



Final Recommendations of the EUYC in Cyprus

Working Group 1: Youth Policy Pitch: Make the EU Work for Us

Recommendation: To protect young people's access to housing. The European Commission should create an Overcrowded City List initiative to reduce housing pressure, and also provide stronger support for student accommodation in Erasmus+.

Supporting text: The EU should protect young people's access to housing with two measures. Firstly, building on Regulation (EU) 2024/1028, the EU should create an Overcrowded City List of areas where short-term rentals intensify housing pressure, using indicators such as short-term rental density, inflation, tourist concentration and the share of entire-home rentals. Listed cities should then be empowered to impose proportionate rent caps, zoning rules, and stricter limits on investor-led short-term rentals, backed by mandatory host registration and monthly data-sharing with authorities. Secondly, Erasmus+ should ensure minimum standards for Erasmus+ accommodation, supply, transparent allocation and pre-arranged options, while adjusting Erasmus+ grants to reflect real housing costs, for instance, through a dedicated chapter on housing. During Erasmus+, young people often struggle to find suitable accommodation because the current system lacks a structured mechanism for housing, causing stress.

Working Group 2: What Makes a Policy Youth-Friendly?

Recommendation: To create participation standards for the development of youth-friendly policies. These should ensure mandatory and meaningful inclusion of young people across all policy development stages, clearly state institutional mandates, and promote structured, transparent feedback mechanisms.

Supporting text: At present, instruments for youth participation often fall short of being meaningful, as they largely remain consultative and lack mechanisms to influence decision-making. European young people do not feel heard, and it is unclear how policy proposals progress after they are delivered to decision-making bodies. Youth-friendliness is ensured through meaningful participation based on clear criteria. Therefore, the EU should focus on strengthening and developing legally binding standards for mandatory youth participation, building on existing instruments (e.g., the EU Youth Dialogue and the EU Youth Check/Test). This should also be part of the next EU Youth Strategy. These standards should include a fixed timeline for addressing proposals, along with an explanation of how they were addressed and implemented, or why they were not. This increases transparency and ensures that bodies respond to youth input on policy proposals.

Working Group 3: From Dialogue to Decision: Decision-making with young people

Recommendation: To establish a single accessible, inclusive, long-term, digital feedback mechanism across all EU institutions to ensure continuous monitoring of



youth recommendations made within participatory mechanisms, transparent communication of results, and active youth involvement in evaluation.

Supporting text: Strengthening the feedback loop addresses two key challenges: increasing youth involvement, understanding, and trust, and ensuring decision-makers are held accountable. A continuous monitoring system by EU institutions, supported by a digital feedback tool, should monitor how recommendations are used over time while actively engaging with youth on their development. Participants need clear, regularly updated information on what happens during their engagement and with the results of their deliberations. Institutionalising this process places greater responsibility on decision-makers and ensures transparency and accountability in the integration of young people's recommendations into policy outcomes.

Working Group 4: Building Beyond 2027: The Future EU Youth Strategy

Recommendation: To mainstream youth topics across all Directorates and policy areas, the European Commission should better utilise existing tools such as the EU Youth Dialogue and the European Youth Goals.

Supporting text: This is important because it ensures improved follow-up of the EU Youth Strategy. It allows young people's concerns to be considered widely across all policy areas, rather than focusing on youth-specific policy topics. Possible actions to enable this could include:

- Adding specific indicators and objectives to each Youth Goal, including a mention of the relevant Directorate General to work on this.
- Include the targets within youth goals in the annual work programme of each relevant Directorate General.
- Allow young people to provide policy input on the topics of the Youth Goals and to co-create concrete policy measures on relevant topics within the EU.



Working Group 5: Speaking Youth: How can the EU communicate better with young people?

Recommendation: To adopt supportive and inclusive communication strategies on policy making at the European and national levels, ensuring that youth-friendly information is available in both digital and non-digital formats accessible to all.

Supporting text: Policy institutions should use simpler, less technical and more youth-friendly language to include young people. The emphasis should be placed on in-person communication and interpersonal connection, and not only on digital communication. Inclusive communication with people with disabilities and underrepresented groups should be supported. Barriers in the EU consultation processes should be removed, and more open and large-scale consultations on European youth processes should be promoted. Also, there should be fewer communication channels, and an emphasis should be placed on a more centralised way of communication. The institutions should train people who work on communicating youth policies on inclusive communication approaches. The EU should be more visible in public spaces by using integrated communication systems within the Member States and their national institutions.

Working Group 6: Civic Education and EU Awareness: ‘Empowering Youth for Active Citizenship’

Recommendation: To support non-formal learning in formal education settings within Erasmus+, by creating earmarked funding and mandating collaboration between educational institutions and civil society organisations.

Supporting text: Many young people feel a lack of knowledge about the EU, which clearly highlights a gap in the formal education system, particularly in relation to civic education. The European Commission should ensure that the new Erasmus+ Programme (2028-2034) has earmarked funding for non-formal education activities that foster civic engagement, knowledge about the EU, and soft skills within the formal educational sphere. This should be done by requiring applicants (Educational Institutions) to partner with civil society organisations that provide non-formal education. This will create a space for educational institutions to tap into the knowledge and resources civil society organisations have in domains such as knowledge about the EU or civic education, complementing the strengths of both partners. Introducing this condition would ensure more steady funding and support, resulting in sustainable growth within organisations working in the non-formal education sector.

Working Group 7: Strengthening Trust and Transparency in EU Institutions through Youth Involvement

Recommendation: To follow up on the EU Youth Conference recommendations, the EU institutions should establish a feedback system outlining the action taken by EU institutions in response to these recommendations, ensuring accountability toward the demands of young people.



Supporting text: As shown by the consultation reports, a major reason for young people's lack of trust towards the EU is the absence of clear responses and accountability regarding their concerns. The EU Youth Dialogue, as a strong existing mechanism for gathering and amplifying young people's voices, lacks accountability from decision-makers and paths to meaningful implementation of the collected ideas. We recommend a mechanism mandating responses to the outcomes of each EU Youth Conference in the following way:

- A presentation of the EUYC results at the CULT Committee and a public response to these results.
- A published report on the EU responses and plans for implementation of the youth proposals, including future steps.
- Open and accessible communication concerning the EU Youth Conferences and the responses of the EU institutions to youth demands, done both by the EU institutions and youth organisations, to ensure accountability and transparency for all people.

Working Group 8: Bringing the EU Closer to Youth through Youth Work and Mobility Initiatives

Recommendation: To allocate a dedicated budget within Erasmus+ for micro projects with a positive impact on local communities run by small-scale youth organisations or informal groups of young people. This should use a flat-rate mechanism with simple application procedures.

Supporting text: Micro-projects can make EU youth programmes easier to access, especially for small-scale youth organisations and informal groups of young people. When these projects focus on local communities, young people can really see and feel the impact of the EU in their everyday lives, which helps them feel more connected and motivated to get involved. To make this possible, micro-projects should be supported through simple flat-rate grants with clear application processes, to encourage first-time applicants to participate. The flat-rate grant should be combined with additional funding for local events, where young people can share their experiences and inspire others to take part. These projects should be monitored, for example, by collecting numbers of projects implemented, numbers of newcomer organisations, numbers of applications, the diversity of applicants, or feedback on the application process.