

## PRESS RELEASE



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### Migration & youth: a hot topic at the YFJ Council of Members

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) gathered representatives from its 95 Member Organisations, plus from two new youth associations that joined the platform, for the Council of Members meeting (COMEM). The purpose of the event, held twice a year, was to reflect on the work achieved by the youth movement over the last six months and shape the future activity of their platform. This time round, 160 delegates got together on 2-3 May in Barcelona, hosted by the Catalan National Youth Council.

Out of 191 million migrants worldwide, 63 million are aged 15-25, and the percentage of young people migrating to Europe is increasing. The YFJ invited four high-level speakers for a panel discussion centered around migration and youth: Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative & Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Judge Elisabet Fura-Samström from the European Court of Human Rights, Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General at the International Organisation for Migration and Josep González-Cambray, *Attaché* to the Secretary-General for Migration at the Catalan Government.

“Youth organisations can help integrate our migrant peers in society by changing the perceptions of migration in both home and host countries, promoting tolerance, understanding and respect for diversity and advocating for their rights and education”, noted Bettina Schwarzmayr, President of the European Youth Forum.

Besides a policy paper on migration, the European Youth Forum also adopted five other policy documents which are key tools to represent the interests of European youth towards the EU Institutions, the Council of Europe and the United Nations: ‘Youth training -the sustainability of youth organizations through volunteering’, ‘Non-Formal Education: A framework for indicating and assuring quality’, ‘Global education’, ‘Youth employment’ and ‘Youth and the European social model’. In addition, the European youth platform adopted a ‘YFJ approach to child policy’, two resolutions (‘Promoting youth participation in EU development policies for Africa’ and ‘Climate change’), and two urgent resolutions (one on the EU Youth in Action Programme, and another on the controversial Mosquito, a new instrument conceived by adults to chase young people away from public places).

The Italian National Youth Council gained the status of YFJ full member while the Ukrainian National Youth Forum came on board as candidate member and the European Youth Press as an observer.