a youth-focused goal and how concepts such as democratic resilience and institutional trust could be reflected in the final sub-goals. Throughout the deliberations, there was strong agreement that young people should be recognised as active actors in peacebuilding and security policy rather than passive beneficiaries, and that the sub-goals should be rights-based, inclusive, and adaptable to different national and regional contexts.



Delegates engaged in detailed discussions to develop and refine the 50-word statement describing the Peace and Security Youth Goal, with a particular focus on ensuring the language was both ambitious and accessible. While there was broad agreement that the statement should emphasise peace, security, inclusion, and youth empowerment, delegates debated how strongly to reference specific issues such as human rights, participation, education, and vulnerability. Some delegates argued that the statement should prioritise young people as active peacebuilders and decision-makers, while others felt it should place greater emphasis on creating supportive environments and addressing structural barriers to peace and security. There were also discussions around the wording used to describe security, with suggestions to broaden the concept beyond conflict and violence to include social, economic, and democratic dimensions. Through several rounds of amendments, delegates worked to simplify the language, improve clarity, and ensure the final statement reflected a shared vision of empowering all young people to contribute to peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies while recognising the diverse challenges affecting their lives.

Delegates engaged in extensive discussion on the title of the proposed Youth Goal, considering how best to capture its purpose while remaining clear, accessible, and relevant to young people across Europe. Several options were debated, including "Peace and Security", "European Peace and Security", "Ensuring Peaceful Societies", and "Peace, Security and Youth". Delegates reflected on whether references to Europe and youth were necessary, given that the initiative already forms part of the European Youth Goals framework. Discussions also explored how different titles might be perceived by young people, policymakers, and other stakeholders, with particular attention given to symbolism, simplicity, and recognisability. Following a democratic voting process, delegates selected "Peace and

Security" as the preferred title, agreeing that it was the clearest, most inclusive, and most recognisable representation of the goal's ambitions.

Discussions within the WG10 tasked with creating a Youth Goal for the topic “Climate Justice and Sustainability”

When working on the Youth Goal “Climate Justice and Sustainability”, WG deliberations began with small groups reviewing prior EUYD consultation outputs, surfacing early concerns around corporate accountability, marginalised groups, and accessibility, with most of the delegates pushing for the new Goal to be more concrete and structured. Groups then marked up the existing "Sustainable Green Europe" Goal, agreeing that the subtitle should be changed. Support for some subgoals varied across delegates, while others were marked to be kept, especially those linked to regulation, affordability, funding and international cooperation. A final post-it exercise was used for delegates to brainstorm and cluster key issues in two sub/groups, focusing on responsibility, accountability, inequality, just transition, action and urgency, and meaningful youth participation, with points on human rights, representation, finance, and science-based regulation raised but not fully resolved.

Delegates then split into sub-groups to draft one or two subgoals each, then rotated to comment on each other’s wording. The WG agreed that the subgoal focusing on inequality should be broader and include affordability and vulnerability, and that the subgoal focusing on youth participation should be more concrete by naming barriers faced by marginalised young people. Delegates also debated whether peace and security should be included separately or integrated into the subgoal describing action and urgency, and they agreed to keep the language ambitious while avoiding vague or overly technical phrasing. Seven subgoals were finalised, covering inequality, just transition, accountability, urgency, international cooperation, and youth participation.

In the next session, the WG went back to the subgoals before moving to the explanatory note. Delegates first worked individually and in small groups, starting from a few words they felt were central to climate justice and sustainability, such as accountability and inequality. The delegates checked whether any important ideas were missing from the subgoals. The topic of zero-emissions was raised, and delegates confirmed by a show of hands that peace and security should stay in the Goal. Working in teams of one or two delegates per subgoal, they then voted on the wording of each subgoal. Teams then drafted wording for the explanatory note. One team presented its draft, and delegates voted on it. They found it hard to agree on some terms: "young people" versus "future generations", and "disadvantaged", "marginalised" or "vulnerable" people. The main change the WG introduced was the explicit addition of young people, which was not included in the previous description. Delegates then made final edits, worked on the explanatory note again, and returned with a final version.

In the last session, delegates first worked on the title. Each delegate wrote down their own suggestion, and delegates then voted on the suggestions. The final title was voted on and all delegates agreed on it easily. The subtitle was drafted by groups of delegates, who presented their versions to others and edited them several times until the final sentence was agreed by the whole WG. In this last session, delegates also reviewed the subgoals once more to make a very final decision on them.

Annexes

Annex 1: Programme of the EUYC Dublin

The EU Youth Conference in Dublin (Ireland) took place at Croke Park from 27st September 2026 until 30th September 2026.

Day 1: 27th September 2026

13.00-16.00 Arrival of participants to the venue, lunch & registration

14.00-16.00 Market Place

16.00-16:45 Welcome Plenary

- Welcome Plenary & Introduction to the conference from Fatima Ismail & Spyros Papadatos
- Ioannis Pagoulatos, EUYD Secretariat, short presentation on the work of the ESG
- Leo Galvin, Irish Youth Delegate and Grace McManus NYCI. Céad Mile Failte and Interactive & Audience Warm Up

16.45-17.00 Cultural Performance

- Zoe Conway & John McIntyre; Music as an Art of Information and Expression

17.00-18.00 Commission dialogue & Panel discussion

- Ingrid Bellander Todino and Hélène Pétré, Commission (DG EAC) on-stage interview with youth journalists Katie Kronin and Sofiya Tryzub-Cook
- Panel Discussion: Shaping the Narrative; Youth, Information Integrity and Social Justice – Why Care?
- Vanessa Paszkowska, access officer UCD and Trinity College Dublin, with a focus on widening access to HE for Traveller and Roma students
- Rebecca Ryan, Belong to Youth Advocate,
- Aaron Carey Sunderland, Socially Engaged Artist/ Youth Worker (Rialto)

18.00-18.15 Making Waves Youth Theatre Performance

18.15-19.15 Working Group Introduction Session

Day 2: 28th September 2026

09.30-11.00 EUYC opening plenary

- Hildegarde Naughton, Irish Minister for Education and Youth
- Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport
- Maria Markkula, YFJ representative
- Researcher Ondřej Bárta, #4 Youth Goal & 12th Cycle of the Youth Dialogue
- Researcher Dan Moxon, Revision of the European Youth Goals
- Cúpla Focal le Sara Ní Chuirreáin: An introduction to the Irish language
- IAYO Classical Quartet Performance

11.00-11.30 Coffee & Connect

11.30-13.00 Working Groups Session 1

13.00-14.30 Lunch & Market Place

14.30-15.00 Panel Discussion: Beyond the Algorithm; Constructive Dialogue in the age of AI – Who cares?

- Hope Omoregie, Irish Youth Delegate
- Reuban Murray, AI youth citizens jury/NYCI
- Charlie Beaudelot, Spunout

15.00-15.15 Farah Elle - The power in the voice

15.15-15.45 Coffee & Connect

15.45-17.15 Working Groups Session 2

20.00-22.30 Gala Dinner

Day 3: 29th September 2026

09.30-09.45 Megan Atkinson: Spoken Word Artist

09.45-11.00 AGORA session

11.00-11.30 Coffee & Connect

11.30-13.00 Working Groups Session 3

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.25 Working Groups Session 4

19.00-22.00 EPIC Museum

Day 4: 30th September 2026

09.30-11.00 Welcome Plenary, Presentation of Recommendations and Keynote Listener Responses

- Youth Delegates
- Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva, Director for Policy Strategy, Country Intelligence and Youth at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- Hildegarde Naughton, Irish Minister for Education and Youth
- Mick Ferron, NYCI CEO
- Caillum Hedderman, YFJ President

11.00-11.30 Coffee & Connect

11.30-13.00 Closing Plenary

- Closing Speech: Caillum Hedderman, YFJ President & Billy Campbell, Irish Youth Delegate
- Handover to incoming Lithuanian presidency: Umberto Masi, President of the Lithuanian Youth Council
- Grand Finale: Irish Youth Wind Ensemble

Annex 2: European Youth Goals, Revised Version



European Youth Goals

Revised version, produced after the EU Youth Conference in Dublin, 27-30th September 2026

Background

The European Youth Goals summarise the issues affecting young people in Europe and the political priorities important to them. The Youth Goals show where change is still needed so young people in Europe can reach their full potential.

The original European Youth Goals were initially created through the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue which ran from July 1, 2017, to December 30, 2018. They were then revised during the 11th and 12th cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue through a participatory youth-led process which ran between January 2025 and September 2026.

This document contains the revised version of the European Youth Goals and outlines the process used for the revisions.

At the time of writing, the original Youth Goals are annexed to EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, which is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027. As this strategy comes to an end in 2027, it is necessary to consider how the Goals need to be updated as part of the revision of the Youth Strategy. However, it needs to be noted that the ultimate decision on the inclusion of the revised Youth Goals in proposals and decisions related to the post-2027 EU Youth Strategy lies with the European Commission and the Council of the EU. Thus, it cannot be guaranteed that the revised Youth Goals will, in the end, be part of the new EU Youth Strategy. The intention of the revision of the Youth Goals is to provide input and consideration to the process of the update of the EU Youth Strategy. Moreover, several aspects, such as the timeline, depend on the decision-making processes within the European Commission and the Council. While the overall goal is for the revised Youth Goals to feed into the EU Youth Strategy, it is also possible for them to be a standalone product, independent of the EU Youth Strategy or other youth policies.

How Were The Goals Revised?

The European Commission, working in collaboration with the European Youth Forum and researchers supporting the EU Youth Dialogue, developed a participatory youth-led process designed to enable young people across Europe to contribute to revising the European Youth Goals. The purpose of the participatory process was to revise and update (rather than rewrite completely) the European Youth Goals as part of the revision of the EU Youth Strategy.

The process was linked to the 11th and 12th Cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue and especially the EU Youth Conferences in Cyprus (online, 18-20th March 2026) and Dublin (27-30th September 2026). The EU Youth Dialogue is a dialogue mechanism between young people and decision-makers taking place in the framework of the EU Youth Strategy. Each cycle of dialogue lasts 18 months and includes three EU Youth Conferences

The revision of the European Youth Goals occurred in several stages as follows:

Stage 1: A Consultation Held As Part Of The 11th Cycle Of EU Youth Dialogue

The consultation conducted in the 11th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue explored what updates might be needed to the European Youth Goals in the view of young people. The results identified that, while most current goals remain relevant to young people, there are several ‘missing themes’. These include peace, security, economic security (including cost of living), and digitalisation, all of which are increasingly of concern to young people and are not featured in the current European Youth Goals, because they were of less concern to young people when the goals were originally created.

Stage 2: The Youth Goals Task Force

A Youth Goals Task Force was convened by the European Youth Forum with the support of the European Commission. This group was made up of young people from National Youth Councils, International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, as well as young people not engaged directly representing a youth organisation. The task force had the mandate to interpret the consultation results and develop proposals for the structure of the new European Youth Goals, including the total number of goals and the theme of each goal. The group developed two proposals in total.

Stage 3: A Vote At The EU Youth Conference In Cyprus

Youth delegates at the EU Youth Conference in Cyprus, 18th - 20th March 2026, voted between the two proposals from the Youth Goals Task Force. By selecting their preferred proposal, participants set the structure of the revision of the European Youth Goals in terms of the final number and the theme of each goal. This vote decided that five of the original goals would be retained, five would be amended, two new goals would be created, and one goal would be removed (see below for further details).

Stage 4: A Consultation On The 'Missing Themes' And Use Of Results From Previous Cycles Of EU Youth Dialogue

To gather further views from young people to inform the drafting of the two new goals and five goals being amended, a consultation was held on the themes of digitalisation, peace and security and cost of living. The consultation was open to all National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations in the European Youth Forum's Membership. The results of this consultation were then combined with the results from consultations held during the 8th, 9th and 10th Cycles[1] of the EU Youth Dialogue to create a series of background papers. These papers identify young people's views related to the topics and themes of the amendments and new goals.

Stage 5: Drafting And Amendments To The Goals At The EU Youth Conference In Dublin

Building on the background papers, the delegates at the EU Youth Conference in Dublin, 27th-30th September 2026, engaged in a series of deliberative workshops to draft the two new goals and amend five of the original goals. Over a two-day period, delegates engaged in debate and discussion to create and draft the relevant text. An editing team, consisting of the European Youth Forum, Irish National Youth Council, Irish Presidency representatives, and researchers supporting the EU Youth Dialogue, was then tasked with finalising the text and minor edits to ensure coherence and consistency.

Between the initial creation of the goals in the 6th cycle of EU Youth Dialogue, the revision process in the 11th and 12th Cycles, and by drawing on the results of consultation from the 8th, 9th and 10th Cycles of EUYD Youth Dialogue, an estimated 130,000 young people have contributed to the goals in their current form.[2]

[1] Dates of these cycles were as follows - 8th Cycle: 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2021, 9th Cycle: 1 January 2022 – 30 June 2023, 10th Cycle: 1 July 2023 – 31 December 2024.

[2] This figure is a crude estimation, based on summing participant consultation figures from the 6th cycle (48369), 8th cycle (10798, qualitative elements only), 9th cycle (22719), 10th cycle (28723), 11th cycle (38402), and factoring in that 10% of participants are returning participants each cycle.

Revised European Youth Goals Compared To The Original Youth Goals

EYG#1: Democracy And Meaningful Participation	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal *'Space and Participation for all'.*
EYG#2: Equality Of All Genders	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#3: Inclusive Societies	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#4: Information, Dialogue And Digital Environments	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal *'Information and Constructive Dialogue'.*
EYG#5: Mental Health And Wellbeing	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#6: Moving Rural Youth Forward	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal with the same name.
EYG#7: Quality Employment For All	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#8: Quality Learning	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#9: Dignified Living	This is a new youth goal.
EYG#10: Sustainability And Climate Justice	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal *'Sustainable Green Europe'.*
EYG#11: Youth Organisations, Youth Work And EU Programmes	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal '*Youth Organisations & European Programmes'*
EYG#12: Peace And Security	This is a new youth goal.

The previous goal, '*Connecting EU With Youth'* has been removed from the revised version of the European Youth Goals.

The full set of revised goals is shown on the following pages.

EYG#1: DEMOCRACY AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Background: An increasing number of young people lack trust in democratic institutions, with young people being underrepresented and not meaningfully involved. Young people need to have an active role in democracy.

Goal: Strengthen democracy and young people's trust in democratic institutions through meaningful participation and education.

Subgoals:

a. Build young people's trust in the political institutions and processes by addressing the democratic deficit, the influence of money on politics and the lack of transparency and information.

b. Ensure safe and accessible youth spaces for every young person that provide young people with access to opportunities for meaningful youth participation, dialogue and democratic representation at all levels.

c. Guarantee access to quality citizenship and democracy education within non-formal and formal settings, including youth spaces.

d. Ensure systematic, inclusive, accessible and representative youth participation across all sectors in order to achieve youth mainstreaming.

e. Promote young people's agency in democratic processes by lowering the voting age to 16 and better supporting young people seeking elected office;

f. Guarantee transparency within youth participation processes from start to finish, enabling feedback, follow-up, and further dialogue between young people and decision-makers.

EYG#2: EQUALITY OF ALL GENDERS[3]

Background: Gender-based discrimination still affects many young people, especially young women. Equal opportunities and access to rights need to be ensured for young people of all genders, including non-binary and LGBTQI+[4] young people.

Goal: Ensure equality of all genders and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas of the life of a young person.

Subgoals:

a. Tackle discrimination and ensure equal rights for all genders in cultural, political and socioeconomical life.

b. Achieve universal awareness of gender-based inequality and discrimination, particularly in the media.

c. End gender-based violence by addressing and tackling it effectively in all its forms.

d. Eliminate stereotypical gender roles and embrace diverse gender identities in education systems, family life, the workplace, and other areas of life.

e. End gender-based structural discrimination in the labour market and ensure equal rights, access and opportunities.

f. Ensure equal pay for equal work and the equal sharing of the responsibilities of care work.

g. Ensure equal access to formal and non-formal education, and that the design of education systems follows gender-sensitive approaches.

[3]With due regard to the subsidiarity, 'all genders' should be interpreted in accordance with the national and Union legislation and national circumstances.

[4]The abbreviation 'LGBTQI+' aims to sum up non-heterosexual and/or non-binary identities, the letters stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, the + symbolises that it is a non-exhaustive list.

EYG#3: INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Background: One third of young people in Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Many do not have access to their social rights. Many continue to face multiple discrimination, experience prejudice and hate crimes. New migratory phenomena have brought several social and inclusion challenges. Therefore, it is crucial to work towards the fulfilment of the rights of all young people in Europe, including the most marginalised and excluded.

Goal: Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society.

a. Provide legal protection and enforce international legal instruments to fight against all kinds of discrimination and hate speech, recognising that young people are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination.

b. Strengthen outreach of information to marginalised young people, to ensure they are aware of spaces, opportunities and experiences available to them.

c. Ensure that all marginalised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion.

d. Strengthen the capacities of educators to work with marginalised young people.

e. Provide more spaces, opportunities, resources and programmes to foster dialogue and social cohesion, and combat discrimination and segregation.

f. Strengthen social support by implementing the right to a living wage, fair working conditions, universal access to quality health care, and ensure specific measures for marginalised young people.

g. Ensure that marginalised young people are participating in all decision-making processes and are key players, particularly in processes concerning their own rights, wellbeing and interests.

EYG#4: INFORMATION, DIALOGUE AND DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS

Background: Young people experience difficulties in verifying the accuracy and reliability of information, both online and offline. They need to be more adequately equipped to navigate the media and digital landscapes, to understand, exercise and enjoy their digital rights, to strengthen their digital literacy, and to participate in constructive dialogue in safe and inclusive digital environments.

Goal: Empower young people to effectively navigate and engage in digital and physical information environments.

Subgoals:

a. Empower young people to be critical thinkers as well as responsible users and producers of information.

b. Ensure young people have the ability to recognise misleading information, verify the accuracy of information sources, and have easy ways to report misleading information, with a guarantee of accountability from relevant authorities.

c. Ensure young people have the ability to recognise and address hate speech, abuse and discrimination both online and offline.

d. Ensure young people can engage in respectful, tolerant and non-violent dialogue, both online and offline.

e. Ensure easy access to understandable, youth-friendly information that follows codes of ethics and quality standards, in line with relevant legislative frameworks.

f. Ensure parents and carers, and all those involved with educating and training young people, are equipped with media and digital literacy skills and are reliable information sources for young people.

g. Implement transparent AI and digital platform regulations that empower young people to navigate safely within age-appropriate digital landscapes.

EYG#5: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Background: A significant and increasing number of young people across Europe are expressing their concern about the prevalence of mental health issues such as high stress, anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses amongst their peers. Young people cite the immense societal pressures they face today and express a need for better youth mental health provision.

Goal: Achieve better mental wellbeing and end stigmatisation of mental health issues, thus promoting social inclusion of all young people.

Subgoals:

a. Encourage the development of self-awareness and less competitive mindsets by fostering appreciation for individual skills and strengths.

b. Safeguard the rights to work and to study of people with mental health issues both during and after illness to ensure their ability to pursue their own ambitions.

c. Develop an inclusive intersectional approach to mental health provision for all, especially marginalised groups.

d. Provide all professionals working with young people as well as family and friends with quality mental health first aid training.

e. Provide inclusive, respectful and well-funded treatment by incorporating high-quality mental health provision across all medical institutions.

f. Focus on prevention measures that ensure young people are equipped with the knowledge and the skills required for better mental wellbeing.

g. Fight stigma about mental health issues by developing awareness programmes.

EYG#6: MOVING RURAL YOUTH FORWARD

Background: Young people in rural and remote areas face territorial inequalities in access to transport, public services, education, employment, housing, digital connectivity, youth work, and participation. They need access to equitable rights and opportunities regardless of where they live and have a genuine choice to stay, leave or return to their communities.

Goal: Create conditions which enable young people to thrive within rural areas.

Subgoals:

a. Ensure appropriate and affordable infrastructure in rural and remote areas in order to provide equitable delivery of transport, public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people.

b. Increase young people's access to sustainable, high-quality jobs in rural and remote areas, and enhance their ability to commute to other areas or work remotely.

c. Ensure diverse activities and structures for young people, which are designed with rural and remote areas in mind and decentralised, in order to support young people's inclusion in rural and remote communities.

d. Ensure that young people in rural and remote areas have access to civic spaces and are actively participating in decision-making processes.

e. Ensure equitable access to high-quality formal and non-formal education, training and lifelong learning opportunities for young people in rural and remote communities.

f. Support a positive image of remote and rural areas by protecting and promoting their cultural life and heritage.

EYG#7: QUALITY EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

Background: Young people are suffering from high youth unemployment, precarious and exploitative working conditions as well as discrimination in the labour market and the workplace. The lack of information and suitable skills for future employment are preventing young people from being fully integrated into the labour market. Thus, measures need to be taken in order to ensure quality employment for all.

Goal: Guarantee an accessible labour market with opportunities that lead to quality jobs for all young people

Subgoals:

a. Create quality jobs which guarantee fair working conditions, working rights and the right to a living wage for all young people.

b. Safeguard social protection and healthcare for all young workers.

c. Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market.

d. Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market.

e. Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education.

f. Ensure involvement of young people and youth organisations as equal partners in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies at all levels.

g. Ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work.

EYG#8: QUALITY LEARNING

Background: Education remains a key to active citizenship, an inclusive society and employability. That is why we need to enlarge our vision about education for the 21st century, focusing more on transferable skills, student-centred learning and non-formal education to achieve truly equal and universal access to quality learning.

Goal: Integrate and improve different forms of learning, equipping young people for the challenges of an ever-changing life in the 21st century.

Subgoals:

a. Guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and lifelong learning.

b. Ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated.

c. Promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills.

d. Create and implement more personalised, participative, and cooperative learner-centred methods in every step of the education process.

e. Guarantee that education equips all young people with life skills such as money management and health education, including sexual and reproductive health

f. Incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity and learning.

g. Ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation.

EYG#9: DIGNIFIED LIVING

Background: Increasingly, young people face difficult access to quality housing, economic security, healthcare, employment and culture. This prevents young people from claiming a dignified, meaningful life. More than their basic needs, young people require equitable access to all their rights, which can only be achieved through a holistic approach.

Goal: Guarantee socio-economic security and quality of life for young people.

Subgoals:

a. Ensure all young people have access to quality, secure, and affordable housing, especially young people with fewer opportunities and at risk of homelessness and poverty, respecting principles of intergenerational fairness.

b. Improve the holistic and intersectional understanding and use of data beyond economic indicators on young people's quality of life, ensuring that their realities and needs are included in decision-making and public policies.

c. Support young people's autonomy and transition into adulthood with stronger support mechanisms for gaining financial security and skills needed to build their independent future.

d. Enable young people to overcome the rising cost of living, which disproportionately affects them, by providing sufficient, equitable support, resources, and opportunities.

e. Promote young people's right to health by ensuring access to quality healthcare, prevention measures, and opportunities for physical recreation across rural and urban communities.

f. Maintain and expand public spaces, cultural amenities and infrastructure to be youth-friendly, through co-creation, ensuring they are inclusive, accessible, and wisely located.

EYG#10: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Background: The impacts of climate change and environmental crisis are rapidly worsening, impacting the present and future of young people. A just transition requires urgent actions that are backed by science-based evidence and consider intergenerational fairness and equity. These actions must consider and prioritise disproportionately affected communities.

Goal: Achieve an equitable, sustainable and climate-neutral Europe, through urgent action, and stronger accountability, where young people are fully integrated into policy and decision-making

Subgoals:

a. Ensure a just transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral Europe that creates opportunities for all people, and that does not widen existing inequalities.

b. Ensure institutions urgently develop, implement and enforce ambitious existing and future legislation on sustainability.

c. Use legislative and financial measures to support urgent climate adaptation in order to protect vulnerable groups and create resilience.

d. Develop more effective legislation to hold corporations financially and legally accountable for their impact on climate change.

e. Ensure equitable access to an affordable and sustainable way of living for all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities or facing socio-economic barriers.

f. Guarantee that young people have an influential role throughout the entire decision-making process and at all levels of climate and sustainability governance.

g. Acknowledge that the climate crisis contributes to conflict affecting young people and respond with internationally coordinated peace-building and solidarity measures.

EYG#11: YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, YOUTH WORK AND EU PROGRAMMES

Background: Youth organisations, youth work and EU youth programmes involve millions of young people. They support young people's active citizenship, develop their life skills and strengthen their connection with European values. However, youth organisations, youth work and EU youth programmes remain underfunded and lack recognition and accessibility, shrinking the civic space for young people

Goal: Ensure equal access for all young people to youth organisations, youth work and the EU youth programmes, building a society based on European values and identity.

Subgoals:

a. Ensure equal opportunities to participate in youth organisations, youth groups, youth work and EU youth programmes for all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities

b. Increase the visibility of youth organisations, youth work, and EU youth programmes, and provide quality information on them.

c. Ensure youth organisations, youth work, and EU youth programmes are fully linked with educational systems, and recognise youth organisations and youth workers as actors who foster life skills, democracy, and active citizenship.

d. Increase the resources and diversify the grants and initiatives available for youth organisations, youth groups and youth work.

e. Commit to accessible, inclusive, and adequately funded European youth programmes that provide structural, financial, and individual support for youth work, youth organisations, and informal groups of young people.

f. Ensure EU programmes provide sufficient resources for youth organisations to develop projects, access structural support, carry out their missions, and support their work.

g. Ensure meaningful participation of young people in the governance processes of EU youth programmes.

EYG#12: PEACE AND SECURITY

Background: Security is a growing concern for young people across Europe. Domestic and global security issues affect all areas of life, amplifying the vulnerabilities of our society. Young people should be educated, supported, recognised and included in creating a peaceful world.

Goal: Enable and empower young people to contribute to a peaceful and safe Europe.

Subgoals:

a. Recognise and engage young people inclusively and meaningfully, as actors in building sustainable peace, and contributors to participatory decision-making processes, while holding stakeholders accountable.

b. Ensure young people can exercise their freedom of speech, protest and other civic rights safely in online and offline spaces.

c. Guarantee peace and human rights education through non-formal learning and formal education, so young people gain the competences and values to ensure peace and build resilient societies.

d. Ensure young people are protected from physical, psychological, verbal and other forms of violence, while also providing targeted support to those who have been affected.

e. Empower the youth sector to strengthen crisis preparedness and response through knowledge, skills and sustainable resources.

f. Ensure young people are able to resist and tackle the influence of radicalisation and polarisation.

g. Recognise and support vulnerable and marginalised groups who are disproportionately affected by conflict and crisis situations.