YOUNG VOICES
Have Your Say

YOUTH CHECK!

A JOURNEY towards POLITICAL PARTICIPATION led by YOUNG PEOPLE

nyci national youth council of ireland
COMHAIRLE NÁISIÚNTA NA NÓG

An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

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This is part of the European Structured Dialogue process which gives young people an opportunity to influence decisions affecting their lives.

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The EU Structured Dialogue Cycle

For more information on the process in Ireland see youth.ie/youngvoices

Exploration

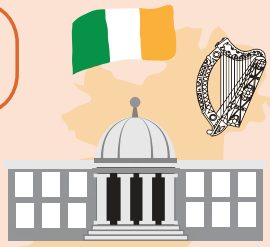
Consultation

The Structured Dialogue Cycle

Implementation

Recommendation: To develop an impact assessment tool

This where the Youth Check project began!



National Level

European Level

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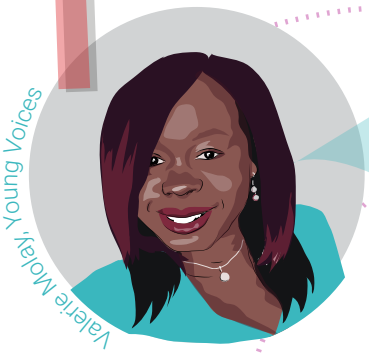
Youth Check - a journey towards political participation led by young people

January 2016

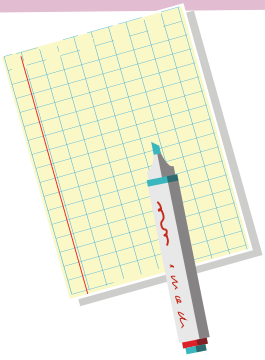


In 2016 a group of young people met four times to consider the work, outcomes and recommendations from the Structured Dialogue Cycle IV and explore ways of implementing these recommendations at a national level. The theme was 'Youth Empowerment for Political Participation'.

Ultimately it was decided that the group would explore the potential for a 'Youth Check' in Ireland as something that would contribute very positively in terms of young people's participation in politics. It had been done in other EU countries and the group felt that if implemented in Ireland it would be a very significant outcome for young people and a real recognition for the potential of Structured Dialogue as a process.

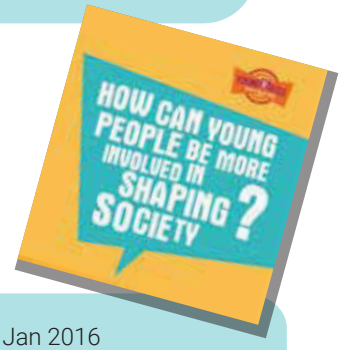
A core group of people from Young Voices took responsibility for undertaking research, connecting with other Youth Councils in Europe, attending seminars and gathering as much information and insight as they could.

It was decided that an Irish 'Youth Check' would need to be aligned with the "Better Outcomes, Brighter Future" national policy framework (BOBF) for children and young people. This made sense and seemed to have a natural synergy.



Feb 2016

THE YOUTH CHECK JOURNEY



Jan 2016
Outcomes and recommendations from the Structured Dialogue Cycle IV, 2015- 2016:
"Youth Empowerment for Political Participation"

Presenting to the BOBF Advisory Council

An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Getting support from a policy unit within the DCYA

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Young voices group supported by NYCI prioritise youth check

BETTER OUTCOMES BRIGHTER FUTURES

Achieving full potential
Physical & mental wellbeing
1
2
3
Safe from harm

Linking Youth Check to BOBF

Economic security & opportunity
4
5
Connected, respected & contributing to their world

January 2016

SO: WHAT IS A YOUTHCHECK?

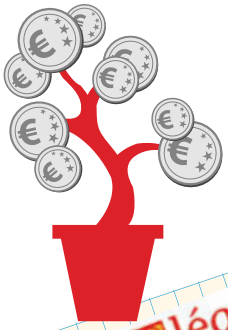
Youth Check is an impact assessment tool designed to consider the impact on young people & children of any new Policy or Legislation that is relevant to them.

Undertaking research, connecting with other Youth Councils in Europe, attending seminars and gathering information.

Inviting policy makers

May 2017 Youth Check International Seminar Dublin

Sept 2017
Presenting to the Policy Consortium



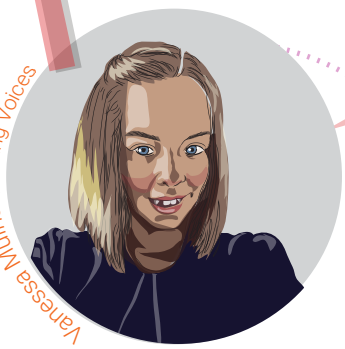
Application to Leargas for international seminar

Refining the proposal for Youth Check Ireland

Sept 2016
Presenting the Youth Check concept to the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium in the Dept of the Taoiseach

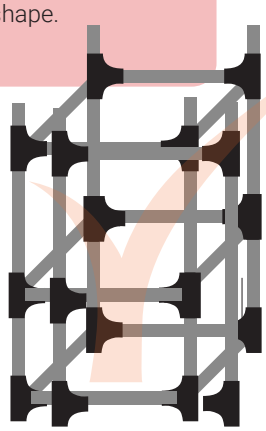
May 2017: Meeting Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone.

April 2016



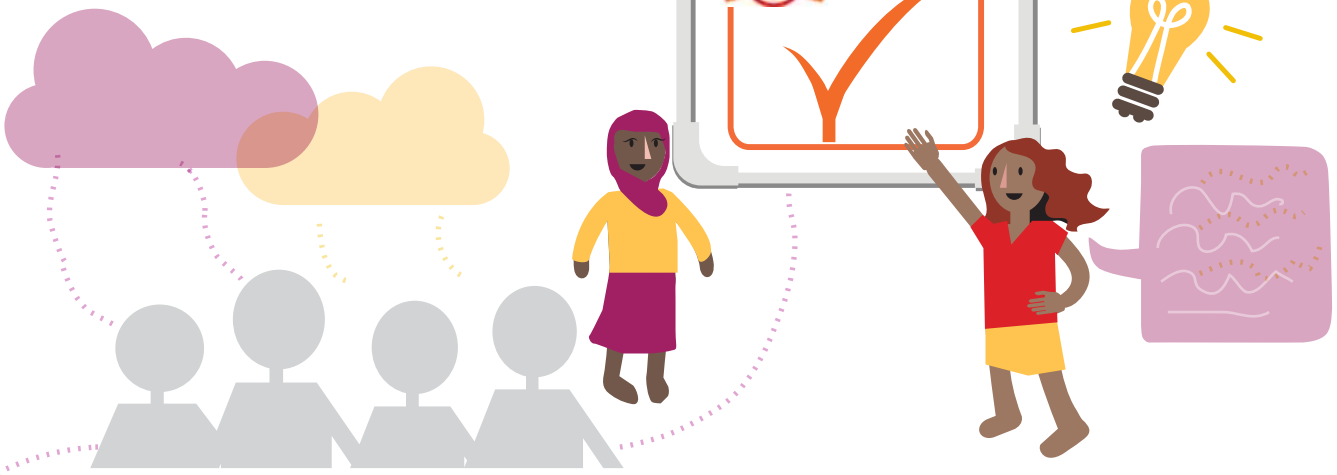
Vanessa Mulhall, Young Voices

In April 2016 some representatives of Young Voices presented to the BOBF Advisory Council for children and young people. The feedback was very positive in relation to Youth Check and an offer of support came from the Policy Innovation Unit within the DCYA. The work on the architecture of Youth Check in Ireland began to take shape.



Nengi Benstowe, Young Voices

In late September 2016 another group of representatives from Young Voices presented the Youth Check concept to the Children and Young Peoples Policy Consortium in the Department of the Taoiseach. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. The young people asked for an endorsement to go away and work for a year on the Youth Check model and present again in September 2017.



Cárthach Ó Faoláin, Young Voices

A huge amount of work was done by the group of young people with support from NYCI and the Policy Innovation Unit in DCYA. The group felt in late 2016 that an international seminar might be the final piece in the design of Youth Check Ireland. An application to Leargas was made by the young people whereby an invitation to partner countries who have experienced Youth Check to come to Ireland and present their story was issued.

léargas

The plan was to host an international seminar with presentations and speeches from EU partners and invited guests from decision-making structures in Ireland on day one and then hold a meeting in DCYA with the Policy Innovation Unit and NYCI along with our international partners and representatives from Young Voices on day two.

In May 2017 the Youth Check Seminar was held in Dublin. International partners from Austria, France & Belgium (Flanders) were invited along with young people and youth organisations. In attendance were Senators Alice-Mary Higgins and Fintan Warfield, Pia Janning from Leargas, Deirdre Toomey from IHREC (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission) and Jim Daly TD, chair of the Oireachtas committeee on Children and Youth Affairs. A very interesting and productive two days have really placed the Young Voices group in a position now where they are ready to refine their proposal for Youth Check Ireland and present it to the Policy Consortium in September.

YOUTH CHECK IN EUROPE

At the Youth Check Conference we were joined by partners from Austria, Belgium Flanders and France with different models of Youth Check.

So... What did we learn from them?

In Flanders (Belgium)

√ Developed from a Rights-Based Approach
√ Needs to be included early in the policy-making process
√ Benefitted from advice and counselling by youth department
√ Has resulted in constructive, permanent recognition of young people's needs.
√ Facilitates cross-sectoral youth policy

In France

√ Requires consideration for alternative proposals
√ Architecture is clear and easy to follow

In Austria

√ Develops awareness that youth issues are cross-sectoral
√ It is now part of the National Youth Strategy – on the long-term agenda

What do policy-makers say about Youth Check?

Youth Check is about young people channeling contemporary imagination into government policy. Young people can no longer be left out of the conversations, they are at the cutting edge of change.

Senator Fintan Warfield

We are at a moment when we are re-thinking how to do policy.
It is a chance to be ambitious about how we reframe that and I hope the DCYA will be at the centre of driving that.

Senator Alice-Mary Higgins

Youth Check is part of an evolving story about how we can involve young people in our decision making. It is key to get young people involved in politics at a younger age.

TD Jim Daly, chair of Oireachtas Committee on Children & Youth Affairs

It is really useful to use a tool like Youth Check at the beginning of a process, the development stage. Youth Check has the potential to dig a little deeper, raise the less obvious issues.

Deirdre Toomey, Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission

(We should) recognise in the pre-process, young people want to inform the agenda.

Senator Alice-Mary Higgins

European policies should be responding to the needs of ALL young people. Young people must be involved in finding solutions and more effective responses to the challenges we face.
Government have an obligation to support young people to have their voices heard and to be part of deicsions that affect their lives.

Pia Jannings, Léargas

Young Voices is part of the European Structured Dialogue process that gives young people aged 15 to 30 and youth organisations an opportunity to influence decisions affecting their lives. The EU Structured Dialogue process is a means of mutual communication between young people and decision-makers in order to implement the priorities of the European youth policy cooperation and to make young people's voices heard in the policy-shaping process.

National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) The National Youth Council of Ireland is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. It uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people. www.youth.ie

Department of Children and Youth Affairs was established in 2011 and focuses on harmonising policy issues that affect children in areas such as early childhood care and education, youth justice, child welfare and protection, children and young people's participation, research on children and young people, youth work and cross-cutting initiatives for children.

The National Working Group on Structured Dialogue in Ireland has representatives from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Leargas, the academic community and young people who have participated in the Structured Dialogue process. The role of the working group is to oversee the process in Ireland and to support implementation on young people's recommendations.

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