Adopted by
the Board

Brussels, Belgium
19 September 2026

Strategic Plan

European Youth Forum Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Revised edition (2026)

What is the European Youth Forum

We are the voice of young people in Europe. The European Youth Forum empowers young people to actively participate in society to improve their lives. We represent young people and advocate for their rights and interests. As the platform that brings together over 100 youth organisations from all over Europe, we support and promote youth organisations.

In line with the Statutes, the objectives of the European Youth Forum are

a) Being the voice of young people in Europe, representing National Youth Councils (NYCs) and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs) from across Europe;
b) Promoting youth policy as an integrated and cross-sectoral element of overall policy development;
c) Supporting, coordinating and promoting the work of our members and providing help and assistance where needed;
d) Promoting youth policy as an integrated and cross-sectorial element of overall policy development;
e) Promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences, mutual understanding, as well as equal rights and opportunities among young people in Europe;
f) Positively influencing policy issues, especially those affecting young people and youth organisations directly;

Values and principles of the European Youth Forum

The values of the European Youth Forum are: democracy, human rights, intercultural understanding, peace, diversity, active citizenship and solidarity. Our values apply to everything we do and inform the changes we want to see in the world around us. In particular, we are also committed to the following principles and apply them to our work:

Youth Participation

Young people are at the heart of most social movements, leading protests, campaigns, and activism worldwide. However, there is a gap between young people and the conventional democratic institutions. Young people and youth organisations have the inherent right to actively engage in decision-making processes concerning their lives and communities and contribute in a meaningful way to the development, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies. By recognising their unique perspectives and experiences, and by providing spaces and opportunities for their voices to be heard, young people should be empowered to become active agents of positive change, fostering a more inclusive, democratic, and responsive society.

Rights-based approach

The European Youth Forum adopts a rights-based approach to youth policy that integrates the norms, standards and principles of the international human rights system into the development, implementation and evaluation of youth policy.

A rights-based approach should always support young people to claim their rights, striving towards the meaningful and systematic inclusion and empowerment of the most vulnerable. This means ensuring that all policies work for the rights of young people.

Equality, inclusion and diversity

All young people have the right to live in environments, systems and societies that honour diversity and have access to equal opportunities. Young people are far from being a homogeneous group. Accessing rights can present additional struggles when age is paired with intersectional discrimination based on other grounds, including sex, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, social status or financial means. We are committed to fostering our platform as a safe space, enhancing the sense of belonging and empowerment among all young people, by dismantling barriers and biases and actively combatting discrimination in all its forms.

Wellbeing and mental health

Good mental health and wellbeing is crucial to thrive in life and contribute to society. It is an essential component of general health, both outside and in work and education. The holistic wellbeing of young people includes all aspects of physical, mental, emotional, and social health and happiness, which are closely related to the social and economic conditions young people are facing. Protecting and promoting people's wellbeing and mental health is an integral part of any good policy and practice, because it fosters positive societal outcomes and cultivates a thriving and sustainable future for both individuals and the community.

European and Global cooperation

Young people and youth organisations have always been the pioneers of intercultural exchanges and regional cooperation. Establishing a space for the exchange of knowledge, experience and strong European and global collaboration is the key to strengthening fundamental values. We are committed to invest in continuous dialogue within and among youth organisations.

As such, the European Youth Forum positions itself as a pro-European platform, standing for a stronger European cooperation and a progressive integration of more countries into political Europe. The founding values and the European peace project cannot be taken for granted. Europe is facing threats from inside and outside. We are committed to actively protecting these values by promoting them and also by speaking out against the threats.

1. Work area - Democracy

Why?

Young people have been the frontrunners of global activism, preserving values such as democracy, rule of law, equality, justice, and contributing to a more peaceful world. Young people lead organisations, organise protests and run political campaigns, building the new cohorts of the youth community, through educational and political leadership.

Today, young people are as active as ever, mobilised around different causes, yet this active participation is not reflected in institutional politics. Consequently, when young people are not participating in elections, political parties and individual candidates are less inclined to include them and the issues they care about in their campaigns and political programmes, leading to a vicious cycle, eventually distancing young people even further from institutional politics.

Across Europe, younger generations face unprecedented economic, social and environmental insecurity. Many young people feel distanced from democratic institutions and when coupled with this systemic insecurity and undermining of youth rights, extremist and anti-democratic forces prey on this precarity. It is clear that turning to these forces will not address these challenges, instead it deepens division, weakens rights and erodes institutions. Their rise is not inevitable, and it is a force that can be fought.

An open and strong civil society, quality information and critical thinking, remain among the most important safeguards against tyranny, oppression, and other anti-democratic, illiberal tendencies. Yet, civil society organisations face serious obstacles in their work; some even experience fear of retribution from their governments when expressing their views. The shrinking civic space is part of an organised anti-democratic strategy that seeks to limit the capacity of civil society organisations to act as democratic watchdogs. Youth civil society is especially vulnerable to these types of pressure and the shrinking civic space. Facing intimidation and repression, young activists across Europe continue to be targeted for standing up for democratic values.

Resilient democratic regimes uphold and enshrine a rights-based approach to their policies and protect youth rights. Conversely, the preservation of democracy is key for the access to rights of all young people, and continuous investment in understanding and trust of democratic systems is crucial for the progression of our society. Building the trust of young people requires a forward-looking and positive vision for Europe, guaranteeing access to quality jobs, affordable housing and education, embedding youth participation in decision-making at all levels, and actively combating discrimination and democratic backsliding.

Subtopic: Resilient democracies

Europe and the world have faced numerous challenges in recent years, from war and armed conflicts, the shrinkage of civic space for young people and the general decline of politically active citizens, to the rise of authoritarian movements and political extremism, which thrives on polarisation and the erosion of pluralism. Judicial independence, free and fair elections and the quality of public debate cannot be taken for granted, and pro-European democratic political forces must resist attempts by extremist and anti-democratic forces to gain positions of power. Fake news and disinformation, coupled with the fast changing digital landscape, have been shaping the most recent elections, supported by the lack of media literacy, critical thinking skills and media education in formal and non-formal educational structures as well as the spreading of hate speech.

Representative democracy is the cornerstone of making policies relevant to all citizens. Yet young people are the least represented age group in Parliaments and other elected positions from the local to the European level. This number is even further decreasing. As a consequence, young people consider politics as a space for the elite and not all European citizens see representative democracy as a space to participate and have their voices heard. Furthermore, young people from marginalised communities are even more underrepresented, with little to no representation at all in Parliaments and other elected positions.

Only some European governments understand the importance of allowing young people aged 16 to participate in democratic life and decision-making processes, while others are limiting the opportunity to

exercise the active right to vote to young people aged 18 and over only. This brings inequality of access to rights for young people in different parts of Europe and the world. Yet, young people are essential actors in our democracy. Crucial safeguards, such as a strong protected civic space, political pluralism and accessible quality information are crucial for the advancement of the role of young people in our democratic systems and the strengthening of political Europe as a whole.

By 2029 we want...

- Strong, thriving and pluralistic democracies that adhere to the rule of law and human rights to uphold the trust of young people.
- Young people to be more represented in our democratic systems.

How? The European Youth forum will...

- Advocate for political, electoral and constitutional change in Europe to enable young people aged 16 to exercise their right to vote, lower the age of eligibility and encourage and support young people to stand for election.
- Explore how the changing digital world can ensure safe access to quality trusted information and ensure accountability mechanisms in order to support young people to participate in democracy and develop critical thinking skills.
- Advocate, support and engage with pan-European and neighbouring coalitions and initiatives that promote a youth perspective to European integration.
- Advocate for stronger integration among European countries to build a more effective and collaborative Europe for young people and youth organisations.
- Explore the key factors driving decreased trust in democratic institutions and what reforms are needed to help improve trust of young people towards democracy.

Subtopic: Meaningful youth participation

There are many different forms of participation, one of which is sitting at the table with institutions. Going beyond a seat at the table, meaningful youth participation means embedding young people in policy design, mainstreaming and legal frameworks across Europe - resourced and structured so that all young people can genuinely take part, through co-management and institutionalised power-sharing, not only consultation. This requires feedback mechanisms, participation at all levels of governance with clear accountability and follow-up. Real institutional accountability standards that track whether young people's participation in decision-making and in cross-cutting policy that affects their lives needs to translate into meaningful change in order to reach all young people, particularly marginalised communities.

By 2029 we want...

- Meaningful access and participation of young people in decision-making and institutional processes that are transparent and ensure accountability.

How? The European Youth forum will...

- Advocate for improving the institutional participation processes and meaningful engagement of young people in decision-making, including accountability and follow-up actions.
- Advocate for mechanisms co-created with youth organisations to mainstream youth priorities in institutional processes, including and beyond youth policy.
- Promote the involvement of young people of diverse back-grounds, including young people with fewer opportunities, in formal and informal democratic spaces including at a local level.

Subtopic: Youth rights

Youth rights are not something to be granted - they are rights that already exist and must be upheld and enshrined, and made accessible, across legal and institutional frameworks. Too often, the rights of young people are treated as a matter to be debated, rather than as preexisting entitlements that institutions are obliged to protect, implement and monitor. This gap leaves young people, particularly those facing forms of discrimination, without the equitable access and full enjoyment of their rights that resilient democracies should guarantee.

By 2029 we want…

- Institutions to uphold youth rights and stronger mechanisms to protect them to ensure all young people the equitable access and full enjoyment of their rights.

How? The European Youth forum will…

- Advocate for the legal recognition of youth rights to guarantee young people's enjoyment of them by strengthening main-streaming, implementation and monitoring mechanisms.
- Advocate for young people's right to participate and their essential role in fostering peaceful societies, including through the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.
- Support and engage with regional, European and global youth organisations and coalitions that promote youth rights.

To make the European Youth Forum fit for achieving change, we will strengthen our internal culture, processes and structure by:

- Nurturing a culture of political activism and civic engagement that is diverse, inclusive and democratic underpinned by robust safeguarding practices.
- Review and implement a revised motion process.
- Ensuring that our platform is representative of a diverse range of youth voices and needs, acknowledging in particular the lack of representation of marginalised communities, particularly racialised, cultural, linguistic and autochthonous minoritised voices, within our bodies and taking active steps to address the structural barriers contributing to this underrepresentation.
- Commit to overcoming the existing structural underrepresentation of regions such as the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership.
- Improve the debating culture in the organisations and, with that, encourage public debates and plurality of opinions internally and externally.
- Build capacity, work with and support MOs to raise awareness on current threats to democracy and how to counter democratic backsliding.
- Work with and support MOs to promote democratic values, culture and engagement, reaching beyond the young people who are already politically active.
- Support the exchange of practices and offer training, workshops and resources in a wide range of areas to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of youth organisations in promoting democratic and meaningful participation.

2. Work Area - Youth Organisations

Why?

Youth organisations play a vital role in fostering democratic self-organisation among young individuals, providing them a valuable space for personal growth and self-determination. These organisations serve as platforms where young people can actively engage in decision-making processes, voice their opinions, and contribute to shaping their futures. Participating in youth organisations empowers young individuals, builds meaningful connections, and gives them the confidence and tools to take ownership of their lives. Expanding and strengthening the spaces for youth organisations is crucial, as they are instrumental in nurturing active citizenship, promoting social cohesion, and fostering a sense of collective responsibility among young people. By expanding these spaces, we ensure that young individuals have the opportunity to actively contribute to society, shaping a present and future that reflects their aspirations, values, and needs.

Subtopic: Funding for Youth Organisations

Insufficient institutional and core funding opportunities, along with the widespread practice of project-based funding, hinder youth organisations from consistent and self-determined work. For youth organisations to reach out to all young people, further develop and offer quality youth work, and represent the interests of their members, sustainable institutional funding opportunities adapted to the needs and realities of youth organisations are key. Access to such funding would also decrease the organisation's vulnerabilities and dependencies and, therefore, boost the impact of youth organisations' work and their ability to break down the barriers of engagement for young people. Governments have the duty of guaranteeing a thriving civic space.

By 2029 we want...

- Sustainable and inclusive funding for youth organisations.

How? The European Youth forum will...

- Advocate for strong, reliable, and structural funding for youth organisations in youth programmes and in overall public budgets.
- Advocate for funding mechanisms that are accessible to youth organisations across Europe.
- Raise awareness among the institutions about the crucial role and value of the youth organisations, and advocate for increased funding for International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations and National Youth Councils.
- Advocate for funding for inclusion and diversity, and to support youth organisations operating in a sustainable way.
- Advocate for wider accessibility to information and funding opportunities for disadvantaged youth organisations.

Subtopic: Recognition of Non-Formal Education, youth work and volunteering

Youth work, non-formal education and volunteering are pivotal in promoting inclusivity by removing barriers to participation and fostering resilient and democratic communities. Youth work and non-formal education meet young people where they are, offering tools, spaces and opportunities for young people to grow, participate and shape their own lives - and the community around them - as active citizens. By recognising their significance in developing young individuals' skills, competencies, and agency, they offer them unique and transformative learning experiences, especially in cross-border settings. Additionally, learning mobility promotes cultural understanding, multilingualism, and strong European citizenship and values. Such expe-

riences empower young learners to become active citizens, equipped with transversal & intercultural skills and knowledge necessary to contribute meaningfully to our interconnected world.

Yet young people continue to face barriers to engagement, including financial costs, visa and travel restrictions and geographical distance, particularly for rural youth, which limit equal access to these transformative experiences.

By encompassing these elements, non-formal education, volunteering, and mobility empower young people to influence their lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities, ultimately creating a more inclusive and peaceful society for all. For societies in conflict, youth work, non-formal education and volunteering are essential in peacebuilding and community resilience.

By 2029 we want…

- The recognition of the role of youth organisations as providers and policy actors for non-formal education and youth work.
- Increased participation of young people, specifically those with fewer opportunities, in volunteering learning mobility.

How? The European Youth forum will..

- Advocate for the recognition of youth work, non-formal education, learning mobility and volunteering, while defining their distinct and tangible value, through the political, policy and legal instruments of institutions and processes;
- Advocate for increasing access to youth work, non-formal education, learning mobility and volunteering opportunities by addressing the barriers to engagement and participation.

Subtopic: Recognition of National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations

Policy instruments recognise the role of the National Youth Councils and their member organisations as active contributors to youth policy development. It calls for the respect of their specific nature, considers them as essential partners of public authorities in youth policy development, and legitimises their role in this context. Such recognition and involvement in the decision and policy-making processes also require legal recognition of these organisations and financial support from the government.

National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations face various challenges in their access to civic space, by encountering a range of obstacles from local to international level, such as lack of recognition, limited resources, age bias, legal and regulatory hurdles, lack of representation, policy complexity, government restrictions. These hinder their participation in policy and decision-making processes, hampering their ability to effectively contribute to social change and development. Protecting and enhancing this civic space - ensuring youth organisations can operate freely, independently and safely, without political pressure or interference - is fundamental to their ability to represent young people at all.

Cooperation with umbrella youth organisations is essential to the development and implementation of effective youth policy; however, for this cooperation to be democratically valid and for young people's needs and positions to be truthfully conveyed, National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations must be politically and legally recognised, treated as essential rather than optional partners, and fully independent in their work.

By 2029 we want…

- National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations to be recognised as the representatives of young people and treated as equal and essential partners in the decision-making processes on different levels by stakeholders and institutions.
- The civic space of young people and youth organisations to be protected, fostered and supported.

How? The European Youth forum will…

- Advocate for the protection and enhancement of youth civic space.
- Advocate and follow-up on mechanisms and instruments in order to ensure the role of National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations as recognised representatives of young people in decision making processes.
- Provide support and facilitate mobilisation when member organisations are not recognised or the actions of decision-makers jeopardises their functioning.

To make the European Youth Forum fit for achieving change, we will strengthen our internal culture, processes and structure by:

- Being a centre of expertise and support for member organisations to improve access to funding, through coordination networks, training with the European Youth Foundation, coordination with member organisations for the operating grants.
- Supporting members to improve their skill set, knowledge and confidence through training and knowledge sharing on the work of youth organisations, on inclusion, diversity, wellbeing at work, volunteering, and funding.
- Coordinating with members to best call for the validation and accreditation of non-formal education and volunteering, whilst monitoring policy discussions through the political and legal instruments of institutions and processes.
- Offering space for capacity building and exchange of good practices for member organisations to be leaders in the field, as main experts and implementers, by uplifting and representing their work; facilitating coordination where the membership can benefit from a unified voice in the field.
- Supporting the wellbeing and agency of young activists through a connected network providing targeted tools and training courses.
- Providing a platform for member organisations to exchange good practices on participation in decision and policy-making processes and cooperation with decision-makers and relevant stakeholders.
- Fostering unity in the broader youth sector through collaboration with relevant partners.

3. Work Area - Sustainability and climate action

Why?

We are at a point in history with multiple intersecting crises: the climate crisis is worsening and affecting our living environment, whether it be melting ice caps, wildfires, heatwaves or floods. The climate crisis's impact on people's livelihoods has serious consequences, often leaving no other perspective but to migrate. Biodiversity loss is rapidly increasing. We have already lost two-thirds on average of all vertebrates since 1970 - the sixth mass extinction. Pollution and marine degradation have taken millions of human and non-human lives. We have crossed 7 out of 9 planetary boundaries posing an existential threat to the survival of all species. These crises are interconnected and driven in part by systemic issues such as unsustainable patterns of production and consumption that place pressure on our environment and natural resources. Natural resources are being consumed at a much faster rate than the Earth's ability to regenerate them, leaving little space for people in the global South to meet their needs. The principle that those who pollute should pay, and that no community should bear an unfair share of the burden, must complement climate targets as a core measure of a just transition underpinned by resource justice. We cannot tackle this problem without addressing the defining features of our systems and the post-colonial and unjust power structures.

Excluded from decision-making, young people are inheriting these crises from previous generations, and we are facing the consequences of worsening environmental dilemmas. This existential threat is part of a broader concern for the future that increasingly impacts young people's wellbeing and mental health. But young people have demonstrated the ability to think creatively and develop innovative solutions to respond to the needs of our present and future. It is no surprise that young people are at the forefront of movements demanding action against the climate crisis and demanding social change. Young people are therefore calling on the European Institutions and governments in Europe to show the political will to deliver on their commitments and invest, rather than repeat promises while backsliding, and to urgently action a just and fair transition that prioritises the wellbeing of people and the planet that fulfils the rights and needs of everyone.

Subtopic: Environmental protection & just transition

A just transition requires more than technical solutions as it needs the political will of governments to deliver and invest, rather than repeat commitments while backsliding. Institutions must direct urgent and sustained public investment toward long-term solutions that protect our people and planet. No one should be left behind in this transition.

The current global consumption levels are not sustainable and overconsumption has grave consequences for humans and the planet, with countries in the Global South being disproportionately affected by the trends of the Global North. While there are EU climate targets, there is no similar ceiling for resource use. As one of the root causes of the climate crisis, resource extraction and processing is responsible for biodiversity loss, lack of clean water, air pollution and is often linked to human rights abuses.

By 2029 we want…

- The European institutions and governments to have delivered long-term solutions in equitable partnership with the Global South to deal with the climate and environmental crises.
- The European institutions and governments to have invested resources for a just transition to ensure young people are not unfairly bearing the cost.

How? The European Youth forum will…

- Promote long-term intersectional systemic thinking to mitigate the root causes of climate change, ecosystem and biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and pollution.
- Advocate for legal and policy changes on national, European and global levels to ensure a just transition with no one left behind underpinned by strong accountability mechanisms, transparency and civic participation.
- Advocate for urgent and sustained investment and delivery of solutions, including for green energy transition, circular economy, green industrial policy, sustainable mobility and environmental protection, guided by the principles of polluters pay and resource justice for all young people, particularly those facing the harshest consequences within Europe and the Global South.

Subtopic: Intergenerational justice

Young people are inheriting crises they did not create and are bearing the costs that fall unevenly across generations. Current and future generations have the most significant stake in the decisions made today, and must not be left to burden the consequences of today's inaction. Protecting those who live longest with the consequences means upholding and enshrining young people's rights and recognising them as essential actors in decision-making processes, so that the safeguards and solutions put in place today genuinely protect those who live longest with their consequences. Public investment and revenue - resources - must reflect the same principle - a just and sustainable future should not be financed by deferring its costs onto those least responsible for creating today's crises.

By 2029 we want…

- Young people and youth organisations to be recognised as essential actors in shaping climate and sustainable development decision-making processes, delivering legal safeguards to protect the rights and interests of present and future generations.

How? The European Youth forum will…

- Advocate for the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all young people embedded within laws and policies at all levels.
- Support the meaningful participation of young people and youth organisations as essential actors at all levels of climate and sustainable development decision-making and policymaking.
- Advocate for urgent action by governments guided by the principle of intergenerational justice to prevent future generations shouldering the burden of inaction.

To make the European Youth Forum fit for achieving change, we will strengthen our internal culture, processes and structure by:

- Building capacity within our organisation, in particular for member organisations, to work more effectively on sustainability topics through an approach based on systems thinking and systemic environmental activism with an emphasis on climate justice, and thus the intersection between sustainability and inequality with regards to marginalised communities.
- Coordinating the efforts of member organisations and youth delegates around key moments and processes on sustainability, focusing on a strong youth presence in international events and processes, such as the United Nations.

- Reviewing our strategy to ensure that sustainable practices occur inside the organisation, especially during statutory meetings.
- Supporting members to raise awareness about the shortcomings of current education systems to sustainability education and advocate for accessible systemic sustainability education for young people at all levels of educational systems to empower young people to connect and understand the crosscutting nature of the climate and environmental crises with social issues to find solutions fostering a hope for the future.

4. Work Area - Social and Economic Inclusion

Why?

A significant number of young Europeans live in poverty or at risk of poverty and social exclusion. This is not an inevitable feature of growing up, but the consequence of political decisions - an economic system that does not prioritise investing in welfare and unfairly distributes wealth, leading to social and economic inequalities that fall hardest on young people - particularly young people facing intersecting forms of marginalisation.

In such a system, young people often face involuntary unemployment or precarious working conditions, which deprives them of quality and stable jobs, as well as access to social security protection. This is often linked to sub-minimum wages for young people, which goes against their right to fair pay and equal opportunities. Transitions from education to the labour market can have an exponential impact on the rest of someone's life; therefore, it is essential to safeguard quality working and living conditions for everyone. The rapid digital transformation of work brings new opportunities, and new risks - young people should hold the agency to shape this future of work, rather than simply absorb it.

Social exclusion and inequality, caused by a lack of understanding and legal recognition of youth rights, significantly hinder young people's ability to build an independent life - in both rural and urban areas. This results in young people struggling to access healthcare, employment, affordable housing, and education. Economic inequality, material deprivation, and discrimination cause uncertainty, marginalisation, and poor mental health, leading to a loss of the capacity to plan for the future, hence requiring a genuinely holistic and intersectional response that treats employment, housing, social protection, education and health as interlinked factors.

Moreover, the intersectionality of age-based discrimination with other forms of oppression, exacerbates the challenges young people face. Recognising and addressing these interlocking issues is crucial to promoting equitable and inclusive social support systems that uplift and empower all members of society, regardless of age or identity.

Subtopic: Quality employment

Young people face a difficult transition from education to work, being three times more likely to be unemployed than the general population. They are overrepresented in jobs with insecure and unstable working conditions and have limited access to their economic and social rights. Insecure work and inadequate welfare systems impact their financial independence and mental wellbeing.

By 2029 we want...

- Young people to have greater access to quality jobs and working conditions that allow for the development of an independent life, and have the power to shape the future of work and the role of digital transformation in it.

How? The European Youth forum will...

- Research and raise awareness of the causes and consequences of problems faced by young people in the labour market
- Advocate for policies and legal changes to ensure decent working conditions and social protection for all young people.
- Support in establishing and improving funding programmes that help young people access quality employment.

Subtopic: Quality of life

Too many young people in Europe face poverty or social exclusion due to age-based discrimination. This intersects with other forms of marginalisation, lack of fair and equitable access to education, adequate

housing and health care creating generational poverty and hindering access to basic needs like food, housing, and healthcare.

Quality of life is about more than meeting the minimum needs - it means young people fully enjoying their social and economic rights, and an adequate standard of living that enables them to live and plan for their future. Our current economic system prioritises profits and growth over people's wellbeing, failing to sufficiently provide necessary conditions for young people to fully enjoy their rights. To ensure a thriving future, we must address the failing economic system and the root cause of harmful inequalities.

Fundamentally, we must strive for adequate housing. This means the right of every young person to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity. Adequate housing must be affordable - meaning that personal or household financial costs associated with housing should not threaten or compromise the attainment and satisfaction of other basic needs, such as food, education, and access to health care - and accessible, meaning that the specific needs of young people with fewer opportunities and marginalised groups, must be taken into account.

Housing, social protection, health, employment and education are not separate but interlinked factors of the same goal - a society in which all young people have the material conditions to live well and independently, and equitable access to their social and economic rights.

By 2029 we want...

- A society that guarantees all young people the material conditions to live well and independently, through affordable, decent housing and strong social protection.
- Young people to have equitable access to their social and economic rights.

How? The European Youth forum will...

- Map the situation of young people's access to housing in Europe and the actions, policies and programmes related to adequate housing for young people.
- Advocate for policies to regulate the rising prices in the housing market, invest in social housing, and create programmes to make housing affordable and accessible for young people.
- Advocate for policies that promote rural development so that young people in rural areas have the material conditions to live well and independently, including access to transport.
- Advocate for intergenerational and intersectional policies and legislation that guarantee adequate standards of living and equal opportunities for young people, especially those from marginalised communities, removing age-based discrimination in from society.
- Advocate for the affordability and accessibility of health services, including mental health services and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Promote social and economic rights as a foundational factor of trust in our democracy, by making the barriers contributing to poverty and social exclusion faced by young people visible, especially those from marginalised communities.

To make the European Youth Forum fit for achieving change, we will strengthen our internal culture, process and structure by:

- Building capacities of its member organisations and support peer-learning to advocate, design and monitor policies in this field.
- Coordinating with its member organisations to ensure the needed advocacy can be developed and implemented at the national and European level.
- Supporting the exchange and gathering of knowledge and best practices on the topic of housing within our membership.

- Supporting the exchange of best practices on supporting young people's mental health in youth organisations.

Annex 1

Implementation and evaluation of the Strategic Plan:

The Strategic Plan has been developed in consultation with member organisations, Board and Secretariat and drafted by a Task Force with a mandate from May to August 2023. The Task Force was composed of members from member organisations, Board and Secretariat. Consultations with members were organised in summer 2023 which contributed to the document developed by the Task Force. The final document was approved by the Board and shared with the members in September and finally adopted in the Council of Members in Berlin, Germany, 16-17 November 2023.

After the adoption in autumn 2023, the Strategic Plan will be implemented through annual or biannual activity plans. The activity plans will consist of specific objectives, actions and operations that the European Youth Forum will implement to achieve the strategic directions set by this document. The activity plans will be adopted by the Board by the end of autumn to ensure that the organisation can plan the allocation of resources, adopt the budget and communicate with the relevant partners before the end of the year. To ensure accountability and adequate monitoring of the implementation of the plan, the Board of the Youth Forum will present a progress report in every statutory meeting based on the Strategic Plan's objectives.

Furthermore, a mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan will take place in 2026. For this, the Board will present a mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Priorities at the Council of Members in spring 2026, followed by a consultation with the membership. This mid-term evaluation report will reflect upon a series of criteria, such as level of development, impact achieved, membership engagement, resource allocation, relevance of the set goals and missing areas. Based on the results of the consultations, the Board will be able to implement changes in the Strategic Plan, which will be communicated to the membership in autumn.

A final evaluation of the Strategic Plan will be conducted in 2028, specifically on the success of achieving the change through the objectives and approaches set. It will be followed by an inclusive consultation process to create the new Strategic Plan, which shall be adopted in autumn 2028.

Annex 2

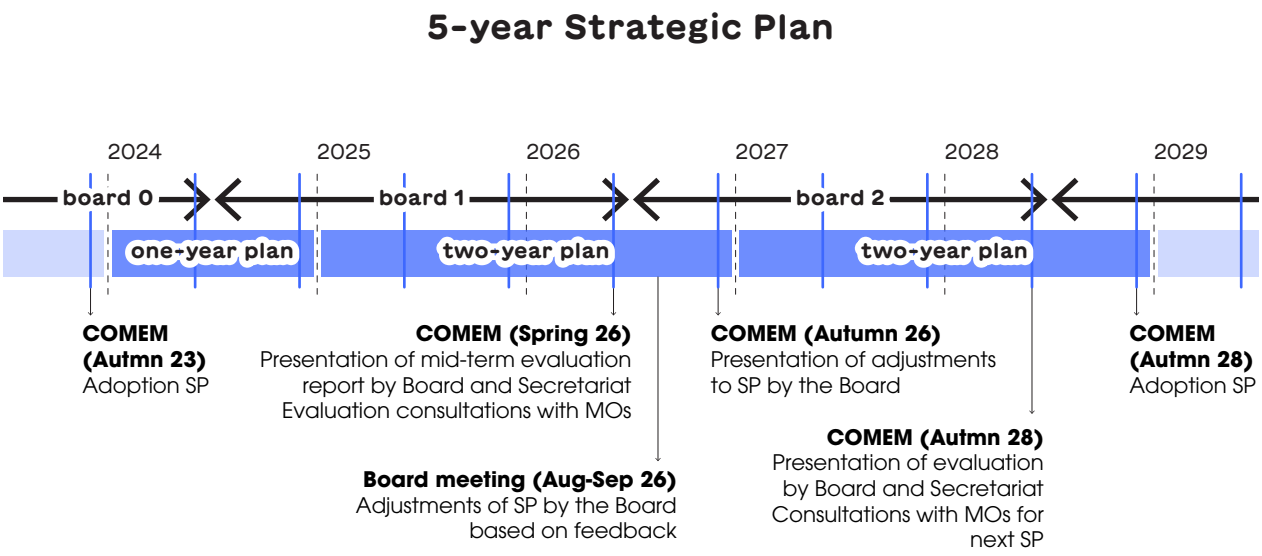
Revision of the Strategic Plan:

As foreseen in Annex 1, the Strategic Plan 2024-2028 was subject to a mid-term evaluation in 2026. The Board approached this as a revision and not a redraft. The guiding principles and general architecture of the Plan adopted in Berlin in November 2023 remain in place, and changes are targeted to where the evaluation showed the Plan should be strengthened for its remaining period.

The process began at the General Assembly in Tromsø, Norway, on 7-9 May 2026. There, Member Organisations took part in workshops facilitated by the Board and Secretariat to review each Work Area and identify emerging areas. Following this, the Secretariat carried out an implementation analysis of the Plan. The input from Members and the Secretariat was compiled for the Board, which conducted an initial prioritisation exercise.

A Strategic Plan Revision Team composed of Board members and coordinated by the President, supported the Board in bringing together the input from Members, Secretariat and Board, and in coordinating the exercise. An overview of the revised priorities across all Work Areas was shared with Member Organisations and discussed during a series of consultations in September 2026.

The Board adopted the revised Strategic Plan on 19 September 2026, and shared it for information with the General Assembly in November 2026. The revised edition applies for the remainder of the Plan ' s period. The arrangements for implementation, monitoring and final evaluation set out in Annex 1 continue to apply, including the adoption of the next Strategic Plan in autumn 2028.



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