



**THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL
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THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL POLICY TOOL KIT INTRO

WHY A POLICY TOOL KIT?

The European Youth Capital, a title granted to a European city for a period of one year, aims at strengthening the relationship between the local level and the European institutions, giving attention to youth participation at the local level as well as the European level.

Youth policy is a cross-sectoral and integrated policy aimed at young people involving young people, which stems from youth needs and covers a comprehensively broad range of policy areas. For a coherent and constructive youth policy, authorities need to approach youth issues in an integrated way and cooperate across policy sectors. This also includes creating the link between local and European youth policies as an essential element for the European Youth Capital project. This tool kit aims at supporting the applicant cities in such an important policy coordination exercise.

WHAT IS THE POLICY TOOL KIT?

The Policy Tool Kit provides European cities with a clear overview of European youth policies and related key documents. Municipalities in Europe are subject to youth policies as outlined by the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations (UN). Therefore the European Youth Forum is happy to offer summaries, contextual information and downloads of the key youth policy documents of these institutions.

Applicant cities as well as existing youth capitals are encouraged to consider these policies, implementation mechanisms and findings as outlined in the documents when implementing their program activities and planning sustainable youth policies for their municipality.

I. EUROPEAN UNION

[“The Renewed framework for European Cooperation in the youth field,”](#) adopted by the Council of the European Union in November 2009, brings a renewed Open Method of Coordination in the youth field for 2010 – 2018. The European Youth Forum summary provides an overview of the context, content and proposed implementation mechanisms of the Youth Strategy of the European Union. The European Youth Capitals are especially invited to examine the detailed outline of the eight fields of actions as presented in Annex I to the Resolution.

→ [Summary of “The Renewed framework for European Cooperation in the youth field”](#)

→ [The Renewed framework for European Cooperation in the youth field](#)

II. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

In 2008, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted the Recommendation [“The future of the Council of Europe youth Policy: Agenda 2020,”](#) in order to refresh the youth agenda of the organisation. The Recommendation provided the basis for a subsequent declaration on “the future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020” which was adopted by Ministers responsible for youth affairs in Kiev, November, 2008. The Agenda is aimed at strengthening youth-centred activities within the Council of Europe and at fostering partnership with the European Commission in this field. The European Youth Capitals are encouraged to examine the priority fields as presented in the document and see how these can be attributed to their programmes.

→ [Summary of Agenda 2020](#)

→ [“The future of the Council of Europe youth Policy: Agenda 2020”](#)

[The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#) is one of the most relevant documents on the European level for European Youth Capitals, as it specifically refers to youth policies on the local level. It tackles a number of relevant topics on how to conduct policies towards young people in a number of areas as well as how to further the civic participation of young people.

→ [Summary of The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#)

→ [Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#)

III. UNITED NATIONS

The "[World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond](#)" was adopted by the United Nations in 1995, providing a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people on 10 priority areas. It contains proposals for action that aim at fostering conditions and mechanism to improve well-being and livelihood among young people. The European Youth Capitals are encouraged to examine the now 15 priority areas as outlined in the document.

→ [Summary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond](#)

→ [Resolution on "Policies and Programmes involving youth"](#)

→ [World Program for Action for Youth](#)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION
of 27 November 2009**

on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)

CONTEXT

The Council Resolution follows in the wake of an increasing attention paid by EU institutions towards youth issues. Three are particularly important in this regard:

- In 2002 the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States established a framework for European cooperation in the youth field, which included the application of the open method of coordination and mainstreaming of youth issues into other policies.
- In 2005 the European Council adopted the European Youth Pact as one of the instruments contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon objectives for growth and jobs.
- In 2009 the European Commission issues a communication entitled "An EU strategy for youth – investing and empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities".

In November 2009, the EU council of Youth Ministers adopted the present "*Renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)*."

CONTENT

The Resolution is based on the following principles:

- Promoting the social and professional integration of young people is crucial to the pursuit of the objectives of Europe's Lisbon Strategy.
- The EU Youth Report 2009 shows that young people in Europe are still coping with social exclusion and lack of valuable job opportunities, and are being particularly hit by economic downturns such as that of 2008.
- The available framework for European Cooperation in the youth field based on the open coordination system has proved to be effective.
- A renewed framework setting out a European strategy in the field is needed within the post-2010 Lisbon strategy period.
- Youth empowerment is to be pursued through multi-level initiatives, closely involving youth-related policies but also relevant policies and institutional structures not specifically addressing youth issues.

POLICY AREAS

The Resolution identifies a number of key domains in the youth field, including socio-economic dimensions (employment, entrepreneurship, social inclusion, education), cultural dimensions (creativity, globalization), as well as political dimensions (participation). The European Youth Capitals are especially invited to examine the detailed outline of the eight fields of actions as presented in Annex I to the Resolution.

The aforementioned issues have to be dealt with through both monothematic and cross-sectoral youthpolicyinitiatives. At a governance level, the document points to the open method of coordination as the guiding approach to youth policy, which should be understood as an evidence-based, pertinent method of consultation.

IMPLEMENTATION

The working method is based on the following principles:

- Identification of three-year “work cycles” from 2010 to 2018
- Selection of priority areas
- Use of a number of implementation instruments, such as:
 - o Knowledge building and evidence-based youth policy (i.e. development of research activities and generation of knowledge supporting youth policies)
 - o Mutual learning (i.e. identification of good practices in different Member States, cooperation with international organisations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OECD)
 - o Progress reporting: Every work cycle should lead to the publication of an EU youth report, which will draw information from reports of national Member States.
 - o Monitoring of the process through the use of existing indicators
 - o Consultation and structured dialogue with youth organisations involving different spatial scales (local, regional, national, international)
 - o Mobilisation of EU funds (e.g. Structural Funds) and programmes (e.g. Youth in Action, Life Long Learning, etc.)
- Use of appropriate instruments facilitating processes of training, mutual learning and cross-sectoral fertilisation
- The Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the youth field is subject to revisions and changes in light of the post-2010 Lisbon strategy.

The Resolution invites Member States to cooperate with the European Commission within the framework of the open coordination method as well as to adopt measures at the national level dealing with youth issues.

The Resolution invites the European Commission to:

- 1) collaborate with the Member States
- 2) monitor the state of affairs in youth policy on the basis of the EU youth report, and submit this work to the Council
- 3) propose a flexible framework for peer-learning activities, which is to be reported to the Council
- 4) prepare in cooperation with Member States by 2017 a final evaluation report on this framework of cooperation

ANNEXES

The Resolution has three annexes:

Annex I is divided into two parts: one in which there are suggestions regarding initiatives for all fields of action mentioned in the Resolution, and another one presenting a series of youth-specific aims intended to clarify the youth dimension in each of the listed fields of

action.

Annex II identifies youth unemployment as the overall priority during the 18 months from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2011. During this period there will be three specific priorities that will each span six months: social inclusion, youth work, and participation.

Annex III explores in greater detail the way in which the structured dialogue in the youth field will actually be implemented. In particular, the European Commission is invited to convene a European Steering Committee for each 18-month period consisting of representatives of the Trio Presidency countries' Ministries for Youth Affairs, National Youth Councils and National Agencies for the Youth in Action, as well as representatives of the European Commission and the European Youth Forum. The European Steering Committee is responsible for the overall coordination of the structured dialogue around youth issues.

In this context, Member States are invited to support the establishment of a small National Working Group, which will be composed of representatives of Ministries for Youth Affairs, local and regional youth councils, youth organisations and youth researchers.

The Commission and the Member States are invited to cooperate in the pursuit of the structured dialogue involving also other actors.

“The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020”
Adopted at the 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth,
Kyiv, Ukraine, 10-11 October 2008

WHY AGENDA 2020?

In order to refresh the youth agenda of the Council of Europe, in 2008 the Parliamentary Assembly adopted a Recommendation (1844) which provided the basis for a subsequent declaration on “the future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020” which was adopted by Ministers responsible for youth affairs in a conference held in Kiev in 2008.

BY WHOM?

The Agenda was adopted by the Ministers concerned with youth issues. The paper was thus in the hands of the member states, but youth organisations including the European Youth Forum were encouraged to give their contribution to the drafting of the document, even though not all of their proposals were taken on board in the final version.

FOR WHOM?

Agenda 2020 is addressed to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, recommending them to support the Declaration and ensure that the co-management bodies of the Council of Europe adopt initiatives based on the Declaration.

WHAT IS COVERED IN THE A2020?

The Agenda is aimed at strengthening youth-centred activities within the Council of Europe and at fostering partnership with the European Commission in this field. The Agenda is centred on issues falling within the following broad domains:

- 1) Human rights and democracy
- 2) Living together in diverse society
- 3) The social inclusion of young people

HOW IS YOUTH POLICY IN EUROPE BENEFITTING FROM AGENDA 2020?

The Member States adopting the Declaration will commit to the pursuit of the stated goals and also to support the contribution of young people and related organisations to the implementation of AGENDA 2020.

HOW WILL THE AGENDA 2020 BE IMPLEMENTED?

Cooperation and co-management between governments and youth organisations will be the main tools for the implementation of the Agenda, along with an active use of existing institutions and research centres dealing with youth research and knowledge of youth. In this latter field, cooperation between youth researchers and policy makers is encouraged

and actively supported.

FUTURE OF THE AGENDA 2020

The Agenda invites the youth sector to review and also revise its work in cooperation with youth stakeholders, policy makers and researchers. Both individual and youth organisations are encouraged to take a number of actions aimed at attaining the goals contained in the Declaration. These actions touch on issues following within the previously mentioned domains:

- 1) Human rights and democracy
- 2) Living together in diverse societies
- 3) Social inclusion of young people

POSSIBLE PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

These include (amongst the others): NGOs, local and regional authorities, educational and cultural institutions, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum and private bodies.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

A number of documents are mentioned, including the Revised Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life.

Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life
Adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

SUMMARY

The revised charter followed the adoption of the first European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life which was enacted in 1992. Ten years later, in 2002, the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in partnership with the Council of Europe's Directorate for Youth and Sport, organized a conference in Krakow in order to evaluate the progress made in the field of youth participation during the previous decade and at the same time to point to future lines of action. Along with the Krakow Declaration advocating the need for enhancing youth participation at the local and regional levels, participants in this conference appointed experts for amending the European Charter in light of recent socio-economic changes and challenges such as the rise of an Information Society and the increased sense of urban insecurity. The revised charter was issued in 2003.

The Charter is divided into three parts dealing with

- 1) how to conduct policies towards young people in a number of areas
- 2) how to further the civic participation of young people
- 3) how to provide institutional conditions for young people

The Charter starts with a Preamble in which emphasises the fact that youth policy is aimed not only at developing active citizens or building democracy for the future, but also at creating conditions allowing young people to exert an influence on the political process when they are young and not only at a later stage of their life.

A short section dedicated to illustrate the three basic Principles informing youth policy follows.

- 1) Youth policy is part of a broader global policy of citizens' participation in public life;
- 2) all sectoral policies should have a youth dimension;
- 3) youth policies combat the discrimination of particularly disadvantaged minority youths.

The first part of the document focuses on the most relevant sectoral policies addressing youth issues. These policies touch on the following areas:

- 1) sport, leisure and associative life;
- 2) youth employment and unemployment;
- 3) urban environment and habitat, housing and transportation policies;
- 4) educational and training policies fostering youth participation;
- 5) a policy for mobility and exchanges;
- 6) a health policy;
- 7) a gender equality policy;
- 8) a policy specifically aimed at rural regions;
- 9) a policy on access to culture;
- 10) a policy for sustainable development and for the environment;
- 11) a policy to combat violence and crime;

- 12) an anti-discrimination policy;
- 13) a policy on sexuality;
- 14) a policy of access to rights and law.

These sectoral policies are illustrative of the tremendous variety of societal, cultural and economic issues relating to the field of youth policies.

The second part concentrates on the instruments for enhancing youth participation. These are the following:

- 1) training activities and programmes providing the skills needed to participate in public life;
- 2) information and counseling centres helping young people participate in activities and in the life of their communities;
- 3) the use of information and communication technologies;
- 4) the promotion of young people's active contribution to the media;
- 5) the support for young people's involvement in voluntary work and their dedication to community causes;
- 6) the support for young people's projects and initiatives;
- 7) the promoting of youth-based organizations;
- 8) the youth participation in NGOs and political parties.

The third part looks at the structures or arrangements allowing institutional participation by young people in local and regional life. Youth oriented approaches should pursue two lines of action:

- 1) the creation of youth councils, parliaments and forums in which young people assume direct responsibility for projects and play an active role in the related policies;
- 2) in order to make the aforementioned youth structures efficient, local and regional authorities should provide these structures with the necessary space, financial means and material support.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES INVOLVING YOUTH

*Resolution adopted by the Sixty-fourth General Assembly of the United Nations
2009*

CONTEXT

In 2009 the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on “Policies and Programmes involving youth,” for the full and effective implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). This Programme was adopted by the United Nations in 1995 in which ten priority areas were identified and were aimed at strengthening the participation of young people within the decision-making processes at national and international levels. To monitor the implementation of the Programme it has been a practice to issue a Youth Resolution every two years.

CONTENT

The 2009 Resolution deals with eleven key issues directly affecting the youth:

- Armed conflicts
- Drug abuse
- Environment
- Girls and young men (gender equality and young women leadership)
- Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Information and communication
- Intergenerational issues
- Juvenile delinquency
- Leisure time activities
- Youth participation in society and decision making

WORLD PROGRAMME FOR ACTION FOR YOUTH

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions A/RES/50/81 and A/RES/62/126 on 14 December 1996 and 18 December 2007

CONTEXT

Three moments are particularly relevant in the UN's pathway towards youth policy awareness:

- First, in 1965 the UN adopted the *Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples*.
- Second, in 1985 the UN General Assembly observed 1985 as the *International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace*.
- Third, in 1995 the UN adopted an international strategy known as *The World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond*.

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) contains proposals for action, aiming at fostering conditions and mechanisms to improve well-being and livelihood among young people. In its original form, the World Programme of Action for Youth outlined 10 priority areas to be addressed; however, at the ten year review of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, Member States agreed to the addition of five additional issue areas.

CONTENTS

The priority areas identified in the WPAY are the following:

- A. Education
- B. Employment
- C. Hunger and poverty
- D. Health
- E. Environment
- F. Drug abuse
- G. Juvenile delinquency
- H. Leisure time activities
- I. Girls and young women
- J. Full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making
- K. Globalization
- L. Information and Communication Technology
- M. HIV/AIDS
- N. Armed Conflict
- O. Intergenerational Issues

IMPLEMENTATION

In the last section of the document, attention is drawn on the means of implementation. Implementation of the Programme of Action is ultimately the responsibility of national governments with the support of the international community and in cooperation with the non-governmental and private sectors. Translation of the Programme's proposals for

action into specific plans, targets and law will be influenced by national policy agendas. In this process, Governments can be assisted by regional and international organizations. In sum, a three-tier governance structure is required to implement the WPAY: national, regional and international.

Implementation of the WPAY will also rely on the following policy tools:

1.Data collection and dissemination of information

This line of action involves capacities to collect, analyse and present data for effective planning and target-setting, for monitoring issues and trends and for evaluating progress achieved in implementing the Programme of Action.

Major contributions related to data and statistics in the field of youth are currently being made by the United Nations. National institutions are urged to explore ways and means of achieving greater coherence in data collection and the publication of statistics.

Public information and communications are equally important in building awareness of youth issues, as well as a consensus on appropriate planning and action.

2. Research and policy studies

International, regional and national research centres and institutions concerned with youth-related issues are urged to consider the possibility of establishing cooperative relationships with the United Nations to ensure effective links between the implementation of the Programme of Action and relevant research and studies.

3. Planning and coordination

Programming and coordinating activities concerning youth, interested bodies and organizations of the United Nations system are urged to review their medium-term planning process to give appropriate consideration to reinforcing a youth perspective in their activities. They are also urged to identify current and projected programme activities that correspond to the priorities of the Programme of Action so that these activities can be reinforced throughout the system. Appropriate attention should be directed towards identifying opportunities for joint planning among interested members of the system so that joint action may be undertaken which reflects their respective areas of competence, that is of direct interest to young people or that responds to priority needs of young people in special circumstances.

4. Technical cooperation

Technical cooperation is an essential means for building national capacities and institutional capabilities. Special attention should be directed towards measures that will serve to promote expanded opportunities for international technical assistance and advisory services in the field of youth as a means of building expanded and strengthened networks of institutions and organizations.

In this context, the United Nations system must continue to assist national governments to ensure implementation of national plans and strategies within the national priorities and programmes to support youth activities.

5. Institutional partnership

A crucial element in implementing the Programme of Action is the recognition that governmental action alone is not sufficient to ensure its success, but rather it should be

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further complemented by the support of the international community. This process will also require both systematic outreach and partnership among the Programme's many constituencies in both the non-governmental and private sectors.