

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO YOU!





KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO YOU!

Since 2019, the von der Leyen Commission has been working hard to support young people across the EU to help them thrive. You are the future leaders and contributors to our society!

By offering you opportunities for education, employment and mobility, we want to empower YOU to shape your future and make Europe more inclusive, prosperous and sustainable.

GET THE KNOW-HOW



GETTING THE BEST

The [European Education Area](#) breaks down barriers between the EU countries, so you can tap into the best education and training all over Europe. We're always [working on](#) making it more inclusive, digital and greener, so you can dive into adventures abroad to learn and train – and meet other students while you're at it!

ERASMUS+

Now it's more inclusive, digital and eco-friendly – and guess what? We've nearly doubled the budget for [Erasmus+](#) 2021–2027. That means millions more of you get to do university studies, vocational training or youth exchanges abroad. And yep, teachers can also take part! We've also rolled out the digital [European Student Card](#) to make your student journey smoother and get easier access to campus services.



TRAVELLING AND EXPLORING EUROPE

We helped universities across the EU to form [European Universities alliances](#) to set up inter-university campuses. We're also working with them on a [European Degree](#) so that you can move seamlessly between universities in different European countries.

Thanks to [DiscoverEU](#), more than 250 000 18-year-olds have had the opportunity to travel by train across Europe and experience its diversity and rich cultural heritage.



FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

GIVING EVERYONE A CHANCE

If you're under 30 and find yourself without a job or just finishing school, the EU's [reinforced Youth Guarantee](#) has your back.

You should be offered a job, more education and training, or an apprenticeship or traineeship, all within 4 months of reaching the moment you're out of work or have finished school.

We also want you to land jobs that matter. For example, in 2023, 45 % of the EU's electricity came from renewables, creating thousands of job opportunities for you in the green energy sectors.



EVERYONE'S INCLUDED

We've joined forces with over 2 500 people with disabilities to launch a new [EU-wide disability card](#). Travelling across the EU with a disability just got easier!

We also adopted an [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy](#), to better protect the rights of the LGBTIQ community and ensure that you can show up as yourself wherever you are in the EU.

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

The [European Alliance for Apprenticeships](#) members are working to offer more and better apprenticeships all over Europe (and even beyond).

We also just proposed a [Reinforced Quality Framework](#) to improve traineeship conditions, ensuring fair pay for all trainees and inclusivity for vulnerable groups.



THRIVE



TAKING CARE OF YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES

Cancer claims millions of lives, including those of young people, yet 40 % of cases are preventable. While treatment is getting better and more and more people survive cancer, we want to improve prevention, screening and treatment access with the EU's [Beating Cancer Plan](#).

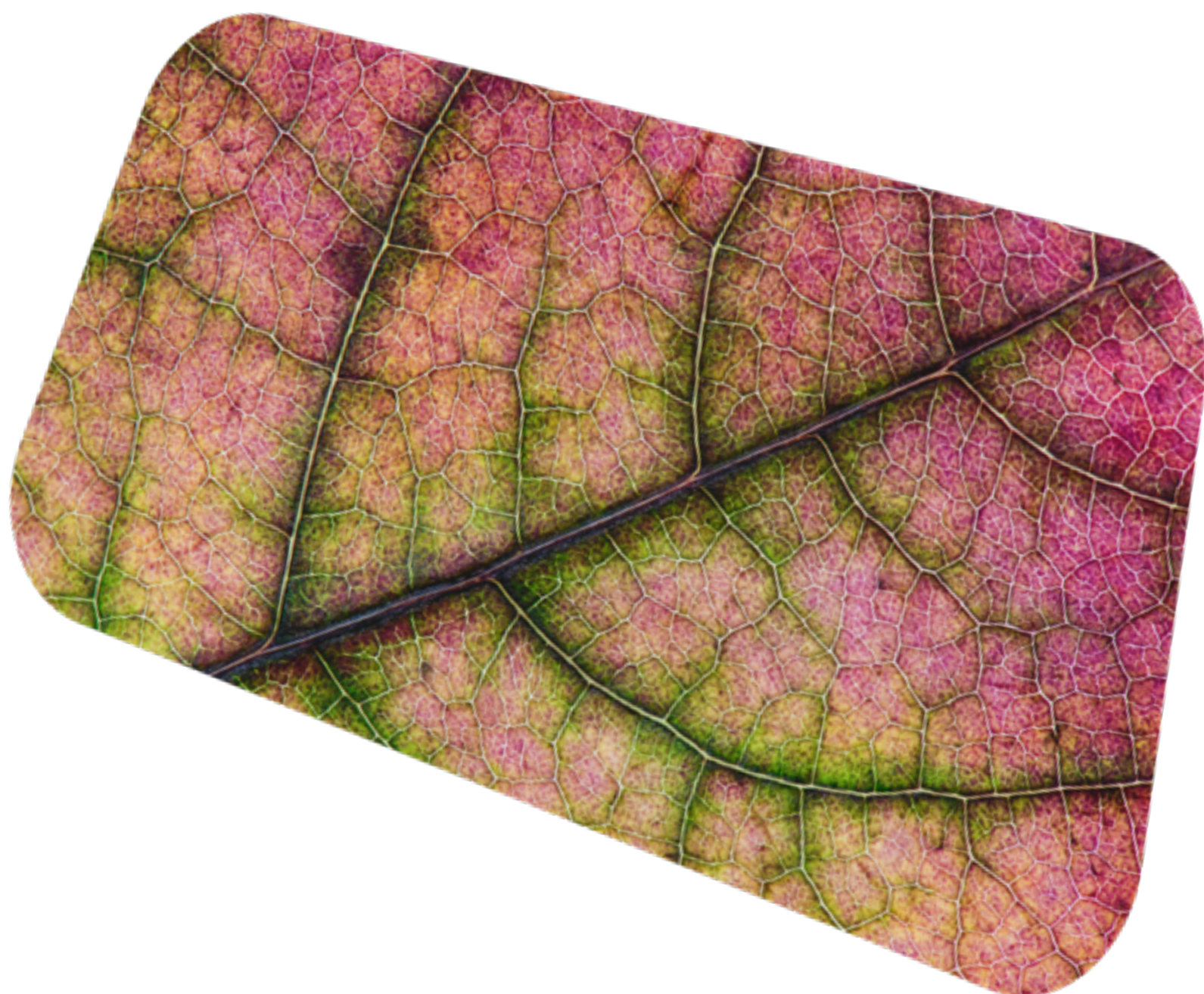
We work hard to improve the lives of cancer patients and survivors, bringing young survivors across Europe together to share their stories and challenges.

With the [#UnitedinProtection campaign](#), we want to show how small actions, like getting vaccinated, have huge impacts. Rest easy, knowing that vaccines in the EU are safe, from flu shots to the HPV vaccine.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health matters just as much as hitting the gym or eating healthily.

We take mental health [seriously](#), focusing on young people and breaking down the stigma around talking about it. Because so many things – from where you live to your job – have an impact on mental well-being, we're making sure that we prioritise mental health when making new policies or proposing new laws.



THE BIGGER PICTURE

Health isn't just personal; it's shaped by our environment. That's why we've worked hard to limit [microplastics](#) and [noise pollution](#), and to ban [harmful and cancer-causing chemicals](#) – keeping you healthier while also looking out for the planet.

TAKING CARE OF THE WORLD

A LAW FOR LIFE

The EU's goal is to be climate neutral – with net-zero emissions – by 2050. We made it official with the [Climate Law](#). We're already making a major move to [cut emissions by 2030](#).



DOING IT DIFFERENTLY

Caring for our planet requires a complete rethink of how we do things.

We rolled out a plan to make [fashion more eco-friendly](#) and cracked down on greenwashing, so you won't be tricked into buying 'eco-friendly' gear if it isn't.

We also pushed for your right to repair things, making it easier and cheaper to fix stuff instead of throwing it away. The goal is durable, [repairable products](#) and a big goodbye to throwaway culture.

And while we're on the subject, the EU has [banned single-use plastic](#) products from being placed on the markets of EU countries when sustainable and affordable alternatives are available.

YOU'VE GOT THE POWER

We're switching to clean energy and [using less power](#). Breathe a little easier, knowing that the air is cleaner and we're taking care of the planet.



PLUGGED IN

ALL EYES ON AI

AI is awesome, but nobody wants it to go rogue. Not to brag, but the EU's [AI Act](#) is the first legal framework in the world to make sure that AI systems don't infringe on human rights, safety or ethical principles.



THE BIG PLATFORMS

The same goes for big online platforms. The EU's [Digital Services Act](#) ensures that these platforms handle their sites responsibly, including dealing with the mental and physical impact on users.

You should now find it easy to report cyberbullying or any sketchy content. Plus, the rules have got your back against fake news and make sure your voice stays free.



UPDATES

We're digitising your lives with things like the [Digital Identity Wallets](#) for safe online ID checks and doc shares.

Also, say goodbye to charger chaos: by the end of 2024, all new phones, tablets and cameras sold in the EU will use common [USB-C](#). We're also diving into [virtual worlds](#), boosting skills for creators and kicking off discussions with you about keeping kids and young adults safe online.



A WORLD AT PEACE

INTERCONNECTED

Sticking together worldwide is more important than ever.

Thanks to the [Youth Action Plan](#) and the [EU Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme](#), millions of you are already involved in tackling global issues with your peers.



WHERE IT'S HAPPENING

If you're between 18 and 35, the [European Solidarity Corps](#) is your ticket to volunteering, interning, working or joining local projects that make a difference. Recently, we [increased](#) the grant amounts to fight off inflation and make sure that your projects still get funding.

You can also apply to join the [Youth Sounding Boards](#). These boards are groups of young people that advise us on youth participation and empowerment when we act in the world.

HELPING UKRAINE

From day one of the invasion, the EU's been all in to support Ukraine, and we're not stopping.

Right now, we're giving over 4 million Ukrainian refugees a safe space, with the [right](#) to study, work and live in the EU. A huge shoutout to you for making Ukrainian refugees feel at home through your Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps [projects](#)!

We gave Erasmus+ extra funds to help Ukrainian students fit right into their new learning environments all around the EU.

We also launched the [School Education Platform](#), where EU countries can share tips about welcoming young Ukrainian refugees into their schools.



THE MIDDLE EAST

We're teaming up with local and worldwide partners, the United Nations and NGOs to ramp up the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza in every way we can – by land, air and sea. We continue to advocate for protection of civilians and a lasting peace, one that respects the idea of two states living side by side, all in line with what the UN has laid out.



THE WAYS YOU'VE SHOWN UP



AMPLIFYING YOUR VOICE

The EU dedicated an entire year to you: 2022 was the [European Year of Youth](#) and it forever changed the way young people participate in EU policymaking.

We've made sure that you're now more involved than ever in the EU's democratic processes. When designing EU policies, we will apply a 'youth check' to ensure that their impact on you is taken into account. In addition, you can now participate in high-level [policy dialogues](#) and speak directly to European Commissioners.

The EU also has a [youth strategy](#). Designed with you and for you, it's a plan that sets out how the EU – along with European authorities from the local and national levels – will work together to empower you to take part in democratic society. We, along with other decision-makers, regularly check in with you through [Youth Dialogue](#) activities.

We're also making sure you're represented in participatory democratic events: a third of the participants at the new generation of [European Citizens' Panels](#) and the [2021–2022 Conference on the Future of Europe](#) are randomly selected young people from all 27 Member States. Not selected? Don't fret: the [Citizens' Engagement Platform](#) is open and waiting for your input!



DODGING THE DECEIT

Got an eye for what's real? The EU helps you recognise fake news and disinformation and how to respond to it by using legit info and media channels.

We're also making sure online platforms get serious about cracking down on disinformation – reining in the lies that breed hate and confusion – and supporting fact-checkers like the [European Digital Media Observatory](#).

The observatory is a massive network across Europe that consists of academic researchers, fact-checkers and media pros who team up to hunt down and bust disinformation. They're on a mission to expose fake news, helping keep our heads clear and the hate out.

YOU'VE BEEN BUSY

The [European Youth Week](#) and the [European Youth Event](#) rally thousands of young people from across Europe for major talks about the future. Our [democracy festivals](#) will have you chatting directly with experts and officials.

The [Young European Ambassadors](#) initiative is a network that connects you with peers from candidate and potential candidate countries.

The [New European Bauhaus Prize for Rising Stars](#) backs your big ideas for cool, sustainable living spaces. This is your chance to show off your vision for a greener, more inclusive world.

FIND OUT MORE:

Learning Corner EU Made Easy

European Commission
Contact: COMM-A2@ec.europa.eu
Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2024
© European Union, 2024 (CC by 4.0)



Illustrations: © Adobe Stock

PDF: ISBN 978-92-68-13588-4 doi: 10.2775/722486 NA-02-24-323-EN-N

Print: ISBN 978-92-68-13561-7 doi: 10.2775/818576 NA-02-24-323-EN-C

