



# **RESOLUTION ON QUALITY STANDARDS ON YOUTH POLICY**

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS  
/EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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The European Youth Forum understands youth policy as the set of policy measures aimed at supporting the development of young people in achieving their full potential. It covers different policy areas and involves a wide array of stakeholders, both institutional and non-institutional. The European Youth Forum believes in positive youth policy, which is based on the premise that every young person has its own competences and talents. Furthermore, the European Youth Forum values a positive approach to youth policy that approaches young people not as a problem group, but as rights-holders.

The European Youth Forum proposes a set of quality standards for youth policy. The aim is to reach a common understanding within the member organisations of how quality youth policy should look. These standards offer a quality framework to measure the development of policies to support young people. The standards should be a guide to assess and monitor the state of youth policy, while adapting to different contexts (local, national, European) and be used by different organisations. Moreover, it will serve as a reference to base future advocacy work of youth organisations on youth policy, both at national and at European level.

The quality standards focus on the process of youth policy development (creation, implementation and evaluation). They do not aim to set standards for specific policy areas, but should be applicable at all cases of youth policy development as principles without which policies should not be developed or put in place. Therefore, setting process-oriented standards is a first important step to take.

The importance of defining the quality standards of youth policy was articulated through the 2015 - 2016 Work Plan of the Youth Forum. Based on the knowledge of the Youth Policy expert group, and additional input from the member organisations, the Youth Forum proposes a set of eight quality standards, as outlined in this resolution.

### **Eight quality standards for youth policy**

Youth Policy should be based on the following eight quality standards:

- **Rights-based approach to youth policy**

Youth policy should be based on the standards set out by the international human rights framework and follow the principles of equality and non-discrimination. A rights-based approach<sup>1</sup> to youth policy urges policymakers to work towards the long-term fulfillment of youth rights, including the right to participate in defining those rights, and empowers young people by defining them as rights-holders.

- **Evidence-based youth policy**

An evidence-based youth policy means that all stages of youth policy development use and are based on reliable, relevant, independent and up to date data and research, in order for youth policy to reflect the needs and realities of young people.

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<sup>1</sup> European Youth Forum, 2014. [A European Youth Forum definition of rights-based approach.](#)

- **Participatory youth policy**

Participatory youth policy involves all stakeholders, at all stages of the policy cycle, from creation and implementation to evaluation. Stakeholders are youth organisations, young people, and all other organisations as well as individuals who are influencing and/or are being influenced by the policy. Particular attention is paid to participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups among all stakeholders. Mechanisms to ensure that the policy development, implementation and evaluation are participative must be ensured and made transparent.

- **Multi-level youth policy**

Multi-level youth policy means that it is developed, implemented, and evaluated in a coordinated manner between all relevant public authorities from local, regional, national and European levels. The principle of subsidiarity is respected – policies are put in place at the level most effective and closest to people.

- **Strategic youth policy**

Strategic youth policy is based on an overarching strategy or a legal framework built around a long-term vision and consisting of a set of measurable, resourced and time-lined objectives, identified target groups and a clear division of responsibilities amongst the different public authorities for its implementation and evaluation.

- **Availability of resources for youth policy**

Sufficient resources, both in terms of funding and human resources are available for youth organisations, youth work providers as well as public authorities to develop, implement and evaluate quality youth policy. Supportive measures, from training schemes to funding programmes, are made available to ensure the capacity building of the actors and structures of youth policy on all levels.

- **Political commitment and accountability in youth policy**

Political commitment and accountability means that decision makers are taking the appropriate measures to implement youth policy in a transparent way and ensure reporting on their actions in an objective way. Youth organisations and young people are active part of the policy cycle and decision makers are held accountable for their actions.

- **Cross-sectoral coordination**

Cross-sectoral youth policy implies there is coordination among different ministries, departments and public bodies responsible for and working on issues affecting young people, jointly working on the creation, implementation and evaluation of youth policy.

## **Conclusion**

The Council of Members delegates the Youth Forum Board, based on a proposal by the Expert Group, to develop and approve measurable and comparable indicators for each of the standards, complementing and completing the framework and allowing for a thorough assessment of youth policies.