

## The EU Youth Coordinator: how to make it a step towards better youth policy coordination?

*The European Youth Forum's vision for the new tool in the next EU Youth Strategy proposal*

In May 2018 the European Commission launched a [Communication on a new EU Youth Strategy for time period 2019-2027](#). For the first time it proposed to establish EU Youth Coordinator. This paper proposes concrete measures to shape the EU Coordinator's position, so it can serve for youth policy coordination within the European Commission.

### **Objective: EU policies that holistically address and include young people**

Better coordination within the European Union (EU), among its institutions and services, can have a positive impact on how policies that affect lives of young people are made in the EU. It requires taking into account the views of young people in all policy areas, creating conditions where young people can access their rights, live in dignity and fulfill their potential.

Establishing the position of EU Youth Coordinator is an opportunity for the EU to step up youth mainstreaming and enhance collaboration on youth issues to fulfill the EU's commitment under Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU to encourage the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe.

Coordination between Directorates-General of the European Commission on youth related issues is imperative for quality youth policy, following 8 Standards for a Quality Youth Policy, developed by youth organisations<sup>1</sup>. It includes regular meetings between stakeholders and improved information flow on all Commission initiatives affecting young people, throughout the policy-making process. This is how the EU can continue to identify cross-sectoral synergies for policy innovation, such as young people's access to rights or young people's role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>2</sup>.

Furthermore, the EU Youth Coordinator should have a central role in implementation and seeking for further improvements of EU Better Regulation agenda<sup>3</sup>, making sure that youth is considered in every policy and legislative proposal. Not only assessing the potential impact on young people before the policy is adopted, but also assessing what has been the short or

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<sup>1</sup> A Toolkit on Quality Standards for Youth Policy, European Youth Forum 2016 -

[https://www.youthforum.org/sites/default/files/publication-pdfs/Toolkit\\_Quality\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.youthforum.org/sites/default/files/publication-pdfs/Toolkit_Quality_Standards.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Protection of the environment and fight against climate change has been identified as a priority topic among 50% of young people who took part in Eurobarometer on youth in 2017 -

[http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/FLA\\_SH/surveyKy/2163](http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/FLA_SH/surveyKy/2163)

<sup>3</sup> Better Regulation Toolbox 30: Education and Training, Culture and Youth, European Commission, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file\\_import/better-regulation-toolbox-30\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/better-regulation-toolbox-30_en_0.pdf)

long term intended and unintended impact on young people after the policy has been implemented.

Evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy has shown that Member States who have put in place interministerial bodies to coordinate youth policy development and implementation in their countries are improving how policies work for young people<sup>4</sup>. A similar coordination process on the EU level could be achieved with the help of the EU Youth Coordinator.

### **Mandate of the EU Youth Coordinator**

- **Youth mainstreaming:** connecting the work on youth of different European Commission services. -> *Through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, working with the EU Youth Strategy Platform and the European Commission's Interservice group on youth, and youth organisations, including the European Youth Forum; Working on improvements to and quality implementation of the EU Better Regulation package, including the policy impact on young people of different policy proposals released by DGs of the European Commission.*
- **Bringing forward the EU Youth Dialogue results:** sharing policy outcomes of the EU Youth Dialogue and internally advocating for the EU Youth Dialogue in the European Union. -> *Through closely working with all European Commission services, the European Parliament, including the EP Youth Intergroup, and the Council of the EU, as well as the successor of the European Steering Committee for the Structured Dialogue, and youth organisations.*

### **Implementation**

- The position of the EU Youth Coordinator should be placed within the European Commission, Directorate-General responsible for youth, establishing a new position that is well resourced and supported by a team of professionals; *to ensure that the position is well connected to all internal processes on youth policy.*
- The EU Youth Coordinator should have the authority to liaise and coordinate with other European Commission services; *to ensure that youth issues are mainstreamed and well connected with all policy areas of the EU that affect young people.*
- The EU Youth Coordinator should be closely connected to the work of the Interservice group on youth and the newly proposed EU Youth Strategy Platform; *to ensure that these platforms are used effectively and are well coordinated.*

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<sup>4</sup> Final Report of the Evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy and the Council Resolution on Mobility of young volunteers across the EU, The European Commission, 2016, p. 100 - [http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/dgs/education\\_culture/more\\_info/evaluations/docs/youth/youth-strategy-2016\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/dgs/education_culture/more_info/evaluations/docs/youth/youth-strategy-2016_en.pdf)