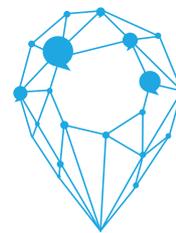


# EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL

## Policy Toolkit

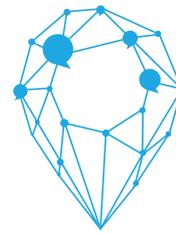
*IT'S TIME TO #YouthUp! EUROPEAN CITIES*



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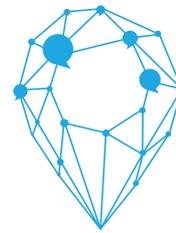
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## A LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- European Youth Capital (EYC)
- European Commission (EC)
- European Parliament (EP)
- European Council (the Council)
- Council of Europe (CoE)
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLARA)
- United Nations (UN)



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## **WHY A EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL POLICY TOOLKIT?**

The European Youth Capital, a title granted by the European Youth Forum<sup>1</sup> to a European city for a period of one year, that aims at strengthening the relationship between the local level youth policy and the European level youth policy, giving attention to youth participation at the local level as well as the European level.

Youth policy is a cross-sectorial and integrated policy aimed at young people, which stems from youth needs and covers a comprehensively broad range of policy areas. For a coherent and constructive youth policy, authorities need to approach youth issues in an integrated way and cooperate across policy sectors. This also includes creating the link between local and European youth policies as an essential element for the European Youth Capital project.

This toolkit aims at supporting European Youth Capitals in such an important policy coordination exercise. In line with the European Youth Forum's goal of mainstreaming youth across different policy areas it is also important to take a consideration other important policies and trends such as human rights cities, sustainable development, building inclusive societies etc.

This toolkit also aims at supporting cities in bringing youth across different policy areas for the meaningful long-term impact on its youth and society as a whole.

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<sup>1</sup> The European Youth Forum (the Forum) is the platform of youth organisations in Europe. Representing 104 youth organisations, both National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, we believe youth organisations are the tool through which we empower, encourage, involve, represent, reach out and support young people. The Youth Forum brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.



## **WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL POLICY TOOLKIT?**

Municipalities in Europe are subject to youth policies as outlined by the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations (UN).

Thus, the European Youth Capital Policy Toolkit provides European cities with a list of the main (list is not exhaustive) European youth policies and related key documents, as well as policy documents that should be taken into consideration while mainstreaming youth across policy areas.

The European Youth Capital Policy Toolkit also presents to a European Youth Capital a list of the most important European Youth Forum policy documents, publications and youth policy development tools.

European Youth Capitals are encouraged to consider these policies, implementation mechanisms and findings as outlined in the documents and their application on the local level when running for the European Youth Capital title and developing their programmes and sustainable youth participation mechanisms.

## **HOW TO USE THIS EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL POLICY TOOLKIT**

The Toolkit is divided into four main chapters under which important policy documents, useful publications and tools reflecting youth field developments mainly from the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations (UN) and the European Youth Forum (YFJ) are listed. Any text that appears in **orange**, links to an online source that cities are encouraged to explore more in detail.

The first part focuses on a strategic framework regarding youth policy across Europe and is intended to inform Capitals on European youth policy standards that could help them in developing or aligning their local youth policies.



The second chapter of the European Youth Capital Policy Toolkit gives an overview

of existing policies regarding youth participation and support for youth civil society with a view to fostering young people's participation in decision making processes and health and growth of youth civil society, as well as strengthening youth work on the local level.

The third chapter focuses on youth autonomy and inclusion and different policy tools to support young people in their transition to adulthood.

The European Youth Capital year seeks to bring systemic change that benefits first of all young people in their cities but also communities at large. Thus, the fourth chapter outlines the role of young people in creating a sustainable and peaceful world, as well as guiding principles for governments to support young people in leading these processes.

## **STRATEGIC APPROACH TOWARDS YOUTH POLICY**

### **[EU Youth Strategy](#)**

**“The Renewed framework for European Cooperation in the youth field” (EU Youth Strategy)** that was adopted by the Council of the European Union in November 2009, brings a renewed Open Method of Coordination in the youth field for 2010 – 2018. The Capitals are especially invited to examine the detailed outline of the eight fields of actions as presented in Annex I to the **Resolution**. The EU Youth Strategy is the main guiding document for the youth policy at EU level and it is set to improve the situation of young people in Europe by creating more and equal opportunities for them in education and the labour market and by promoting their active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity. To achieve this, the Strategy seeks to develop a transversal approach to youth issues.

In May 2018 the European Commission has put forward proposals for a new **EU Youth Strategy for 2019-2027**, which have to be discussed by the Council of the European Union and adopted in November 2018.



Considering the numerous and diverse challenges young people in Europe are facing today and will face in the future, a more ambitious and effective strategy at a European level is needed – building on the achievements and learning from the shortcomings of the previous strategy. Thus the European Youth Forum presents **the vision of young people and youth organisations** across Europe on the EU Youth Strategy after 2018.

The European Youth Forum's resolution on the EU Youth Strategy outlines four thematic priorities (quality education, volunteering and youth organisations, quality employment, non-discrimination and access to social rights), as well as specific objectives to achieve under these headings.

The resolution puts forward principles on how to make the EU Youth Strategy more effective. These include having a cross-sectoral strategy and ensuring that youth is a crosscutting priority. The Strategy should have a central coordination that engages all relevant stakeholders from different sectors. The Youth Forum also calls for rights- and evidence-based youth policy as well as a more focused strategy with fewer objectives, and these must be better monitored. Youth participation is key, so the systematic involvement of young people and youth organisations at all stages must be ensured.

One of the most prominent features of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018 was the Structured Dialogue, is a unique youth participation instrument that must be improved further. Suggestions for that are outlined in this resolution as well.

The European Youth Forum has also prepared **a guiding document (the proposal for the governance of the EU Youth Strategy)** to help Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including local and regional authorities to have bigger ownership of the EU Youth Strategy post 2018.

## [A Structured Dialogue](#)

The Structured Dialogue is a means of making young people's voice heard in the European policy-shaping process. It is a consultative process, implemented by the European Commission, in order to increase cooperation with civil society and to get first-hand input directly from young people.



It is called “Structured Dialogue’ because it happens in a very concrete frame set out by the European Commission together with the European Youth Forum. The Structured Dialogue process was reviewed after the 3rd cycle, in order to increase its efficiency, inclusiveness and coherency. Under the new updated process, the results are the following:

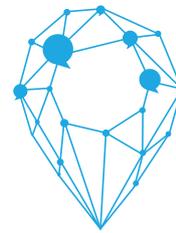
- 1 Cycle that lasts 18 months
- Each cycle has a thematic priority on which the dialogue will take place
- Each cycle involves a Trio presidency
- Each cycle has one political outcome: a Council Resolution that is based on the outcome of the 18-month Dialogue process.

More information can be found on European Youth Forum’s website [here](#) and the dedicated European Commission’s website [here](#).

**The Structured Dialogue process** as it currently stands is not achieving its full potential. While it undoubtedly has been one of the most influential tools of the current cooperation framework in the field of youth, the Structured Dialogue still has some major challenges to overcome. Together with the EU Youth Strategy post 2018 an improved Structured Dialogue will come out. You can read European Youth Forum’s proposal for a new Structured Dialogue [here](#). The Capitals are encouraged to get in touch with National Working Groups (if applicable) and support the Implementation of Structured Dialogue at the local level and to bring young people’s voices from the city to European level.

The most recent outcome of the Structured Dialogue process is the [EU Youth Goals](#). At the EU Youth Conference in Sofia in Spring 2018, a 3 day event hosted by the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU brought together around 250 young people and decision-makers including the EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. Tibor Navracsics, to engage in dialogue about the future of youth in Europe.

The outcome of the hard work and dedication of conference participants was 11 new [EU Youth Goals](#): young people’s vision for youth policy in Europe. The goals incorporated the ideas and opinions of 49,389 young people across the continent who participated in consultations, debates, discussions and events on the Structured Dialogue topic “Youth in Europe: What’s next?”



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## Council of Europe Policy Agenda on Youth 2020

In 2008, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted the Recommendation, “The future of the Council of Europe youth Policy: Agenda 2020,” in order to refresh the youth agenda of the organisation. The Recommendation provided the basis for a subsequent declaration on “the future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020” which was adopted by Ministers responsible for youth affairs in Kiev, November, 2008. The Agenda is aimed at strengthening youth-centred activities within the Council of Europe and at fostering partnership with the European Commission in this field.

The “Agenda 2020” first set down the three main themes that European youth policy would address as priorities up to 2020: human rights and democracy; the promotion of cultural diversity; and social inclusion. In each of these three dimensions, a set of six specific topics (with several subject areas) defined in more detail the full range of activities.

The European Youth Capitals are encouraged to examine the priority fields as presented in [the document](#) and see how these can be attributed to their programmes.

## European Youth Forum Strategic Priorities 2013-2019

The European Youth Forum’s everyday work is guided by a strategy that is a combination of the goals for which an organisation strives and the means and methods by which it seeks to get there.

The European Youth Forum is striving for:

- Greater youth participation
- Stronger youth organisations
- Youth autonomy and inclusion
- In order to achieve these goals the Platform aims, by 2019, to:
- Strengthen its position as an agenda-setter on youth affairs
- Base its work on a rights-based approach
- Further empower Member Organisations and increase their ownership of the platform.



European Youth Capitals are encouraged to take into consideration the [European Youth Forum Strategic Priorities 2013-2019](#) while developing their programmes.

## 8 Quality Youth Policy Standards

The European Youth Forum has developed a practical tool for youth organisations to assess the state of youth policy in their context, whether it is national, regional, local, or European. This toolkit provides tools, tips and tricks to look at youth policy and identify what is working well and what is not.

To help make it easier to assess their youth policy the European Youth Forum has launched an interactive [online tool](#) that European Youth Capitals are encouraged to explore and to use in co-operation with local youth organisations, to reflect on their local youth policies.

## **YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

### The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life

It is one of the most relevant documents at European level for European Youth Capitals, as it specifically refers to youth policies on the local level. It tackles a number of relevant topics on how to conduct policies towards young people in a number of areas as well as how to further the civic participation of young people. The Charter can be accessed [here](#).

The Council of Europe is a pioneer among European institutions in introducing a [co-management system](#) in its youth sector: it involves representatives from youth non-governmental organisations (NGOs) sitting down in committees with government officials who together then work out the priorities for the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programmes.

Young people initiate and make decisions together with responsible government



officials, thus working hand in hand to make decisions that truly correspond to young people's needs.

This is a commendable decision-making approach and European Youth Capitals **are expected to apply co-management principles in their city's context, involving local youth councils and other youth organisations for the European Youth Capital governance, ideally resulting in long-term sustainable co-management structures in the youth field.**

## Citizenship Education

### The European Youth Forum's approach towards citizenship education

YFJ believes that quality citizenship education is the basis of active citizenship and youth participation. Quality citizenship education empowers citizens to develop a sense of responsibility to participate in their communities and provide spaces for the participation of others. This empowerment should entail a true sense of autonomy, both in terms of financial independence and critical thinking. The European Youth Forum's [policy paper on citizenship education](#) that was adopted in 2013 in Thessaloniki, European Youth Capital 2014, defines competences that quality education should equip young people with, the necessary learning systems and what institutions and other relevant stakeholders should do to provide young people with quality citizenship education.

### The role of youth organisations

Youth organisations are key providers of citizenship education using non-formal methods. [The study](#) on their work can provide some inspiration for the European Youth Capital year.

### Council of Europe and citizenship education

One of the main focus areas of the Council of Europe in the field of youth is democratic youth participation and citizenship education. The Council of Europe has developed a [Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture](#) that describes a conceptual model of the competences that need to be acquired by learners if they are to participate effectively in a culture of democracy and live peacefully together with others in culturally diverse democratic societies. It identifies a list of twenty competences that is divided into four categories: values, at-



titudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding.

It can be adapted for use in primary and secondary schools and higher education and vocational training institutions throughout Europe as well as national curricula and teaching programmes, but most importantly creating non-formal education activities for and by young people at local level.

### Alternative Forms of Youth Participation

When we talk about youth participation in democratic processes it is crucial to understand that besides already well-explored practices such as creating local youth councils and elections alternative forms of youth participation are emerging and these have a potential to activate young people that normally are not taking part in society.

The Council of Europe has published a very rich and comprehensive study called “**New and Innovative forms of youth participation in decision making processes**” that could guide European Youth Capitals in becoming real laboratories for youth participation.

### Youth Work

Youth work plays a significant positive role for the social integration, active citizenship and the employability of young people, and the understanding of it has been growing tremendously in the past few years.

Local governments play an important role in recognizing and supporting this kind of work through dedicated policies, programmes and resources and applying common European objectives to the local level. European Youth Capitals are strongly encouraged to take a look at existing tools and policies at European level in order to adapt them to their youth work realities on local level, especially providing **support for local youth organisations, as one of the main providers of local youth work.**

**The Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio**, that is an initiative of the Council of Europe in co-operation with partners such as the European Commission and



the European Youth Forum, is a major tool that would help one to understand better European policies in the field of youth work. You can find more information [on the official page](#) dedicated to the initiative.

### Recommendation to the Member States of the Council of Europe on Youth Work

In 2017 a [recommendation to the Member States of the Council of Europe on youth work](#) has been adopted. It highlights that young people are a key resource for building a social and just Europe, and providing them with structured support is an important investment Europe has to make for its present and future.

It highlights the need for “strategies, frameworks, legislation, sustainable structures and resources, effective co-ordination with other sectors, as well as to related policies that promote equal access to youth work for all young people” and the importance of young people’s and youth workers in developing (local) youth work.

### Volunteering

[European Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers](#) is an important guiding document developed by YFJ to provide a common understanding of the rights and responsibilities of volunteers and volunteer providers. The Charter is also an advocacy tool for a rights based approach to volunteering - an appeal for designing and updating policies related to volunteering on all levels. There are many rights and responsibilities included such as entitlement to volunteer and the status of “Volunteer”. They can volunteer at home or abroad and are entitled to volunteer in a non-discriminatory environment. Volunteers are also entitled to learn from the experience and have this learning recognised. European Youth Capitals while developing, but also implementing their Capital year, should follow the main principles in the Charter regarding their volunteering systems.

## YOUTH AUTONOMY AND INCLUSION

### Social Inclusion and Young People

Social inclusion means ensuring that all people have the opportunity to fully participate in economic, social and cultural life and to enjoy an adequate standard of living and well-being. It is the fulfillment of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to employment (for those who can work), the right to education, the right to social protection, the right to participation, as well as the right to living a life in dignity.

**“Excluding youth: a threat to our future”** report examines the social situation of youth and assesses the quality of social policies and social protection and services available to young people.

**The report** demonstrates gaps in the current functioning of welfare systems in Europe that need to be addressed. It shows that the European social model has to adapt to a changed social and economic context, to guarantee investment in the young generation through education, creation of quality jobs, social protection, healthcare and housing support. This is an important read for European Youth Capitals to understand that ensuring social inclusion of young people is key to safeguarding the well-being of European society, both for today and for tomorrow.

### European Pillar of Social Rights

The recent proclamation of the **European Pillar of Social Rights** commits the EU and its Member States to work towards a more social Europe. For a social Europe to become a reality, greater efforts are needed to ensure that policies make a real difference in people’s lives. These cannot only come in the form of political commitments. They must be reflected in budgetary decisions, securing continued and strengthened funding to help young people access their fundamental rights as the first prerequisite to enabling them to reach their full potential.

With stronger political will, more investments in the Youth Employment Initiative



and Erasmus+, and coherent policies to support the autonomy of young people, Europe can make young people's life better. European Youth Capitals together with national governments are in the position to take this chance to implement concrete measures, and young people on the other hand themselves should be given an opportunity to contribute to shape measures on work-life balance, access to social protection, and the future EU budget.

## Youth Guarantee

The Youth Guarantee is a commitment by all Member States to ensure that all **young people under the age of 25** years receive a good quality offer of

- employment,
- continued education,
- apprenticeship
- traineeship

within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education and thus easing young people's transition from education to employment. **The Youth Guarantee** is an important initiative to tackle youth unemployment and social exclusion and has the potential to make a difference in the life of millions of young people in Europe. Local level governments can play an important role in supporting the scheme for it to become accessible to all young people, and to ensure that the offers under the programme become more sustainable and qualitative, leading to real opportunities. Local authorities should also engage youth organisations that have the capacity to help reach out to marginalised groups of young people.

In light of on-going EU Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations the European Youth Forum believes that it should continue and be strengthened, including by securing and increasing its funding beyond 2020. The European Youth Forum's position can be accessed [here](#).

## Youth Rights

Recommendation CM/Rec (2016) 7 adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 28 September 2016 on **Young People's Access to Rights** is a massive step forward towards ensuring young people can fully enjoy their rights.



The **recommendation** focuses on improving access by taking steps to promote awareness among young people of the rights they should enjoy and what they can do if their rights are violated, and by removing legal, political and social barriers. It emphasises how important it is for member States to regularly monitor and respond to the infringement of rights and ensure adequate protection through legal provisions.

The recommendation applies to all young people who, by virtue of their age, face barriers to the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and to their active participation in society.

The European Youth Capitals are encouraged together with youth organisations and young people in the city to identify the most important areas where young people cannot fully access their rights and work during their Capital year, but not only, on these issues showing the positive example for other cities across Europe.

#### Enter! Recommendation on Access to Social Rights for Young People from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe has introduced the Enter! project to seek and highlight youth work response to violence, exclusion and discrimination affecting young people in Europe, notably in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. As a result, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted in 2015 the **Enter! Recommendation** on access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights.

The recommendation proposes the development on policies taking into consideration the specific situations and needs of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Such policies should aim at preventing and eradicating the poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion faced by young people; local authorities have a very important role in facilitating the access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and they are explicitly mentioned in the recommendation.

The Council of Europe provides support measures for local and regional authorities seeking to implement the recommendation.



### Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City

A human rights city emphasizes that all members of the city, including socially disadvantaged minorities, are respected regardless of their race, nationality, social status, and cultural background; they also freely participate in and are responsible for city decision-making and policy process.

This city is centered on values of human rights, and human rights are at the forefront of decision-making and implementation of city administration. In addition, city issues must be understood from a human rights perspective and citizens must strengthen their human rights capacity via human rights educational programmes.

Gwangju city in South Korea has made strong efforts to protect and improve citizens' human rights; its human rights model has spread to other cities and now is being seen as an example to follow. Thus, in 2011 at the World Human Rights Cities Forum, [Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City](#) have been adopted.

The Capitals are encouraged to explore the example and apply best practices to ensure young people's access to their rights.

### Protection and integration of young refugees in Europe

Local communities are at the front line when addressing the issues of migration and migrant integration and differently than national governments have the capacity to efficiently carry out necessary policies. Thus, local authorities should also be aware of the fact that young refugees, because of the unique psychological factor that they are still developing, need to be specifically taken care of. Children and youth are not only affected by what happens to them, but also by what they are deprived of, for example access to education or leisure activities.

Local authorities should strive ensure the access of right of young refugees in Europe, some of the guiding principles can be found in the European Youth Forum's resolution on [Protection and integration of young refugees in Europe](#) and successfully applied to local context. Local authorities should also support youth organisations that are important contributors to enhancing an inclusive society for all young people and empowering them to become active citizens.



## Youth Progress Index

Are young people able to exercise their socioeconomic and political rights? Do they live in a community where they feel included and not discriminated against? Do they have sufficient food to eat? Do they have access to housing?

The **Youth Progress Index** is one of the first instruments developed to give the full story of what life is like for a young person today, independent of economic indicators.

By measuring factors that matter to and can impact the daily lives of young people, the Youth Progress Index allows us to see a much clearer picture of young people's wellbeing and countries' performance in areas such as education, health-care, housing and environmental sustainability.

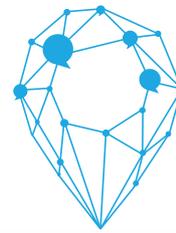
### From Index to Action!

The development of the Youth Progress Index enables **public authorities, businesses, and civil society organisations** to systematically identify and prioritise the most pressing needs of young people, remove barriers they face to their rights being upheld, and to provide the resources needed to shape a better society for youth.

For **youth civil society organisations**, it can be used to complement advocacy with credible and reliable data, support campaigns as well as to prioritise areas of action and use of resources. It can support advocacy messaging by identifying and highlighting the challenges faced by young people in their communities.

For **young people** more generally, the Youth Progress Index can be used to find information on how well a country performs on issues that have a real impact on their lives, and support demands for political action to improve their situation accordingly.

Of course, the Youth Progress Index directly relates to the **Sustainable Development Goals**. All 17 goals are covered to a certain extent, and most of the 169 targets are covered in this one simple framework. This mapping exercise, together



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with country scorecards, can be a useful **guide for public authorities or youth organisations and youth activists to contribute to Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports on their country's implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

The European Youth Capitals having this tool at their disposal could complement actions taken on ensuring young people's access to rights and supporting their transition to autonomy.

## **TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

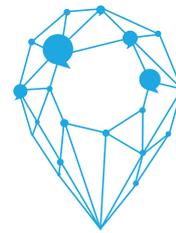
### **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015. Countries adopted a set of goals to **end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all** as part of a **new sustainable development agenda**. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. Young people play a crucial role in contributing to implementation of this agenda, thus European Youth Capitals should see how this could be reflected on the relevant local level processes.

### **EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a Sustainable European Future**

In June 2017 the **Council conclusions** set out the EU's response to the 2030 Agenda and its approach to how it is implemented at EU level. They underline the importance of achieving sustainable development across the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental), in a balanced and integrated way. It is vital that sustainable development is mainstreamed into all policy areas, and that the EU is ambitious in the policies it uses to address global challenges. The EU also calls on other UN member states and all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The conclusions are based on the **Commission communication** on the 'next steps for a sustainable European future' presented in November 2016, which links the



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sustainable development of the 2030 Agenda to the EU policy framework and the Commission's priorities. It provides an insight into where the EU stands on addressing the sustainable development goals and identifies the most relevant sustainability gaps and concerns.

## European Youth Forum's Position on the Comprehensive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe

The European Youth Forum believes that in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, we need to go beyond incremental change (technical solutions or additional financing) and focus on systemic change.

Effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require **a theory of change**, thus, this **position paper** identifies some of the policy conditions that must be in place for the Goals to be met.

The overarching message in this paper is that young people are key actors in finding solutions for sustainable development. European governments must therefore create new and meaningful ways for young people and youth organisations to participate in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda by establishing appropriate, binding and inclusive processes for participation, more elaborated in the position paper. On local level governments can also provide support for youth organisations and young people to take part and even lead the process of change. It is without a question that European Youth Capitals should be the ones setting the trend for other municipalities how to do that.

## European Youth Forum's Policy Paper on Sustainable Development

This **policy paper** follows the European Youth Forum's Position on the Comprehensive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe and outlines the European Youth Forum's position on sustainable development broadly, exploring concepts, principles and approaches. Thus, the paper suggests approaches and lenses that youth organisations and governments on all levels can explore to develop more effective strategies and become stronger change agents towards tackling the global sustainability crisis and much more.



### Brief summary of the paper

Sustainable development is an organising principle for the interrelated domains of society, economy and environment, supporting a vision for society in which the needs and rights of all, including future generations, are met within the means of the planet.

Young people and youth organisations have several roles in the move towards a more sustainable future: youth as rights holders; youth as agents for change; youth organisations as catalysts for young people's efforts; youth as vulnerable and marginalised group; and youth as stewards of future generations rights and needs.

Built upon a rights-based and values-led approach, the paper defines the driving principles behind sustainable development as social justice, conservation of natural resources and participation.

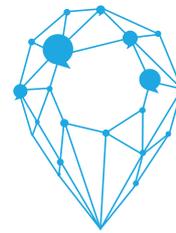
We are already witnessing the emergence of alternative models that strive towards human and planetary wellbeing. The paper identifies five areas – economic models, distribution of resources and opportunities, production and consumption, democratic participation, and measures of progress – where alternative approaches, which should be fostered, have the potential to result in great progress towards a sustainable future.

The paper finally gives recommendations for youth organisations and governments to break with current structures and nurture sustainable alternatives.

### UNSCR 2250

In 2015 The United Nations Security Council today adopted an historic **resolution on youth, peace and security**, which focuses on the role of people in peacebuilding and countering violent extremism and an acknowledgment of the urgent need to engage them in promoting peace and countering extremism. The resolution also positions youth and youth-led organisations as important partners in the global efforts to counter violent extremism and promote sustainable peace.

European Youth Capitals in the context where it is applicable should consider



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ways to increase inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels and to work on the prevention and resolution of conflict in partnership with young people.

In 2018 the UNSCR 2250 has been followed up by the resolution on the **Maintenance of international peace and security** calling for increasing role of youth in negotiating and implementing peace agreements. It recognises that young people's marginalisation negatively affects effort to build sustainable peace and countering violent extremism.