The newsletter from the joint project between European Youth Forum and the National Youth Council of Ireland, on the Irish Presidency 2013.

No. 2
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Introduction

Welcome to the 2nd Youth Flash from the Irish Presidency! 😊

Unbelievably, we have less than 100 days of the Irish Presidency remaining before Lithuania takes on the role and the responsibility.

The Irish Presidency has already had a number of achievements in the broad policy area and, in brief, these include:

- Negotiations on the EU budget – the Multiannual Financial Framework are on track
- Real progress has been made in addressing youth unemployment
- Broad agreement to pursue negotiations on an EU-US Trade and Investment agreement
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the so called ‘Two Pack’ of economic governance legislation and on overhauling banking regulations
- Agriculture Ministers responded decisively to the mislabelling of meat products
- The European Year of the Citizen was launched

This newsletter provides a summary of key youth and youth-related developments, events and activities that have occurred since the end of January.

If you have any comments or questions on anything you see or read in this Youth Flash, please feel free to contact Valerie, the Presidency Project Officer via eupresidency@nyci.ie

Enjoy 😊
Youth Employment Initiative & Youth Guarantee

Unemployment when young has been shown to have lasting negative effects throughout a person’s life, which makes it imperative to tackle the youth unemployment crisis in Europe

Irish Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton

The European Council on February 8th, announced a Youth Employment Initiative amounting to €6 billion for the period 2014-2020 to support measures aimed at addressing youth unemployment and in particular to support the Youth Guarantee.

There was much delight for the Irish Presidency when the EU Ministers agreed an EU-wide Youth Guarantee as part of a Youth Employment Initiative at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) Council meeting in Brussels on 28th February chaired by Irish Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton.

The budget for the Youth Employment Initiative (Youth Guarantee) is proposed to be €6 billion for the years 2014-20 open to all regions with a level of youth unemployment above 25% and will particularly target those young people who are not in education, employment or training.

The Youth Employment Initiative will be complementary to operations undertaken at national level, including those with European Social Funding support, with a view to setting up or implementing the Youth Guarantee Schemes. Member States will be required to design the scheme according to national, regional and local circumstances and take into consideration that young people are not a homogenous (similar) group and address the risk of cycles of inactivity.
Key factors supporting this Initiative:

- The EU Youth Unemployment rate was 23.6% in January 2013 - more than twice the adult rate
- 7.5 million Europeans aged 15-24 years are neither in employment, education nor training representing 12.9% of all young Europeans
- 30.1% of those unemployed and under 25 years of age have been out of work for more than 12 months
- Youth unemployment now exceeds 25% in 13 of the EU's 27 member states, while more than half of those aged 15-24 in Spain and Greece are out of work
- There are significant skills mismatches on Europe's labour market
- Despite the crisis, there are over 2 million unfilled vacancies in the EU
- Finland has had a youth guarantee system in place for some time. The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions found that, in 2011, 83.5% of young Finnish jobseekers received an intervention within three months of registering as unemployed
- The Youth Guarantee will help reduce youth unemployment and in the long-term lower that cost, improving the budgetary position of member states and the EU as a whole
- This will allow the EU to continue to rectify budgetary problems while still acting in a decisive way to tackle youth unemployment
- The EU estimates the economic cost of youth unemployment at around 1.2% of GDP, or more than €150 billion
- The proposed funding will support the Youth Employment Package as outlined by the EC in December 2012
- The EU's Council of Employment and Social Affairs Ministers agreed the Youth Guarantee Recommendation on 28 February
- When implemented, the Youth Guarantee will contribute to three out of the five Europe 2020 targets: increasing the employment rate, reducing the extent of early school leaving, and lifting people out of poverty and social exclusion

The quick implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative is necessary given the need of those countries most affected by youth unemployment. The Youth Guarantee, if successfully implemented by Member States will see young people aged up to 25 years receive a good quality offer of employment, education or training within four months of leaving school or becoming unemployed.

Further work on how this funding will be allocated and its implementation will now be undertaken during Ireland’s Presidency.

For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=101&newsId=1829&furtherNews=yes
Social Investment Package

The "Social Investment Package", aimed at urging member states to prioritise investment in human capital, social cohesion and to modernise their welfare states was published by the EU Commission on February 20th 2013 and presented at the EPSCo February meeting of the Council of Ministers by the EU Commissioner László Andor.

There isn’t total agreement amongst social partners on the Package as many believe it to contain nothing new and that its application will depend on individual Member States which will require Commission follow up.

It is not enough to only have a fiscal response to the current economic crisis. A social response is also required. It is hoped that formal conclusions will be available for the next EPSCo meeting in June in Luxembourg and the Irish Presidency will work with both the Council and the Commission to see how best to give effect to the principles and actions outlined in the social investment communication.

Details of the Package:
The package contains the Commission’s communication on the concept of social investment as providing a direction towards growth and cohesion for the EU, as well as a recommendation on “Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage”. This provides a policy framework for redirecting Member States’ policies, where needed, towards social investment throughout life with adequate and sustainable budgets to support this.

Social protection systems are vital in protecting EU citizens against the worst effects of the financial crisis. Through investment in education and training, they also have a lead role to play in ensuring that citizens are job-ready and in a position to avail of labour market opportunities as the recovery comes.

Welfare systems fulfil three functions: social investment, social protection and stabilization of the economy. Social Investment ‘helps to ‘prepare’ people to confront life’s risks, rather than simply ‘repairing’ the consequences’.

Key factors supporting the Package:
- Europe 2020 sets targets to lift at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and increase employment for those aged 20-64 to 75%
- The number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion has increased since 2008 in 18 out of the 26 Member States for which data are available in 2011 (Eurostat)
- Divergences within and between Member States are increasing
- Welfare systems have contributed to improving social outcomes but are confronted with the consequences of demographic change and the financial and economic crisis
From 2013, for the first time, the size of the population of working age in Europe will shrink, whilst the proportion of older people will expand rapidly. There are now four people to support one person over the age of 65, and this ratio is set to halve by 2040.

Children who grow up in poverty often stay in poverty for their entire lives.

Poor performance in school translates directly into reduced future job opportunities and earnings.

A worryingly high number of young people are not in employment, education or training (NEET), representing 12.9% of young Europeans (15-24 years).

Lack of employment is a serious concern in many rural areas in the EU where young people find it more difficult to enter the labour market or find jobs compared to their contemporaries living in urban areas and big cities.

In addition, women, unemployed people, disabled people and migrants living in Europe face hardship on many fronts including employment and access to labour markets.

For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1044&langId=en&newsId=1807&moreDocuments=yes&tableName=news


EU Budget – Ongoing Negotiations

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), setting the EU’s budget for the next 7 years, has been sent back to the European Council after a European Parliament resolution (http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bMOTION%2bB7-2013-0129%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN) by MEPs rejected the proposed budget. The European Parliament’s President Martin Schultz commented that a new MFF would not be agreed upon until certain conditions are met – such as overall flexibility and an increase of the overall resources available for the EU – and agreed on by a majority in the Council.

It is envisaged by the Irish Presidency that the EU Budget for the next seven years, which should involve almost €1 trillion in EU funds being invested in jobs and growth, will be agreed during its Presidency.

An Tánaiste and Minister Eamon Gilmore indicated that his focus will be on facilitating early agreement so that the new budget, along with its many important spending programmes, can be in position and on time in January 2014 to contribute to economic growth and jobs. These include the Horizon 2020 research programme, the Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policies (CAP/CFP), Cohesion, Erasmus and others. He added
that it was the Presidency’s intention to secure agreement (by co-decision with the Parliament) on all or most of those programmes by June.

It was felt that the MFF agreed upon by the Council of the EU failed to set youth as an overall priority of the budget where education and research were hurt by large cuts under the heading ‘Competitiveness for growth and jobs’ and programmes such as Erasmus for All, which prepare youth for a global economy and help build a stronger future, were ambiguously addressed and could face limitations to their programming. While the MFF did detail a Youth Employment Initiative, the €6 billion allocated is unlikely to even be enough to solve the unemployment problem in areas where youth unemployment is greater than 25%, let alone remedy the EU-wide epidemic. The Council now has an opportunity to remedy these problems and develop a clear vision for the future of Europe and its youth when they reopen discussions on the MFF.

For more information:
See the European Youth Forum’s statement following the European Parliament’s decision on 13th March


Erasmus for All / YES Europe

It would appear that the proposed extended funding for the future EU Youth Programme, known as Erasmus for All, will not be as much as originally requested. Yes, there will still be an increase in funding but it will not be enough to meet the overall ambition of the original Commission proposal and plan that would see close to 5 million people benefit in terms of studying and training in a country other than their own.

Erasmus for All offers more opportunities for mobility, for educational and youth organisation to cooperate and learn from peers and is an important tool for targeted investment into education, training and youth that will contribute to creating sustainable growth and jobs.

According to the agreement on 2014-2012 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) by the Council, the number of participants will drop by one million. This decision has been met with frustration and criticism from youth organisations across Europe and they are now looking with renewed hope towards the budget negotiations that are taking place. The Erasmus for All Programme plays a huge role in giving young people an opportunity to improve their skills through living abroad but also to develop as full citizens and find their space in society.

It is hoped that the budget will be revised upwards to ensure the programme can successfully and wholly meet its targets. In times of economic and social crisis improving young people’s skills and employability by spending time in another country and building relationships with other Europeans should be of a high priority – European Youth Forum
The new programme will be an important tool for targeted investment into education, training and youth and will contribute to creating sustainable growth and jobs – Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth

For more information:  

**Rethinking Education**

On Friday 15th February, the Council of the European Union adopted conclusions on *Investing in Education and Training* following the recent European Commission communication ‘Rethinking Education’. This is an urgent process to address today’s education challenges, particularly for young people.

The conclusions highlight priority areas for education and training reform with emphasis on improving overall skills and competence levels in order to boost employability and reduce youth unemployment.

The Council conclusions invite member states to focus vocational education and training (VET) on potential growth areas or areas with skill shortages and identify young people at risk of early school leaving and provide individualised support. The European Area for Skills and Qualifications and the ‘Opening up Education’ aimed at supporting access and the use of ICT tools in education, are two initiatives proposed in the European Commission’s Communication that are currently being assessed for further implementation.

While youth organisations welcome the promotion of excellence on VET, they call for a focus on ensuring that good quality VET is provided, taking into account the learner’s needs and ensuring that VET is valued positively. The specific reference to the process of validating knowledge, skills and competences acquired in non-formal and informal settings in connection to improving the performance of young people at high risk of early school leaving and with low basic skills is also welcome. Yet, there is still no reference to the place of Non-Formal Education in the education reforms proposed.

Member States and the European Parliament are called to explicitly acknowledge and support the role that youth organisations play in the provision of skills to young people and to consider their value as strategic partners in the implementation of the Council’s conclusion.

For more information:  
Council Conclusions on Investing in Education and Training - a Response to Rethinking Education
Developing Better Quality Assurance in Qualifications Frameworks

Key stakeholders in the field of education met in March to discuss quality assurance and qualifications frameworks, two key features in the development of European education and training.

Hosted by the Irish Presidency, the conference focused on how policy can support educational reform, job creation, economic growth and citizen mobility. Participants met over 2 days to discuss how quality assurance and qualifications frameworks can be used to ultimately lead to more relevant skills for individuals in the labour market with the use of quality assurance to enhance the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning was also addressed. During breakout workshops, the discussion turned to how to integrate those tools at both a national and European level by addressing issues raised at the conference.

Non-formal education and informal learning are both powerful ways for an individual, especially youth, to gain valuable experience and skills. By assuring that these opportunities are high quality, young people have more chances to get the skills necessary to get good employment. If that job requires moving to another country, strong qualifications frameworks will help ensure that skills and training are recognised. The European Youth Forum continues to push for quality assurance and the validation of non-formal education to ensure that youth will have all the competencies and skills they need both for their development as an individual and an active member of society, as well as for their inclusion in social and professional life.

For more information:
Get some background information on the event from this paper about the importance of quality assurance and qualifications frameworks for Europe.

Read the European Youth Forum’s reactions to a council recommendation on validation of normal and informal learning

Find the European Youth Forum’s goals for quality assurance of non-formal education and more here.
Set in the frame of structured dialogue, the EU Youth Conference of the Irish presidency took place in Dublin from 11 to 13 March and focused on the topic of young people’s social inclusion. In preparation for the conference, national consultations involving young people took place between November and February across the 27 EU Member States. These were organised by National Working Groups (including National Youth Councils, Government Ministries, National Agencies and Academics) and International Non Governmental Organisations. The findings of these consultations are summed up in a document, the compilation report where the results clearly show that social inclusion covers a broad range of aspects, from education to employment, access to welfare and equal rights and equal opportunities to participate in society.

For almost all of the young people, social inclusion means that every young person has the rights, resources and opportunities to manage their life with dignity. Creating more jobs
for young people, better access to stable quality employment, equal access to free quality education, guaranteed equal rights for all young people and active involvement in decision-making at all levels as well as equal access to social security benefits and social services are just some of the solutions put forward in the consultations. Youth work can contribute greatly to social inclusion of young people, but the consultations show that more recognition and sustainable support of youth organisations is needed.

The compilation report provided the basis for discussion between young people and policy-makers. Over 150 young people and 100 policy makers from right across Europe took an active part in one of seven workshops that were:

1. **EMPLOYMENT** – Employment Leads to Inclusion
2. **EDUCATION** – Inclusive Education for All Young People
3. **PARTICIPATION** – Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities to Participate in Civic Life
4. **WELFARE** – Access to Welfare
5. **SUPPORT** – Social and Youth Services for Young People
6. **YOUTH ORGANISATIONS** – Youth Organisations and Social Inclusion
7. **QUALITY** – Assuring Quality in Youth Work to Ensure Social Inclusion

The Conference Conclusions are now being considered and progressed by Ireland as the current President of the European Union together with the Presidency partners of Lithuania and Greece. The Conference Conclusions will inform the second phase of the structured dialogue process with young people under the Lithuanian Presidency and will also contribute to the development of a Council Resolution on Social Inclusion to be proposed during the Greek Presidency.

Some of the conclusions, most particularly relating to quality and youth organisations, will help inform Council Conclusions on the contribution of quality youth work to the development, well-being and social inclusion of young people which Ireland will propose through Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald TD, under the Irish EU
Presidency to the Council of Youth Ministers for adoption in May 2013.

The National Youth Council of Ireland wishes to thank everyone who was involved in this first phase of structured dialogue, front of house and behind the scenes. NYCI would particularly like to thank all of those who got the opportunity to attend the EU Youth Conference in Dublin and who gave of their time and expertise to build on the EU wide consultations and produce such concrete conclusions which will inform European policy in the future. Thank you to all of the inputs by young people and youth organisations at the Conference – Hi Rez Youth Centre www.hryouthcentre.wordpress.com; BelongTo Youth Service http://www.belongto.org/; National Association of Youth Drama www.nayd.ie and Bui Bolg Youth Arts Group www.buibolg.com

A special thank you to all of the volunteers who made the Conference run as smoothly as it did 😊

Photographs from the EU Youth Conference are available at: http://eu.youth.ie/content/eu-youth-conference
EU Youth Conference Conclusions

1. EMPLOYMENT – Employment Leads to Inclusion
   - Young people in employment should have the right to equal and fair treatment, especially the right to decent work and salary, non-precarious jobs, training and promotion opportunities and should not face discrimination based on age.
   - To ensure the transition from education to employment, young people should be provided with quality career guidance counselling and job coaching, paid internships and paid apprenticeships of good quality that meet their skills and interests.
   - Financial, administrative and other necessary support, as well as entrepreneurial education and training, should be provided to encourage youth entrepreneurship with an emphasis on green and social entrepreneurship.

2. EDUCATION – Inclusive Education for All Young People
   - To provide a holistic approach to education, sustainable frameworks that ensure collaboration between formal and non-formal education and learning should be established, whilst platforms between schools, universities, youth organisations and non-formal learning providers are also developed.
   - Secure equal access to free and good quality education from primary to tertiary level for all young people, including those with citizenship other than that of the country of residence, and others at risk of social exclusion.
   - To build a culture of understanding, acceptance and respect, education systems must promote participation in decision-making, diversity and inclusion rather than focus solely on exams and certificates. This should also be reflected in everyday school practices.
3. PARTICIPATION – Equal Rights & Equal Opportunities to Participate in Civic Life

- International legal provisions grant young people rights. It is essential that all young people have equal access to these rights and are provided with equal opportunities to fully participate in society.

- Young people often experience multiple discrimination on grounds such as age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, and gender identity. Therefore an Anti-Discrimination Directive¹ should be adopted by the EU and implemented and evaluated at all levels.

- Young people are demotivated to participate, and under-represented, in democratic life. They should be encouraged and empowered through education, civil society and representative institutions. Existing and new tools should be developed to enhance youth participation in policy making.

4. WELFARE – Access to Welfare

- In order to meet young people’s needs and to ensure coherent welfare policies and equal access to welfare systems, cross-departmental and cross-sectoral cooperation on and between local, regional, national and European levels should be strengthened.

- Young people must be guaranteed social rights, in particular equal and free access to mental and physical healthcare and affordable, decent housing.

- Young people should be provided with youth-friendly information, guidance, financial support and training on employment, migration, healthcare, housing, etc. at an accessible “one stop service”. This should also serve as a place for dialogue between generations and with social partners.

5. SUPPORT – Social and Youth Services for Young People

- Youth services, social services and formal education institutions should work together with young people and their families to prevent the social exclusion of young people.

- Quality psychological support and counselling in formal and non-formal education settings, including youth centres, information and counselling centres, should be enhanced and tailored to the specific needs of youth groups, especially those who are socially excluded.

¹ See proposed Council Directive of 2008 (426) final:
All media, traditional and social, should be better utilised to increase visibility of, access to and awareness of youth work in order to engage more diverse groups of young people.

6. YOUTH ORGANISATIONS – Youth Organisations and Social Inclusion

- In order to reach out to more diverse groups of young people, especially those at risk of social exclusion, youth organisations should create and continuously update their support structures, working methods and channels of communication.

- Youth-led organisations and democratic, representative youth structures should be actively involved at local, regional, national and European level, from the initiation, in the creation, deliberation, implementation and monitoring of policies that affect young people’s lives.

- Youth organisations should be recognised for their contribution to the social inclusion of young people through non-formal education and learning, which provides necessary skills and competences for active citizenship.

7. QUALITY – Assuring Quality in Youth Work to Ensure Social Inclusion

- Recognition of youth work should be ensured at EU and national level through participatory policy development, sustainable financial support, an institutional framework and development of evidence in order to acknowledge the impact of youth work on social inclusion and across different policy fields.

- To foster social inclusion, the development of self-assessment frameworks for quality assurance in youth work should be encouraged. Such frameworks should be progressively implemented, supported and communicated, and involve all stakeholders in the youth field.

- Young people should always have a decisive role and voice in shaping youth work, as a safe and inclusive space for them to be empowered, co-decide, grow and contribute to social change.
Additional Comments:

Ms Chiara Gariazzo, Director for Youth and Sport, European Commission said: “In addition to unemployment there is a need to address the wider social consequences of the current crisis on young people: the theme, “Social Inclusion”, of the EU Youth Conference is therefore particularly relevant. This is an issue where youth work can make a difference and the Commission welcomes the proposal of the Irish Presidency to focus the exchanges among Directors-General for Youth on this theme.”

Peter Matjašič, President of the European Youth Forum stated: “We are pleased to see that the joint discussions of young people and policy-makers at the EU Youth Conference reflect the social inclusion needs of young people today; especially regarding the transition from education to employment with quality career guidance counseling and paid internships. The conclusions emphasise the role youth organisations play in the social inclusion of young people and should be recognised for their contribution. It is very important that there is agreement that young people should always have a decisive role in shaping youth work.”
Bui Bolg – Youth Arts Group. www.buibolg.com
In addressing the issue of social inclusion, Mary Cunningham, Director, National Youth Council of Ireland noted: “Social change is possible when we start working together and, as the inspirational young people from Hi-Rez Youth Centre reminded the conference yesterday that tackling social exclusion is everybody’s business. Youth organisations have a key role to play in helping young people change the way they feel about social exclusion and in showing how all young people can be included and be comfortable being themselves – whoever they are”.

“In during the three days of this conference more than 700 babies will have been born in Ireland – too many of these will be counted among the socially excluded now and in the future. To effect real change we must address the structural issues that sustain this reality and ensure that ‘social inclusion’ becomes the central piece in the social policy jigsaw puzzle both here in Ireland and across the EU,” she concluded.
"The younger you are in Europe, the harder it is" - Peter Matjašič

Peter Matjašič is President of the European Youth Forum and was a guest speaker at the EU Youth Conference in Dublin, 11 March 2013.

The numbers are clear: youth unemployment is over twice that of the adult population, with one in five young people unemployed in Europe. Young people are 4 times more likely to be in precarious work, 21% are living at risk of poverty compared to 16% average population and 14 million young people are currently not in employment, education or training (NEETs) with figures continue to rise.

This shows how dramatic the vulnerability of young people is in Europe today and why the focus of the EU Youth Conference on social inclusion is so timely. Young people today are the most educated generation ever, familiar with new technologies, more mobile and open to new opportunities, but they face a higher risk of social exclusion than their parents.

Young people constitute an integral part of European societies and we need to make sure to avoid having a ‘lost generation’.

The EU Youth Conference is just the final phase of a wide consultation that touched upon all 27 EU Member States, thanks to the work of the National Working Groups and youth organisations.

The results of these consultations speak for themselves: young people feel and often are discriminated because of their age; some groups of young people face multiple discrimination on the ground of ethnic origin, migrant status, religion and/or sexual orientation. Many experience harassment and bullying on a daily basis at school, they are discriminated in social and health care services and feel overlooked or negatively stereotyped in their community and in society in general. Young people feel they are not granted the rights and opportunities they deserve.
The cost of all this is becoming unbearable: social inclusion of all young people needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner based on the real needs and barriers faced by them. Young people when consulted think free-of-charge quality education for all as well as more scholarships to support youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and effective policies to combat discrimination and bullying at school could be part of the solution. Also, they call for minimum standards for employment: a minimum income, equal access to social protection systems and to quality public healthcare as well as the adoption of anti-discrimination regulation at EU level.

Youth organisations play a fundamental role in the active inclusion of all young people, reaching out to those who are often beyond the reach of many public services. They give youth a voice, a role in the community and counteract the isolation that is associated with social exclusion. But youth organisations alone cannot solve all problems associated with social exclusion of young people. We need strong political commitment at all levels, from local and national to European.

We need integrated actions that are able to structurally tackle the problem, decrease inequalities and promote youth autonomy through employment and social inclusion policies. We need effective coordination of policies in the areas of equality, non-discrimination, employment, education, social welfare and youth. Youth mainstreaming and cross-sectorial cooperation between ministries and different levels of government is an absolute necessity to promote the social inclusion of young people.

Above all, if we are to overcome the exclusion of young people, concrete effective investment in young people is urgent: in their education, in enabling their autonomy, in allowing them to enter and remain in the labour market and in quality jobs, and in ensuring that they can successfully combine their professional and private lives.

This is why the European Youth Forum calls for more funding and a guaranteed right to equal access to quality education, both formal and non-formal, for all young people. We call for supporting the transition from education to quality jobs through policies and measures that ensure decent conditions for young people in the labour market, promote autonomy and fight precariousness. Finally, we call upon the EU to adopt the necessary legal tools to fight discrimination and social exclusion, to adopt an Anti-Discrimination Directive campaign at EU level.

Recently, all 27 EU Employment Ministers endorsed the youth guarantee scheme, a long-lasting demand of the European Youth Forum and one of the priorities of the Irish Presidency. After this important first step, we need immediate steps to follow to turn the inclusion of young people from rhetoric into reality. We need to mainstream ‘youth’ in all the policy areas that concern them to bring consistency in European policies and achieve coordinated strategies for the inclusion of young people in society.

Europe Union and Member States need to urgently take action to improve the situation of young people in Europe, need to invest in youth and make youth a priority now!
More Information on the Irish Presidency?

If you wish to view additional Irish Presidency information, please check out www.eu2013.ie website or follow the Irish Presidency on Twitter @eu2013ie and #eu2013ie where detailed information will be available.

Contact the EU Presidency Project Officer, Valerie Duffy, at eupresidency@nyci.ie

National Association of Youth Drama - www.nayd.ie
Funding Potential!!

**Recommend for Structured Dialogue and other Youth Events**

Youth in Action Programme – Deadlines

(According to the Programme Guide valid as of 1 January 2013)

Applications must be submitted for the deadline corresponding to the start date of the project. For projects submitted to a National Agency there are three application deadlines per year:

Projects starting between Application deadline
1 May and 31 October 1 February
1 August and 31 January 1 May
1 January and 30 June 1 October

For projects submitted to the Executive Agency there are three application deadlines a year:

Projects starting between Application deadlines
1 August and 31 December 1 February
1 December and 30 April 1 June
1 March and 31 July 1 September

The European Youth Forum
The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is the platform of youth organisations in Europe. Independent, democratic and youth-led, it represents 98 National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations from across the continent. The Forum works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations towards the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.
Website: www.youthforum.org  Twitter: @Youth_Forum  #yfj
https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanYouthForum

National Youth Council of IRELAND
The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), founded in 1967, is the representative body for national voluntary youth work organisations in Ireland. It represents and supports the interests of around 50 voluntary youth organisations and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people. It seeks to ensure that all young people are empowered to develop the skills and confidence to fully participate as active citizens in an inclusive society. NYCI's role is recognised in legislation through the Youth Work Act 2001 and as a Social Partner in the Community and Voluntary Pillar.
Website: www.youth.ie  Twitter: @nycinews
https://www.facebook.com/NationalYouthCouncil

This newsletter has been created from the joint project between European Youth Forum and National Youth Council of Ireland, on the Irish EU Presidency.