

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

AUSTRIA

SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?	Yes
2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English	Jugendschutzgesetz - Youth Protection Act: federal framework regulation and 9 different youth protection acts in the 9 Länder Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz - Federal Youth Promotion Act and Guidelines for the subsidisation of extracurricular youth education and youth work (2000/2001); BGBl .I Nr. 126/2000 and BGBl. I Nr. 136/2001 Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz - Federal Youth Representation Act (2000/2001); BGBl .I Nr. 127/2000 and BGBl. I Nr. 136/2001
3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.	internal translation of the Federal Youth Promotion Act, the Guidelines for the subsidization of extracurricular youth education and youth work and the Federal Youth Representation Act are attached. http://www.en.bmwfj.gv.at/Youth/YouthProtection/Seiten/default.aspx http://www.en.bmwfj.gv.at/Youth/YouthPromotion/Seiten/default.aspx
4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	No (skip the next question)
If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan	A national Action Plan for the Rights of Children and Youth (YAP) has been established in 2004. YAP: the National Action Plan for the Rights of Children and Youth passed through Parliament in 2004. It gives direction and guidelines for a future child and youth policy and aspires to achieve the defined aims. YAP has as its main aims protection, provision and participation as defined in the Convention of the Rights of Children and Youth. http://www.kinderrechte.gv.at/home/ (deutsch - German) Remark by the Austrian National Youth Council: At the moment, no efforts can be observed to implement the YAP.

<p>5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.</p>	
<p>6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>A and B: partly existing priorities were reinforced, plus: a stronger link between youth policy and labour market orientation was established (research on employability, job perspectives, future labour market mobility etc.). Already since 2000 (White Paper Process) national youth policy concentrates on youth information work including new media, participation structures, research concerning youth issues, young people's voluntary work and aims to mainstream youth issues. Due to this cross-sector approach, youth work expanded into areas of education, employment, health, migration, new media etc. Non-formal education i.e. was included into the Fed. Ministry of Education's "National Qualification Framework". As follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (and as suggested in the resolution "Framework of European cooperation in the youth field"), a "National Working Group" was set up: a concept for regional youth events in Länder was developed (events show close connection of youth work to labour market and/or volunteering), events took place in 2 Länder already, others will take place during 2012. Youth information centres offering job orientation talks for young people; promotion of YOUTHPASS as instrument of making non-formal learning visible; strengthening the value of volunteering and voluntary work, establishing www.freiwilligenweb.at and a FREIWILLIGEN/volunteers-Pass for everyone who is active as a volunteer. End of 2011 new legislation for the establishment of FREIWILLIGENGESE</p>
<p>7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>

Please specify your answer. A: It has reinforced existing priorities † B: It has led to a re-orientation of policy, it has strengthened or established ties between job orientation, increased and stressed employability issues in youth work and through youth projects. From the point of view of the Austrian National Youth Council, the EU Youth Strategy has not yet directly influenced youth priorities in Austria at the local or regional level. However, first discussions have been started, compare answer to Question 6.

8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people? YES, the Government has supported and promoted such cross-disciplinary research since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please specify your answer. The 6th Austrian Youth Report (2011) presents a comprehensive perspective of the processes and demands of growing up in Austrian society.
http://www.en.bmwfj.gv.at/Youth/YouthResearch/Documents/Sixth_Austrian_Youth_Report_Overview.pdf Section A of the Sixth Report on the Situation of Youth includes scientific expertises that analyse the living conditions of young people and draw conclusions for responsible youth policy. Based on their experience and their knowhow in the specific areas, practitioners describe the situation of youth work in Austria and evaluate the chances and perspectives for development for young people in Section B. This section clarifies what is already effective for - and with - today's youth, how this has been achieved, what has become political reality for young people and where there is still a need for action in order to maximise the potential for development for the benefit of Austria and the young people themselves. Additionally, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research has launched the 10-year-research program SPARKLING SCIENCE, which promotes cross-disciplinary, cross-sector participatory research relating to young people and their living conditions. The innovative aspect of SPARKLING SCIENCE is the strategy to closely integrate very young students up to the age of 18 into all research projects. The young researchers contribute precious age-specific skills, knowledge components, usability criteria and human resource to the research

Austria

<p>9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?</p>	<p>YES, such cooperation has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>The research activities of the BMWFJ serve as a foundation for the development of diverse and open youth policies. The research is undertaken with awareness of the challenges of an increasingly complex environment and is an attempt to come to terms with these. E.g. during each election period, in addition to assigning numerous individual projects, the BMWFJ must present the Parliament with a "Report on the situation of youth in Austria." The "6th report on the Situation of Youth" was presented in summer 2011 (see link in answer to Q8). Remark National Youth Council: From our the point of view, the situation of youth research in Austria is insufficient. For example, government subsidies for the "Austrian Institute of Youth Research" were stopped at the end of 2009. More efforts should be put into place in order to foster cooperation between the Youth Ministry and the research community. Special focus should be put on fundamental research instead of conducting surveys on quite particular topics that seem to be of special political interest, compare Answer to Question 73 and the corresponding remark by the Youth Council.</p>
<p>10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?</p>	<p>YES, such an institutional mechanism has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

Additional comments.	<p>Going along with the EU-activities, a strategy group on the national level started in 2001 with the implementation of the “White Paper”-issues and it still exists, although it is enlarged, - it now works on the new tasks of the “renewed framework”. This new “National Working Group” regularly brings together staff members of the Departments for National and International Youth Policy within the Ministry for Youth as well as representatives of the Länder (Departments for Youth), the Federal Network of Austrian Youth Information Centres, the National Youth Council, the Federal Network for Open Youth Work in Austria and the National Agency for YOUTH IN ACTION. In specific cases, staff members of other Ministries would be invited to join the discussions. The work to be done by the National Working Group is the formulation and discussion of subject areas to their content and implementation measures. Depending on the topics, experts from other ministries or other institutions are invited to participate. Remark: From the point of view of the Austrian National Youth Council, the National Working Group (NAG) is not an inter-ministerial working group, because all members are working in non-formal education and youth work rather than other policy areas. However, the fact that there are representatives from national level, as well as a regional level and from different actors in the youth field is highly appreciated by the Youth Council.</p>
<p>11.Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]? [1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.</p>	<p>YES, we are currently carrying out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above.</p>
Additional comments.	<p>Projects for young people (age <25) with disabilities: European Social Fund; for "clearing"-projects (closing the gap between end-of-school and start-a-place-of-work-or-job-training) approx. 10m € were spent in 2010 alone, 46% originated from ESF.</p>

<p>12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?</p>	<p>YES, we already had such a strategy in place since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>The Ministry for Youth has dealt with a "youth work policy" since the Austrian EU Presidency 1998. Since 2000 the promotion of extracurricular youth work by the BMWFJ is regulated by the Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz (Federal Act on the Promotion of Youth). The aim of this act is to "fund extracurricular youth education and youth work in order to especially promote the development of the intellectual, psychological, physical, social, political, religious and moral competencies of children and young people." Worthy of support are youth work activities carried out by youth organisations, youth initiatives, youth groups and open youth work bodies. The National Youth Council, as the statutory representative body of young people in Austria, has a say in important political decision making processes. It was inaugurated on 1 January 2001 with the coming into force of the Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz (Federal Youth Representation Act) and has the same legal rights as other statutory bodies (like the social partners), such as those representing employees, employers, farmers and senior citizens. Remark: The National Youth Council can confirm that there are indeed activities being put in place in order to promote youth work in society. However, these activities do not always seem to follow a strategic national approach. Many activities are being planned and implemented on a regional level, because youth work is per definition regulated and implemented by the 9 Länder governments</p>
<p>13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?</p>	<p>Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz (Federal Act on the Promotion of Youth): financial support for youth activities; each and every young person and/or formal or informal youth group and youth organisation may apply for funding; Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz (Federal Youth Representation Act): political support for youth organisations, defining their capacity as youth representation body</p>
<p>14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?</p>	<p>The communication about the goals and expected benefits in order to motivate co-operation and endorsement</p>

<p>15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?</p>	<p>This is one of the tasks of the National Working Group, which has been established within the Ministry for Youth. Furthermore the Ministry for Youth and the Federal States organise regional networking events (conference-style) for stakeholders and multipliers in the youth sector. One of the aims of these youth events is to communicate the EU Youth Strategy and to bring together relevant players to establish the youth sector as one of the players in cross-sector policy development processes</p>
<p>16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?</p>	<p>Not yet. The first step will be to measure the impact of the implementation of the future Austrian Youth Strategy in comparison to the present Austrian Youth Policy.</p>
<p>17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.</p>	<p>Through the member organisations of the National Working Group. The Austrian National Youth Council was asked to provide written feedback on all answers as drafted by the Ministry of Youth.</p>

<p>SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship</p>	
<p>18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. Austria's Strategy for Lifelong Learning (LLL:2010 Strategy) Implementation of the Europe2020 Strategy is supported by a national lifelong learning (LLL) strategy. The major feature of Austria's LLL Strategy is a holistic approach which involves all areas of learning and aims to consistently develop options from the learners' perspective. This approach illustrates, that LLL cannot be restricted to education policy issues: labour market and employment policy, social and family policy, as well as science policy, are essential determining factors of the conditions for life-long learning. The Austrian approach also takes into account the previously introduced strands, such as the Bologna process and the National Qualification Framework for Employment. Action programme "Future for Youth" Alongside placements in formal-sector job (first labour market), the key objective of labour market policies for young adults (age 19-24) is to enhance their skills in accordance with individual requirements. This group is therefore supported by vocational training, second-chance-course and similar initiatives to finally complete education and skills training. Like the "training guarantee" (for the age group below age 18), the special action programme "Future for youth" has a clear target group definition (age 19-24), which is to be integrated into the labour market and profit from new career prospects. Young people who are hard to place are</p>
<p>19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- through national co-funding for the participation in Leonardo (2011: around 1800 young Austrians) and Erasmus (around 900 Austrian students) - through the provision of information and guidance at Youth Information Offices and Eures-Info-Centers - through innovative projects co-funded by YOUTH IN ACTION, i.e. project RÜCKENWIND / "the wind in your back" of Cubic/municipality Wörgl (Tyrol); http://www.cubic-online.eu/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17&Itemid=7</p>

<p>20. To develop career guidance and counselling services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Vocational Guidance Career guidance services in Austria are broad-based and wide-ranging. Alongside Austria's Public Employment Service (AMS) with its core tasks of career counselling and job-brokering, a variety of counselling and guidance centres, e.g. of the Chamber of Economics are available to interested parties of all age groups. The fact that girls and young women are seriously disadvantaged in the labour market has been the reason why some guidance centres are now focusing on non-traditional careers for girls. Compulsory subject at school: career guidance and education counselling were introduced as compulsory subjects at school during the school-year 2009/10. AMS: first-stop-shop for information on employment and careers. Interested young people are registered as "seeking apprenticeship" and placed in an apprenticeship wherever possible, or in a supra-company apprenticeship training scheme, wherever required. Vienna has its own regional AMS office for young people only. In the AMS Vocational Information Centres (BIZ) clients choose from a wide range of free information outlining careers, job opportunities as well as initial and special training; Studienchecker: career guidance for students offered by Ministry of Education and Min. of Science&Research: The project comprises measures for decision guidance on further education/study pathways.</p>
<p>21.To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Training guarantee for young people - supra-company apprenticeship training
 The training guarantee: "Each young person who wants to take up an apprenticeship will be placed ". This strategy was introduced by the Federal Government under the Youth Employment Package (Jugendbeschäftigungspaket) adopted in June 2008. If upon completion of compulsory education, young apprenticeship-seekers cannot be placed in a formal apprenticeship programme, they will be given the "guaranteed" opportunity to enter a fully-fledged apprenticeship programme in a supra-company apprenticeship training facility. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here. Remark by the National Youth Council: The National Youth Council welcomes the decision taken by the Parliament in Dec 2011 on the abolition of free internships in public service as an important first step towards quality internships. [vgl. BDG-Novelle 2012 - Verbot von Gratispraktika im öffentlichen Dienst]

22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Much has been done and achieved in family policies in the past years to make it easier for couples to realise their wish to have children. A number of legislative measures were taken to optimise the balance between family and work, e.g. the introduction of legal provisions that allow for additional income while child care allowance is received, the crediting of child-rearing periods to pension-relevant years, more flexible parental leave until the child starts school, and the right to part-time work for parents, which was introduced in 2004. The Ministry for Family and Youth also subsidises a number of societal and awareness-raising measures designed to support mothers and fathers in their jobs. These include the „Work and Family” audit which enterprises can run in-house to gain information on economic benefits from family-friendly measures, or the Austria-wide competition „Most Women- and Family-Friendly enterprise” (Awards for companies); „Family-Friendly Community” audit: addressed to villages, towns and cities aiming to identify and promote family-friendly measures, a quality label is awarded to by the Family Ministry. Initiatives for needs-based child care, intra-company child care and day parent training are also fostered. These measures are managed by the company „Familie & Beruf Management GmbH”. Further information and measures concerning family-work balance can be found at www.familieundberuf.at

23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Further initiatives and measures are still necessary, since only 20 to 40 % of the population have entrepreneurial and economic skills, depending on the area in question.
Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship	Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship (for example references, weblinks, project examples). Acquisition of soft skills: How so ever the duties and the objectives of youth work are defined in detail, it is clear-cut that youth work is a basic part of the social system. Youth work offers therefore many possibilities for learning: In this context competences, skills and knowledge can be initiated, developed and newly acquired. The acquisition of soft skills becomes particularly important: Empathy, ability to communicate, the ability to handle conflicts, to work in a team and to convince are not only important for our collective social life, but for the young people themselves and their future business activities. Furthermore youth work offers low-threshold initiatives for occupational orientation, counselling and qualification which are especially necessary for those young people who are not, or choose not to be, registered with the conventional institutions such as the Austrian Labour Market Service. Projects based on the following methods have shown themselves to be particularly successful: Approaching the target group by way of leisure-time activities; the culture of the second or third chance that keeps the young people in the project; Placement of the young people in the labour market through personal assistance, care and consultation Dealing with the subject of the world of employment has also long played an important role in the orientation of youth organizations. For this reason, they concentrate on offers for young people that can be classified as belonging to the sphere of vocational guidance and awareness-raising for the world of employment, in addition to implicit possibilities for occupational orientation.

SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth participation

24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

"ARGE Partizipation": The Ministry is represented in the Participation Working Group, whose task is to coordinate participative measures in Austria and to further develop them - see their website www.jugendbeteiligung.cc (German only). "ARGE Participation" is an institution of the provincial youth departments, because in terms of competencies, the implementation of co-determination and participation opportunities at provincial, regional and municipal levels is the task of the respective provinces. The "Austrian Youth Portal" (www.oesterreichisches-jugendportal.at) serves as "signpost" for the wide variety of institutions, websites and other services in Austria and Europe and is therefore the national equivalent of the European Commission's European Youth Portal. The Federal Youth Representation Act (Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz), which redefined youth co-determination at a federal level, came into force on 1 January 2001. The Austrian National Youth Council (Bundes-Jugendvertretung - BJV) is the body which legally represents young people in Austria and is comprised of Austrian children's and youth organisations, which have very varied goals and ideological backgrounds. This diversity guarantees that the interests of young people are represented on a very broad basis. BJV is, as the legal representative of Austrian young people, empowered to have a say in all important political decisions "invo - service for children and youth participation" in Vorarlberg

25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

ARGE Partizipation (see above): defining quality standards for participation www.jugendbeteiligung.cc Bundesnetzwerk Öster. Jugendinfos (Jugendinfo.cc): national umbrella-association of the Austrian Youth Information Centres, the Austrian National Agency for the European network of information service EURODESK and a member of the European youth information umbrella organisation ERYICA. Jugendinfo.cc supports joint projects of the Austrian Youth Information Centres, such as the national training course for youth information, developing quality standards, national publications or joint webservices. On regional level, various projects and initiatives, like: i.e. in region Vorarlberg: "Jugendbeteiligungstage" ("Days of youth participation" on municipality level), project "Jugend&Politik" (funding scheme for youth participation projects), project "FrageRaumPolitik" - dialogue event for young people and regional politicians; project m5- a 5-step-module program for municipalities to get financial refunds from the regional government for specific external costs spent for youth participation processes; Remarks by National Youth Council: we would like to add that three guidelines were produced by the ARGE Partizipation for national use: - guidelines for Participation of children and youth (general level) - guidelines for Sustainable Participation of young people in urban areas - guidelines for Sustainable Participation of young people in rural areas

26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Bundesjugendförderungsgesetz (Federal act on the promotion of youth) Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz (Federal Youth Representation Act) On level of the 9 Länder: Landesjugendbeiräte / Regional Youth Councils are established in all of the 9 Länder (comprised of regionally active youth organisations and/or youth projects), consultation body of the Landesjugendreferent (highest official dealing with youth policy issues) and funding schemes for regionally active youth organizations and youth projects exist, funding is available through application at the Landesjugendreferat (regional body for youth policy); Remark by the Austrian National Youth Council: the funding schemes for regionally active youth organisations vary a lot among the 9 federal states. Also the role of the so-called “Landesjugendbeiräte” (Federal Youth Councils) vary vastly from state to state. Funding opportunities thus depend a lot on where the organisation is located. Funding rules on a national level are transparent and comprehensible. The legal basis for the the work of the National Youth Council, Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz (Youth Representation Act), includes many areas of activities. The Youth Council is happy that in 2011, the Minister of Youth increased the funding of the Youth Council (Now 6 instead of 5 staff members). New aims: increase communication through regular newsletters and social media

27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The voting age was lowered from 18 to 16 when the act's provisions came into force on 1 July 2007. Austria thus became the first member of the European Union to adopt a voting age of 16. Remark Youth Council: The Austrian National Youth Council has set up a project group on “Intercultural Opening of Youth Work” in the end of 2011 in order to develop a model or a concept note on how to foster participation of young people with a migration background in (long-)established youth organisations.

<p>28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>1. Bundesnetzwerk Österreichische Jugendinfos (www.boja.at) 2. Additionally new after 2010: The Media-Youth-Info Centre (short: MJJ) is a service unit of the Federal Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth. Media literacy is a crucial qualification in our digital society. It is the ambition of the MJJ to foster media literacy in all of its aspects. The MJJ understands media literacy as: the ability to use (old and new) media; to know about the application possibilities of media; a critical examination of media; to know about and handle risks; to actively participate and produce media; The MJJ cooperates closely with other organisations in the field of media literacy, first of all with Saferinternet.at. Situated at a multifunctional and barrier-free accessible facility the MJJ offers free-of-charge events, workshops, seminars and advisory service. The equipment allows for interactivity and hands-on-experience. Supporting handouts, information material and seminar papers are available for participants and disseminators. According to the specific needs and interests the services of the MJJ are targeted at: children; youngsters; youth; parents; contributors of youth organizations and youth facilities; teacher and educators; students, scholars and researchers; personnel of administration and policy.</p>
<p>29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Generally, three forms of participation can be distinguished: project-related forms, open forms and parliamentary and similar forms. Projekt-related participation forms usually have a distinct beginning and end, a distinct planning phase and clearly defined goals that are to be achieved within a given timeframe. Projects can be initiated by state-institutions, by private groups, by adults or children, etc. Examples are the planning of a youth centre, participation in local politics and research done by children and youth. Open forms are models that give children and young people the opportunity to express criticism against politicians, the state, the civil service or the media. Examples are discussions with mayors, surveys carried out by children and youth and homepages of communities for children and youth. Parliamentary forms of participation are characterized by continuity and formal structures, similar to those of adults. Here the community creates the possibility for children and youth to discuss matters concerning them. In addition, young people are legally entitled to participate in decision at some local and regional decision-making processes, or the lowering of the voting age to 16. Examples are a "children town council", an ombudsperson for children and young people, or a school parliament.

30.to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- interesting projects on local and regional level initiated and supported through YOUTH IN ACTION program - a concept of implementing the Structured Dialogue in Austria was developed by the National Strategy Consultation Group and will be implemented in 2012; debate between public institutions and young people will be a crucial method within the Austrian Youth Strategy 2012-2020. Additional comment by the National Youth Council: The legal basis for youth representation is very strong (Youth Representation Act, 2001); the Austrian National Youth Council is legally granted the same rights as other social partners, such as those representing employees, employers, farmers and senior citizens. However, in reality, the cooperation with public bodies and institutions is sometimes very good, sometimes really difficult. Some ministries include the Youth Council automatically in their daily work (ie Youth Ministry, Ministry for Social Affairs) whereas some others tend to forget its existence. The cooperation with the Parliament is perceived as very well functioning, both with the president and her office as well as with individual members of parliament throughout all parties.

Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).

www.jugendbeteiligung.cc

SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers

31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The process of establishing a law on "Freiwilligendienste" / "Volunteering" is under way right now (bill FREIWILLIGENGESETZ already passed the Council of Ministers, currently being worked on by Parliament); The bill defines in detail some national "voluntary services", but also includes the guarantee of continuation of basic family subsidies for young EVS-volunteers and young people active in specific international volunteer schemes. The Austrian Youth Council was involved in formulating a position on the draft bill.</p>
<p>32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>tailor-made youth information in the network of youth information offices: besides being regional focus points for EVS, they also offer info and counselling for other youth activities abroad. On offer - info folder "Global Experience - jobben im Ausland/work abroad", connection to online-database "global experience"; - info-folder "auf und davon" (getting around) with travel information for youth; - info-concept "world weit weg" (gone world wide) combining info, counselling and events/partys with info-packages for different youth activities in other countries; - big party event for "15 years EVS" during European Youth Week 2011 (taking place at Museumsquartier Wien/a youth-culture area in Vienna), some hundred participants, good media coverage - in some Länder: dialogue- or recognition or "farewell" or "welcome-back"-events by regional youth administration for EVS-returnees or new EVS-participants</p>
<p>33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Voluntary activities are even worth it for one's vocation or career, whether one is starting at a new job or in gaining promotion. This is because in voluntary activities, one develops skills and competencies that are becoming increasingly important in the work environment. Characteristics such as being able to work well within a team, coping well with stressful situations, being able to motivate others and work independently are becoming increasingly important. With the "Freiwilligenpass", designed by the Ministry for Social Affairs, a document listing all one's voluntary activities, these skills and competencies have become objectively comparable. This brings concrete advantages when applying for a job or when seeking promotion. The Chamber of Commerce and the Bureau of Employment support the "voluntary pass". It can be issued by any organization that carry out voluntary work. Remark by the National Youth Council: From our point of view the "Freiwilligenpass" is not an adequate tool for volunteers to assess competences gained through non-formal learning. We already formulated our concerns when the "Freiwilligenpass" was developed (2000/2001) and redesigned (2010). We neither see the recognition by employers as mentioned above nor do our organisations actively use the pass for their volunteers. The National Youth Council is more than willing to contribute to the improvement of this tool.

34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

FREIWILLIGENRAT UND FREIWILLIGENWEB: greater visibility of possibilities for many Austrian volunteering organizations. Cross-border mobility and international forms of volunteering are not yet high on the agenda. - through training opportunities offered by SALTO Youth and through the YOUTH IN ACTION program, Remark by the National Youth Council: In September 2011 two of our volunteers, the president and another board member, participated in the II Youth Convention on Volunteering. This event was organised by the European Youth Forum and consisted of a Stakeholder Conference, a Youth Development Workshop and a Volunteer Village. Mobility of young volunteers was a core issue of this Youth Convention. Through the last years we established a tight network with all relevant organisations in Austria that organise voluntary services abroad. Thanks to joined lobbying effort we succeeded regarding the Law on Volunteering - most of the Austrian voluntary services (not taking place in Austria) are now positively affected by the law.

35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Youth in Action: high priority to use EVS especially as an instrument for young people with fewer opportunities: good results so far, some specifically interesting "best practice models" in cooperation with local/regional governments: - Cubic-project RÜCKENWIND/"pushed forward by the wind in your back": The NGO Cubic started cooperation with the local government of Wörgl, Tyrol and developed a strategy in which disadvantaged young people follow a personalized path, in which Youth in Action can be used as an incentive to enable them an international experience. This includes the necessary follow-up of the young people to use these experiences for their future educational career or to enhance their chances on the job market. - Melange: co-funding of City of Vienna to EVS from/to Vienna to enable EVS-participation especially for handicapped or disabled young people: Complementary to the EVS-funding, extra financial means are provided for more intensive preparation and support before, during and after the EVS service of young people with bigger need for support.

36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

EUROPASS activities: have been run in Austria since their very beginning. Up to 2010, almost 29.000 Europass-CVs were downloaded, 2.200 Europass Mobility documents were issued. The National Europass Centre provides more than 1.700 certificate supplements with skills and competencies acquired during completed periods of initial vocational education and training. Youth in Action - Youthpass activities (trainings of beneficiaries and technical support). 3.610 of the total 137.000 Youthpasses were issued in Austria. In order to promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities on the national level, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs established the AUSTRIAN VOLUNTEER PASS, a tool for documentation of volunteering activities. It describes and proves additional qualifications acquired through participation in voluntary activities as well as serving as acknowledgement for all activities documented in the pass. Since 2005, more than 40.000 Volunteer Passes were issued. Remark by the National Youth Council: From our point of view the "Freiwilligenpass" is not an adequate tool to assess competences gained through non-formal learning. We already formulated our concerns when the "Freiwilligenpass" was developed (2000/2001) and redesigned (2010). We neither see the recognition of employers as mentioned above nor do our organisations actively use the pass for their volunteers. NYC is more than willing to contribute to the improvement.

37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

In Austria, many areas of voluntary activities have an intergenerational aspect. In the area of culture, many local and regional music groups, for instance, are comprised of different generations. This intergenerational mixture is also evident in sport associations, search and rescue organizations, as well as leisure groups. Austria still has a prominent rural nature, with many small towns and villages, where the working together of different generations still works very well, even though some organizations now find it difficult to attract the young generation. The European Year 2011 was utilized well to address problems and to seek solutions. In addition, new initiatives were launched in recent years. The voluntary centres and GEMA (Gemeinsam Aktiv Initiative - Active Together Initiatives) in which activities between different generations were of central interest. A number of Länder (provinces), communities and organizations plan to present awards to some outstanding intergenerational activities in 2012.

Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).

SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy

38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

BMUKK/Ministry for Education: In January 2012 the initiative YOUTH COACHING will start in several federal states; the aim of the initiative is to prevent early school leaving, to provide support for pupils/students at risk and those dealing with psycho-social or family problems. The "Youth Coaches" are mainly social workers, offer counselling and clearing for individual problems at schools and are requested to co-operate with teachers and school boards/directors. Some pilot projects already took place (aims: increasing the motivation to learn/study and career counselling for students with special needs), they provided valuable data and experience for the new YOUTH COACHING initiative. Some Länder already offer various projects, where social workers based at schools try to focus on prevention of early school leaving. The Austrian National Youth Council would like to remark that the Government has put an emphasis on early school leavers by its recent initiative to support school leavers to finalise their educational path outside the formal education sector. A specific target group of these measures are early school leavers between 15-24. Important to support nationwide active youth orgs which offer a wide range of non-formal learning opportunities(adaption of financial support according to inflation); Non-Formal qualification still waits to be adequately accepted by formal education and labour market. Recommendation: putting an emphasis on respective actions

39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Austria

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Please see answer to Q36: EUROPASS and its transparency instrument are widely used as well as YOUTHPASS. The implementation of these two instruments has been supported by a great variety of PR activities, which are to be found documented in the annual reports provided by the National Agencies for the Lifelong Learning program and the YOUTH IN ACTION program. Since recently, the National Europass Centre provides tutorials on how to apply Europass within the labour market. The National Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning is still being developed. In 2012, Austria will submit its respective progress reports. ECTS is well established at HEIs. A number of Austrian HEIs have received specific awards on their implementation of ECTS, such as the ECTS Label and the Diploma Supplement Label.

40. To promote learning mobility of all young people?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- Government work program 2008-2013: commitment to promoting cross-border mobility for learning purposes. Concrete measures: general promotion of mobility, information and the provision of advice, financial support, transparency of learning results as well as credit/recognition, administrative and legal support, and the monitoring of trends in mobility. - implementation of YOUTH IN ACTION program to strengthen non-formal and informal learning of young people - implementation of LIFELONG LEARNING, esp. COMENIUS, LEONARDO and ERASMUS to promote learning mobility in the formal learning and job training sector - implementation of a socially balanced nation-wide scheme of student grants (Student Support Act/Studienförderungsgesetz, www.stipendium.at) ; amended according to the findings of the "report on the social situation of students 2007"; current situation provided via www.bmwf.gv.at/unidata - youth information offices: a strong facilitator for the promotion of learning mobility in all 9 regions through information and counselling on cross-border mobility for young people in co-operation with the NAgency Youth and Eurodesk Network - on Länder level: specific grant schemes to provide learning mobility especially for disadvantaged young people (i.e. co-funding of Vienna to support EVS for handicapped and disadvantaged young people Remark NYC: government answer is very broad, in practice measures are unclear; student grants shall be adapted to balance inflation

41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- BMUKK/Ministry for Education: the recognition of non-formal learning is an essential part of implementing the National Qualification Framework in Austria. In 2009, the Austrian Council of Ministers took the decision to integrate the non-formal learning results into the NQF. An inter-ministerial working group, which includes the Social Partners and other stakeholders, is commissioned to develop appropriate models for practical use. - European Year of Volunteering: good media coverage in Austria, many initiatives and events taking place, raising awareness on the benefits of skills and competences acquired through non-formal learning activities - implementation of YOUTH IN ACTION and the widespread use of YOUTHPASS aufZAQ: an initiative of the youth departments of the Länder. Certificates are being awarded to participants of training courses in the field of youth work. The certified courses pass a quality screening. Remark National Youth Council: The Austrian National Youth Council additionally points out that it has not been included in designing the National Qualification Framework, which has repeatedly been quoted in this report.

Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).

Comment National Youth Council: According to the European Year of Volunteering, the National Youth Council notes a lack of emphasis on public representation of the youth sector, especially the national youth organisations and their activities in non-formal learning. An important step has been the law on volunteering, however, the National Youth Council is still missing a nationwide acknowledged and adequate tool for the approval of non-formal learning by the formal education sector and the labour market

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>By the Austrian Health Promotion Foundation: "Guideline to Physical Activity"; general encouragement to fitness and physical activity by funding health promotion projects with a focus on physical activity and fitness and by campaigns and activities regarding cardio-vascular diseases; "Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Austria" (CEHAPE.AT) by the Fed. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Fed. Ministry of Health: participation of children and young people in developing the Action Plan; Activities on Federal Government level starting with 2010: "National Action Plan on Physical Activity"; "Child Health Strategy", "National Action Plan on Nutrition", "National Strategy on Prevention of Addiction" Best practice: "alls im grüana" - project in Vorarlberg with the support of young people to make health projects more accessible to them; "360-youth-card" (regional youth card for people age 14-20);promotion of health projects, well-being projects, sport activities;</p>
<p>43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Several initiatives were already started before the EU Youth Strategy, some after: - Implementing information concerning nutrition in schools (<http://give.or.at/index.php?id=36>) and establishing a national plan for nutrition and food (www.bmg.at/cms/home/attachments/1/3/0.../nape_2101011.pdf); in a co-op format the Ministry of Health and Ministry for Youth launched the Austrian National Nutrition Action Plan, following a horizontal "health in all policies" strategy. It is designed to establish and maintain a continuous structured dialogue on nutrition in Austrian society. It aims at the implementation of effective measures to reverse the trend towards overweight and obesity. Setting-oriented and target-group oriented measures shall lead to sustainable changes in the food consumption patterns of Austrian citizens, focused on infants, children, youth and pregnant women.; - Implementation of a structure, how a "healthy school" should be set up (<http://gesundeschule.at>): support center for health education in schools, guidelines for canteens in schools, promotion of "healthy snack"-days in Kindergarten and primary schools; - Child Health Strategy, National Strategy on Prevention of Addiction; focus on childrens eating habits in the nationwide Preventive Care Strategy (a mix of measures promoting healthy eating, set up by Federal Government, federal provinces and social insurance organisations) - activities by the Austrian Health Promotion Foundation with a focus on school

44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth - 4th report on the situation of young people in Austria - sub-report "Youth work outside schools and prevention" (in German)- large proportion of youth organisations and open youth work institutions deal with prevention issues, focus on addiction/dependency, drug misuse, violence, sexual abuse and AIDS/HIV. Main aim: conveying knowledge, affective analysis, alternatives to problem behaviour and the acquisition of competencies . Ministry of Youth promotes these approaches with appropriate financial support as well as the development of training models for youth workers (in cooperation with the provinces). Remark National Youth Council: In terms of youth in all policies the Austrian National Youth Council observes a lack of funding opportunities for projects explicitly by and for youth, based at the Ministry of Health. The Austrian National Youth Council has so far not had information about the above mentioned training models for youth workers.</p>
<p>45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The employment of peer involvement methods - peer group education, peer counselling und peer leader training - is also an important trend in prevention work. However, when using this method care needs to be taken that the young peers involved receive enough support and guidance from experienced prevention workers and youth workers. The Ministry has therefore taken various initiatives in the field of peer work in order to increase the quality of the projects. Networking meetings of the project operators have thus been held which were followed by meetings of the peers involved. Here, the first principles for the selection and training of peers and the support workers were defined. Best practice: regional workshops in youth centres on reproductive health and or prevention in the drug / addiction sector;</p>

46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- Child Health Dialogue (Minister of Health 2010): a process to develop a strategy for the sustainable improvement of the health of all children and adolescents in Austria, all key players in the sector participated; - a large number of events and discussions went along with the Dialogue process - Child Health Strategy was formulated based on the outcomes of the Child Health Dialogue, consisting of 20 goals around improving health equity, strengthening and maintaining health resources, promoting healthy development as early as possible, reducing health risks, raising awareness for "Health in all Policies" Models of best practice: Self-evaluation model and tool for evaluating the implementation of children's rights in hospitals; Participation of children and young people in the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Austria (CEHAPE.AT); B.A.S.E. -Baby watching in kindergarten - observing babies to promote empathy and sensitivity and to combat fear and aggression; <http://www.base-babywatching.de/>; Healthy School initiative to promote health in schools and thus create conditions for health teaching and learning; www.gesundeschule.at; Healthy&happy at Primary School and more; Nat. Youth Council appreciates the Ministry of Health's efforts, had participated in all phases of the project. However, a lot of the strategies and plans mentioned were established only in 2011. The implementation of the activities will thus have to be observed closely in future.

Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project

C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Promotion of extracurricular youth work by the Youth Ministry: regulated by the Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz (Federal act on the promotion of youth). Worthy of support are youth work offers from youth organisations, youth initiatives, youth groups and open youth work bodies. The National Youth Council as statutory representative body of young people in Austria, has a say in important political decision making processes. Inaugurated 2001 with Federal Youth Representation Act; has the same legal rights as other statutory bodies, such as those of employees, the self-employed, farmers and senior citizens. After a 2 year long "bottom-up" process, in 2007 Open Youth Work in Austria organised itself with support of the Youth Ministry into a nationwide network, named "boJA" (Bundesweites Netzwerk Offene Jugendarbeit), a center of competence for Open Youth Work in Austria. www.boja.at Networks for pedagogical support of youth multipliers, i.e. "Institut für Freizeitpädagogik / Institute for Leisure Time Pedagogics" in Vienna, offering certified courses and classes on issues relevant for youth work, www.ifp.at;

48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Since 2000 (initially in accordance with the EU White Paper) national youth policy concentrates on Youth information work including new media, Participation structures, Research concerning youth issues, young peoples' voluntary work and also tries to get youth into the mainstream = Youth in all Policies. Due to this more cross-sector orientation youth policy and extracurricular youth work expanded its sphere of activity and now includes topics like education, employment, health, migration, new media, etc. As Youth policy offers direct support for young people, but also supports institutions and initiatives, youth policy and its partners - especially of the extracurricular youth work - agreed in 2010 to concentrate more on those topics given by the EU Youth Strategy. Best practice: two Fed. Ministries (Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Education) working together to improve the situation of young people at risk through the project YOUTH COUNSELLING: the project will start January 2012 in several federal states; the aim of the initiative is to prevent early school leaving, to provide support for pupils/students at risk and those dealing with psycho-social or family problems. The "Youth Coaches" are mainly social workers who offer counselling and clearing for individual problems at schools or in counselling institutions and are requested to co-operate with teachers and school boards/directors

49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Subsidies and grants are provided by Ministry for Youth as well as by regional and local authorities: in the list of priorities for projects to be funded, "human values", "combating exclusion", "democratic participation" or "intercultural learning" are some of the keywords to steer youth groups and youth projects towards these basic values. School curricula include "intercultural learning" as a principle of teaching. It describes a holistic way of teaching students in diverse classes together with people using diverse first languages and having diverse ethnic backgrounds. Many school projects and school competitions are based on intercultural dialogue/awareness/learning. The Ministry of Education tries to strengthen the awareness of teachers and school boards that a migrant society is a normal thing in a global economy and it is necessary to cope with the challenges of teaching students of various cultural backgrounds. More migrant students/pupils are encouraged to become teachers, social workers and educators. Remark by NYC: much more could be done within the formal education system abut also through youth work: The above mentioned teaching principle is a good approach, but does not guarantee an equal implementation at all levels of schooling. A screening of discriminatory elements in schoolbooks, stronger focus on intercultural awareness in teacher training and more funding would do the sector good.

50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- wide range of financial grant systems and subsidies for young people and young families exist (special provisions in the labour market - "training/apprentice-ship Guarantee" etc.), youth welfare offices in all regions and on local level; support systems on regional and local level for young people with drug or violence problems, support in finding affordable housing

51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- many direct (financial) and indirect ways of support for children and youth: child and family benefits delivered by federal and regional governments: transport to/from school is for free (paid for by a subsidy of Ministry of Youth), public schools and universities are for free (provided by Ministry of Science and Research), school-books are for free (paid for by a subsidy of Ministry of Youth), each child has his/her own e-card to use the health services for free (Health insurance service); labour market has established a "Training / Apprenticeship-Guarantee" for all youth interested in joining the labour market through dual education (work and school combination) etc. - Youth information offices: offering tailor-made target-group information for youth - youth cards: combining offers of different sectors to a portfolio relevant for young people;</p>
<p>52. To promote specific support for young families?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>A wide range of direct and indirect support and financial grant systems are in place to support children and young families: paid parental leave for mothers and fathers (options to share); direct financial child benefits or specific tax benefits for single parents; special access to cheap housing or no-interest-loans (or low-interest-loans) for building; well structured system of child-care (Kindergarten and Tagesmütter/day care centers/mother-child-groups) either for free or family-income-based fees; free schooling, free transport to/from school, free textbooks; child info centres for leisure time activities and information on family support; family counselling centres in all regions of Austria, parental education moduls etc. Best practice: Familienpass - regional family cards combining offers for various family activities (leisure time, public transport etc.); project "Kinder in die Mitte - Miteinander der Generationen/ Children in the Focus - Generations together": a regional participation initiative to make Vorarlberg more children-, youth- and family-friendly</p>

<p>53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Austrian National Youth Council was part of the National Steering Committee ("Nationaler Lenkungsausschuss") which served as a consultative body throughout the whole preparation and implementation period of the EY2010. The National Steering Committee was already established in 2009. The following projects which received funding by the NIB ("National Implementation Body") in the framework of the EY2010 have had a specific focus on youth: - Südwind Entwicklungspolitik NÖ Süd: Armut-hier und dort / Poverty-here and there; - Kinderbüro Universität Wien: "Reich an Wissen. Zur Bekämpfung von Armut und Ausgrenzung" / Wealth of knowledge. To fight poverty and exclusion - Österreichische CARITAS-Zentrale: LaufWunder/running miracle - zero poverty circuit; - Science Centre Network: interactive discussion game "Armutsgrenze/poverty line"</p>
<p>Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Remarks by the National Youth Council: To emphasize the dimension of young poverty the National Youth Council (NYC) wrote a policy paper that includes a broad variety of measures that have to be taken within different areas (e.g. education, social welfare, employment). In 2010 the NYC closely cooperated with "Institut für Freizeitpädagogik / Institute for Leisure Time Activities" to organise a conference on youth poverty. The conference aimed at bringing together political decision makers, youth workers and other experts and stakeholders and to strengthen the role of youth work in combating poverty and fostering social inclusion. There was also a "market of opportunities", where the participants could get in touch with best practice projects. The National Youth Council also became member of the Austrian Anti-Poverty Network and participated in the drafting process of their policy paper.</p>

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Ministry of Youth promotes measures and initiatives to convey this media competence, so that young people are able to learn how to deal with media consciously and critically but with fun and creativity and established the "Media-Youth-Info Centre" (MJI). Situated at a multifunctional and barrier-free accessible facility the MJI offers free-of-charge events, workshops, seminars and advisory services. Other options: e-media projects in many local youth centres; use of youth information offices in all regions of Austria as a tool of disseminating information to the target group; youth-cards on regional levels making offers for young people easily available and accessible; Best Practice: JUGEND INNOVATIVE /Innovative Youth: a national competition for pupils/students in the age 15-20, aiming to encourage the development of innovative, creative ideas and development of concrete solutions in the areas of business, design, engineering and science. The competition has taken place on an annual basis since 1987 and promotes the interest of young people in technology, natural sciences and innovation. The approach is based on project team competition and often involves partnerships with Austrian companies, providing the students with concrete challenges to solve. Up to now, some 40.000 students have participated (around 550 project teams each year).

56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- funding provided for youth organisations and youth projects on federal and regional level - funding provided for youth centres and youth clubs on regional and local level - youth-cards on regional levels making offers for young people easily available and accessible - wide range of possibilities for young people to being active in youth or sports, ecological or cultural organisations and projects or acting as volunteers

57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- establishing the Media Youth Information Centre at the Ministry for Youth (see answer to Q55 for details) - establishment of BuPP (Bundesstelle für Positivprädikatisierung von Konsolen- und Computerspielen): The Federal office for the positive assessment of computer and console games is a service provided by the Ministry by “recommending the good rather than prohibiting the bad”. Transparent and comprehensible criteria of recommendation also provide motivation to engage in the educational task of confronting the media and media consumption. www.bupp.at or www.bupp.en lists the award winning games with relevant background information. - regional centres for youth multiplier training, such as Wiener "Institut für Freizeitpädagogik / Institute for Leisure Time Activities" www.ifp.at - National Agency for YOUTH IN ACTION programme: international opportunities for competence training of youth workers; link to SALTO training courses

Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).

E. YOUTH & THE WORLD

58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- global issues, sustainable development and human rights education is part of the regular school curriculums - many youth organisations and youth projects focus on these issues and receive public funding for their work or projects from government and/or regional/local level - many providers of international or national voluntary activities focus on these areas and receive public or private funding for their work - school twinning / school partnership projects often take "global issues" or "human rights" as focus of their joint project work - the new Austrian law on "Freiwilligendienste" (bill is currently in Parliament) includes young people, who volunteer abroad, mostly on a thematic focus as the above mentioned (i.e. EVS, Jugend Eine Welt, Gedenkdienst, Auslandssozialdienst, GRENZENLOS etc.) Remark National Youth Council: The Austrian National Youth Council welcomes that fact that the new law on volunteering ("Freiwilligengesetz") also pays attention to voluntary services outside Austria (like EVS or other voluntary services). This aspect had originally not been included in the first draft of the law, but definitely does contribute a lot to create a better legal situation for young volunteers who deal directly with human rights issues or issues of sustainable development

59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- through Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz (Youth Representation Act), guaranteeing a set-up as statutory representative body with a clear say in politics</p>
<p>60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- school projects and youth centre projects focussing on "green" technology and "green" patterns of consumption - the mentioned topics are some of the target areas of Austrian-wide youth organisations, who receive funding from government as well as regional level (Alpenvereinsjugend, Naturfreundejugend, youth organisation of the Green Party) - establishment of "FREIWILLIGES UMWELTSCHUTZ" as a one-year voluntary service, defined by the new legislation "Freiwilligengesetz" (Bill on Volunteering, currently in Parliament);</p>
<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- through implementation of YOUTH IN ACTION - EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE - through the new "Bill on Volunteering" (currently discussed in Parliament)</p>
<p>62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- through implementation of YOUTH IN ACTION - EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE - through the new "Bill on Volunteering" (currently discussed in Parliament) - some providers of international or national voluntary activities focus on these areas and receive public or private funding for their work (i.e. Jugend Eine Welt, Gedenkdienst, Auslands-Sozialdienst, GRENZENLOS.) - school twinning / school partnership projects often take "development co-operation issues" as focus of their joint project work</p>
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Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).

SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

63. Has your government carried NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012. out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>A concept to implement a structured dialogue was developed and will be implemented in 2012. In two Länder (Tyrol and Styria), events have already taken place in 2011. Additional remark to this section by the Austrian National Youth Council: A concept for the development and implementation of the StD in Austria has been worked out and presented to the Youth Ministry in fall 2011. As for now, there has not yet been a decision taken whether further funding could be made available to improve the StD process on the national level.</p>
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<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here

65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group? Yes

If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group? Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

A concept to implement a structured dialogue was developed and will be implemented in 2012. In two Länder (Tyrol and Styria), events have already taken place in 2011. Additional remark to this section by the Austrian National Youth Council: A concept for the development and implementation of the StD in Austria has been worked out and presented to the Youth Ministry in fall 2011. As for now, there has not yet been a decision taken whether further funding could be made available to improve the StD process on the national level.

67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group? No

<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>No: not on a regular basis. The National Strategy Consultation Group decides, if and when and on what purpose other Ministries are invited to participate.</p>
<p>68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth carries all the costs for meetings, projects, events etc. Remark of the National Youth Council: As already mentioned above, the Austrian National Youth Council wants to stress that a concept for the development and implementation of the StD in Austria has been worked out and presented to the Youth Ministry in fall 2011. As for now, there has not yet been a decision taken whether further funding could be made available to improve the StD process on the national level. However, the Youth Ministry does fund the meetings of the National Working Group as well as the Tour through the 9 federal states, which we highly appreciate. In order to improve our working structures and to involve more young people directly in the StD process, more financial resources would be needed.</p>
<p>69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Ministry is part of the National Working Group.</p>
<p>70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Please consider the answers given in Sector 2(a).</p>
<p>71. Would your Government support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer</p>	<p>Yes, if part of the funding will be contributed through European Funds</p>
<p>72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate</p>	

73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?

Beginning with 2011, the NWG organised a tour through the 9 Länder to inform at network-conferences the stakeholders, civil servants, social partners and young people on the regional level about StD and the EC Frame of Cooperation 2010-2018. The main topics at these network-conferences thus far were employment and participation. These conferences will be continued all through 2012. Since 2010, youth consultations "the Youth Monitor" three times per year (800 young people, 14 - 24 years, phone interviews). Topics: employment, social media, participation, EU-finances, reconciliation of family and working life. Additionally Online-Consultations (on the Austrian Youth Portal www.oesterreichisches-jugendportal.at) are carried out by the NWG, such as the latest consultation to the questionnaire of the Danish presidency Remark by the NYC: The method of online-consultation was first used for the Danish consultation, because for the first time the time-frame seemed to be adequate. In Fall 2011, the National Youth Council of Austria established a project group of young representatives of youth organisations in which the process of the StD and all the questions are discussed. The "Youth Monitor" is not part of the StD process. The "Youth Monitors" can be described as regular surveys with young people, initiated by the Youth Ministry (topic, methodology, presentation etc. is done by the Youth Ministry on its own without collaboration with the National Working Group).

<p>If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Remark by the Austrian National Youth Council: The methods have not been very diverse; in most of the cases, the member organisations of the National Working Groups have answered the questions by discussing them in their own organisational structures. The above mentioned method of online-consultation was first used for the Danish consultation, because for the first time the time-frame seemed to be adequate. However, it has not yet been agreed, how the results of the online-consultation can be further elaborated in order to be used at a national level and no additional funding was made available for special adaption of the consultations so far. The concept for the above mentioned tour was designed by the National Working Group. However, the meetings can be described as networking events rather than events for young people. They have so far well served the purpose of fostering exchange among professionals and multipliers but only a small number of young people has been involved. In Fall 2011, the National Youth Council of Austria established a project group of young representatives of youth organisations in which the process of the StD and all the questions are discussed. From the point of view of the Austrian National Youth Council, the “Youth Monitor” has not been introduced in the framework of the StD and does not fulfil the criteria of the StD. The “Youth Monitors” can be described as regular surveys with young people, initiated by the Youth Ministry (topic, methodology,</p>
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<p>74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Knowledge based Youth Policy is the basis of Austria's Youth Policy measures. 1. Close cooperation with the National Correspondent of the European Knowledge Centre of Youth Policy 2. National Youth Reports. The latest Austrian Youth Report (2011, http://www.en.bmwfj.gv.at/Youth/YouthResearch/Seiten/default.aspx) presents a comprehensive perspective of the processes and demands of growing up in Austrian society. In it, youth politics becomes recognizable as being a cross-sectoral issue. The Report on the Situation of Youth in Austria includes scientific expertises that analyse the living conditions of young people and draw conclusions for responsible youth politics. Based on their experience and their knowhow in the specific areas, practitioners describe the situation of youth work in Austria and evaluate the chances and perspectives for development resulting from them for young people. For the first time, the thematic focus of the youth report, the compilation of the individual expertises, the selection of the authors, the introduction and the final editing of the recommendations lay in the hands of an independent "commission of experts" consisting of researchers from different universities and representatives from youth organisation/youth council, the open youth work, and Youth Serving agency. The results/recommendations are the basis for the Austrian Youth Strategy 2012 - 2020. Remark National Youth Council: National Youth Report is not really a tool of the StD</p>
<p>75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>This is one of the core aims of the National Working Group and the foundation for the "Bundesländertour"</p>
<p>76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue?</p>	<p>No</p>

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

The format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences have remained unchanged for many years. The problem is, that only a very small number of representatives per member state are included. The tools new technology would offer, are not used yet in a wide way e.g. live streaming, social media activities (e.g. twitter, facebook) to give more young people in Europe a chance to actively participate in the Youth Conference. Furthermore, the short consultation phases in the structured dialog process and the complex method of dealing with the outcomes of the dialogs limit the potential of these conferences. Remark National Youth Council: The Austrian National Youth Council can only second the above statement and agrees with the Youth Ministry on this issue

77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Each level within the framework of the structured dialogue would need much more time to develop an understanding for it. Additional resources are needed to develop tools for the dialogue - adapted to the needs of the respective target groups. Additional remarks from the Austrian National Youth Council: - European Steering Committee (ESC) shall provide a precise timetable and clear objectives for the whole 18 months process, well before the beginning of a Trio Presidency. - Adequate time for an optimal preparation of the consultations (at least 3-5 months) should be provided before each EU Youth Conference. - The current and future Youth in Action programme requires major restructuring in order to meet the needs of the Structured Dialogue in terms of application deadlines, eligibility of other expenses such as staff costs, and recognition of in-kind contributions and volunteering time as eligible elements of co-funding. - objectives of the Structured Dialogue should be matched by adequate financial resources. - ESC should create and administrate a user friendly website to ensure continuity and the sharing of information and good practices among members of NWG and ESC - ESC should produce videos/animations to explain the Structured Dialogue in a youth-friendly way. National Working Groups should translate them into their national languages On Austrian level, additional funding should be made available by the Youth Ministry for the development of the StD

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

1 Presentation of good practice # The Austrian National Agency for the Youth in Action programme together with its partners the Austrian Youth information centres and the Austrian network of open youth work are organizing a series of events (called “Bundesländerenquête”) in the Austrian federal regions related to topics of the European Youth Strategy “Investing and Empowering”. While the above mentioned organizations are responsible for the overall design, facilitation and documentation of the events, the topics of these one day actions are selected together with the heads of the regional youth administration, therefore securing the relevancy of the topic for stakeholders from the region. The objective of these enquiries is to foster a dialogue between the youth sector and other sectors dealing with youth related issues, and therefore raising awareness of youth issues in the light of a cross-sectional approach and also strengthening the structured dialogue process. The regional approach not only increases the number of organisations involved in matters of the Youth strategy but also contributes in understanding the topics of the strategy in a regional or local context. In 2011 two of these events took place in Tyrol and Styria, with “Youth and labour market” and “Participation of young people in a regional structure” being the two topics. Each of these measures had more than 80 participants from various sectors and organizations such as the Austrian labour market service (AMS), formal education institutions, regional development institutions among others as well as representatives of ministries and regional decision makers. Another four such events are planned for 2012 leading up to a event on national level in 2013 where the outcomes of the events will be presented and will form the basis for further strengthening the cross-sectional approach of youth issues.

2 Presentation of good practice #

2

3 Presentation of good practice #

3