

Explanatory note 10th cycle EU Youth Dialogue

1/7/2023 – 31/12/2024 Spain – Belgium – Hungary

#EYG3 - Inclusive Societies

The present Explanatory Note lays down the foundations of the 10th cycle of the EU youth dialogue. It was drafted within the remit of an informal European Steering Group convened by the trio Spain, Belgium and Hungary in order to prepare the cycle. This informal group met on five instances (2022 – 2023) in order to set common objectives for the cycle. These objectives, reproduced below, contribute to furthering the implementation of the rights and values enshrined in the treaties, particularly those expressed in Article 2 TEU¹ and Article 165 (2) TFEU;² the European cooperation in the field of youth, as encapsulated in the EU youth strategy 2019-2027;³ and the EU Work Plan Youth 2022-2024⁴ (annexed to the strategy). The work undertaken was further guided by two researchers on inclusion and outcomes / results in the EU Youth Dialogue conducted by the EU-CoE youth partnership.

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1. Background and rationale

Definition | The EU Youth Dialogue (hereinafter EUYD) is a forum for continuous joint reflection and consultation of young Europeans on the priorities, implementation and follow-

¹ “The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.”

² “2. Union action shall be aimed at: [...] — encouraging the development of youth exchanges and of exchanges of socio-educational instructors, and encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe, [...]”

³ Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting with the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Strategy 2019-2027, available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2018.456.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2018%3A456%3AFULL

⁴ Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the EU Youth Strategy Work Plan 2022-2024, available at [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42023Y0526\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42023Y0526(02))

up of European cooperation in the field of youth. Next to its specific policy objectives,⁵ the dialogue supports the implementation of EU youth policy and constitutes the most important and most elaborate youth participation mechanism in policy-making in the Union. This participatory process with young people and youth organisations involves policy and decision makers, as well as experts, researchers and other relevant civil society actors from all over the European Union.

Cyclical approach | The dialogue is organised in 18 months' work cycles during which national consultations of young people and youth organisations are conducted across Europe on a specific topic. Supported by Erasmus+, each chairing trio presidency organises also an EU youth conference during the cycle. Furthermore, the EUYD is an on-going process that builds further on the results of prior cycles in order to ensure a permanent communication line with Europe's youth.⁶

10th cycle | The 10th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue will run from 1 July 2023 until 31 December 2024 under the trio Spain - Belgium - Hungary. In 2010, the same trio envisaged the dialogue for the first time as a 'Structured Dialogue' with young Europeans. In 2023-2024, the dialogue will reach its 10th round in which the founding fathers and mothers of the dialogue will team up again. This provides the opportunity to define and develop it further with the ambition to achieve a more comprehensive – and thus more meaningful – exchange between policy / decision-makers and young people in Europe. To celebrate the cycle in an impactful manner, the trio aims to develop concrete tools to give an incentive for quality improvement of the EUYD: increase visibility, accessibility and inclusiveness, as well as striving for more youth participation. This cycle is also an occasion to look back at the achievements and the impact of previous cycles, as well as develop input for quality improvement for the future dialogue.

Aims | Building on the experience of previous cycles and setting the path for the following ones, this cycle aims at:

- Ensuring meaningful and diverse youth engagement throughout the process where young people and youth organisations are involved in the consultation and implementation phases of the process and its outcomes;
- Contributing to the realisation of the ambition of the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 to hold a more diverse and inclusive dialogue between policy / decision-makers and young people, especially those not-listened-to and/or with fewer

⁵ "The dialogue is instrumental in: (a) encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe in line with Article 165 TFEU; (b) promoting equal participation between young women and men; (c) including diverse voices and to ensure openness to all young people to contribute to policy-shaping; (d) bringing about positive change in youth policy at local, regional, national and European level; (e) strengthening young people's' citizenship competencies and sense of belonging to the society and the European Union." (EUYS 2019-2027, annex 1).

⁶ An overview of all cycles can be found on the European Youth Portal https://europa.eu/youth/get-involved/eu-youth-dialogue/previous-eu-youth-dialogue-consultations_en

opportunities in decision-making processes and the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy;⁷

- Celebrating the 10th cycle of the EUYD.

⁷ “Invite Member States to: Support and convey the EU Youth Dialogue in order to include diverse voices of young people in decision-making processes on all levels and foster the development of citizenship competencies, through citizenship education and learning strategies,” (The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, section 2, point a. Engage); “EU Youth Dialogue: Building on the achievements of the Structured Dialogue with young people and youth organisations, a new EU Youth Dialogue will be established, with the necessary tools, with the aim of including more decision-makers and young people, especially those not-listened-to and/or with fewer opportunities in decision-making processes and the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy, fostering their engagement and their political participation with the EU and society at large.” (The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, section 3, point h. EU Youth Dialogue).

2. Thematic framework

Motto | The motto of the 10th cycle is: “WE NEED YOUTH”.

Thematic framework | The topic of the 10th cycle is European Youth Goal #3 on Inclusive Societies:

	<p>#3 INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES</p> <p><i>Background: One third of young people in Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Many do not have access to their social rights. Many continue to face multiple discrimination, experience prejudice and hate crimes. New migratory phenomena brought several social and inclusion challenges. Therefore, it is crucial to work towards the fulfilment of the rights of all young people in Europe, including the most marginalised and excluded.</i></p>
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Goal: Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society.

Targets

- Provide legal protection and enforce international legal instruments to fight against all kinds of discrimination and hate speech, recognising that young people are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination.
- Strengthen outreach of information to marginalised young people, to ensure they are aware of spaces, opportunities and experiences available to them.
- Ensure that all marginalised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion.
- Strengthen the capacities of educators to work with marginalised young people.
- Provide more spaces, opportunities, resources and programmes to foster dialogue and social cohesion, and combat discrimination and segregation.
- Strengthen social support by implementing the right to a living wage, fair work condition, universal access to quality health care, and ensure specific measures for marginalised young people.
- Ensure that marginalised young people are participating in all decision-making processes and are key players, particularly in processes concerning their own rights, wellbeing and interests.

During the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue entitled Europe – what’s next? (2017-2018), more than 50.000 young Europeans identified eleven European Youth Goals as the next priorities upon which the European Union should act. The European landscape has changed considerably since then and the Youth Goals ought therefore to be understood in a new reality.

Societal challenges | #EYG3-Inclusive Societies aims to enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society. Recently, their societal position has been impacted by global crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, as well as the Russian aggression in Ukraine and its ensuing societal and economic impact on European societies, among others. More specifically, in recent years young Europeans identified the following challenges:⁸ persistent

⁸ “According to respondents, the three most mentioned challenges facing the EU are social inequalities (36%), unemployment and environmental issues and climate change (32% each), although migration issues are mentioned by almost as many (31%). [...] One in five (20%) respondents think the public debt of EU Member States is a main challenge, while 19% mention insufficient economic growth or terrorism and security issues (19% each). The aging of the EU’s population is considered a main challenge by 16%, while 15% mention handling global health issues and 12% the instability in the regions bordering the EU. One in ten (10%) regard competition from emerging countries as a main challenge. Fewer than one in ten (8%) think the digital transformation of the economy and of society is a main challenge for the EU. No differences in opinion based on gender

poverty, social exclusion of minorities and vulnerable youth,⁹ health problems (such as Covid and mental wellbeing-related problems),¹⁰ access to quality employment and training,¹¹ the climate crisis,¹² peace and security,¹³ migratory flows (and the associated distribution of resources)¹⁴ and the use of new technologies (including artificial intelligence).¹⁵

These developments put a strong pressure on social cohesion in European societies and on the situation of young people in particular. Strengthening social inclusion and cohesion contributes to the resilience of European societies and of young people, especially young people with fewer opportunities. Aiming at more inclusive societies offers young people the opportunity to take an active role in tackling new challenges. By reaching out to those from minorities, in rural areas, with a handicap, from a socially vulnerable background, inter alia, the EU youth dialogue partners strive to enable all young people to take an active part in and contribute to the dialogue in the fields impacting their lives.

Subgoals | During this cycle, the focus will be on the implementation of sub-targets 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of #EYG3.

Substance | Content wise, subgoals 3 on access to learning environments, 4 on the capacities of educators and 6 on social support will be the basis of the work during the cycle. Instead of focusing on marginalised young people, the activities will address young people with fewer opportunities' perspectives.¹⁶ Moreover, in order to ensure continuity and coherence in the

are observed in the socio-demographic data, but there are a few notable differences by age group: 15-24-year-olds are more likely than older age groups to consider unemployment a main challenge, and along with those aged 25-39, they are also more likely to mention environmental issues and climate change. For example, 37% of the youngest respondents think unemployment is a main challenge for the EU, compared to 32% of those aged 55+." ([Special Eurobarometer 517: Future of Europe \(2021\)](#)).

⁹ "One quarter of young people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion | One quarter (25.3 %) of young people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2021; for people of all ages, the share was lower, at just over one fifth (21.7 %) ([Eurostat: Young people in Europe - A statistical summary 2022](#)).; One of the five most mentioned priorities for the European Union in years to come according to young people in 2019 is fighting poverty and economic and social inequalities (56%)" ([Flash Eurobarometer 478 \(2019\)](#)).

¹⁰ "Overall life satisfaction of young people declined between 2018 and 2021 in nearly all EU Member States. Between 2018 and 2021, the life satisfaction rating for young people aged 16–29 years decreased from 7.7 to 7.5, compared with a decrease from 7.3 to 7.2 for all people aged 16 years or over. Note that the data for 2021 reflect the situation during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted not only on physical health but also on many aspects of life, including education, work, leisure activities, travel and relationships." ([Eurostat: Young people in Europe - A statistical summary 2022](#)); "One of the five most mentioned priorities for the European Union in years to come according to young people in 2019 is improving health and well-being (44%)" ([Flash Eurobarometer 478 \(2019\)](#)).

¹¹ "Just under half of young people in the EU were in employment. The employment rate indicates the proportion of people who are in employment. In the EU, more than two thirds (68.4 %) of people aged 15–64 years were in employment in 2021. For young people, the share was just under half (47.4 %), reflecting the fact that many young people were still in education. The youth employment rate in the Netherlands was more than double the rate in Romania, Spain, Bulgaria, Italy or Greece" ([Eurostat: Young people in Europe - A statistical summary 2022](#)).; "One of the five most mentioned priorities for the European Union in years to come according to young people in 2019 is improving education and training (56%)" ([Flash Eurobarometer 478 \(2019\)](#)).

¹² "One of the five most mentioned priorities for the European Union in years to come according to young people in 2019 is protecting the environment and fighting climate change (67%)" ([Flash Eurobarometer 478 \(2019\)](#)).

¹³ Ibid 8.

¹⁴ Ibid 8.

¹⁵ Ibid 8.

¹⁶ Young people with fewer opportunities is agreed language within the Council that is defined in article 2 of the Erasmus+ Regulation (Regulation 2021/817): 'young people' means individuals aged between 13 and 30; and 'people with fewer

dialogue, this cycle will further the work on social inclusion that was undertaken during the third, fifth and ninth cycles of the structured / EU youth dialogue.

Methodology | In order to support the implementation of these priorities, subgoals 2 on outreach of information and 7 on participation in decision-making processes will serve as methodological baseline: as both sub-targets have already been addressed during previous cycles of the EUYD, and in order to avoid repetition of the work already done, the trio partners agreed that these targets will serve as guiding principles for the process and methodology of the cycle's implementation.¹⁷

From Goals to Actions | The common ambitions of the trio in rolling out the 10th cycle are laid down in annex 1. Throughout this process, concrete recommendations on how to implement this European Youth Goal on European, national, regional, and local levels will be sought. These recommendations will be put into practice, whenever this is possible. In a coherent participation process, young people, youth organisations and policy / decision-makers in the EU discuss topics important to young people and implement dialogue results. This is how European Youth Goals translate into Youth Actions. This cycle should also allow for flexibility in its implementation, depending on the results of consultations for example, but also depending on the current context (e.g., pandemic or other pan-European crises).

opportunities' means people who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, due to their migrant background, or for reasons such as disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could give rise to discrimination under Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, face obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme;".

¹⁷ For example, youth participation in decision-making processes (subgoal 7) was addressed extensively throughout cycle 8 of the EUYD.

3. Principles

The 10th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue is based on the following principles (in alphabetical order):

Accessibility and inclusiveness – With #EYG3- inclusive societies being the theme of the cycle, the activities ought to be accessible and inclusive, ensuring diversity¹⁸ and equity in participation of different groups. In order to walk the talk, the organisers of the EU youth conferences will strive for diversity in the cycle. Additionally, trio presidencies' activities and events ought to be safe, with a zero-tolerance approach towards disrespectful and transgressive behaviour. Anti-harassment policies and structures are in place to ensure an environment in which everybody feels safe to express their opinion and be who they are. What is more, the 10th cycle will use the momentum to increase the visibility of the EUYD and increase knowledge about it beyond the circle of direct participants and "usual suspects". The EUYD needs to be known and recognised in the youth field and beyond (mainstreaming).

Impactful – ensuring an impactful cycle by not only thinking together about what ought to be achieved but also by committing to taking specific actions and practically bringing about change for young people in Europe. Impact during this cycle is also realised through further implementing outcomes and feedback from participants of previous cycles. It is also important to connect the outcomes of the cycle with relevant processes at local, national and European levels, where possible, making the EU Youth Dialogue more visible and more accessible in Member States.

Informed participation – to ensure meaningful discussions and exchanges, participants (both young people and policy / decision makers) need to be well prepared and dispose of information on the Dialogue. Transparency on the process and on the expected outcomes of the cycle towards all involved stakeholders – notably young people who take part in the EU Youth Dialogue activities, but also expectations towards and from policy / decision makers – is a precondition to a successful cycle. Transparent management of expectations of all parties involved is crucial to have constructive exchanges. Appropriate information material and preparation must be ensured, new forms of standardised information provision will therefore be explored.

Meaningful participation – the methodology used for the EU youth dialogue must be youth-friendly and allow for a meaningful dialogue and genuine participation of young people. Additionally, a corresponding participation from the policy / decision makers involved has to be ensured. Whereas face-to-face interaction between young people, youth organisations and policy / decision makers remains crucial, new / digital technologies will be explored to increase outreach and possibilities for interaction. Moreover, direct interaction and exchange with youth policy / decision makers ought to be ensured at the different levels of the EUYD: local,

¹⁸ "Diversity [...] refers to differences of all kinds. Some types of diversity are more obvious than others, such as ethnicity, religion, culture and language. But diversity expands beyond just these aspects. It also refers to different (dis)abilities, educational levels, social backgrounds, economic situations, health statuses, or the place of origin – as described in the definition of "people with fewer opportunities". Understanding diversity – definition ID strategy E+ en EuSC, p11 (available at: <https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-4177/InclusionAndDiversityStrategy.pdf>).

regional, national and European. The discussion and interaction between young people and policy /decision makers on all levels during the Dialogue process must reflect an unfettered engagement: enough time, accessible information, and appropriate methodology shall be provided to enable an open and meaningful / genuine exchange. To avoid 'youth washing', the process shall be transparent to all participants and all those interested. Follow-up of the discussions and of the process shall be provided to participants and interested audience. Where appropriate and possible, policy / decisions makers beyond the youth field need to be involved in order to reach all policy fields impacting the lives of young people.

Meaningful dialogue also presupposes contributing to the continuity of the EU Youth Dialogue in cooperation with the previous and the up-coming trios. Therefore ensuring a meaningful cooperation and continuity between trio presidencies and their respective National Youth Councils, the European Youth Forum and the European Commission in a comprehensive approach throughout the cycle is of utmost importance.

Youth-led – The EU youth dialogue is a youth-driven process. This means that young people and youth organisations are at the core of conducting the dialogue. National Youth Councils, as prominent members of the National Working Groups, play a leading role in preparing, rolling out and evaluating the cycle.

4. Overview/architecture of the process

General overview | During 18 months, three presidencies will work together on #EYG3 in two stages, respectively the consultation / dialogue phase and the implementation phase. At the same time, each chairing presidency is to organise an EU youth conference that is well embedded in and coherent with the process. The EU Youth Conferences play a major role in the EUYD. They are the moments when ideas from young people – as represented by youth delegates – and policy / decision makers are gathered at European level, good practices and advices are exchanged, results of consultations are collected, and concrete political recommendations are formulated. The contents of the three EU Youth Conferences build on each other. In their sequence they foresee an effective and inclusive youth participation process. To make the youth conferences as meaningful and successful as possible, it is important to ensure adequate knowledge and training about the EU Youth Dialogue process for all the participants (including youth facilitators and moderators participating and shaping the EU Youth Conferences).

The three EU youth conferences organised during the cycle are:

- EUYC Spain: start dialogue / consultation phase
- EUYC Belgium: end consultation and start implementation phase
- EUYC Hungary: end implementation phase and translation to policy within the Council of the EU

In order to celebrate the 10th cycle of the EUYD, a celebration moment is foreseen during the programme of these conferences. In order to close the cycle appropriately, a closing event will be organised by the Hungarian presidency in fall / winter 2024. During these moments, research conducted on the EUYD will be presented in order to contribute to shape the EUYD further.

1st phase – the consultation | the consultation phase is to start from the outset of the cycle. This phase initiates the dialogue between young Europeans and policy makers: the content of the consultation is provided by the European Steering Group in the form of guiding questions. The questions are drafted by researchers on the basis of the priorities agreed upon by the trio partners in implementing European Youth Goal 3. The questions are then sent to the NWGs. The ESG also drafts a consultation toolkit that provides more guidance to the NWGs with regard to the methods to be used throughout this phase. The consultations are orchestrated and conducted by the NWGs at the national level and INGyOs on European level: based on the guiding questions drafted by the European Steering Group, National Working Groups, as well as INGyOs, engage the dialogue with young Europeans. Before kicking off the consultation, they start by exploring the theme(s) and prepare the activities. Taking national timeframes and realities into account, NWGs may decide autonomously when to move into the consultation process. Once the activities are launched, this starts the dialogue where young people and policy / decision-makers discuss how European Youth Goal #3 can be put into practice on local, regional, national and European levels. A first roundtable between INGyOs and the EU institutional stakeholders may take place during the dialogue phase. It aims to gather insights into the topic addressed from a pan-European and / or expert perspective.

The consultation needs to comply with the following premises:

- The interaction with young people must be meaningful: informing, direct and personal interaction in activities at the local level (e.g. consultations, informal exchanges, workshops, conferences, etc.);
- Outreach, consultation and interaction ought to be made possible via both analogue and digital tools;
- The exercise must be as inclusive as possible, therefore enabling National Working Groups to consult different networks than the usual ones. Inclusion support measures will be developed during the 10th cycle in order to facilitate the work of NWGs in reaching out to young people with fewer opportunities;
- At the end of the 10th cycle, best practices on reaching these young people will be compiled in a toolkit on social inclusion. Further instructions as to this toolkit for NWGs may be provided during the cycle.

Based on the consultation toolkit for the 10th cycle, special attention is devoted to rolling out a more inclusive dialogue throughout Europe. The trio has committed to exploring means of including more diverse youth voices in the dialogue, notably through the creation of an inclusion toolkit for National Working Groups.

The 1st EU Youth Conference of the cycle will be organised during the Spanish Presidency. The event is integrated into the dialogue phase as the major European level consultation event. There the EU youth delegates discuss how the European Youth Goal #3 can be realised mainly focusing on the European level. This conference may serve to launch the first birthday present for the celebration of the 10th cycle.

After having ran the consultation activities, the NWGs report on their findings at the end of the first stage in order to initiate the implementation phase.

2nd phase – the implementation | this phase relates to the analysis of the consultation phase and the start of the implementation activities in EU Member States. The outcome of the dialogue phase needs to be translated into concrete plans on how to realise European Youth Goal #3 and its targets. The formulation of political objectives at all levels as well as concrete measures of implementation will be addressed. National Working Groups then engage in activities at national level that are responsive to the needs of young people identified during the dialogue phase.

By implementing the outcomes of the consultation process, European Youth Goal #3 is translated into Youth Actions.

At the 2nd EU Youth Conference in Belgium, the results of the consultation process and (possible) available data from any (online) surveys undertaken will be compiled and discussed. Additionally, the second birthday present for the celebration of the 10th cycle may be launched during the conference.

After the EU Youth Conference in Belgium, NWGs and INGYOs make the transition from the phase of dialogue into the phase of implementation, using the results of the conference as input and starting point but also reflecting on the suitability of these inputs to their local,

regional, national and European realities. The implementation will be carried out by all relevant actors. A second roundtable between INGYOs and institutional stakeholders takes place during this phase in order to further develop ideas that were created during the consultation phase for the pan-European dimension.

During the Hungarian EU youth conference, the outcomes of both the dialogue and the implementation phases will be translated into policy recommendations. This is done in order to embed Youth Actions into corresponding policies of the Council of the European Union. Additionally, a final birthday present to celebrate the 10th cycle of the EUYD may be launched.

At the end of the cycle, efforts will be made to monitor and reflect on implementation activities, as well as provide feedback to the 10th cycle's participants.

5. Governance

Stakeholders | The following actors will be involved in the implementation of the dialogue:

- **Young people** – young Europeans participating in the EUYD are at the heart of the Dialogue. Their needs, demands and concerns, their ideas and opinions are captured during the national consultations and discussed in dialogues with the relevant policy / decision-makers at local, regional, national and European level. Possible solutions based on their inputs will be developed and changes will be sought, where feasible; **Youth delegates** are the young people mandated to participate in the EU youth conferences of the cycle and represent the voices of the young people consulted;
- **National Youth Councils** – Youth representation is central in the EUYD. Respective National Youth Councils of the trio partners co-chair the meetings of the ESG together with Ministry Representatives, they are actively involved in drafting the national consultations, they also support the coordination of the ESG work and its meetings and ensure that the EU Youth Conferences are youth-led and in line with the goals defined;
- **European Youth Forum** – The European Youth Forum provides support to the work of the European Steering Group with its expertise and by communicating with the National Working Groups and INGYOs involved in the process, ensuring that they receive the information they need, supporting them to exchange good practices, as well as bringing their concerns and requests to the European Steering Group. Similar to the National Youth Councils involved, the European Youth Forum also assists in the coordination of the dialogue within the European Steering Group;
- **International Non-governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs)** – INGYOs bring in diverse European perspectives to the policy dialogue. They ensure quality input on the transnational dimension of European Youth Goal #3 and provide perspectives of young people from a wide geographical reach through the following activities: to disseminate information about the dialogue and promote active pan-European engagement, contribute to making the EUYD more visible on the European level, collect ideas on how to realise European Youth Goal #3 through roundtables with the EU institutional stakeholders, as well as sharing their expertise in relation to the topic addressed. Youth delegates from INGYOs will also take part in the trio EU youth conferences. The organisations interested in taking part in this process are selected on the basis of a call. INGYOs representing target groups of young people with fewer opportunities are specifically invited to apply and share their expertise and insights;
- **National Working Groups (NWG)** – NWGs are ideally composed of representatives of Ministries, of National Youth Councils, of National Agencies, Youth researchers and other relevant actors according to the theme addressed and of the national context. NWGs put the implementation of European Youth Goal #3 into their national contexts and realities and develop strategies and approaches on how the ideas and inputs of young people can actually be implemented. The aim is to bring the EUYD to relevant

policy / decision-makers and connect it with the right processes in order to make the EUYD a meaningful instrument of participation throughout the whole EU. NWGs are incentivised to reach out to young people with fewer opportunities in their national consultations. They will be provided with guidance and tools to support them in this effort. As the EU Youth Dialogue is a youth-driven process, the National Youth Councils should be leading stakeholders in the National Working Groups;

- **European Steering Group (ESG)** – The ESG governs the process on the EU level by e.g. steering the process and providing the overall guidance of the EUYD; providing input, tools and support for the EUYD implementation where appropriate and ensuring wide dissemination of the EUYD results. Its detailed functions are outlined in the Council Resolution on the Governance of the EU Youth Dialogue.¹⁹ It consists of Trio Presidencies' teams (Ministry and National Youth Council representatives), the European Commission and the European Youth Forum. The European Steering Group may identify other actors to involve in its work in order to better respond to the specific needs of each cycle (e.g. Erasmus+ National Agencies, Youth Researchers, EU-CoE Youth Partnership, SALTO's, etc.);
- **European Commission** – The European Commission supports the preservation of the institutional memory of the EUYD and ensures its continuity. The institution acts as facilitator, for both the work at the national level as well as for the broad dissemination of information throughout Europe;
- **Policy and decision makers (local, regional, national, European)** – in all phases and at all levels of the EUYD, policy and decision makers, but also ministry representatives, should participate and engage in meaningful interaction with participants. Policy and decision makers should be aware of the risk of 'youth washing' and, in order to take the dialogue seriously, ought to avoid this at all costs. Transparent communication on the process and genuine and meaningful interaction is of utmost importance for the credibility and the reputation of the EUYD;
- **European Facilitator** – EU Youth Conferences are supported by experienced European facilitators. The European facilitator is selected by the European Steering Group and its role is to ensure that there is continuity and coherence between different EU Youth Conferences throughout the 10th cycle. This European facilitator will be working on designing and implementing the methodology for the EU Youth Conferences together with national facilitators and organisers from each Presidency country. The facilitator also moderates the EU Youth Conferences;
- **Researchers** – Researchers help developing the methodology for consulting young people, draft the guiding questions, analyse the data collected and draft the report of the consultation and implementation activities. Additionally, the 10th cycle of the EUYD

¹⁹ Resolution 2019/C 189/01 adopted during the Romanian Presidency https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2019.189.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2019%3A189%3AFULL

is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to look back at the achievements and challenges of the past cycles. Two researches will be conducted in the framework of this cycle, with the aim to learn and improve the implementation of the EUYD. Researchers will be involved in discussions of the ESG, ensuring an evidence-based approach in the EUYD cycles.

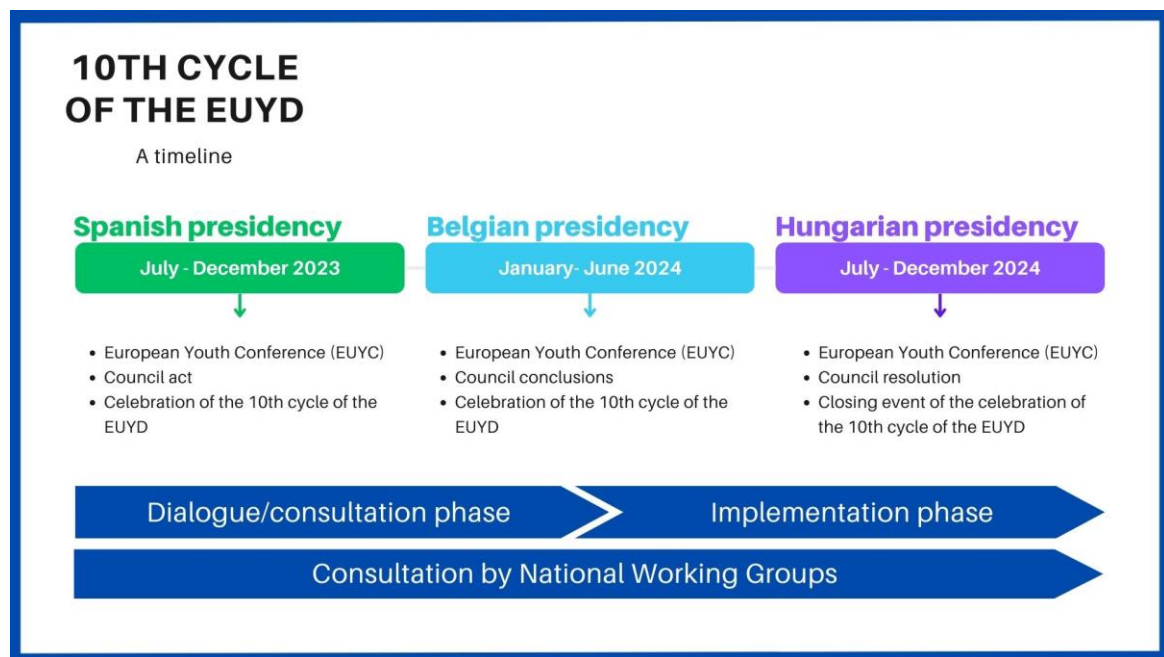
- **Youth workers** – Whereas youth workers have not been assigned a specific role in the EUYD so far, their potential role – especially as a support for the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities – in the EUYD will be explored.

6. Expected outcomes

The overall expected outcomes of the 10th cycle are:

- Preparing and rolling-out the 10th cycle on the basis of co-creation with young people;
- Creating a more diverse and inclusive dialogue, notably through the adoption of an inclusion toolkit for guidance to NWGs;
- Putting #EYG3 into action – youth goals becoming youth actions: deliver young persons' demands, thoughts and ideas to decision-makers both at the EU-level, at local, regional and at national levels in the Member States in the form of Youth Actions on how to implement #EYG3;
- Channelling young Europeans' demands, thoughts and ideas on #EYG3, and particularly with regard to access to learning environments, the capacities of educators and on social support and feed into respective Council documents of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council. As such, contributing to the work of the council in the field of youth through means of co-creation and by adopting a Resolution at the end of the cycle in which youth actions are translated to youth policy;
- Contributing to shape the EUYD process further, notably by adopting new tools geared at improving its implementation;
- Promoting the participation of young civil society in defining and promoting the mainstreaming of the youth approach in public policies within the Union;
- Acting on the basis of evidence, notably on the basis of two researches, evaluating the first 9 cycles of the EUYD and evaluating inclusion in the EUYD;
- Mainstreaming the EUYD in other policy fields;
- Celebrating the cycle;
- Explore possible avenues for a comprehensive communication strategy around the EU Youth Dialogue, and more particularly about the establishment of the function of European Communication Officer for the EU Youth Dialogue and the creation of an EU communication strategy on the EUYD;
- Make use of green and ethical considerations as a source of inspiration in planning, preparing and organising the EU youth conferences of the trio.

7. Timeline, actions and milestones



8. Annexes

Annex I – common ambitions of the trio with regard to the implementation of the 10th cycle

10th cycle EU Youth Dialogue – WE NEED YOUTH

	<p>#3 INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES</p> <p>Background: One third of young people in Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Many do not have access to their social rights. Many continue to face multiple discrimination, experience prejudice and hate crimes. New migratory phenomena brought several social and inclusion challenges. Therefore, it is crucial to work towards the fulfilment of the rights of all young people in Europe, including the most marginalised and excluded.</p>
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Goal: Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society.

The goal of 10th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) is to create the necessary preconditions to enable young people of all walks of life to participate actively in democratic society and to thus contribute to the realisation of inclusive and cohesive European societies.

The presidencies of the 10th cycle acknowledge the heterogeneity of Europe's youth and address the realities of young Europeans in a differentiated way, according to different needs. Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities²⁰ in the EUYD will be a continued focus. The work of the 10th cycle will build on good experiences and results from previous cycles, yet efforts will be increased to reach an even bigger and even more diverse group in the consultations and to possibly include a more diverse group in active roles in the EUYD and the EU Youth Conferences.

When devoting special attention to the needs and realities of young people with fewer opportunities, the 10th cycle will reflect on the various dimensions inhibiting opportunities. Possible barriers to address are those encountered by young people with disabilities, that are struggling with mental or physical health issues, with lower educational background or in a NEET situation, with Roma or migrant background, belonging to ethnic/racial/religious minorities, with fewer socio-economic opportunities, LGBTIQ+, unorganized young people or young people from rural and ultra-peripheral areas of Europe, among others.

In doing so, the 10th cycle will build on information and constructive dialogue to formulate policy recommendations and will create tools to find equitable solutions to create the preconditions for youth engagement.

The 10th cycle will realise these ambitions notably through research, national consultations and EU Youth conferences that are representative of Europe's diversity. The 10th cycle provides concrete tools and methodology to support the EUYD stakeholders to reach out to an even more diverse group of participants.

²⁰ Therefore including marginalised young people, as targeted by #EYG3.

Therefore, the cycle will be implemented together with those who reach young people and work with them, e.g. youth workers, educators, organisations working with specific (youth) groups or INGYOs.

The trio presidencies Spain, Belgium and Hungary will also celebrate the 10th cycle of the EUYD, by acknowledging its results and successes, while at the same time stepping up efforts to increase its quality even further.

In implementing European Youth Goal #3, the following political goals will be guiding:

- Ensure that all marginalised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion.

With regard to this sub target (**sub target 3**), the ambition of the 10th cycle is to identify existing barriers for young people to formal, non-formal and informal learning environments, to determine their specific needs to be able to engage in these and define possible courses of action based on those needs. The 10th cycle aims in particular to include diverse young people in non-formal and informal learning environments.

- Strengthen the capacities of educators to work with marginalised young people.

With regard to this sub target (**sub target 4**), we start from the understanding of the term ‘educator’, which also includes youth workers. Within the 10th cycle, the ambition is on the one hand to explore who young people identify as educators and the needs they have towards them. On the other hand, the 10th cycle will explore the needs of those educators when working with young people with fewer opportunities, in particular strengthen their capacities to identify the needs of young people and to strengthen their responsiveness to those needs. The 10th cycle will focus on how capacity building opportunities can be increased and will actively promote the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn process.

- Strengthen social support by implementing the right to a living wage, fair work condition, universal access to quality health care, and ensure specific measures for marginalised young people.

With regard to **sub target 6**, the ambition is to identify and understand existing barriers (including those based on discrimination and gender inequality) for young people with fewer opportunities in accessing fair working conditions, housing or healthcare. A focus will be put on the necessity of mainstreaming youth policy and of including young people’s needs and perspectives in the relevant policy fields, by focussing on the means to embed and/or amplify young people’s voices. The role and capacity building of youth work and of youth councils in accessing the contemplated rights will also be addressed.

The policy fields that could possibly be considered in implementing sub target 6 are those that have an impact on the lives and realities of young people: youth work, education, employment, leisure time (including culture and sport as means towards social cohesion), public health as well as mental health and wellbeing, housing, infrastructure (mobility, transport, digitalisation, accessibility, sustainable character, energy efficiency, etc.), climate (including environmental planning), as well as services dealing with young people’s autonomy.

At last, special attention will be devoted to youth-friendly information and communication on the 10th cycle and in preparing and rolling out the cycle together in co-creation with young people, in line with **sub targets 2 and 7**:

- Strengthen outreach of information to marginalised young people, to ensure they are aware of spaces, opportunities and experiences available to them.
- Ensure that marginalised young people are participating in all decision-making processes and are key players, particularly in processes concerning their own rights, wellbeing and interests.
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Annex II

ANNEX 1 of the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 on EU Youth Dialogue

1. Introduction

‘EU Youth Dialogue’ means the dialogue with young people and youth organisations involving policy and decision makers, as well as experts, researchers and other relevant civil society actors, as appropriate. It serves as a forum for continuous joint reflection and consultation on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the field of youth [\[1\]](#).

The EU Youth Dialogue is the evolution of the Structured Dialogue process that has been established by the resolution on a renewed cooperation framework in the youth field (2010-2018) and further developed in the following years, accordingly to the results of continuous monitoring and evaluation [\[2\]](#).

The Council resolution on the future development of the Structured Dialogue adopted in May 2017 invited the Member States and the Commission ‘*to undertake a review of the Structured Dialogue process and its objectives for the European Cooperation in the Youth Field Post 2018 and consider innovative and effective ways of promoting meaningful and constructive dialogue and engagement with young people from diverse background, youth organisations, youth researchers and policy makers including stakeholders from other relevant sectors.*’ [\[3\]](#)

2. Objectives of the EU Youth Dialogue

The EU Youth Dialogue should contribute to the overall objectives and follow the guiding principles of the EU Youth Strategy as outlined in the Resolution above.

The specific objectives of the EU Youth Dialogue are to:

- (a) encourage the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe in line with Article 165 TFEU;
- (b) promote equal participation between young women and men;
- (c) include diverse voices and to ensure openness to all young people to contribute to policy-shaping;
- (d) bring about positive change in youth policy at local, regional, national and European level;
- (e) strengthen young people's' citizenship competencies and sense of belonging to the society and the European Union.

3. Implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue

The EU Youth Dialogue should preferably follow work-cycles of 18 months with one thematic priority per cycle that is closely linked to the priorities of the EU Youth Strategy and the European Youth Goals where appropriate.

Every cycle should build on the learnings of the previous one. Continuous follow-up is vital to monitor quality outcomes and the impact in general of the whole process. Procedures for measuring impact, qualitative and/or quantitative, should be conducted throughout all process phases by all partners involved at the appropriate level.

Following the abovementioned objectives, the Youth Dialogue should build on approaches towards participation on different stages:

- (a) Information on participation possibilities as well as on the overall topic, provided from local to European levels;
- (b) Consultation, including online and offline interaction methods as well as evidence-based research results;
- (c) Direct dialogue between decision-makers and young people, building on best practices in methodological approaches developed in the Structured Dialogue so far, as well as on continuous innovation in this respect;
- (d) Continuous partnership in the governance of the process at national and European level, including partnerships with relevant sectors according to the topic of the cycle where appropriate.

4. Governance of the EU Youth Dialogue

The governance of the EU Youth Dialogue should further build on the experience from the past, while aiming at a clearer and leaner process.

To support the implementation and governance of EU Youth Dialogue, diverse partnerships on different levels can be beneficial, for example with Youth Councils, youth organisations and other youth field stakeholders as well as partners from other sectors.

Member States are encouraged to enable youth participation in all phases of implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue by giving, inter alia, a leading role in the National Working Group to the National Youth Council.

[1] Doc. 11865/18, Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing ‘Erasmus’: the Union programme education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013.

[2] Doc. 9264/18 ADD 1 Commission Staff working document on Results of the open method of coordination in the youth field 2010-2018 Accompanying the Commission communication on Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy.

[3] Doc. 9632/17 Council Resolution on the Structured Dialogue and the future development of the dialogue with young people in the context of policies for European cooperation in the youth field, post-2018.

Annex III – reflections on the preparation of the 11th cycle of the EUYD to ensure the continuity and future of the EUYD

[placeholder reflections ESG for the 11th cycle]