A decorative graphic on the left side of the page. It features a vertical dotted line that curves and loops. Four colored squares are placed along this line: a red square at the top, a green square in the middle, a black square at the bottom left, and a blue square at the bottom right. The yellow background is a large, irregular shape that covers the right side of the page.

COMPENDIUM OF THE FIRST CYCLE OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

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COMPENDIUM OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH
ORGANISATIONS ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
DURING THE SPANISH, BELGIAN
AND HUNGARIAN EU PRESIDENCIES

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August 2011

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Photos: © Balázs Lerner (Vidoos Media), Tiny Bogaerts
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H-1055 Budapest, Szalay u. 10-14.
Tel: 00 36 1 473-8100

ISBN: 978-963-89477-0-3

Printed in Hungary

This Compendium was produced with the support and guidance of the European Steering Committee of the structured dialogue:

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Acknowledgement

The results of the Hungarian Presidency in the field of structured dialogue could not have been achieved without the work of the first National Working Group which consisted of the following members:

Ádám Hátori (Youth Office of the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary) ■ Ágnes Hegedűs (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Ákos Szabó (National Institute for Family and Social Policy) ■ András Déri (National Institute for Family and Social Policy) ■ Anett Sóti (Youth Consultation Crew) ■ Balázs Márton (Ministry of National Resources) ■ Barbara Baráth (Youth Consultation Crew) ■ Csilla Szabó (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Dóra Csóka (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Dóra Tóth (Association for Democratic Youth) ■ Ildikó Ferencsik (youth delegate) ■ Imre Simon (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Judit Balogh (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Judit Inez Márton-Veres (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Mónika Ruska (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Péter Pillók (National Institute for Family and Social Policy) ■ Tamás Schanda (youth delegate) ■ Tibor Rafa-Gyovai (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Tímea Sófalvi (Csoporttétka Association) ■ Viktor Szabados (Presidency Project Officer, YFJ) ■ Zoltán Hátori (Association for Democratic Youth) ■ Zsófia Fekete (Mobilitás National Youth Service) ■ Zsuzsa Molnár (National Institute for Family and Social Policy)

Foreword of the Hungarian Presidency

Europe as well as the whole world changes faster from generation to generation. Beyond the different economical, technical and climate changes, the future Europe will be built by our children and grandchildren. Therefore, we, European politicians, have a common responsibility for the direction the future generations will move in and what they take along. Social solidarity, intergenerational relations, motherhood, protection of life, promoting culture and traditions, community building and assistance for disadvantaged or disabled people - are issues that deserve respect. The responsibility lies in our hands how our children will be able to hold up this heritage.

It is our common responsibility where and how young people begin their life. It depends on us whether the entrants will have a job, whether those who start a family can have a home and whether they can reserve the present social benefit system. These common European questions, among other issues, were discussed during the Spanish-Belgian-Hungarian Trio Presidency period. Young people, civilians, researchers and political decision makers searched for the answers in the framework of a forum called the structured dialogue.

The Trio Presidency countries managed to set up the new framework for the consultations of the European cooperation in the youth field. During the process more and more young people were addressed all over Europe. All EU Member States were involved in the dialogue during the first cycle which can be considered as a great achievement. It was an honour for the Hungarian Presidency to close the joint work by adopting a Council Resolution on the structured dialogue. We would like to express our gratitude not only for the Trio Partners, the European Commission and the European Youth Forum but also for all EU Member States as well as the Secretariat of the Council.

Miklós Soltész

Minister of State for Social Family and Youth Affairs

Foreword of the European Commission

Structured dialogue is now an integral part of the EU Youth Strategy, bringing together decision makers and young people to carry out a joint and on-going reflection on youth policies and affording young people a real opportunity to contribute to policy making.

We have come a long way over the past 18 months, and I congratulate the Team Presidency of Spain, Belgium and Hungary, the National Working Groups and the European Steering Committee on this achievement. Three successful EU Youth Conferences have been organised by the Team Presidency countries and National Working Groups have been established in all 27 Member States.

On May 19, the Council of Youth Ministers adopted a Resolution on the structured dialogue on youth employment, thus ensuring a political outcome of its first cycle. European Youth Week 2011 offered a timely opportunity for representatives of the National Working Groups, the European Steering Committee and national authorities to take stock of the structured dialogue and make recommendations for its development.

I am committed to increase the visibility of the process and ensure that the revamped European Youth Portal will be used to promote it. Enhanced visibility is also required at national level, and I call on young people involved in the process to act as ambassadors of the structured dialogue and to ensure that it becomes as inclusive as possible.

I trust that National Working Groups will make a concerted effort to embrace all young people, in particular those who may not be part of youth organisations. This will not only make the consultation process more representative, it will also increase its credibility.

I welcome the initiative of the outgoing Hungarian Presidency to publish this Compendium, which lists the main achievements of the first cycle of structured dialogue. It is a useful reference point, which will hopefully inspire all those who will be entrusted with ensuring the successful conduct of structured dialogue in the years to come.

Androulla Vassiliou

Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth

Foreword of the European Steering Committee

The European Steering Committee for the implementation of the structured dialogue between youth policy makers and young people was charged with the overall coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the structured dialogue with the purpose of being a catalyst for the political impact of the process. The ESC was groundbreaking as the first stable EU structure to be chaired by a youth-representative organisation, namely the European Youth Forum.

18 months ago, it would have been difficult to predict that we would have National Working Groups established in every EU Member State, as well as a number of concrete political outcomes which in their very nature demonstrate the value in consulting young people about the policies that affect them. It was the hard work and commitment of all those behind the scenes and the active participation of young people in the process, which has led to such significant and unprecedented outcomes.

We managed to give life to the words of the Council Resolution that established the structured dialogue as a forum for continuous joint reflection on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field. Now it is time to nurture this life and help it grow.

As the second cycle on youth participation begins, it will be up to all those involved to learn from the experience and further develop the structured dialogue process; to improve young people's involvement in the shaping EU youth policy and to follow-up on the commitments made by policy makers over the course of the cycle.

As Chair of the European Steering Committee, it is my pleasure to convey the thanks and appreciation of the Committee's members to all those who participated in making the first and pioneering cycle of the structured dialogue with young people a success.

It will be a tremendous honour and privilege to continue chairing the European Steering Committee and I sincerely hope the successful outcomes of this cycle will herald much greater ones in the future.

Peter Matjašič

Chair of the European Steering Committee

Introduction to the Compendium

This Compendium is an overview of the results of the structured dialogue conducted during the period of 1 January 2010-30 June 2011, the Team Presidency of Spain, Belgium and Hungary (this document uses the terms Team Presidency or Trio Presidency for the three countries that chairs the Council according to the rota of trios pre-established in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty).

The goal of the Hungarian Presidency is to take stock of the knowledge and experience gathered during the first work cycle of the structured dialogue between young people and decision makers according to the guidelines of the Council Resolution on the Renewed framework of cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018). Outlining the consequences from the execution of the structured dialogue might serve as a basis for further analysis and for the planning of the consultations with young people until 2018, as it has been stated in the Council Resolution.

Besides highlighting some facts, figures and conclusions regarding the process and organisation of the dialogue, we wish to also put an emphasis on the outcomes of the consultations, as they should feed into policy making that concern young people.

In order to achieve the above described objectives, this document has four main sections, giving an insight into the theoretical and legal background, providing a description on how the structured dialogue was implemented with the involved stakeholders, giving details about the approach of the Presidencies, highlighting the main policy messages and possible initiatives suggested by the outcomes of the dialogue. We also attached the main "products" of the structured dialogue so far, the outcomes of the EU Youth Conferences and the Youth Week, besides the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue with Young People on Youth Employment.

We hope that this publication will be a useful tool for everybody who are already actively involved in structured dialogue and will help in bringing the process closer to more and more young people all over Europe.

What is
SD
all about?

Legal and theoretical basis

Commission's Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate

The Commission's Communication titled Plan D states that "...communication is a dialogue, not a one-way street. It is not just about EU institutions informing EU citizens but also about citizens expressing their opinions so that the Commission can understand their perceptions and concerns. Europe's citizens want to make their voices in Europe heard and their democratic participation should have a direct bearing on EU policy formulation and output."

The Communication also encourages EU institutions to communicate with special target groups, such as young people. The need for a dialogue in a structured manner in the EU is set out by Plan D and young people, whose active participation is vital if they are to feel that the European Union is meaningful for them, are a key constituency for the three Ds.

Resolutions of the Council of Ministers responsible for Youth (2005-2007)

To provide a forum for the structured dialogue with young people, the Council of Ministers adopted a Resolution in 2005, which invites both the Commission and the Member States to develop a structured dialogue with young people and their organisations, researchers in the youth field and policy makers. The need for a structured dialogue was also supported by a Council Resolution in November 2006 and by the *Communication of the Commission on Promoting*

young people's full participation in education, employment and society adopted in September 2007.

The Lisbon Treaty

Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that European Union actions are to be aimed at encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe.

An EU Strategy for Youth - Investing and Empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities

The new EU Youth Strategy published by the European Commission defines structured dialogue with young people a crucial tool that might feed into policy making in Europe.

The final evaluation of the previous EU framework (2001-2009) of youth policy was conducted with applying the methods of structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations. As part of the dialogue process, on-line consultations and debates were organised with thousands

*"This is about social dialog, so how to ensure the participation of young people in social dialog."
Sonja Triki, Belgium - facilitator*



of young people all over Europe. The final stage of the consultations was the EU Youth Conference organised by the Swedish EU Presidency where youth representatives, general directors, civil servants from the EU Member States, candidate countries and EFTA members as well as selected youth experts from various countries could exchange their views on a new framework of European Cooperation in the field of youth. The Swedish Presidency closed the previous chapter of the history of the structured dialogue with opening a new one adopting a Resolution on the new framework of the EU youth policy.



Council Resolution on the Renewed Framework for the European Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018)

The Council of the European Union has adopted the *Resolution on the Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018)*. This document defines the main areas of the youth policy in the European Union and requests for setting up a dialogue between young people, youth organisations and policy makers about the issues of European youth policy. According to this document the structured dialogue is an instrument to ensure that the opinion of young people is taken into account in defining youth-related policies

of the European Union. The structured dialogue is implemented in work-cycles which have common themes. The Trio Presidency of Spain, Belgium and Hungary made a common decision about executing the structured dialogue on the theme of youth employment during the 18 months of the Trio in 2010 and the first semester of 2011. The work cycle consisted of three rounds of consultations, which were composed by consultations in the Member States and followed-up by the EU Youth Conferences where young delegates and decision makers met and prepared joint conclusions on the theme of the consultation round.

Roles, stakeholders, actions, events

European Steering Committee

As it was instructed in the Resolution of the Council adopted in 2009, the EU Presidency Trio of Spain, Belgium and Hungary, the European Youth Forum and the European Commission have established the European Steering Committee (ESC) that is the main coordinating body of the structured dialogue. This Committee decides on the questions to be asked from young people, evaluates the implementation of the dialogue process, launches the call for the consultation in the Member States of the EU and collects the results of the national consultations.

Embryo meetings

Representatives from Ministries, Youth in Action national agencies and Youth Councils (in the case of Hungary, an official representative of youth organizations) started the preparatory work together with the European Youth Forum and the European Commission already at the beginning of 2009. This long phase of preparation was essential. It was the embryo of the European Steering Committee, which

"Youth employment is the top issue in Europe right now."

*Xenia Constantinou,
Chair of the European Steering Committee*

was officially convened in January 2010. The members of the European Steering Committee agreed on the practical implementation of the structured dialogue: e.g. guidelines, task division and a timetable for the 18 months of the Trio Presidency.

In the beginning there were more questions than answers. Reaching a common understanding was crucial, and took time but the discussions and preparatory work created the feeling of a real common project from the beginning till the end. The engagement from all the stakeholders involved made the exercise worthwhile.

Composition of the European Steering Committee

Pursuant to the Annex III of the *Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European Cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)* the ESC has the following members:

- Representatives of the Trio Presidency countries' Ministries for Youth Affairs, National Youth Councils and National Agencies for the Youth in Action Programme
- Representatives of the European Commission
- Representatives of the European Youth Forum

In the composition of this first ESC the special constitutional situation of Belgium was taken into account and also the Presidency Policy Officer of the European Youth Forum took part in the meetings. This meant that in full strength, this ESC counted 20 members.

The Chair and secretariat of the ESC is held by the European Youth Forum and the Vice Chair of the ESC is held by the EU Presidency country. The ESC decided to work on the basis of striving for consensus. The ESC agreed to meet approximately 3 weeks before and after each EU Youth Conference in order to guarantee the follow-up of the structured dialogue cycle.

Tasks of the European Steering Committee

The main tasks of the ESC are situated in the coordination, support, monitoring and communication of the process of the structured dialogue. The ESC has the overall coordination of the process and gives guidance for the National Working Groups providing the questions for the national consultations that serve as a base for the EU Youth Conferences.

The ESC plays an important role as a catalyst for political impact, each stakeholder using their own channels in order to achieve the widest range of results in each phase of the cycle.

To ensure and develop optimal visibility, different actions were undertaken by the ESC. Due to the limited financial resources, the European Steering Committee did not own a website however the different stakeholders were very inventive in using existing channels and tools such as Presidency and Youth Forum websites.

National Working Groups

Similarly to the European Steering Committee, Annex III of the *Council resolution on a renewed framework in the youth field* gives important indications on the establishment of the National Working Groups (NWG).

The National Working Groups are responsible for setting up a participatory process with young people in their own national contexts. The objective of this participatory process

"We all want to contribute, we all want to communicate, and we all want to understand each other."

Falko Mohrs, Germany - youth representative

is to feed in to the EU Youth Conferences, serving as a common base for the discussions at EU level. This implies that consultations at national level are on the same theme as the EU Youth Conferences. Therefore guiding questions were sent out by the European Steering Committee to all National Working Groups in each phase of the consultations, well before the EU Youth Conferences. NWGs collected the

"I think it's very important to have contributions both from the decision makers and from the youth representatives."

Anemone Birkebaek, Denmark - youth representative

answers of young people in each Member State than composed and structured the national reports that were sent to the ESC for compiling the background documents

of the workshops at the EU Youth Conferences. Another objective of the participatory process and another task for NWGs is to prepare the participant(s) for the EU Youth Conferences. This entails that the participants for the EU Youth Conferences are young people who were involved in the consultations in their respective countries.

EU Youth Conferences - Jerez de la Frontera, Leuven & Louvain-la-Neuve, Gödöllő & Budapest

EU Youth Conferences (EUYC) and, as they were previously called, EU Youth Events have been part of the EU Presidency youth programmes for a long time. EU Youth Conferences are essential fora of the structured dialogue process as well. They are occasions during a Presidency, when young people get a chance to voice their opinion on certain matters to policy makers. Over the years, many Youth Events took place, each with their own merits and results. But often points of criticism were risen: participants were selected randomly, or they were not properly prepared. Youth Events were good for visibility but real dialogue rarely took place.

The Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies pioneered the so-called Trio Presidency. This novel approach, already started during Czech and Swedish Presidency in 2009, was an exquisite opportunity to do things differently and strike the right note from the beginning. The most significant and important difference was realized through the joined workshops of the Conferences, where youth delegates and representatives of Ministries worked together to come to a shared result, with respect of their different roles. These discussions never started from scratch. The starting point was always the compilation of the national consultations.

Support group of facilitators, rapporteurs and resource persons

The ESC invited the European Youth Forum to establish a pool of nine facilitators who were the core of the facilitators' group throughout the 18 months and during the three EU youth conferences complemented with facilitators from each Presidency country.

The primary task of the support structure of facilitators is to run the workshops of the EU Youth Conferences although they obviously contribute to the methodological improvement of the implementation and continuity of the whole structured dialogue at EU level. The core group of facilitators is also in charge of communicating the methodology to the other facilitators hired and selected by the Presidencies for one single Youth Conference, as it happened during the ES-BE-HU Trio Presidency. The members of the support structure also contribute as facilitators or experts to local events related to the structured dialogue (seminars, consultations etc.)

Resource persons and rapporteurs were also invited for the EU Youth Conferences. Resource persons had the opportunity to give critical reflection on the results of the national consultations or added knowledge based materials to the discussions in the workshops to enrich them. Rapporteurs played a role in achieving a supported result that served as a start for the next phase or the base of the final political outcome.

Financial aspect

All in all we can say that any costs related to the ongoing work of the ESC and the support structure was met from existing resources by the Trio Presidency, the European Commission and the European Youth Forum. The National Working Groups were able to rely on the resources of the Youth in Action Programme, besides using national financial support or several times voluntary work.

The Youth in Action Programme

In various ways, the Youth in Action Programme supports the structured dialogue. Sub-Action 5.1 (Meetings of young

people and those responsible for youth policy) is particularly concerned. It supports cooperation, seminars and structured dialogue between young people, those active in youth work and those responsible for youth policy; the structured dialogue activities can take form of seminars, conferences and other events organised at local, regional, national or international level in order to establish a platform for debates between all the interested parties and enable them to formulate postulates and translate them into concrete actions. Further initiatives taking place in the context of the structured dialogue are also funded by Youth in Action, such as the EU Youth Conference and the activities taking place during the European Youth Week.

This perfectly fits with the vision of a Programme which can be seen as a tool to support the European policy in the youth field: beyond the financial support Youth in Action can bring to individual initiatives submitted by any promoters to implement youth exchanges, volunteering, training and networking opportunities for youth workers..., the Programme is aimed at concretely contributing to the objectives set by the renewed framework for European cooperation (2010-2018).

More information on Youth in Action is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74_en.htm

The Programme, which covers the period 2007-2013, is well on track of achieving its objectives, with, notably, the following outcomes over its first four years:

- more than 527 000 persons (390 000 young people and 137 000 youth workers) have participated in Youth in Action from 2007 to 2010;
- 30 100 projects were granted;
- the Programme has involved annually around 20 000 promoters (youth organisations, informal groups of young people, public bodies etc).

Facts and figures...

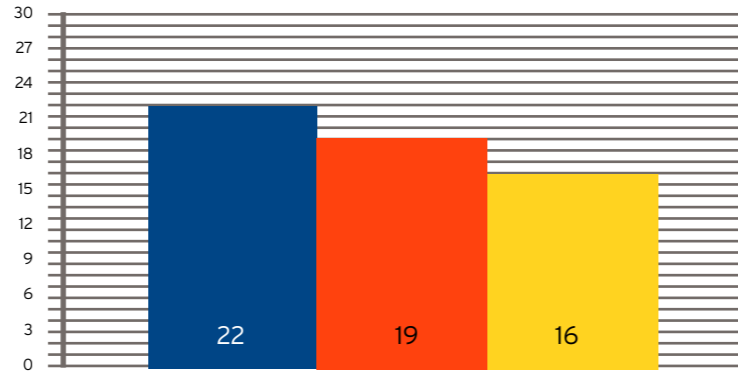


... about National Working Groups

Over the course of the first cycle of the structured dialogue the developments observed have been very satisfactory. Structurally, all 27 EU Member States contributed to the process in at least one phase and were able to establish National Working Groups, despite time constraints. In terms of content, the amount and quality of data gathered was remarkable. Several National Working Groups were able to reach young people in an effective manner at local, regional and national levels, putting in place the foundations necessary for ensuring that young people are represented and engaged at each step of the policy making process.

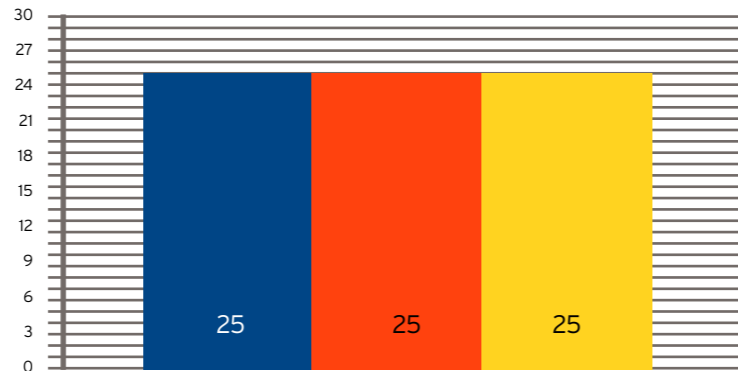
First Phase
1 January 2010 - 30 June 2010
National Working Groups (NWGs)

- EU Members States which participated
- Members States which NWGs
- NWGs whosentrep or to ESC on time



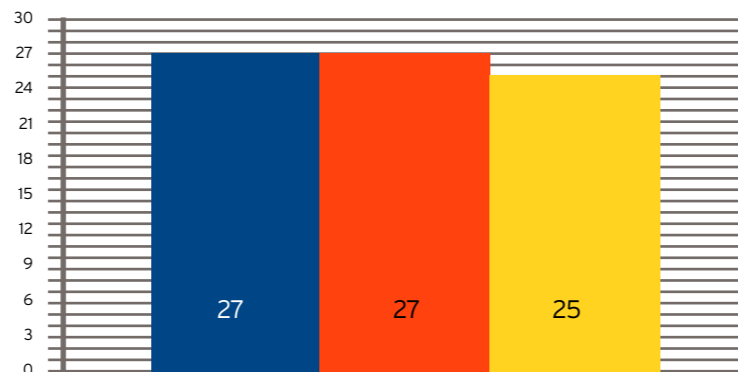
Second Phase
1 July 2010 - 31 December 2011
National Working Groups (NWGs)

- EU Members States which participated
- Members States which NWGs
- NWGs whosentrep or to ESC on time



Third Phase
1 January 2011 - 30 June 2011
National Working Groups (NWGs)

- EU Members States which participated
- Members States which NWGs
- NWGs whosentrep or to ESC on time



...about the methodology of consultations

National Working Groups gather information in a number of ways and each employ their own techniques according to their national situation. During each phase the most common methods used for information gathering were:

1. **Face to Face Dialogue** - organisation of meetings with young participants
2. **Compilation of existing knowledge** - compilation of previous studies or surveys etc.
3. **Questionnaires** - online surveys etc.

Through the 'Face to Face Dialogue' method, meetings on youth employment took place within National Working Groups. This format appeared to be best suited to gathering a great deal of relevant data from a smaller sample size and was the most popular method employed during the first phase of the structured dialogue on youth employment. One of the more significant advantages of this method is that it prepares young people at national level for EU Youth Conferences. The young people who participated in these meetings and discussions gained direct experience in advocating for issues that matter to them. The organisation of such meetings is however limited to the time, finance and resources available: sample sizes were restricted.

Larger sample sizes were reached using the 'Compilation of existing knowledge' method. The compilation of previous surveys or studies is generally a good method for producing quality and complete information, it is time effective and takes little funding to employ. Still, young people are not directly consulted in this method and therefore their ownership of the process is low. This technique involves a certain inherent lack of transparency and can make it difficult to take local and regional levels into account.

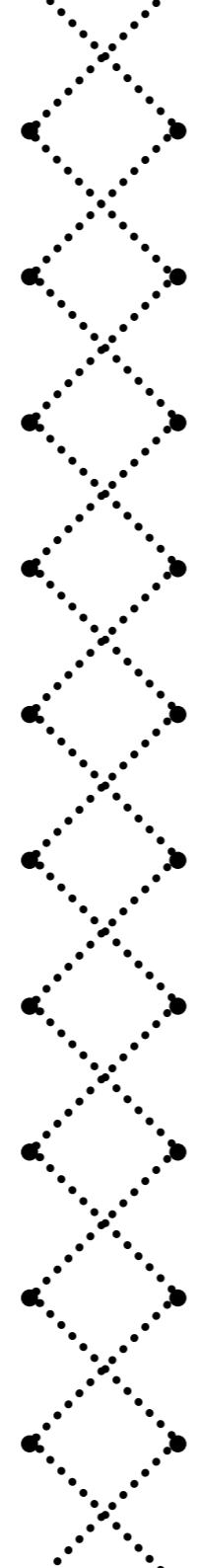
The 'Questionnaire' method was the most effective in reaching young people at local and regional levels and works well in bringing them into the participatory process.

It also improves the visibility of new information about the issues faced by young people. The main drawback to it is that the input is naturally limited to the questions asked. If the survey does not reflect the issues young people care about, it cannot accurately reveal their real concerns and opinions.

Employing multiple methods is clearly beneficial in gathering young people's ideas and opinions. National Working Groups which chose to employ multiple methods were all able to report greater sample sizes ensuring that the diversity of young people was better represented. Using more than one technique does require more time and funding, but is very effective in terms of outreach.

All three methods could be further developed in future cycles, in order to improve the focus and quality of information gathered, as well as the number of young people able to participate in the structured dialogue process. The more focused and consistent national consultations are the more scope there is to accurately present their results.

Overall, the results of each phase were able to maintain a commendable level of success and demonstrated significant advances in the range and quality of consultations, as well as the setting up of relevant structures in all Member States by the end of the cycle. National Working Groups were able to reach out to young people and communicate highly valuable inputs on priorities for youth employment priorities which directly influenced policy makers.



Point

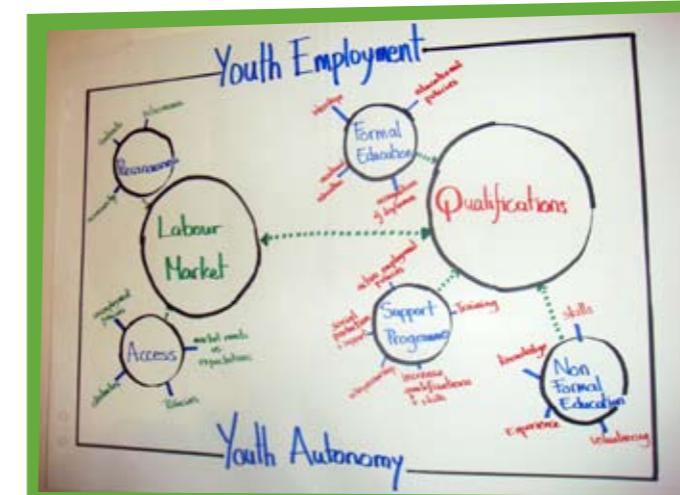
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Presidencies

Spanish Presidency: the first phase

The beginning

The beginning of the structured dialogue process on such an important subject as youth employment was set up during the Spanish Presidency. The first step on the way was the launching of the European Steering Committee followed by the creation of national working groups that are in charge of the practical and detailed planning of the consultations in the Member States.



As agreed among the Trio Presidency's common working plan, the first consultation of the structured dialogue process would focus on identifying the main challenges and principal lines of action regarding youth employment, so young people were asked to:

- Diagnose the situation and determine the challenges for young people facing unemployment.
- Identify priorities and main lines of action to be tackled in the field of youth employment at a European level.

According to the Trio Presidency's common compromise, after this first phase under the Spanish Presidency, the consultation under the Belgian Presidency would focus on defining recommendations on youth employment. Finally, the round under the Hungarian Presidency would focus on summarising, completing and prioritising the results of the whole process, so that the three Presidencies could use it as an input for a common political outcome at the end of the Trio period.

The consultation

Prior to the Spanish EU Youth Conference, which was held in Jerez de la Frontera from 13th to 15th of April 2010, national consultations with young people were organised in most of the Member States. Their results were compiled into background documents, in order to provide a basis for the six different workshops of the Conference, regarding the following topics:

1. Youth employment and its impact on youth autonomy. Access to labour market.
2. Entrepreneurship and self-employment of young people.
3. Working conditions and equal treatment. Reconciliation of private and working life.
4. Training and education, life long learning and mobility. Innovation, creativity and the use of new ICT.
5. Social dialogue, participation and rights of workers.
6. Social cohesion and inclusion

The conference

After the results being compiled, the stage was set for more than 200 young people and representatives of Ministries of youth from all the Member States to start a common work. The most relevant European stakeholders from institutions

and international organisations, such as the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, European Commission's different directorates-general or the European Youth Forum also took active part in the process, helping the discussions.

"For the first time, the relevant stakeholders on youth issues have been involved in debates to achieve a common understanding."

*Esther Artal García.
Spain- National Agency for the Youth in Action Program*

The EU Youth Conference started with an introductory session for youth representatives, which was organised by the European Youth Forum and the Spanish Youth Council, with the support of the facilitators in order to provide them with information and solve any doubts on the structured dialogue, the content of the Conference and the expected results. The morning of the 13th of April, the Spanish EU Youth Conference was officially launched. After a keynote speech by an expert on youth employment and a review of the results of the first round of consultations by the chair of the ESC, participants split up into the six thematic workshops and started common discussions. The following day, the results of the working groups were presented in plenary as joint conclusions of youth representatives and youth policy makers. Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou and Minister Bibiana Aído, who attended the plenary, gave their first reactions on the final document and on the first phase of the structured dialogue.

The results

The joint conclusions presented in plenary - with the attendance of the Commissioner and the Minister - included a set of 31 priorities and lines of action to be tackled regarding youth employment, coming up from the working groups. The breakdown of the priorities by working group was the following:

- Youth employment and its impact on youth autonomy. Access to labour market: 6 priorities

- Entrepreneurship and self-employment of young people: 5 priorities
- Working conditions and equal opportunities. Reconciliation of private and working life: 5 priorities
- Training and education, life long learning and mobility. Innovation, creativity and the use of new ICT: 6 priorities
- Social dialogue, participation and rights of workers: 5 priorities
- Social Cohesion and Inclusion: 4 priorities

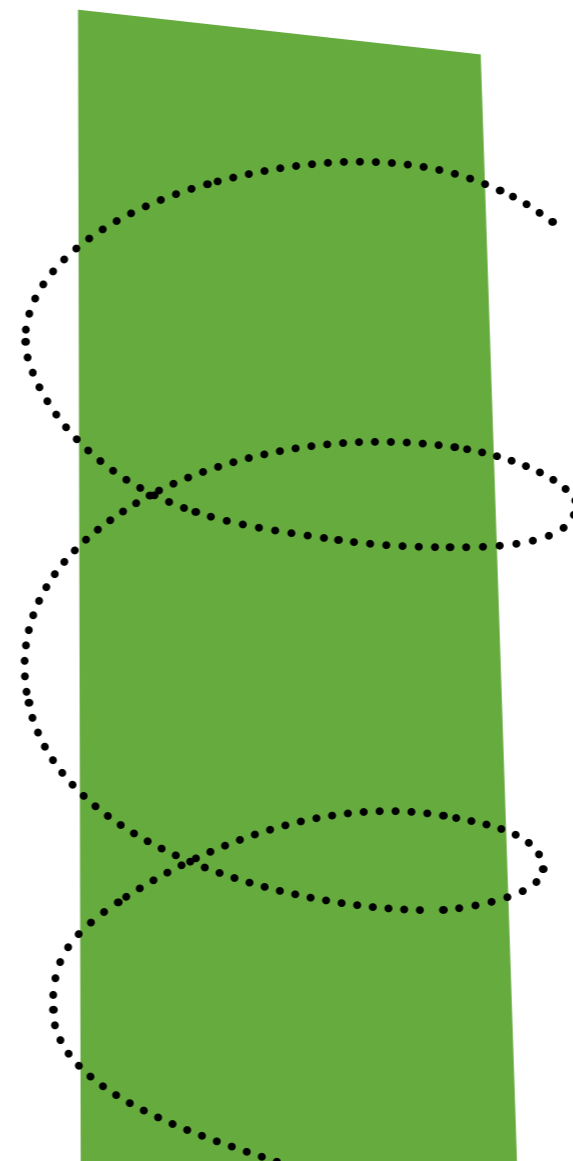
The political outcome

Further to the common political outcome of the 18 month process at the end of the Trio, it was a key point for the Spanish Presidency that the first joint conclusions of the structured dialogue process should themselves have some sort of political translation. With this ambition in mind, the Spanish Presidency had planned to include some lines based on the outcome of the EUYC of Jerez in the *Resolution on active inclusion of young people: combating unemployment and poverty*, which was being finalised in the Working Party on Youth (the body responsible for the preparatory work of the Council of Youth Ministers of the European Union - see further: Youth Working Party).

In order to achieve this objective, shortly after the EUYC, the Spanish Presidency included in the final draft of the Resolution a paragraph based on the main points of the joint conclusions. This proposal was broadly supported by the members of the Youth Working Party and the *Resolution on the active inclusion of young people: combating unemployment and poverty* was finally approved by the Council on the 11th of May 2010. During the Council and just before the approval of the Resolution, the Spanish Minister for Youth also presented to her colleagues the complete outcome of the EUYC of Jerez de la Frontera.

Besides the formal meeting of the Council, an informal lunch of ministers was organised. It was attended by Commissioner Vassiliou, the Ministers of youth and youth representatives

from the Trio members and the former Swedish Presidency, the chair of the ESC (and vice-president of the European Youth Forum) and representatives of the Council Secretariat. The main objective of this informal meeting was to discuss the ongoing process of structured dialogue at the highest level, with the aim to further strengthen it by analysing the first steps taken during the Spanish Presidency and the ones to face in the next phases.



Belgian Presidency: the second phase

A long-term process for long-term political impact

Spain set the ball rolling with a first round of national youth consultations and an EU Youth Conference in Jerez de la Frontera. The participants identified priority challenges regarding youth employment in different working groups.

The Belgian Presidency took over the torch from Spain and continued the structured dialogue process on youth employment in a qualitative way. The Belgian Presidency aimed to raise the political awareness about the structured dialogue. The EU Youth Conference in Leuven allowed defining joint recommendations on youth employment while the following strategic goals were put forward:

- Wrapping up the result of the different (national) consultations
- Providing a solid base for strong and clear conclusions that lead to political action
- Investigating how youth work can contribute to the issues raised during the structured dialogue process

Working towards strong conclusions

The scene of the EU Youth Conference was not by coincidence Leuven. Leuven is a student city where many young people are confronted with the theme of this conference: transition from education to the labour market, a first (student) job, recognition of competences, participation in (social) dialogue etc.

About 250 participants brought the European discussion on these issues to Leuven, from 2 to 4 October 2010. The delegations were composed by representatives of young people who contributed in the national consultations, civil servants from the Ministries and staff of the Youth in Action (YiA) National Agencies from the different EU Member States and YiA programme countries.

The EU Youth Conference started with a welcoming plenary session, after which the Directors General, the youth representatives and the staff from the YiA National Agencies split into different workshops.

The facilitators gave them the space to discuss their role and expectations towards the conference and they explained the process and the desired outcome.

„When you talk about youth unemployment, it's important that youth themselves come and explain what they expect from policy makers, what they expect from the EU. That happened the last days.“

Pascal Smet, Minister of Education and Youth - Belgium

The next day, participants spent the whole day together in thematic workshops, in which they tried to come to a shared result, with respect to their different roles. A team of experienced facilitators, key note speakers and rapporteurs worked hard to come to strong conclusions. Each workshop was supported by an international facilitator coming from the support structure of facilitators and a Belgian one. The results of the workshops were presented in the closing plenary on the last day by the general rapporteur. As they were the result of discussions between youth representatives and policy makers, they were called joint conclusions.

Eight youth employment topics of importance

In most of the EU Member States, national youth consultations on the theme of youth employment were organised prior to the EU Youth Conference in Leuven. The results of these national consultations were compiled into background documents for the eight different workshops.

The eight topics were:

1. Information, guidance and support for young people
How to improve information, guidance and support for young people to ease their access to the labour market as an employee or an entrepreneur?
2. Recognition of competences
How to ensure the recognition of the competences gained from non-formal education and mobility experiences?
3. Social protection
How to prevent young people from entering into precarious situations and ensure their access to social protection measures?
4. Transition from education to the labour market
Which measures should be taken to ensure a smooth transition from education to the labour market, including through quality internships?
5. Combating discrimination
How to combat discrimination in accessing quality jobs, support programmes and information?
6. Participation of young people in social dialogue
How to ensure the participation of young people in the social dialogue processes?
7. Reconciliation of private and working life
Which measures should be taken to help reconciling private and working life?
8. Role of youth work
How can youth work contribute to the implementation of the measures in the field of youth employment?

Striking the political cords

The Belgian Presidency had the ambition to make a clear link between the work done in Leuven and the political translation of the conclusions in the Education, Youth and Culture Council of the European Union (Council). Therefore the recommendations of the EU Youth Conference were formulated in such a way that they can be the foundation for the further work in the Council.

To achieve this ambitious tangible outcome, a clear and transparent report system needed to be developed. The organisers developed a system that reflects the opinions and the decisions of the working groups, without (over) interpretation from the rapporteurs' side. An opinion square, halfway through the thematic workshop day

„European future is being constructed by everybody and mainly by the people of Europe“

*Pascal Smet,
Minister of Education
and Youth - Belgium*

where participants get introduced with the work done in the other workshops, tried to iron out any contradictions and inconsistency in the final compilation of recommendations.

The ultimate responsibility for the final outcome was in the hands of an editing team. This team was composed of the two facilitators who facilitated the opinion square, the European Youth Forum, the Belgian Youth Councils and Dr. Howard Williamson as general rapporteur. It was their task to edit the recommendations and to make the final text consistent. The general rapporteur presented the result in the closing plenary of the EU Youth Conference, assisted by participants from each workshop.

The closing plenary was attended by Commissioner for Youth Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Employment László Andor and Pascal Smet, Flemish Minister of Youth and chair of the Council of the European Union on Youth during the Belgian Presidency. Many other VIPs and policy makers

attended to listen attentively to the recommendations. Both Commissioners and the Minister gave their feedback on the process and the outcome of the structured dialogue and the EU Youth Conference. They expressed their respect by inviting a representative of the participants to the Council meeting to transmit the results directly to their colleagues from all EU Member States.

The road to the Council

During the Belgian EU Presidency, the Council meeting took place on 18 and 19 November 2010. The Ministers responsible for Youth worked through their part of the Council meeting agenda on 19 November in the afternoon.

Before their meeting, they gathered for an informal lunch to discuss the recommendations of the EU Youth Conference. This informal lunch is a high level meeting between Ministers, the Commissioner, youth delegates, as well as the European Youth Forum and it represents an ideal occasion to discuss certain topics at the highest possible level. Prof. Howard Williamson, the general rapporteur of the EU Youth Conference also joined the informal lunch.



The agenda of the formal Council on Youth of 19 November 2010 contained also an agenda point dedicated to the structured dialogue. Minister Smet gave feedback about the intermediate results of the structured dialogue and the 40 recommendations from the EU Youth Conference to his colleagues. Important and extraordinary was that a part was presented and explained at the Council meeting by a representative of the European Youth Forum together with a representative appointed by the three Belgian Youth Councils.

Hungarian Presidency: the third phase

Civic participation, involvement of young people in the structured dialogue process at national level

The new framework for the European cooperation in the youth field has been adopted by the Council of the EU in November 2009. In the annex III of the resolution, the Member States are "invited to support the establishment of a small National Working Group, composed of representatives of Ministries for youth Affairs, National Youth Councils, local and regional youth Council, youth organizations, those active in youth work, diverse young people and youth researchers." Hungary had to overcome the difficulty when setting up the National Working Group of not having an official National Youth Council. The solution came with appointing two Youth Delegates by umbrella organizations of the education and youth sector, youth organizations of churches and those political parties that were represented in the Hungarian Parliament.

This situation encouraged the freshly established National Working Group to find creative ways in order to involve

as many young people as possible in the national consultations. The core idea was to launch programmes and structures that enable peer-to-peer communication during the consultations. We believe that structured dialogue requires a harmonic combination of different methods to achieve satisfactory results both in qualitative and quantitative terms. Besides conducting surveys and analysing existing data about young people, we involved young people in creating opportunities of peer-to-peer discussions. The National Working Group established the framework of a new informal group, the Youth Consultation Crew. This Crew was open to any young person and became the circle of young people who took part in the implementation of the structured dialogue process in Hungary, with reaching out to the peers in several ways. The Youth Consultation Crew became the most important communication channel towards the target group of the structured dialogue in Hungary.

SD in European context during the Hungarian Presidency

Regarding the European level of the structured dialogue, the third phase that was implemented during the Hungarian Presidency was to bring about key political messages that can be considered during the European policy making procedure. The goal of the consultations at national level was to prioritise the recommendations of the previous EU Youth Conference and to propose concrete actions to put these recommendations into practice.

The EU Youth Conference took place in Gödöllő and Budapest from the 1st to the 4th of March 2011. In harmony with the experience and knowledge already gathered during the Trio, the Hungarian Presidency continued with similar methods and approach as it was put into practice during the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies. The outcomes of national consultations were collected into background

"I have seen in the breaks really deep exchanges about the results to make sure that it's not overlapped with another workshop, so people are taking into consideration the other's work as well."

Beáta Óry, Hungary - facilitator

documents for the thematic workshops of the Conference in the following themes:

- Information and guidance
- Recognition of competences
- Social protection
- Transition from education to the labour market
- Combating discrimination
- Financial requirements
- Reconciliation of private and working life
- Role of youth work

The workshops were facilitated by the support group of facilitators and nine facilitators and trainers from Hungary. The support structure ensured the use of previously gathered experiences and contributed to a high-quality final result. The final, joint outcomes of the Conference were edited by a group of general rapporteurs, namely Dr. Howard Williamson, Dr. Manfred Zentner and Mr. Péter Wootsch. Mr Marius Ulozas as member of the facilitators' support structure and Mr. Antoine Mertzeisen from the European Youth Forum.

The Hungarian Presidency was in charge of turning the results of the three phases of the consultations into a



political outcome. This was realized in the form of a Council Resolution directly building on the joint conclusions prepared by youth delegates and policy makers during the EU Youth Conference in Hungary. Based on the joint recommendations and considering the common interest of the Trio Presidency, the European organisations and institutions, the Hungarian Presidency proposed the draft *Resolution on the structured dialogue with young people on youth employment* that includes the most significant messages of the consultations regarding youth employment as well as the conclusions already drawn about the implementation of the structured dialogue as a tool for communication between young people and decision makers.

The Council adopted the Resolution on 19th of May 2011, but prior to the official Council meeting Ministers and youth delegates from Hungary, Belgium, Poland and Denmark had an informal forum with the involvement of the European Commission, the Council Secretariat and the European Youth Forum. On this brunch they had a discussion around the evaluation and results of the first 1,5 year cycle of the structured dialogue process.

Cross-sectoral approach

Youth policy is a cross-sectoral policy in the European Union. During the Hungarian Presidency we considered it important to disseminate information about the results of the consultations and about the structured dialogue itself not only in the youth field but other related fields as well. In order to strengthen the cross-sectoral cooperation we had the opportunity to present the result of the consultations at different Council formations and working groups, such as at the meeting of the Council Working Party on Sport, the Education Committee, the Social Questions Working

"The most important thing is always the willingness from both sides to cooperate and actually do it."

**Peter Matjasic,
Chair of the European Steering Committee**

Group and at the meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council. It is also a great achievement that the *Council Conclusions on Promoting Youth Employment to achieve the Europe 2020 Objectives* refers also to the structured dialogue process with young people.

With regard to the overall priority topic of the consultation process the Hungarian Presidency also cooperated with the employment field. For the sake of an enhanced the cooperation the representatives of the Ministry of National Resources participated on the conference called "Repositioning Public Employment Services to enhance youth employment prospects" where we also had the chance to present the results of the European Youth Conferences to the leaders of the Employment Services of the Member States.

Results, outcomes

Structured dialogue during the European Youth Week

The EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018) outlines that structured dialogue will not only be conducted at national level in the Member States and on the EU Youth Conferences, but also during European Youth Weeks which are organised by the European Commission with regular intervals of 18 months.

The first cycle of structured dialogue on youth employment was completed at the EU Youth Conference hosted by the Hungarian Presidency in Budapest in March 2011. It was thus agreed, following consultations with the European Steering Committee, that the structured dialogue to be implemented during the European Youth Week should focus on the process itself, with a view to enabling all its actors to compare notes, network and engage in discussions on the dialogue process, based on the experiences they had gained from the first cycle.

The Commission thus organised a structured dialogue during the fifth edition of the European Youth Week in Brussels, and the workshops and debates were hosted by the Committee of the Regions on 16-18th May 2011.

Representatives of all 29 National Working Groups as well as members of the European Steering Committee and officials from national authorities gathered in Brussels to take stock of the structured dialogue as it had developed during its first cycle devoted to the overall thematic priority of "youth employment". This allowed the actors to engage in discussions on how to refine the process, based also

on the outcomes of a prior consultation launched by the European Steering Committee, where all National Working Groups were invited to comment and make proposals on how to develop and improve the process.

Some 137 participants, including facilitators, participated in debates in six thematic workshops, which dealt with the following themes:

- The Composition of National Working Groups and Support Structure
- The Visibility of the Structured Dialogue
- Extending the Structured Dialogue
- The Transmission and Follow-up of Outcomes of the Structured Dialogue
- The Transition of Structured Dialogue to the Incoming Trio Presidencies
- The Development of the Structured Dialogue Process.

All workshops also debated a common theme of "Technicalities of the consultation process".

On the basis of the conclusions drawn by the individual workshops, 45 recommendations for the future conduct of the structured dialogue were jointly agreed by the participants. These recommendations were subsequently presented at a political debate with Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Miklos Soltész, Hungarian Minister of State for Social Family and Youth Affairs and Peter Matjasic, Chair of the European Steering Committee.

In the political debate, Commissioner Vassiliou particularly addressed the recommendations regarding the issue of representativeness and visibility of structured dialogue. The Commissioner emphasised that the Commission is currently in the process of revamping the European Youth Portal, which will in due course be used to make the structured dialogue more visible. The Commissioner also encouraged National Working Groups to get more involved in promoting

structured dialogue among young people in their respective countries. She added that it is also a responsibility of National Working Groups to extend the reach of the structured dialogue beyond members of youth councils and to give a voice to all young people. In this way structured dialogue could become a two-way process between National Working Groups and EU policy makers, as well as between National Working Groups and young people in their respective countries.

Subsequently, László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion met with the participants to debate the outcomes of the structured dialogue on “youth employment”, which had been jointly agreed at the EU Youth Conference in Budapest.

Evaluation of the process and its outcomes

This initial cycle has demonstrated concretely how young people’s opinion can be translated successfully into real political outcomes. Regarding the implementation of the consultations it was commonly agreed by all stakeholders, including young people, national authorities, representatives of EU institutions and NGOs, that under future Team Presidencies, all actors will have to work towards the further development and improvement of the structured dialogue process, building on the conclusions drawn during the first work cycle.

Against the background of the compiled results of consultations and information gathering at national level, the debates that took place at EU Youth Conferences led to joint conclusions by decision makers and young people on youth employment: highlighting several areas of agreement

and priority for young people across Europe. At the end of the cycle, under the Hungarian Presidency, key outcomes were set out in the *‘Council Resolution on the structured dialogue with young people on youth employment’* and in the *‘Council Conclusions on promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives’*. Both documents embody the commitment of Ministers, respectively in charge of youth affairs and employment policies, to address the issues raised during the process, although EU Member States remain free to act at their own discretion. The outcomes of all three EU Youth Conferences can be found in a Presidency note by the Hungarian Presidency, which was communicated to the Council.

European Youth Week 2011 also saw the participation of high-level EU officials, raising the profile of youth employment issues and offering young people the chance to address their questions and concerns directly to policy makers in debates organised throughout the Week.

European Youth Week, 16 - 21 May 2011

On 17 May and hosted in Antwerp, European Youth Capital 2011, Commissioner for Education and Culture Androulla Vassiliou and Commission President José Manuel Barroso took part in a debate with young people on the priorities of the Youth on the Move Initiative. The debate explored the quality and relevance of higher education, the promotion of learning mobility and how to help young people to develop their employability and entrepreneurship skills. The results of a recent Eurobarometer survey, released in the run up to European Youth Week 2011, highlighted that 53% of young people in Europe are willing or keen to work in another European country, but that a lack of financial resources discourages many of them from taking the initial steps towards spending part of their education abroad.

“I’m quite satisfied with the whole process of the 18 months, it’s been a long time, and I think we’ve done something.”
Vesna Milošević, Slovenia - youth representative

In a speech before his debate with young Europeans at the Committee of Regions in Brussels on 18 May, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion László Andor announced his commitment to presenting a quality framework for traineeships in 2012. The pressing need for a quality framework for internships was present in the outcomes of all three EU Youth Conferences on youth employment. The European Commission will now proceed with consulting stakeholders as to how this framework should take shape.

Council Resolution on the structured dialogue with young people on youth employment, 19 May 2011

The first phase of the structured dialogue resulted in the *Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council on the structured dialogue with young people on youth unemployment*, adopted under the Hungarian Presidency by the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council, which acknowledges the procedure of the structured dialogue and recommends that it be further developed.

The Resolution asks that, in the light of the outcomes of the structured dialogue outlined in the Resolution, Member States and the European Commission design channels of communication and cooperation in order to promote policies and actions targeted at young people. It includes five of the eight joint outcomes from the Hungarian Presidency’s EU Youth Conference in Budapest, the final youth conference of the first cycle, which are also representative of particular outcomes from the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies’ EU Youth Conferences: demonstrating a process of refinement of outcomes over the course of the first cycle. The importance of promoting young people’s access to the labour market; the need for quality information and career advice at all appropriate levels of education; the need for reconciliation

“Youth unemployment is a shared problem for policy makers and young people, so we must work together to find the best solutions.”
Ana Martínez Fernández.
Spain - Deputy-Director.
Youth Institute.
Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality

of private and working life; and for the recognition of the added value of youth work and non-formal learning are all issues highlighted in the outcomes of the Jerez, Leuven and Budapest Conferences.

Regarding the follow-up to the cycle, the Resolution highlights the need for the promotion of a political follow-up to the results of the structured dialogue, as well as a need for providing young people with a feedback on the results of the consultations. In the future there may be further discussion as to how the implementation of these outcomes can be monitored more precisely if required. The Resolution also specifies that the evaluation of the structured dialogue cycles should be included in the EU Youth Report 2012.

Council Conclusions on promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives, 17 June 2011

The Conclusions of the Employment Council on promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives demonstrate stakeholders’ and participants’ success in promoting cross-sectoral political outcomes, on what is essentially a cross-sectoral issue, through the structured dialogue process. The consultations that took place at national level, in combination with the joint outcomes of all three EU Youth Conferences, touched on a wide range of issues surrounding youth employment. The Conclusions compliment and refer to the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue, as well as the discussions held during the Hungarian

Presidency’s Budapest Youth Conference, and include many of the wide range of issues mentioned in the outcomes of all three EU Youth Conferences.

Enhancing labour market policies for young people; tackling labour market segmentation; exploiting the full potential of EU funds; considering young people in the drafting of



Conclusion and achievements

The first cycle of the structured dialogue with young people resulted in a number of significant and unprecedented achievements:

1. The Spanish-Belgian-Hungarian Team Presidency members engaged in extensive dialogue and preparation work: inviting relevant stakeholders to their meetings and discussions a year before the first Presidency began.
2. Through the structured dialogue process young people have been able to benefit from open channels of communication with their Ministries, at national and European level. In some Member States this exchange has naturally led to further dialogue on other issues than youth employment through the platform of National Working Groups.
3. It was the first time that three Presidencies of the Council of the European Union worked together on a common theme, leading to a joint final outcome for the 18 month period of their Presidencies, and the first time that the Presidency Ministries had taken the results of joint conclusions from EU Youth Conferences into account for the purpose of directly influencing the content of Council Resolutions.
4. Cross-sectoral cooperation at EU Youth Conferences, through the participation in workshops with young people of relevant actors from the national authorities and Commission departments in charge of employment, social inclusion or education, produced tangible results: demonstrating how policy makers were listening to young people in a real bottom-up process.
5. Young people not only contributed to the content of the structured dialogue by providing input, but also

had the opportunity to evaluate the process during the European Youth Week 2011 and in their National Working Groups.

6. The creation of stable structures to make the structured dialogue process possible was another great milestone. This meant defining the tasks, composition and internal regulations of these new structures: the European Steering Committee, the support structure of facilitators for the EU Youth Conferences during the whole 18 month period; and National Working Groups in all 27 EU Member States.
7. The first cycle was also the first time that a new structure, the European Steering Committee, composed of representatives from the European Commission, national Ministries, National Agencies for the Youth in Action Programme and National Youth Council representatives had been chaired by a youth-representative organisation, namely the European Youth Forum. Moreover, it represented the first time Youth in Action National Agencies had taken part in the implementation of youth policy by financing national consultations.

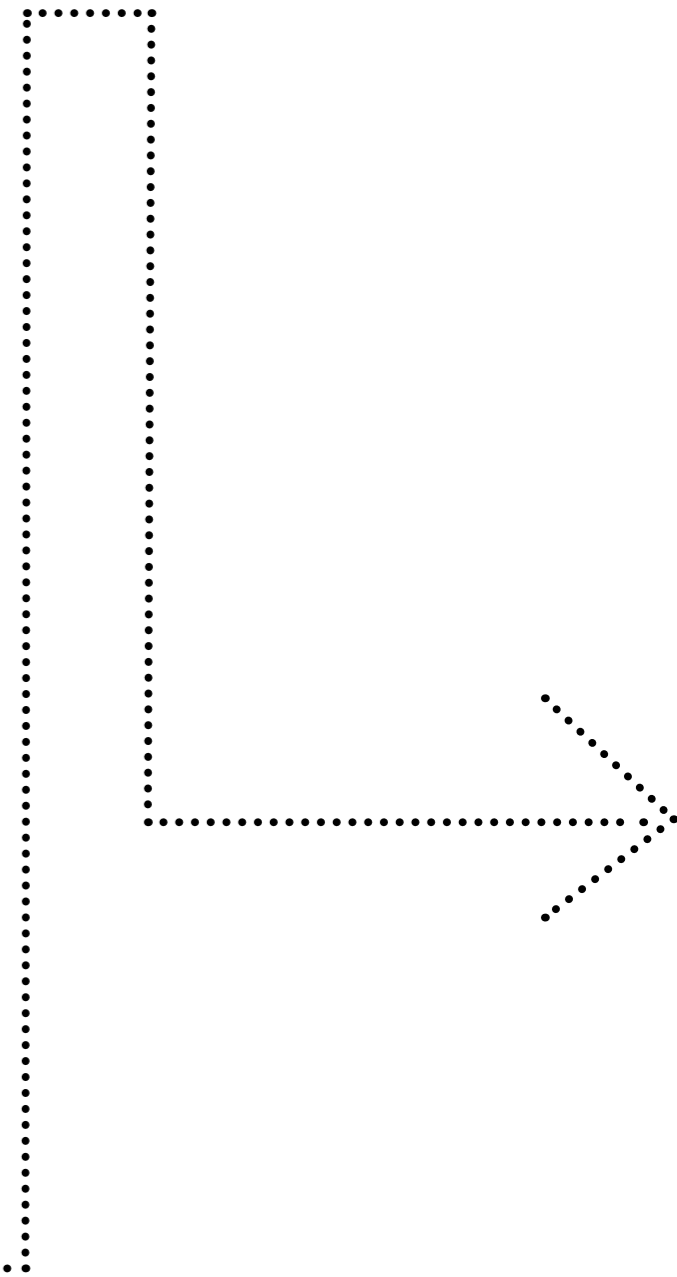
Involving young people in the policy making process ultimately contributes to the development of youth policy that is best suited to meeting the needs and democratic expectations of the young people it affects. The first cycle of the structured dialogue has taken many steps towards achieving this aim and could continue to do so in the future.

National Reform Programmes; strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation; and the provision of a quality framework for traineeships mentioned in these conclusions can all be directly linked to the outcomes from the three Youth Conferences of the Spanish-Belgian-Hungarian Team Presidency. The idea of a 'Youth Guarantee', mentioned in the Youth on the Move Initiative, is also clearly referred to

in the Council Conclusions, as a way of promoting the return of young people to education, training and the labour market.

The European Commission is invited to provide guidance on conditions for high-quality traineeships by means of a quality framework and to report to the Council on the implementation of relevant actions, as envisaged in the 'Council Conclusions on promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives', in 2014. It is now up to Member States to take one step further in implementing actions which respond to the needs and recommendations outlined in the Council documents they adopted.

"We have to face the new challenges together with the new Trio because the work doesn't stop here."
Viktor Szabados, Hungary - youth representative





Annex

RESOLUTION ON THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL ON THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

1. RECALLING THAT

The Resolution of 15 November 2005¹ invited the European Commission and the Member States to develop a structured dialogue with young people and their organisations, researchers in the youth field and policy-makers.

The concept of structured dialogue was further supported by the Resolution of 26 October 2006² which states that due account should be taken of the structured dialogue and its outcome in policy-making at the relevant levels.

The Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the Youth field (2010-2018)³ recognised all young people as a resource to society and highlighted the importance of upholding the right of young people to participate in the development of policies affecting them by means of a continuous structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT

The aim of the structured dialogue is to serve as a forum for continuous joint reflection on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field. Its objective is to involve a diverse range of young people and youth organisations in the consultations, at all levels in the Member States, at the EU Youth Conferences and during the European Youth Week.

The structured dialogue consultations are based on work cycles of 18 months with an overall thematic priority and specific topics that correspond to the overall objectives of European cooperation in the youth field. In this regard, youth employment was agreed by the Council in November 2009 to be the overall thematic priority for European cooperation in the youth field for the first 18 months work cycle (the period 1 January 2010-30 June 2011).

The consultations within the structured dialogue are debates on common themes, from local to EU level. At the European level, the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue is the coordinating body of the consultations. It is composed of representatives of Member States from the Team Presidency (Ministry, National Youth Councils and National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme), European Commission and the European Youth Forum. At the national level Member States have supported the establishment of national working groups or utilised existing structures to consult young people and youth organisations. The results of the national consultations considered and compiled by the European Steering Committee are brought to the EU Youth Conferences.

¹ OJ C 292, 24.11.2005, p. 5.

² OJ C 297.12.2006, p. 6.

³ OJ C 311, 19.12.2009, p. 1.

3. RECOGNISE THAT

Following the process defined in the Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the Youth field (2010-2018) the first cycle of structured dialogue has provided a forum for joint reflection in the field of youth related policies, and identified further challenges to be met. Resulting from the nature of the process, young people living throughout the European Union had the opportunity to express their opinions and ideas during the same consultation phase on a common priority theme.

Apart from national youth councils, other actors of youth policy, such as the ministries, the national agencies of the Youth in Action Programme, youth workers and youth researchers were involved.

An increasing number of national working groups are contributing to the consecutive rounds of consultations by developing strategies and methodologies to implement structured dialogue with young people and providing the European Steering Committee with national reports. These contributions and the further discussions that took place during the EU Youth Conferences put forward policy messages, providing input for EU policies.

4. RECOMMEND THAT

The structured dialogue should be further developed and that several areas could be considered during the second 18 month work cycle, including:

Political follow-up

- a) promoting a political follow-up of the results of the structured dialogue
- b) providing feedback to young people regarding action taken on the results of the structured dialogue,

Participation of all stakeholders

- a) promoting the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities,
- b) promoting the involvement of representatives of local and regional authorities,

- c) promoting the involvement of youth researchers, and making better use of their knowledge and expertise in planning, implementing and following-up the process,
- d) promoting wider and more transparent communication between all stakeholders,

Financial support of the structured dialogue

Without prejudice to future financial framework, considering sustainable support for the structured dialogue in the youth field in the next generation of EU programmes.

Time frame

establishing a realistic and adequate time frame and setting deadlines of consultations,

Methods

- a) applying relevant and efficient methods that stimulates a quality output of the structured dialogue,
- b) sharing good practices among National Working Groups,
- c) simplifying the process and structures, with full respect of the principle of subsidiarity,
- d) using, where appropriate, diverse tools, such as social media, internet and on-line consultations,
- e) providing a meaningful process for young people,
- f) considering clarity and precision of language when forming the consultation questions,
- g) refining the working methods in the EU youth conferences,

5. AGREE THAT

- the overall thematic priority for European cooperation in the youth field for the second 18 month work cycle (the period 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2012) is youth participation with special emphasis on participation in democratic life. The specific priorities for the Team Presidency of the second work cycle are set out in Annex I,

- The priority areas chosen can be complemented by each Presidency in the light of any possible new developments,
- the first two work cycles of the structured dialogue should be evaluated by the Council in the context of the EU Youth Report to be presented by the Commission by the end of 2012.
- The areas for the incoming Team Presidency cycle should be defined before the beginning of its term following the evaluation report prepared by the Council.

6. CONSIDER THAT

The outcome of the first cycle of the structured dialogue is building on the results achieved by the national consultations during the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies, as well as EU Youth Conferences in Jerez de la Frontera in April 2010, Leuven in October 2010 and Budapest in March 2011. During the Spanish EU Youth Conference representatives of Member States and youth delegates jointly identified priorities for youth employment, and during the Belgian EU Youth Conference, they jointly transferred them into policy recommendations that were refined into concrete outcomes at the Hungarian EU Youth Conference.

7. EMPHASISE THAT

The following points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment:

1. Promoting easier access for all young people, in particular young people with fewer opportunities, to a youth-friendly, quality information about the labour market is crucial. Career-oriented training and guidance needs to be integrated at all appropriate levels of formal education and non-formal learning paths in order to raise young people's awareness and create better chances for them with regard to labour market requirements and prepare them for working life.
2. Youth work and non-formal learning could be recognised and further supported as a significant source of support for equipping

young people with skills and competences and thereby easing their access to the labour market and contributing to the aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

3. It is of vital importance to enhance the access of young people to the labour market through tailored policy measures, where appropriate, and a quality framework for internships is desirable in order to guarantee the educational value of such experience.
4. Improved flexibility as well as security is needed for young people to combine employment with further education, training, voluntary activities and private life.
5. Promoting equal access to mobility opportunities for young people by streamlining administrative procedures with reference to the Europe 2020 Strategy, and particularly the Youth on the Move flagship initiative, is necessary.

8. IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOMES OUTLINED ABOVE INVITE THE MEMBER STATES AND/OR THE COMMISSION, WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF COMPETENCE TO

Take note of the conclusions of the structured dialogue and design channels of communication and cooperation with other relevant policy fields and departments both within and between the various EU institutions and within the Member States, promoting policies and actions targeted to young people applying the dual approach as it is set in the Council Resolution on the renewed framework.

PRIORITIES FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN THE YOUTH FIELD

DURING THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2011 – 31 DECEMBER 2012

Overall priority – Youth Participation

The overall thematic priority for European cooperation in the youth field for the period 1 July 2011-30 December 2012 will be youth participation with a special emphasis on participation in democratic life in Europe as it is stated in Article 165 in the Lisbon Treaty. During these 18 months, this topic will be discussed in the framework of the structured dialogue. Specific priorities should, wholly or partially, contribute to the overall thematic priority.

1 July 2011 - 31 December 2012 – Youth and the World

During the second half of 2011, the following issues will be highlighted: increasing cooperation between young people from the European Union and youth from Eastern Europe and Caucasus countries with the particular regard to youth mobility; raising awareness on the situation of young people and youth policy in the Eastern European and Caucasus countries in the context of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field; reflecting on the role of promotion and validation of informal and non-formal learning for young people, taking into account the context of European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship and the results of midterm evaluation of the “Youth in Action” programme.

1 January 2012-30 June 2012 – Creativity and innovation

During the first half of 2012, the following issues will be highlighted: fostering young people’s creativity, innovative capacity and talent as a tool for their active participation in society and increased employability on the labour market; drawing on the various initiatives launched during the European Year on Creativity and Innovation; exchanging good practices as how to involve more young people in democratic decision making.

1 July 2012-31 December 2012 – Participation and social inclusion

During the second half of 2012, the following issues will be highlighted: strengthening the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and young people in general, in decision-making; enhancing and encouraging the participation of young people on local level; promoting the inclusion of all young people in the wider social and democratic life.

JOINT CONCLUSIONS OF THE SPANISH PRESIDENCY EU YOUTH CONFERENCE “YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION”, JEREZ, SPAIN 13–15 APRIL 2010

Youth Employment is the common theme of the three EU Youth Conferences of the current Trio Presidency of the Council of the EU (Spain-Belgium-Hungary, January 2010-June 2011). Basing their work on previously led national consultations, 97 youth delegates and 90 political representatives met during the Spanish EU youth conference, in order to jointly define the priorities on youth employment to be addressed at European level.

These priorities will allow to continue the process of structured dialogue between young people and the institutions under the Belgian and Hungarian presidencies, with the aim of proposing concrete actions and political commitment to address youth employment issues.

The discussions took place in six thematic working groups, allowing the identification of a range of priorities for youth employment. These priorities are thematically presented below, together with a short reasoning explaining their relevance.

Youth employment and its impact on youth autonomy. Access to labour market.

Priority 1: To Recognize Non-Formal Learning Outcomes.

Non-Formal Learning for a young person, boosts self-Esteem and confidence, makes skills visible, helps to get a job. For an employer, Non-Formal Learning organises knowledge on the employee’ potential, optimises the match between the person and task, makes his company perform better productivity with less input. For Society, it reduces mismatch unemployment, it increases social inclusion, and improves the economy.

Priority 2: Access of young people to long-term jobs fairly paid with secure working conditions.

Youth is the most vulnerable category on the labour market especially at the times of financial crisis: youth is often forced to accept precarious jobs with low salaries, temporary contracts and without (sufficient) social security. Precarious contracts do not allow sustainable insertion

in the labour market and limits young people’s autonomy. Access of young people to long-term jobs fairly paid with secure working conditions would also promote active citizenship and participation.

Priority 3: Secure a smooth transition from education to the labour market through the promotion of support measures such as quality internships, counselling schemes, and effective and balanced interaction with labour policies.

The transition to the labour market is becoming more and more challenging for young people: statistics show that unemployment rates are skyrocketing and many times young people are not able to find a job matching their qualifications and expectations. At the moment the effective interaction between stakeholders does not exist, being it the key factor in increasing the level of skills gained in educational process. Increasing the quality and quantity of internships can ensure market-needed qualifications for graduates.

Priority 4: A youth friendly labour market.

A youth friendly labour market is a sustainable labour market. The current labour market rules do not reflect today’s challenges because of old ways of communication and old economy regulations (for example unequal job requirements with flexible employees but rigid employers). A new agreement between generations is needed to provide equal access to social benefits. A youth friendly labour market would increase economic independence and prevent poverty and social exclusion.

Priority 5: Provide young people with access to income support, pension schemes and other services (childcare facilities, housing, transportation etc.), to promote youth autonomy and security.

The lack of security and autonomy contributes to poverty and social exclusion.

Priority 6: In order to decrease the rate of school drop-outs, especially among disadvantaged youth, Member States are invited to rethink their financial support measures and the effectiveness of their education systems.

The main causes of school drop-outs are lack of financial means, unattractive and irrelevant curricula, and/or outdated pedagogical methods. Decreasing the rate of school drop-outs would allow better autonomy for young people and increased participation in the educational process.

Entrepreneurship and self-employment of young people.

Priority 1: Entrepreneurship should be encouraged and all young people willing to become an entrepreneur should have equal opportunities to do it.

This priority should be understood as the horizontal approach that affects different policy domains. There are some tasks that can be done in the fields of Non-Formal and Formal Education, legislation, programmes and promoting entrepreneurship. Non-Formal and Formal Education are good environments to foster creativity and skills for entrepreneurs. There should be adequate legislation that establishes an entrepreneurship friendly environment. Programmes should be developed focussing on particular groups of young people dealing with their specific needs or existing programmes should be used more effectively. Spirit of entrepreneurship should be encouraged on different levels and by different actors: government, NGOs, entrepreneurs etc.

Priority 2: Procedures linked to entrepreneurship should be simplified.

The main problems that young people face in establishing a new entrepreneurship most of the times deal with the code of laws and bureaucracy. New technologies should be used not only in creating a new business or venture, but also during its operational lifetime. It is also needed to simplify tax systems and create a competitive tax rate within Europe. An action of cost reduction at the beginning and during the initial growth of youth entrepreneurship should take place together with the fight of bureaucracy. The creation of effective laws can facilitate the process for young people to develop entrepreneurial initiatives. Finally, the promotion of a European system of sharing good practices in different areas can establish a policy of benchmarking.

Priority 3: Better information on entrepreneurship and support programmes is needed.

There is a need to use Formal Education but changes in the curriculum are needed in order to be more practice oriented. Non-Formal Education should be changed as well – learning by doing, motivation on entrepreneurship, and a connection with internships should be fostered. Information should be provided in a way suitable for young people. Support should be provided when starting a business and should involve experienced entrepreneurs.

Priority 4: There is a need to support new ideas and provide access to loans and EU funding programmes.

Motivation, a good idea and financial support are the key elements which encourage young people to start up entrepreneurial activities. Access to loans and EU funding is crucial due to the fact that young people have less opportunities to get support from the private financial sector or to have their own personal financial resources. If EU funding programmes for young people are tailor-made, transparent and easily accessible, then they will boost up the set up and sustainability of entrepreneurial initiatives. The accessibility of EU grants could be directly linked to the trust of private financial institutions, granting loans to potential young entrepreneurs when setting up their own business. Supporting youth entrepreneurship is in line with the overall values and strategies stated in Agenda 2020. In addition, Member States are obliged to inform young people in relation to the availability to EU funding.

Priority 5: There is a need for specific training and support in going through the complex procedures.

Education for entrepreneurship should promote practical experiences together with theory and post-training overview to overcome the lack of connection between basic education and practical knowledge. The knowledge from all the Member States should be reflected upon and good practices openly shared to combat inefficient State coordination. Furthermore, strategically-organised training programmes that work in connection with knowledgeable bodies, such as NGOs, Trade Unions, etc. should be implemented to prevent company or government investment diminishing/decreasing.

Working conditions and equal opportunities. Reconciliation of private and working life.

Priority 1: Remove discrimination on hiring and working conditions related to young people.

The youth unemployment rate is twice as high as for the rest of the population. When recruiting, employers need to acknowledge and value the specific attributes that young people can offer to the market. By employing young people, growth and competitiveness can be sustained and expanded. Employers need to recognise the right of young people to work in fair conditions.

Priority 2: The protection of young people against precarious contracts in order to promote equal working rights, employment security and autonomy.

According to the European studies and statistics, 50% of 15-24 year olds and 25% of 25-29 year olds are in precarious employment situations. This has a big impact on the independence of young people – including their possibility to access housing. There is also a big demographic challenge linked to this, as having children appears to be a difficult option. The first negative employment experience also diminishes the opportunity to further develop qualifications and skills, while staying out of the labour market or being in a situation of "under" or "hetero" employment can cause the loss of skills previously acquired. Precariousness, as a result, increases the vulnerability of young workers in regards to working conditions and rights, while it also worsens the general working rights and conditions of the whole labour force.

Priority 3: Promote equal opportunities for young women and men to reconcile their private and family life with their working life.

Youth unemployment in the EU is 21,4% (more than twice as high than among the general population). We can not afford to waste the resource that young women and men constitute. Therefore, it is important to develop inclusive labour markets and promote social inclusion as outlined in the EU 2020 Strategy. There is a need to improve opportunities for young women and men to have easy access to affordable childcare services, better parental leave, as well as possibilities for flexible working conditions (tele-working, part-time work and flexible working hours). There is also a need for better child benefits. The balance between private and working life also contributes to better performance at work.

Priority 4: Internships should be a relevant learning experience where fair labour market conditions apply.

Currently internships often replace "real" jobs and are considered as cheap labour with no or little pay, no contract or social security payment, no relevant learning experience. This problem should be addressed to make internships a valuable learning process both for personal development and the acquisition of skills and competences which meet the needs of the labour market. Thus, internships will be a positive first contact with the labour market and increase young people's employability and motivation.

Priority 5: Promote gender equality for young people on and in the labour market and in education.

The gender-pay gap is 17,4% across Europe. Every young person should have the same opportunities when in the labour market regardless of gender. Jobs within the same field of work should be paid the same. There are feminised/female-dominated jobs which are paid less. Parental leave should not have an effect on pensions. Employers should keep in mind that gender equality contributes to and promotes growth.

Training and education, life long learning and mobility. Innovation, creativity and the use of new ICT.

Priority 1: Recognition of Non-Formal Education and the value of synergies and complementarities of Non-Formal Education, Formal Education as well as e-learning.

Non-Formal Education is effective in developing competencies (skills, knowledge, attitude) of young people and it provides them with the chance to plan their learning according to their needs, placing them as the basic actors of their own learning, bearing in mind the broad concept of education and its social role. The complementary values and methods of Formal Education, Non-Formal Education as well as e-learning enrich young people's development and learning outcomes. Synergy of these different concepts ensures the inclusion of all young people and their diverse realities in order to prevent early school leaving.

Priority 2: To ensure equal access for all young people to Formal Education, Non-Formal Education, Life Long Learning, training and mobility.

Lots of young people face all forms of discrimination when accessing educational systems, in breach of their human rights. Lacking equal opportunities and social integration within society is increasing social discrepancies as well as youth unemployment. A long-term sustainable funding of education and training is not guaranteed today.

Priority 3: Develop opportunities for work experience through a cross-sectoral approach between educational system public and private sectors, NGO's as well as increasing awareness and validation of Vocational Education and Training.

One of the reasons why young people are facing high unemployment rates is the lack of experiencing a broader education based on skills

and competencies. Cross-sectoral opportunities need to be developed in order to provide young people with relevant work experience and to make them suitable for the labour market. Through an exploitation of young people doing internships, equal opportunities are not given. There is also a need to ensure a youth-rights based approach. Better cooperation involving all actors is expected.

Priority 4: Invest in youth friendly guidance and information on the already existing mobility and educational tools.

Many of the existing tools are not suitable to ensure equal access as well as equal opportunities for all, lacking a focus on minorities that have special needs (i.e. migrants). Very often these tools are not promoted or are wrongly promoted and do not reach their real target groups.

Priority 5: Support creativity and innovation in all forms and all stages of education.

Negative standardisation is one of the issues the educational system is facing today. The system is neither flexible enough, nor changing fast enough to keep pace with today's society. Also, all processes related to education are lacking the input and participation of all stakeholders (i.e. young people).

Priority 6: Increasing access to ICTs and raising awareness about their impact of the individual and society.

ICTs are a crucial part of today's society and economy. They give opportunities (i.e. e-democracy or modern ways of communication etc.), but as well as challenges and dangers (i.e. exploitation of personal data etc.). Without understanding and having necessary skills to handle ICTs, young people face huge problems to access and succeed in the labour market.

Social dialogue, participation and rights of workers.

Priority 1: Both employed and unemployed young people do not get enough information, knowledge, skills and encouragement to participate in the working environment and social dialogue.

Youth needs more information for career decisions and active guidance. Working conditions for young people (instability, temporality, insecurity) are not encouraging their participation in the working environment and social dialogue. Formal Education fails to provide youth with competences

for participation in the social dialogue, whereas Non-Formal Education, which does, is not sufficiently recognised.

Priority 2: Labour legislation and social protection do not cover adequately youth specific situations such as internships, part-time employment, parental leave etc.

In the current economical environment, new ways of labour relations are becoming more and more common. The lack of legislation of these particular labour relations and social protection often leads to exploitation of young people. Quality internships and jobs have crucial importance for young people becoming autonomous and starting their family life. EU legislation in this area fails to be fully implemented in all EU Member States.

Priority 3: Corporate environment does not encourage young employees to participate in the decision-making concerning their working environment.

Companies tend to favour short-term employment in the current economic climate. Fear of unemployment leads young people not to commit themselves to advocate for their rights. There is a lack of co-decision for youth related issues within companies. Companies may not encourage young employees to participate, because they presume it is not in the company's best interest. Additionally, there is a lack of a legal framework to guarantee young people's right to participate in decision-making in the working environment.

Priority 4: The situation of young people on the labour market is precarious, as young people's interests are not fully represented in the social dialogue.

Young people are not fully represented in the social dialogue and therefore their influence is very limited and their voices are not heard. Trade Unions fail to represent interests of young employed and unemployed people. There is a lack of infrastructure and financial means to support participation of youth in the social dialogue. There is a lack of cooperation among youth NGOs and lack of awareness about this being a problem.

Priority 5: Relevant information doesn't reach all young people.

Special attention needs to be paid to disadvantaged groups of young people in order to increase their participation.

Social Cohesion and Inclusion.

Priority 1: Voluntary activities must be supported, promoted and recognized as a means for social inclusion, Non-Formal Education, mobility, preparation for the labour market.

Voluntary activities allow young people to gain responsibility, improve their social skills and help them to create social networks. They also broaden young peoples horizons, enable them to fully participate in society and help to create a positive image of youth. Voluntary activities give young people the experience to take autonomous decisions and give young peoples life a purpose.

Priority 2: There should be full accessibility for all young people, specifically young people with fewer opportunities.

Young people with fewer opportunities should have full access to society in general. In addition to access to employment, young people need access to: Information, Training (non-formal), Education, Networks / contacts, Opportunities to gain valuable experience, Volunteering, Participation and representation opportunities. Young people need more than A job, they need adequate professional realisation. If this dimension is not a priority and it is not dealt with adequately there is a danger of increasing exclusion and its consequences. Young people are the engine of society. They have the energy, creativity, will, ideas etc.

Priority 3: Minimising early exclusion, already at an early age, not having the same opportunities as your peers and facing obstacles which prevent you to reach your full potential in life.

When you are excluded at an early age you are more likely to remain excluded. Problems, obstacles are best prevented or addressed as early as possible. Tackling (the risk of) exclusion at an early stage is important for the individual but also beneficial for the society as a whole. Active intervention breaks the vicious intergenerational cycle of exclusion and stops the negative spiral.

Priority 4: Youth work -which is characterised by voluntary participation, structured Non-Formal Learning and offers informal learning opportunities provided by voluntary organizations and public bodies -is an invaluable

contribution to the successful integration of young people into society, particularly those with fewer opportunities.

Despite obvious progress to date, there is a continuing need to further improve youth work to fulfil its vital role in ensuring the social inclusion of young people. Ways of further improving youth work include: more funding, better qualified youth workers, defined quality standards, taking full use of research results (evidence-based youth work and sharing of good practice).

Leuven / Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, 2-4 October 2010

The EU Presidency Trio Spain-Belgium-Hungary together with the European Commission and the European Youth Forum took up the challenge to develop a structured dialogue on youth employment between young people and policy makers, for the period January 2010- June 2011.

In the frame of the Structured Dialogue, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU organised an EU Youth Conference in Leuven from the 2nd to the 4th of October 2010. This EU Youth Conference is the second one in a series of three Youth Conferences at European level.

Previous to the Youth Conferences, the Member States set up national working groups to consult young people and youth organisations at local, regional and national level. The results of the national consultations are brought together at the EU Youth Conferences, organised in turn by the three Presidencies, and the next steps in the process are prepared.

The EU youth conference in Leuven built upon the process and the results previously achieved under the Spanish Presidency. During the Spanish EU Youth Conference, youth delegates and political representatives jointly defined priorities on youth employment. These priorities feed into the process of structured dialogue between young people and the institutions under the Belgian and Hungarian presidencies. Before the EU Youth Conference in Leuven a new round of national consultations in the 27 EU Member States was organised to identify concrete recommendations on youth employment. The results of the consultations have been compiled before the Leuven Conference and served as a starting point for the workshop discussions.

The conference in Leuven brought together young people, (representatives from) Directors General for youth affairs, representatives of the National Agencies for the Youth in Action Programme from the different member states and representatives of European Institutions

All the participants worked together in thematic workshops with the objective to fine-tune the recommendations from the national consultations and to address them towards the appropriate level or institution (EU, Member states, young people and their organisations,...) and to investigate what the contribution of youth policy can be.

During its EU Presidency, Belgium will submit the interim results of the structured dialogue process to the EU Council which will free the way to political results during the Hungarian Presidency in the first semester of 2011.

These joint recommendations identified in Leuven by young people and policy-makers are the following:

Information, guidance and support for young people

1. Formal education institutions should promote cooperation with the private sector and the employment agencies to ensure that its provision is reflecting current labour market trends.
2. Existing EU information dissemination tools (e.g. Eurodesk, Eures, Eryica, Euroguidance...) should coordinate their work on European and national levels to provide comprehensive employment information for young people.
3. Youth workers and career advisers should have a more important guidance role in informing and supporting young people on labour market issues through the use of non formal education and with the help of new exciting tools, information and support structures.
4. EU and Member States should enable formal education curricula to promote and support creative thinking and entrepreneurial skills in young people.
5. EU and Member States should better target financial resources to ease the access of young people to the labour market, especially for long-term unemployed, first-time job seekers and disadvantaged young people.

Recognition of competences

1. EU and Member States should promote the formation of national task forces to ensure the recognition at national level of competences gained through non- formal education and mobility experiences.
2. Member States, in collaboration with youth NGO's and others

active in the youth field, should develop an information strategy in the formal education system to raise awareness among young people about the benefits of all forms of non-formal education.

3. As the major providers of non-formal education, there needs to be a concrete focus on the sustainable long-term financial support for youth organizations, with increased collaboration between the EU and Member States .
4. EU and Member States should ensure a legal framework for volunteers and voluntary service providers, applicable in all EU Member States, that includes social security, health insurance, duties, rights and responsibilities.
5. EU, Member States and youth organisations should simplify access to mobility opportunities by removing obstacles of a social, cultural, and political nature (e.g. lack of information, visa problems,...) and particularly by supporting young people with fewer opportunities.

Social protection

1. EU and Member States should increase and improve control mechanisms to prevent violation of labour rights and possibly through training programmes in schools assure that young people are aware of these rights.
2. EU and Member States should use fiscal leverage to make precarious working arrangements more expensive and incentives for hiring young people under quality and stable conditions.
3. EU and Member States should establish a European framework on labour contracts in full agreement with the social partners.
4. Member States should ensure a rights based approach to social protection to achieve autonomy for young people such as those in volunteer work, on short term contracts and who are self employed or (long term) unemployed.
5. The EU should establish a quality framework for internships to enhance educational experiences.

Transition from education to the labour market

1. Member States and educational institutions should ensure that career-oriented training and guidance is integrated at all levels of education in preparation for career search, both for employment and entrepreneurship for all young people.

2. The right of young people to access social security benefits (e.g. 6 months) on leaving education if they undertake internships should be recognized.
3. Internships should be based on an agreed contract outlining the rights and responsibilities, and the aims of the internship, its relevance and how it will benefit the intern.
4. Member States and educational institutions should consult with social partners to ensure curricula which enable youth's self-development and equip them with relevant knowledge and with transferable skills gained inter alia through practical experience in various fields.
5. Member States should cooperate with the EU to establish a "social guarantee framework" which provides all unemployed and willing young people with opportunities to be employed, to pursue further qualifications or, for those seeking to be self-employed, with financial and technical support.

Combating discrimination

1. Existing tools should be used and strengthened to promote competence-focused mobility experiences for disadvantaged and unemployed young people through the Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action Programmes and the European Social Fund.
2. In order to avoid collective discrimination, the public sector must be required to provide employment for people with fewer opportunities (e.g. work, internships) and to combat individual discrimination individual rights have to be reinforced (e.g. using a clear and adapted language, taking into account the specific needs of young people, and using mentorship to guide and support disadvantaged young people).
3. Ensure, monitor and assess the implementation of anti-discrimination laws in Member States to achieve equality for all the groups and identify best practices.
4. Human Rights education should be implemented in both formal and non-formal education systems by using all existing tools at national and European level and methodological approaches (e.g. Youth In Action and Lifelong Learning Programmes) to achieve more visible and a decrease in discrimination in a long term.
5. Effective policies combating discrimination in the formal and non-formal education and training field, especially that which is gender based, and multiple discrimination, should be sustainably

and adequately funded to deliver a full scope of rights, with a focus on young people, youth work and youth policies and managed by young people and policy makers.

Participation of young people in social dialogue

1. EU and Member States should ensure young people equal spaces, by providing them possibilities for participation, in public debates and existing communication channels relating to employment and social policies.
2. EU and Member States should ensure the participation in social dialogue of National Youth Councils and other youth organizations and young people through a strengthened and sustainable structured dialogue (through e.g. creating youth advisory councils) on all levels and in all processes related to employment and social policies.
3. EU, Member States and civil society should pay special attention to the inclusion of non-organised youth and young people with fewer opportunities in social dialogue through wider dissemination of information in their own environments, using various methods (e.g. non-formal education and focus groups in youth representation structures).
4. A broad and active participation of young people in the social dialogue can be achieved through comprehensive education and empowerment, awareness raising programmes and campaigns, a legal framework that ensures the equal access of young people to formal democratic processes and by lowering the voting age for all elections.
5. Member States should provide the conditions for young people to influence social dialogue, public debate and policy outcomes through education for global citizenship and active student democracy in formal education institutions.

Reconciliation of private and working life

1. EU and Member States should ensure sufficient, available quality child care facilities, adapted to the needs of children and parents (e.g. services available at places of work and study, matching working times).
2. EU and Member States should identify and publicize good practices in the reconciliation of private and working life to stimulate employers and trade unions to implement them.

3. Member States should provide better access to information and advice specifically about social support, family benefits, health care options and working legislation (e.g. through a one stop information and counselling service).
4. EU and Member States should encourage flexibility and security (flexicurity) in working conditions (e.g. work in various teams, job-sharing, working at home, (international) mobility at work, part-time work, educational leave, sabbatical leave, combination of work and voluntary work).
5. EU and Member States should develop standards on paternity leave and promote the use of parental leave by fathers (to ensure that the father really takes up the non-transferable period of parental leave).

Role of youth work

1. Member States should involve youth workers and youth organisations in the development and implementation of all measures on youth employment.
2. To better represent the interests of young people and to provide creative solutions for societal problems such as youth unemployment, the quality of youth work and participation opportunities should be enhanced through developing and supporting training possibilities and peer learning.
3. The educational institutions should recognise the added value of youth work through credits and accreditation and allow time flexibility in study structures (e.g. taking time off for youth work).
4. Youth work needs to empower young people to voice their competences and provide them with tools for recognition, with a clear structure and content, that fits labour market terminology.
5. Member States should cooperate with all stakeholders, including those involved in counselling young people and employers, to raise visibility, strengthen awareness and recognise in the labour market the skills and competences acquired through youth work.

OUTCOMES OF THE HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY EU YOUTH CONFERENCE ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Gödöllő/ Budapest, Hungary, 2-4 March 2011

The Council of the European Union has adopted the Resolution on the Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018). This document defines the main areas of the youth policy in the European Union and requests for setting up a dialogue between young people and policy makers about the issues of European youth policy. The structured dialogue is an instrument to ensure that the opinion of young people is taken into account in the formation of EU youth policy.

The Trio Presidency of Spain, Belgium and Hungary made a common decision about executing the structured dialogue on the theme of youth employment during the 18 months of the Trio in 2010 and the first semester of 2011.

The first phase of the consultations came to an end with the EU Youth Conference in Jerez, where youth delegates and directors general of EU Member States jointly defined priorities about youth employment, based on the national consultations.

The second phase of the consultation concentrated on recommendations of young people in relation with priorities described by the conclusions of the EU Youth Conference in Jerez.

The participants of the EU Youth Conference in Leuven, Belgium prepared 40 recommendations reflecting on the needs of young people in the field of employment and employability, fine-tuning the results of national consultations.

The aim of the third phase of the national consultations was to crystallize the core issues of youth employment, working further with recommendations of the EU Youth Conference of Leuven. This stage of the consultation brought about specific proposals of young people to resolve the difficulties young people might face when entering the labour market.

During the EU Youth Conference under the Hungarian Presidency in Gödöllő and Budapest from the 1st to the 4th of March 2011 youth delegates and Directors General finalized a document of specific

recommendations and proposals about the key topics of youth employment as it follows:

Joint conclusions

Recommendation

Career-oriented training and guidance is essential to raise young people's awareness of labour market requirements and prepare them for the world of work, both for employment and entrepreneurship. Therefore, career-oriented training and guidance should be integrated at all levels of education.

Proposed actions

1. Create a consultative institution, which focuses primarily on the provision of career advice within education structures, and undertakes dialogue with relevant stakeholders in order to provide young people with relevant and sufficient career advice.
2. Set up a national level programme to promote the importance of every job to various sectors of society, especially to the youth field, highlighting that all jobs are necessary and should be valued in society.
3. Create measures aiming to facilitate cooperation between business and education at local level to provide work experience for young people.
4. Set up a national competition for young entrepreneurs and provide financial support to implement the winning proposals.
5. To implement specific policies offering young people, who are actively looking for work, a job, working experience or training after a specified period of unemployment.

Contribution of young people:

Young people should clarify to their educational institutions the lack of information about education, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Stakeholders, especially student- and youth organisations, should mobilise young people in consultative bodies on a democratic basis. Youth participation should be achieved through youth representative structures, by means such as campaigns, lobbying and projects to increase awareness of labour market requirements. Student and youth organisations should provide training on topics dealing with career-orientation and guidance.

Recommendation

It is of vital importance to safeguard the rights of young people entering into the labour market, as well as throughout the entire working life, through tailored policy measures and enhanced control mechanisms. Since internships are a valuable tool for a smooth transition to the labour market, a quality framework is needed in order to guarantee the educational value of such experience.

Proposed actions

1. Regulate, evaluate and monitor the quality of internship through the establishment of a binding legislative framework within the EU to prevent the fraudulent use of internships. This framework should guarantee:
 - a. a written contract specifying the terms of the internship
 - b. no replacement of paid job
 - c. individual tailored tutorship
 - d. full accomplishment of the training hours
 - e. fair remuneration
 - f. establishment and strengthening of the inspection bodies for interns' working conditions
 - g. support the access to work contracts once the training has ended
2. Develop financial support for internship providers that offers quality internship opportunities for young people.
3. Promote partnerships between educational institutions and the internship providers to ensure the implementation of the quality framework.
4. Create an EU-wide database about internship opportunities offered in different Member States, including assessments from former interns.

Contribution of young people:

Young people can contribute by assessing their internship experience in a given company and in this way guide potential interns.

Young people and youth organisations should advocate more extensively on the topic of quality internships, putting forward good practices.

Youth organisations should encourage the participation of young people in trade unions and professional organisations.

In order to strengthen the impact of the quality framework on internships, youth organisations should work together with other associations, entities or relevant youth platforms.

The necessary information on the legislative framework should be given to the interns through trade unions and youth organisations in order to raise awareness about their rights and responsibilities.

Recommendation

It is important to ensure easier access for all young people to youth-friendly, innovative and engaging labour market information and career path oriented support, through formal and non-formal educational settings. Therefore relevant actors such as youth workers, career advisers and trained teachers must be recognized as a significant source for relevant support.

Proposed actions

1. Provide tailored training for specialized youth workers, teachers and career advisers to deliver employment related information and career counselling.
2. Dedicate more space, time and support to youth workers and career advisers in schools.
3. Encourage partnership between enterprises and educational institutions by providing structure for high quality internship programmes.
4. Include practical information from employees to provide knowledge and develop competences needed for finding a position in the labour market in training courses for young people.
5. Organise seminars on career path orientated support fostering cooperation between youth organisations and national employment services at a European level.

Recommendation

Youth organisations are major providers of non-formal education, informal learning and wider mobility opportunities outside the formal education context. Therefore, sustainable long-term financial support is essential in order for them to equip young people with skills and competences to become active citizens and ease their access to the labour market, which is an important step in achieving the aims of the Europe2020 strategy and building a competitive, knowledge-based and sustainable Europe.

Proposed actions

1. Financially reinforce the Youth in Action programme and continue it as an independent programme, while prioritising strengthening

its user-friendliness, flexibility, and the inclusion aspect, so that all young people have access to it.

2. Develop sustainable long-term financial support to youth work, in constant dialogue with youth organisations, rather than financial support based on singular projects.
3. Compile and disseminate best practice models for financing non-formal education among the Member States.
4. Create a non-formal education accreditation system to identify and recognise providers of non-formal education, such as youth organisations.

Contribution of young people:

Young people contribute with their volunteering time to the financial sustainability of youth organisations.

Recommendation

A balance between working life and personal needs allows young people to make full use of their potential in both the labour market and their private lives. To combine employment with further education, training, family life and volunteering, young people need improved voluntary flexibility as well as security together with ensured access to necessary resources.

Proposed actions

1. Improve social security measures to encourage employers and employees to use various flexible working forms, especially telework, part-time work, job sharing and work at home.
2. Provide more types of flexible and affordable child care facilities at working, living and studying places run by qualified staff.
3. Ensure structured dialogue mechanism, including social partners, to regularly evaluate practices of flexible working arrangements for young people, publish and disseminate the results of the evaluation.
4. Launch information campaigns to encourage young families to equally share tasks of private and professional life using flexible working arrangements.

Contribution of young people:

Young people and youth organisations should actively participate in social dialogue for a better cooperation with local, national and European

authorities. Young people and youth organisations should emphasise that certain types of flexible working conditions can also be ideal for those who cannot get a job on the 'conventional' labour market due to their present life situation, e.g. distance, illness, pregnancy; inform other young people about it and increase the work force. In general young people and youth organisations should take part in the discussions about flexicurity, by lobbying for their cause. They will be users of existing opportunities in the context of both flexibility and security and have the responsibility of promoting them. Young people and youth organisations should initiate regular evaluations in order to participate in youth research, which can lead to exchange of information on local level and dissemination of good practices useful for them.

Recommendation

Mobility is important to gain competences significant for the personal and professional development of all young people. Equality of access to mobility opportunities is achieved by removing social, cultural, political and administrative obstacles with reference to the Europe 2020 Strategy, and particularly the Youth On The Move flagship initiative.

Proposed actions

1. Create a new youth friendly media communication tool in order to provide extensive information about mobility possibilities, value of competences and international skills gained through them on both European and national level through existing institutions (working with youth matters), initiatives, programmes and youth organisations.
2. Ensure free access, without visa obstacles, for participants in both formal and non-formal youth mobility and voluntary exchange programmes or projects between the European Union and neighbouring countries.
3. Continue removing economic barriers that prevent young people with fewer opportunities from participating in EU mobility programmes through creating a 'means tested' element to the application process or providing additional financial support.
4. Create a European Employment Service fostering employment mobility for young people by supporting job search and facilitating all additional procedures, including housing, insurance and linguistic support.

Recommendation

Youth work provides young people with skills and competences that are useful in employment, education and social and personal development. Recognition of youth work, as an important complement to formal education, requires cooperation among the youth sector, education institutions, employers and authorities at all levels.

Proposed actions

Develop a strategic approach to the recognition of youth work and the competences gained through youth work and volunteering - as is being explored at European level with Youth Pass. This should include encouraging and informing young people on how they can best frame these competences for prospective employers.

Establish a legal framework for volunteers which includes a rights-based approach to volunteering. Such a framework should value both voluntary youth leaders and paid youth workers.

Develop time and organisational flexibility in formal education to enable young people to participate in or lead youth work (such as international mobility programmes, and local youth initiatives).

Create platforms of exchange between the actors of the labour market and the youth work sector in order to build a common process where there is a mutual interest.

Ensure sustained mechanisms of finances at all levels for youth work by programmes – e.g. Youth in Action at the EU level - and by providing other resources such as facilities and transport provision.

Contribution of young people:

Young people and youth organisations should develop self-assessment tools for youth leaders and workers enabling them to present skills and competences in a meaningful way.

Youth organisations should encourage the implementation of different activities (e.g. workshops) in order to disseminate information and raise awareness on the importance of youth work, volunteering and non-formal education. In general, all stakeholders in youth work should recognize the importance of working together.

Recommendation

Existing and new generations of EU programmes and funds are important tools to promote learning mobility and other forms

of learning and to increase young people's opportunities in the labour market. Therefore it is vital that they are open to all young people, with special attention to young people subjected to discrimination. These programmes have to be strengthened and developed in order to build further the capacity of young people to realise their human rights.

Proposed actions

1. Encourage Human Rights Education (formal and non-formal) in order to make all young people aware of and capable of using their rights.
2. Ensure the existence of a separate youth programme in order to combat discrimination and promote the inclusion of all young people on the labour market and in society as a whole.
3. Ensure, monitor and assess the implementation of anti-discrimination policies and European Union programmes in the Member States in order to ensure equal opportunities for young people.
4. Make European Union funds and programmes accessible for young people and youth organisations; and create support structures to help youth organisations to apply for such funding.
5. Ensure that all young people and their perspectives are taken into account when developing next generation of the Youth in Action Programme in order to combat discrimination.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE EXERCISE OF THE FIFTH EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK 2011

In November 2009, the Council of the European Union adopted the Resolution on the Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018). This document outlined the principles of the structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations, with the aim of ensuring that the opinion of young people is taken into account in the formation of EU youth policy.

The Trio Presidency of Spain, Belgium and Hungary agreed on the procedures for the implementation of the structured dialogue on the thematic priority of youth employment during the Trio Presidency. A multi-level consultation mechanism built around the EU Youth Conferences and involving a European Steering Committee and National Working Groups, has been created at EU level and in Member States.

The first cycle of consultation of Structured Dialogue has shown a strong commitment from the National Working Groups with regular contributions to EU youth policy.

With the aim of issuing recommendations on the future conduct of the process, the European Commission hosted a structured dialogue exercise during the European Youth Week 2011. Young representatives of the National Working groups and representatives of national authorities in charge of youth affairs were invited to debate, in joint workshops, and subsequently issued the thematic recommendations listed below.

Technicalities of the consultation process

Timing

- The European Steering Committee shall provide the National Working Groups with a precise timetable and clear objectives for the whole 18 months process, well before the beginning of a Trio Presidency.
- All the stakeholders of the current and incoming European Steering Committee should start meeting at least one year before the next Trio Presidency starts in order to define timetables, priorities and questions as well as goals and outcomes.
- The European Steering Committee should issue guiding questions as early as possible before the EU Youth Conferences. If guiding

questions are not directly linked to the previous Youth Conference, six months is a convenient period of time.

- Adequate time for an optimal preparation of the consultations (at least 3-5 months) should be provided before each EU Youth Conference.
- National consultation rounds during holiday periods should be avoided.

Format and strategy of consultation

- The European Steering Committee should provide main guidelines for the National Working Groups, including good practices on strategy, methodology, and consultation to allow them to reach a broader range of young people from different backgrounds and enable them to compile, analyse and synthesise the results of their consultations.
- The European Steering Committee should provide guidance to the National Working Groups on how to conduct the consultation in a more youth-friendly way. The guiding questions it issues should be more simple and concrete.
- There should be a framework for more communication and exchange between National Working Groups at EU level. An annual meeting allowing for the exchange of experiences should be organised.
- The EU and Member States should provide a concrete mechanism, which would allow National Working Groups to meet some six months after the end of the Trio Presidency to share their best practices of implementing the results of the previous Structured Dialogue cycle and to monitor the practical results at national levels.
- The core ideas of the Structured Dialogue should be better promoted at national level. National Working Groups should be empowered to be stronger and more autonomous in developing and implementing the Structured Dialogue while taking into account their specific national contexts.
- National Working Groups should adapt their communication and questions to the national context; as well as to the different target groups, including young people with fewer opportunities.
- A continuous process of consultation throughout each cycle of Structured Dialogue; as well as continuity in National Working Groups and in their representation at EU Youth Conferences, should be ensured.
- The European Steering Committee and the National Working Groups should make sure that existing evidence-based expertise and research is integrated into the process of the Structured Dialogue to enhance the relevance of the process.

Financial implications

- The objectives of the Structured Dialogue should be matched by adequate financial resources.
- Means to provide financial support for permanent staff to work on Structured Dialogue should be ensured.
- 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.
- Member States should provide adequate financial support or resources for the activities of National Working Groups to reach a broader range of young people from different backgrounds and to enable National Working Group to compile, analyse and synthesise the results of their consultations.

The composition of National Working Groups and support structures

- To increase the effectiveness of communication between National Working Groups and the European Steering Committee, there should be regular feedback from National Working Groups, a dissemination of minutes of the European Steering Committee meetings to National Working groups and regular face to face meetings of representatives of National Working Groups and the European Steering Committee should be organised.
- In order to ensure good communication between national and European level, clear guidelines on the channels, frequency and methods of communication should be created by the European Steering Committee in consultation with the National Working Groups. These guidelines should also clarify the responsibilities of all parties involved.
- The European Steering Committee should create and administrate a user friendly website to ensure continuity and the sharing of information and good practices among members of National Working Groups and the European Steering Committee. This website should include:
 - background and introductory documents
 - outcomes of the EU Youth Conferences
 - compilation of various consultation processes
 - exchange platform for the National Working Groups, including national reports

- evaluations
- calendar/time frame
- other relevant documents and presentations
- National Working Groups should ensure that young people and their representatives have a voice at all stages of the consultation process, including its design, implementation and evaluation.
- To ensure a dialogue throughout the whole process, all National Working Groups should be led by National Youth Councils and composed of a balanced representation of institutional representatives and youth representatives with a clear task division among all members. This is already recommended in the annex III of the Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field, where Member States are invited to establish National Working Groups composed of “inter alia representatives of Ministries for Youth Affairs, National Youth Councils, local and regional youth councils, youth organisations, those active in youth work, diverse young people and youth researchers” ensuring the lead role of National Youth Councils.

The visibility of the Structured Dialogue

- The Structured Dialogue should be made more visible on the internet/social media at national level and a common visual identity should be used at all levels.
- Every National Working Group should create a clear communication plan at national level.
- The European Steering Committee should provide information and questionnaires in a more youth-friendly way. National Working Groups should translate them into their specific national or regional language.
- The European Steering Committee should produce videos/animations to explain the Structured Dialogue in a youth-friendly way. National Working Groups should translate them into their national language.
- National Working Groups should use a wide range of communication channels to reach out to different target groups of young people.

Extending the Structured Dialogue

- Encourage EU Member states, EFTA and candidate countries to share good practices on the way young people influence the decisions that affect them, without imposing specific models of structured dialogue in each country. Open-mindedness is essential for the sharing of best practices with other countries.

- The national consultations are the core element of the Structured Dialogue. Nevertheless, the gathering of input from INGYOs and other relevant organisations can create added value and help sharing perspectives from specific target groups.
- Since the themes of the Structured Dialogue mainly cover national competences, national parliaments, relevant ministries, national governmental and non-governmental [youth] organizations, as well as associations, should be consulted and informed about the Structured Dialogue. To this end, an expert network/platform/group for the National Working Group should be established.
- Relevant committees and inter-groups of the European Parliament, Council formations as well as other advisory bodies of the EU, should be informed about the Structured Dialogue. To strengthen the process, cooperation and feedback on both the final outcomes of the process and the conclusions of each EU Youth Conference is essential.

The transmission and follow-up of outcomes of the Structured Dialogue

- The European Steering Committee, the Presidency and the European Commission should provide time and space for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the Structured Dialogue process and its results during the consultations, EU Youth Conferences, European Youth Week and in the EU Youth Report.
- National Working Groups should have ongoing activities and regular consultations with all relevant stakeholders at national level in order to ensure a permanent dialogue on the implementation and follow-up of the results of the Structured Dialogue.
- All stakeholders should be encouraged to use the results and recommendations from the Structured Dialogue as an inspiration for building and developing projects at all levels.
- At EU level, the European Steering Committee, the Presidencies, the European Commission and the European Youth Forum should transmit the results and recommendations of the Structured Dialogue to all relevant partners and stakeholders across policy sectors and link them to on-going institutional and policy developments at both EU and national levels. At national level, this responsibility falls on National Working Groups.
- The European Commission should use the European Youth Portal to provide relevant information and knowledge (best practices) on how to use outcomes of the Structured Dialogue in advocacy

and policy making, and on how to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the results.

The transition of Structured Dialogue to incoming Trio Presidencies

- The National Working Groups should ensure the possibility for young people to suggest themes for the upcoming structured dialogue cycle during preceding cycle of consultations and the decision should be made by the Council, based on a proposal from the upcoming European Steering Committee.
- The number of consultations should be limited to two and should focus on one common topic. Taking this into account, the first EU Youth Conference of the cycle should be used to launch the consultation process and specify the questions for the overall theme.
- The outcomes of the structured dialogue should lead to a clear political outcome set at the beginning of the cycle.
- Whereas the transmission between National and European level should be ensured, the European Steering Committee should pass on any feedback from the institutions (Council of the EU, European Commission and national governments) and the impact of the outcomes of the Structured Dialogue to the National Working Groups.

The development of the Structured Dialogue

- At national level, relevant government departments from outside the youth sectors should be invited to take part in the Structured Dialogue at the beginning of each cycle in order to ensure that youth perspectives brought up during the process are mainstreamed into other policy areas.
- The process of Structured Dialogue, including its structure, role and goals, as well as the thematic priority and its link to the national priorities, should be discussed at the European Youth Week.
- The European Parliament should be involved in the process of Structured dialogue, for instance during the European Youth Week.
- National Working Groups need to meet more frequently in an informal way, including bilateral and multilateral meetings. Pertinent initiatives should be encouraged and supported.
- National Working Groups from the Trio Presidency countries, supported by their respective ministries, should organise at least one meeting for all National Working Groups during the 18 months process.

RESOURCES

Council documents

- Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 24 May 2005 meeting within the Council on implementing the common objectives for youth information.
- Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing the “Youth in Action” programme for the period 2007 to 2013.
- Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 13 November 2006, meeting within the Council, on implementing the common objectives for participation by and information for young people in view of promoting their active European citizenship.
- Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 22 May 2008, meeting within the Council on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities
- Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)
- Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 19 November 2010, meeting within the Council, on Youth Work
- Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States of 10 May 2010, meeting within the Council, on the active inclusion of young people: combating unemployment and poverty

Commission documents

- Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The Commission’s contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan-D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate. (2005)

— Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Promoting young people’s full participation in education, employment and society (5.9.2007.)

— Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – An EU strategy for youth – Investing and empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities. (2009)

Others

<http://ec.europa.eu/youth/>

<http://www.youthfroum.org>

<http://www.eu2010.es>

<http://www.youth-eutrio.be/>

<http://eu2011.mobilitas.hu/>

<http://consilium.europa.eu>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

