Europe for YOUth – YOUth for Europe
EU Youth Conference:
Space for Democracy and Participation

Harvesting Summary

EU Youth Conference
02 – 05 October 2020

Imprint

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DEUTSCHER
BUNDESJUGENDRING

Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

Content

Preamble

The EU Youth Conference as a participatory process

The title „Europe for YOUth – YOUth for Europe: Space for Democracy and Participation" set the framework not only for the content of the first EU Youth Conference of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue but also for its planning, methodology and practical implementation.

As the first conference of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, the event focused on Youth Goal #9 and the topics of youth and democracy. Youth Goal #9: "Space and Participation for All" is one of the 11 European Youth Goals[1] which were developed by young people from all over Europe in the Structured Dialogue process in 2017/2018. Its aim to "Strengthen young people's democratic participation and autonomy as well as provide dedicated youth spaces in all areas of society" was set as the guideline for the entire conference. The conference aimed to strengthen democracy in Europe by exploring how the European Youth Goal #9 (Space and Participation for All) can be achieved, in particular at European level.

The German Federal Youth Council and the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth worked together as partners in order to ensure that the voices of young people were already heard during the planning process of the EU Youth Conference. They strived to make the German EU Youth Conference a best practice example of meaningful youth participation in the digital environment and to create a space for meaningful youth participation, ensuring possibilities for interaction and discussion among young people and between young people and political decision-makers.

Drawing on experiences from EU Youth Delegates and National Youth Councils as former conference organisers, the concept of the EU Youth Conference allowed for participants

- to talk about the topics in which they were most interested,
- to become hosts of the conference themselves (e.g. BarCamp and World Café)
- to discuss their ideas with political decision-makers on an eye level
- to develop and prioritise the outcomes and findings of the conference themselves

When creating the EU Youth Conference as a space for participation for all, standards of meaningful participation were key to its design, methodology and implementation.

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[1] *The European Youth Goals can be found in the Annex of the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027 (https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en), pages 11 ff.*

One important aspect of meaningful participation is to ensure proper documentation of the outcomes. It is equally important to make the documentation accessible to everyone so it can be worked with further. In order to ensure that the outcomes are documented, a harvesting concept was developed on the basis of which 10 harvesters (the harvesting team) summarised the outcomes of the conference. The harvesting team itself consisted of young people only. This enabled young people to be involved in all levels of the process: harvesting, clustering and summarising the outcomes.

▲ *The harvesting team was highly motivated and enjoyed their work, although gathering information required high concentration.*

Harvesting Approach

In light of the topic of the EU Youth Conference, a new harvesting approach was developed to make the process as transparent as possible.

1 Harvesting Team

The harvesters were chosen from the respondents to an open call. Apart from expertise in documentation, the harvesters had to be no older than 29 and experienced in the field of participation of young people.

2 Harvesting Procedure

For the harvesting team it was important to collect as much information as possible throughout the entire conference. The harvesters took notes and observed the conference at all times. Wherever possible, the participants were supported by a harvester in documenting the outcome of their discussions. The harvesting team documented the information by taking notes and collecting information from the tools (Mentimeter, Padlet, Yopad) which were used during the discussions. Where it was not possible to have a harvesting team member present in a discussion because there were too many discussion groups taking place simultaneously, the participants were asked to independently document the outcomes using templates and guiding questions. For example, the hosts of the BarCamp sessions on Day 3 provided a summary of the outcomes of their specific session by submitting a form which included guiding questions they had answered themselves *(see: Annex 3 – Reporting on BarCamp Sessions).*

3 Clustering & Summarising

To cluster and summarise the outcomes of the discussions and the different methodological parts of the conference, daily harvesting meetings were held. All written outcomes were worked through and discussed by the harvesters in order to include them in the Harvesting Summary. In order to adapt to the programme and the topics covered on each day, the form clustering was allowed to differ from day to day in order to accommodate different types of outcomes produced through different types of participatory processes and methodological parts. This approach was chosen to incorporate all the ideas and topics raised by participants while remaining as flexible as possible. In addition to taking into account ideas that were brought up several times, in their harvesting summary the harvesters also emphasised ideas which received special attention. An evaluation or rating of the outcomes was not a part of the clustering and summarising process.

4 Counter-Checking

On the last day, two harvesters presented the clustering and the outcomes from the preceding three days of the conference to the participants. Additionally, the harvesters clustered the ideas and demands according to the Targets of Youth Goal #9. All participants were thus given the opportunity to add to and correct the clustering if deemed necessary.

5 Harvesting Summary

The Harvesting Summary is structured in accordance with the conference programme. It includes the harvesting summaries for each day of the conference and a wrap-up of the outcomes. In addition, it contains detailed overviews of the outcomes in the various methodological parts and participation processes of the conference. Furthermore, the Harvesting Summary includes information on the context of the conference and provides an overview of how the outcomes and findings of the EU Youth Conference can and will be further processed and used.

It is, however, important to note that not every single idea mentioned or discussed throughout the conference appears in the Harvesting Summary. As implied by the title of this document and made transparent in the explanation about the harvesting procedure, the harvesting process included moments of clustering and summarising. This means that some ideas and outcomes may have been paraphrased and summarised or may not have been harvested by the harvesting team. A summary always also means that some details have been taken out and some details may be emphasised. Overall, however, the harvesting team collected as many results as possible. The entire harvest and harvesting process relating to the methodological structure of the conference are shown and made transparent in the Harvesting Summary.

Context and Conference Format

▲ *How to make a digital conference interactive? Facilitators off-stage, various tools and a lot of technical equipment.*

The EU Youth Conference takes place every six months in the EU Member State currently holding the presidency of the Council of the EU. This year the EU Youth Conference was supposed to take place as a live event in Germany because of the German Presidency of the Council of the EU. The conference was scheduled to take place in Berlin in July 2020. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was held online from 2 to 5 October 2020 in order to protect the participants. The participants in the EU Youth Con-

ference were national Youth Delegates, youth representatives of international youth organisations, representatives from national youth ministries and representatives from European institutions. All in all, around 200 people from all over Europe took part in the EUYC, about 130 of which were Youth Delegates.

The main challenges of the digital conference were to keep the participatory and dialogue formats as a place where participants were able to exchange, listen and learn from one another and to shape the event in the most interactive way possible. A range of tools, such as Mentimeter, Padlet, BarCamp, several Webex meeting rooms and even a digital café was used to facilitate (informal) dialogue and exchange among participants online. This made it possible for Youth Delegates to discuss issues, develop ideas, formulate demands and engage in dialogues with political decision-makers during the course of the first digital EU Youth Conference. Playing a major role in the EU Youth Dialogue, EU Youth Conferences are the platforms where ideas and demands are gathered at European level, best practices and advice are exchanged, outcomes of consultations are collected, and concrete political demands are formulated.

EU Youth Dialogue

The EU Youth Conference in Germany is not a one-off event of the German EU Presidency, but forms part of the EU Youth Dialogue. The EU Youth Dialogue is a European youth participatory process. Through 18-month cycles on a priority topic, the Youth Dialogue supports the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027.[2] It ensures the involvement of young people in the decision-making process in (youth) politics. This is done through a dialogue between young people and decision-makers in Europe.

The 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue runs from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021 under the Trio Presidency of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia[3]. The topic of the 8th EU Youth Dialogue cycle is Youth Goal #9: "Space and Participation for All" under the title of "Europe for YOUth – YOUth for Europe: Space for Democracy and Participation". Youth Goal #9: "Space and Participation for All" is one of the eleven European Youth Goals which were developed by young people from all over Europe in the Structured Dialogue in 2017/2018. The European Youth Goals now form part of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027.

Throughout this 18-month long process, concrete recommendations on how to implement this Youth Goal at the European, national, regional and local levels will be developed and implemented.

▲ *The trio presidency at work: Representatives from the German, Portuguese and Slovenian National Youth Councils and the German Youth Minister in front of the Berlin Wall.*

Guided by the Targets of the Youth Goal #9 as its framework, this cycle will focus on improving mechanisms for youth participation and creating (new) spaces for young people's participation in all areas of society. The 8th cycle starts with a qualitative consultation and dialogue phase, exploring Youth Goal #9 and its Targets and discussing how Youth Goal #9 can be put into practice on local, regional, national and European levels. The first EU Youth Conference of the 8th cycle was an important part of this first phase. Its focus was to explore how the Youth Goal #9 could be put into practice on the European level. It also aimed to familiarise the participants with the topic and to collect questions and thoughts. The participants explored and discussed various aspects of Youth Goal #9 and its Targets. In the upcoming phase of the cycle, the Implementation Phase, demands, plans and ideas will be put into action. That is how Youth Goal #9 is turned into Youth Actions.

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[2] *The EU Youth Strategy can be found here (https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en).*

[3] *Further information on the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue can be found in the Explanatory Note (https://jugenddialog.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/EXPLANATORY-NOTE_EUYD_-8th-cycle-3.pdf), 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, Trio Presidency Germany-Portugal-Slovenia. It is also the source of information provided in this chapter.*

Outcomes of the EU Youth Conference

The 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue focuses on effective and sustainable youth participation. The focus lies on implementing the consultation and dialogue outcomes and bringing about positive change. It is all about putting Youth Goal #9 into practice, i.e. Youth Goals become Youth Actions. The first EU Youth Conference in Germany in the 8th cycle was integrated into the dialogue phase as the main European level consultation event. Now that this first step has been taken, it is time to put the findings to work.

The outcomes of the EU Youth Conference in Germany will be utilised and will influence processes in various ways:

1

Outcomes will be fed into the overall findings of the qualitative consultation phase of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue.

2

They will form the basis of the online consultation process of the 8th cycle.

3

They will be incorporated into the German Council Conclusions on "Youth and Democracy".

4

They will be put forward as political demands to decision-makers both in the EU and in the Member States in the form of Youth Actions defining how to implement the European Youth Goals.[4]

5

The outcomes of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue will shape the resolution to be adopted by the Council of the Youth Ministers under the Slovenian Presidency in autumn 2021.

[4] An overview of the EU Youth Dialogue process and its outcomes can be found in the Explanatory Note of the 8th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (https://jugenddialog.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/EXPLANATORY-NOTE_EUYD_-8th-cycle-3.pdf).

Use the outcomes!

In addition to pre-structured and pre-determined follow-up, the outcomes of the EU Youth Conference gathered in this Harvesting Summary can be used by everyone to help achieve the aims of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue. The outcomes of the EU Youth Conference and the EU Youth Dialogue in general can be used in the local, regional, national, European and international context. They can be used as political demands and can serve as groundwork and inspiration. They can be disseminated to, put into practice by and provide guidelines for political decision-makers, experts, youth organisations and all (young) people interested in creating space and participation for all.

What HAPPENS to the OUTCOMES?

To feed into GERMAN COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS on the topic of YOUTH & DEMOCRACY

I wonder what HAPPENS to the OUTCOMES?

EUROPEAN SURVEY

BASIS of the EU-wide ONLINE SURVEY

take the DEMANDS & new IDEAS home

EUYC PORTUGAL

EUYC IN PORTUGAL

PORTUGUESE COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

EUYC SLOVENIA

EUYC IN SLOVENIA

POLITICAL DEMANDS

Council RESOLUTION

YOUTH ACTIONS
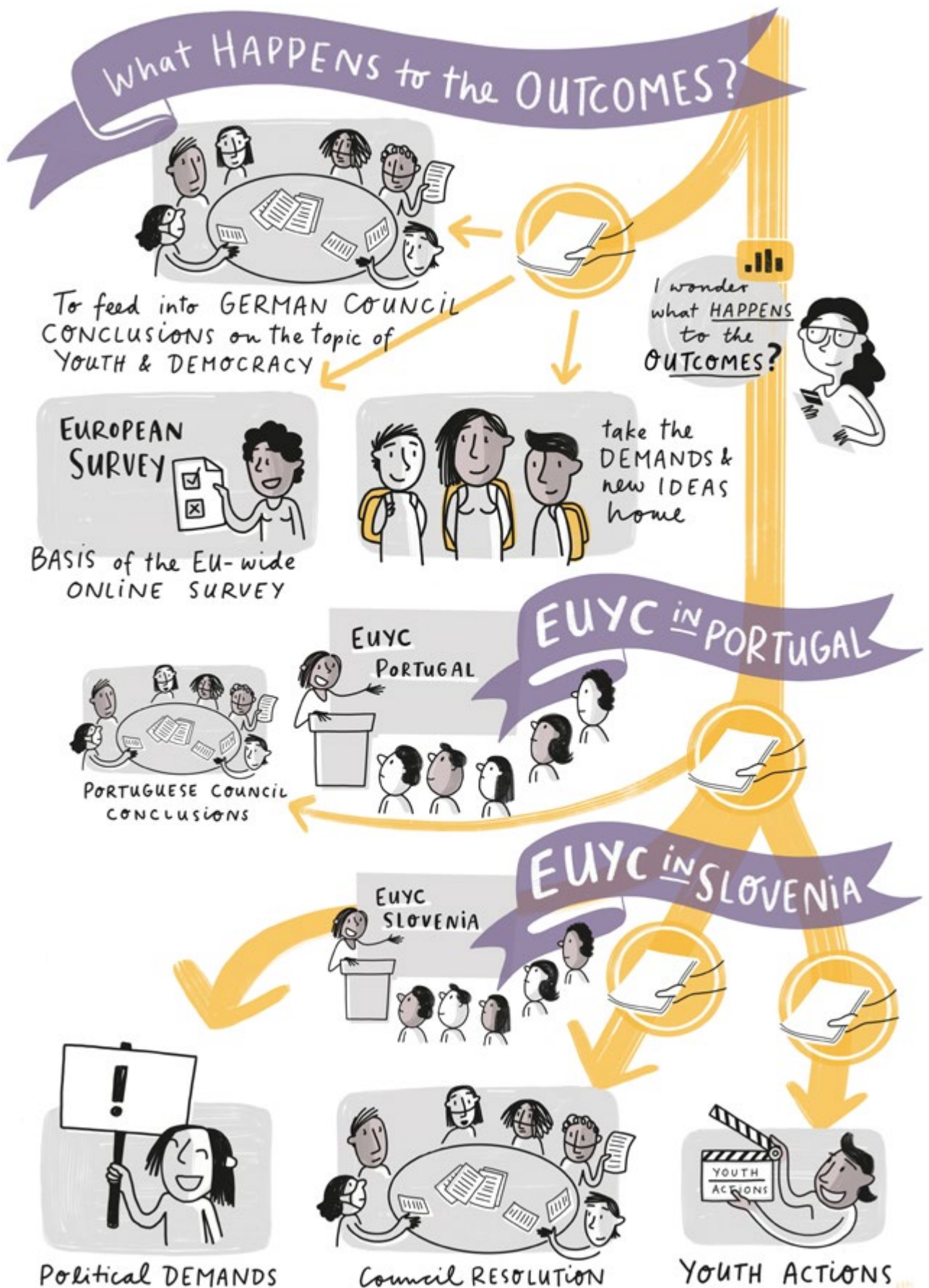
Programme and Methodological Process of the Conference

The EU Youth Conference under the German presidency took place digitally from 2–5 October 2020. Over four days, the participants discussed various questions and topics around Youth Goal #9. It was a time of dialogue at European level between young people and policy-makers and for discussion and working on Youth Goal #9 „Spaces and participation for all". Under the title „Europe for YOUth – YOUth for Europe. Space for democracy and participation", the participants discussed the key topics of the EU Youth Conference: youth, democracy, spaces and participation.

As the EU Youth Conference took place at the beginning of the 8th EU Youth Dialogue cycle, it was not yet at the stage when collected outcomes from structured dialogues in the member states were evaluated. Rather, it was a moment when the EU Youth Delegates and all other participants explored Youth Goal #9 and the overall topics of the conference, approached the topics from different angles and looked at which issues were important and currently relevant to young people. As part of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, ideas and demands were developed as to how Youth Goal #9 can be implemented in particular at European level.

The topics of the conference were jointly explored, viewed from different perspectives, discussed and worked on. This was followed by the participants working together and formulating **concrete ideas and demands**. The conference was therefore a process. It began with „Blue Sky Thinking", then moved into a phase of elaboration and discussion, and, through dialogue with political decision-makers, underwent concretisation and a form of „reality check", culminating in the formulation of concrete political demands by young people. Thus, the process of the EU Youth Conference met the quality standards of effective youth participation.

Overview of the programme

		Friday, 02.10.	Saturday, 03.10.	Sunday, 04.10.	Monday, 05.10.
Morning			Overview of youth participation	BarCamp sessions	Dialogue with political decision-makers
			World Café		
Afternoon		Opening and introduction	Open sessions and workshops		Summarising outcomes
			BarCamp session planning		Official closing

The conference began with phases of open **brainstorming** and discovery. These phases were reflected in the opening speeches, the joint „brainstorming moments", input by a researcher on the topics of the conference and the **World Café** method used.

In the next phase of the conference, different facets were explored, various perspectives were considered and the broad themes of the conference were put into concrete terms. The participants set their own focuses within the overall topics using the **BarCamp** method. This enabled the topics that are important to young people to be brought into focus and framed the content of the conference.

In the next phase, political decision-makers and young people discussed the conference topics in the political decision-makers' respective areas of competence and worked on identifying how the participation of young people can be strengthened in these areas. During this phase, broad ideas and themes were narrowed down and concrete ideas for implementation were formulated. By connecting this with the respective working areas of politicians, a form of „reality check" was provided.

Following the dialogues, the participants worked in small groups on each of the seven Targets of Youth Goal #9. The basis for discussion was a summary of the discussion outcomes from the entire conference with regard to the respective Target. The Target summary was prepared by the harvesting team. For each Target a guiding question was asked. These guiding questions were not specifically formulated for the conference but were taken from the consultation package for the National Working Groups, which the groups can use as a guide for their Youth Dialogue events within the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue. With the help of the harvesting team's summaries and drawing on the impressions and knowledge gained in the different conference phases, each working group developed a political demand relating to the respective Target of Youth Goal #9. The process thus culminated in the interactive method of the working groups and their outcomes.

▲ *At the Postbahnhof in Berlin, all teams are working together behind the scenes for the successful running of the digital EU Youth Conference.*

Lastly, three of these demands were discussed with politicians in a panel. The three demands were selected by the conference participants themselves in a democratic and youth-friendly way.

The conference was a methodical process in which the participants went through different phases. The Target summaries and the political demands resulting from the working groups took place at the end of this process *(see: Day 4 and Annex 4 - Youth Goal #9 Target Summaries)* and can, therefore, be considered as part of the main results of the EU Youth Conference.

EUYC in GERMANY

EUROPEAN YOUTH GOAL #9

Young PEOPLE coming up with DEMANDS and new IDEAS

World Café

BARCAMP

DIALOGUE with Political DECISION MAKERS

Harvest of the Conference

▲ Moderation off stage: chat moderator and co-facilitator at work.

Day 1

Day 1

The first day marked the start of the conference. The conference began with words of welcome, an introduction to the programme, an overview of the context of the conference and an interactive part to get to know each other a little. This was followed by the official opening and a panel discussion. In the evening plenary session, the participants received further details about different parts of the programme and the procedure at the digital conference.

During the introduction, the wishes and expectations of the participants were gathered using the tool Mentimeter. Furthermore, participants were asked what impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on spaces and participation for young people and what young people need for their civic and democratic engagement. These two questions were later discussed in the panel and the answers of the participants were used as a starting point.

The participants stated that the pandemic is affecting issues of mental health and that they are experiencing feelings of isolation, exclusion, limitation and fear. Challenging communication in general was seen as a restricting factor. Furthermore, words such as inequality and restrictions were used to describe the impact, to mention only a few of the points raised by the participants. Nevertheless, for some of the participants, the pandemic has also opened up opportunities and increased responsibilities, especially with regard to the use of digital spaces.

To encourage more civic and democratic engagement, participants felt the need for opportunities, (safe) spaces, information, knowledge and education as well as financial support and representation. They also stated that motivation, support and encouragement are key factors in their engagement.

After the warm-up session, the conference was officially opened with a speech by the German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Dr Franziska Giffey. This was followed by video messages from the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Afterwards, the presidents of the German Federal Youth Council, Tobias Köck and Lisi Maier, finished the introduction with their joint speech.

The statements referred to the conference's focus on the need for space for youth participation. It was pointed out that, while progress has been made and freedom has been expanded, many young people still do not have the same opportunities. Young people have to be enabled to formulate political demands.

Particular emphasis was placed on the consequences of the pandemic. The digital implementation of the conference was mentioned as a good example for overcoming these obstacles and creating new spaces.

A third theme revolved around the threats to which liberal democracy in Europe is exposed. The speakers stated that there is a need for committed democrats and contributions towards a European society. The need to uphold values and standing up for the rule of law were emphasised.

Speakers pledged that the ideas of the conference would be passed on to the Council and fed into the Council Conclusions planned by the German Presidency and into the EU Youth Dialogue. In addition, efforts to enhance other instruments such as the EU Youth Dialogue, the Youth Guarantee, the Erasmus+ Program and the Solidarity Corps were considered necessary.

After the speeches, Youth Minister, Dr Franziska Giffey, engaged in a panel discussion with European Youth Forum board member, Silja Markkula, and the Vice-President of the German Federal Youth Council, Marius Schlageter. Participants took part in the debate through the chat and video conference tool. The main topics of discussions were as follows:

- Acknowledging the prerequisites for young people's involvement as mentioned in the Mentimeter and recognising that there is a need to open up further meaningful formal and informal ways for young people to get engaged politically both in the national and EU context
- Considering youth participation as a cross-sectoral approach
- Working on structural changes such as lowering the voting age
- Implementing participation already in early childhood education and day care
- Respecting self-organised civil society by safeguarding it from governmental interference, thus aiming for independently organised national youth councils

- Connecting EU funding for Member States to the rule of law
- Providing youth organisations with support, funding and infrastructure as they are very effective in engaging young people
- Establishing international dialogue between partners from different countries in order to support each other
- Realising the basic rights and needs of young people, since a lack thereof prevents them from participating and taking part in society
- Urging the Member States to play their part in implementing the formal UN rights and contributing to EU social funding efforts

- Acknowledging that young people were specifically hit by the pandemic as their spaces such as schools, kindergartens and youth centres were closed and youth programmes could not take place
- Preventing further shutdowns, destabilisation of social environments and shrinking of spaces for participation
- Making young people's voices count just as much as those of other age groups who might have (more) access to networks, financial resources, etc. This phenomenon has worsened during the pandemic and those with issues experienced even more deteriorations in rights during the crisis
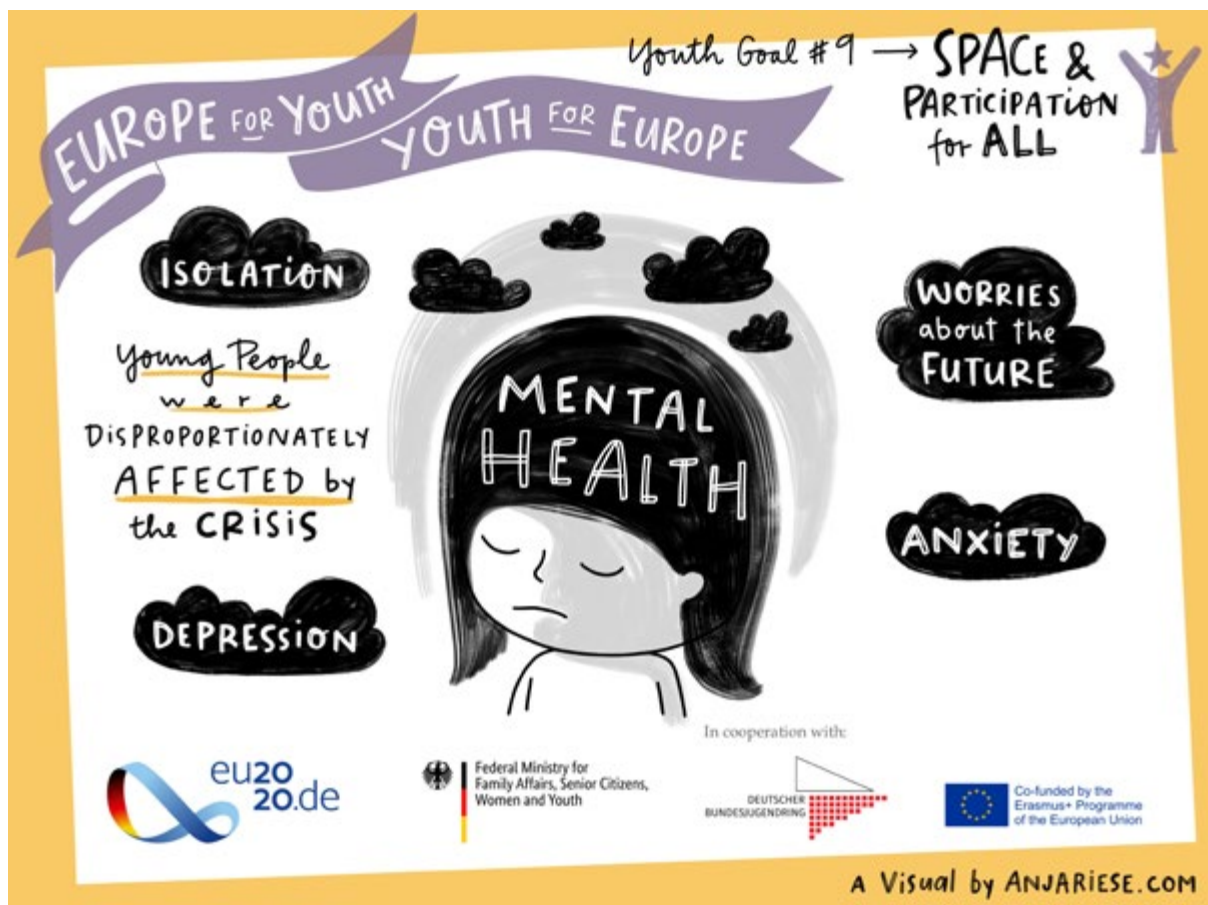
- Exploring the effect that the pandemic had on the mental health of young people
- Taking budgetary decisions while keeping young people and youth organisations in mind since projects like Erasmus+ have a high relevance for the volunteering sector

The survey during the evening plenary session illustrated the feelings and first impressions of the participants. The participants looked forward to the conference, feeling excitement, ambition and clarity. They mentioned that there are many old issues to tackle and that there is a lot of work left to do.

The first conference day laid the foundation for the following days to dive deeper into the topic of "Space and Participation for all". It was established that the participants would discuss the basic prerequisites for implementing Youth Goal #9, ideas and best practices and formulate concrete political demands to be passed on to political decision-makers in interactive formats.
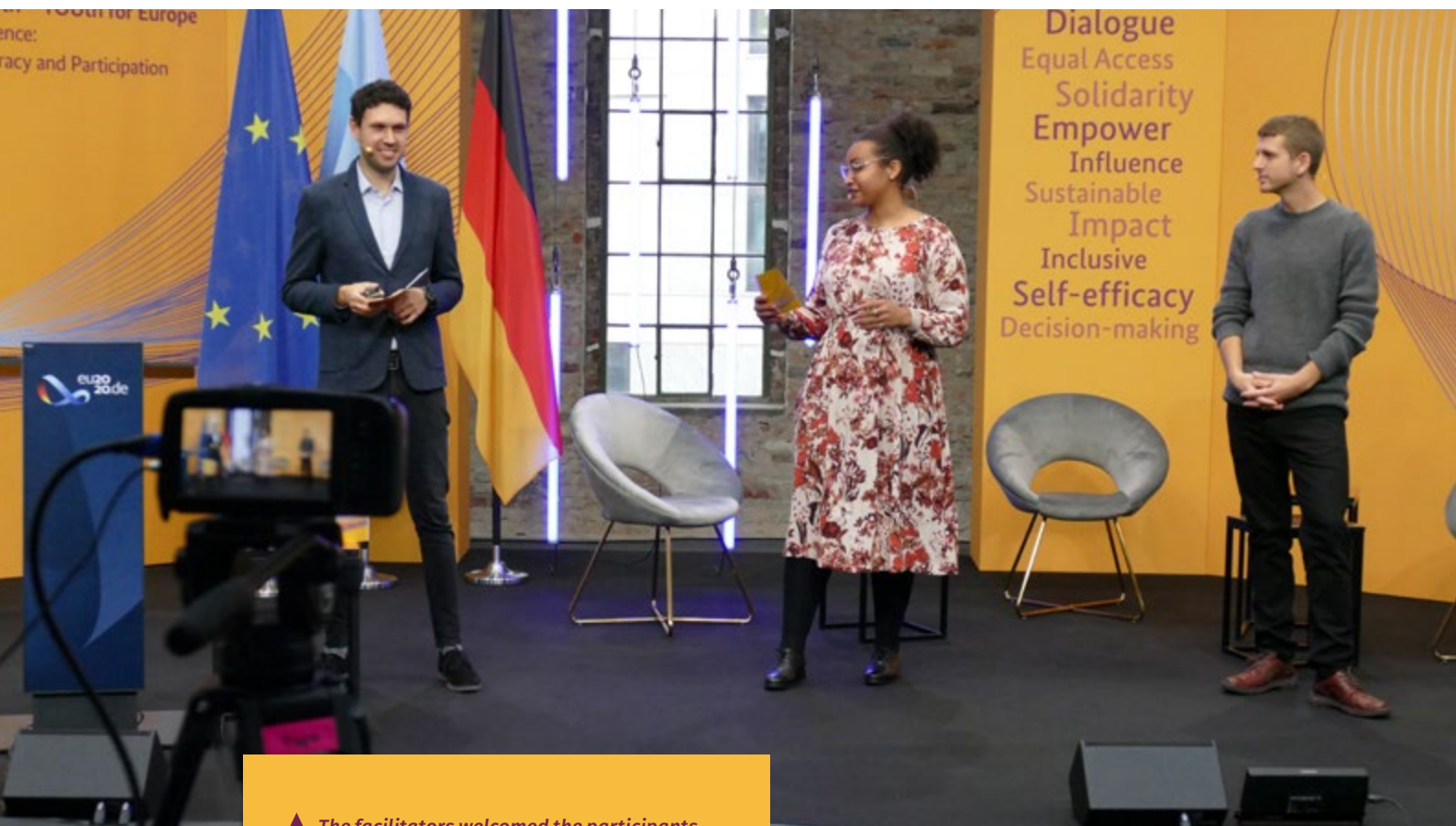
▲ *The facilitators welcomed the participants every morning with high spirits.*

Day 2

Day 2

The second day was dedicated to exploring Youth Goal #9: "Space and Participation for all", focussing on the key conditions for successful youth participation. In the morning plenary session, Dan Moxon, a researcher and practitioner in the field of youth participation, gave a short presentation on the current situation of youth participation in Europe. The participants then explored different aspects of Youth Goal #9 in a World Café, concentrating on the key condi-

tions for successful youth participation. In the afternoon, the participants could choose to take part in one of several different workshops and open sessions offered by youth organisations to further explore various aspects and angles of Youth Goal #9.

Operating as an interactive space where participants could discuss and contribute, the World Café produced outcomes that were then harvested by the harvesting team. The workshops and open sessions in the afternoon provided inputs and food for thought which the participants could further work with at the conference, for example in the BarCamp sessions on Sunday. As the outcomes of the workshops and open sessions influenced the setting of the conference content only indirectly, these were not harvested.
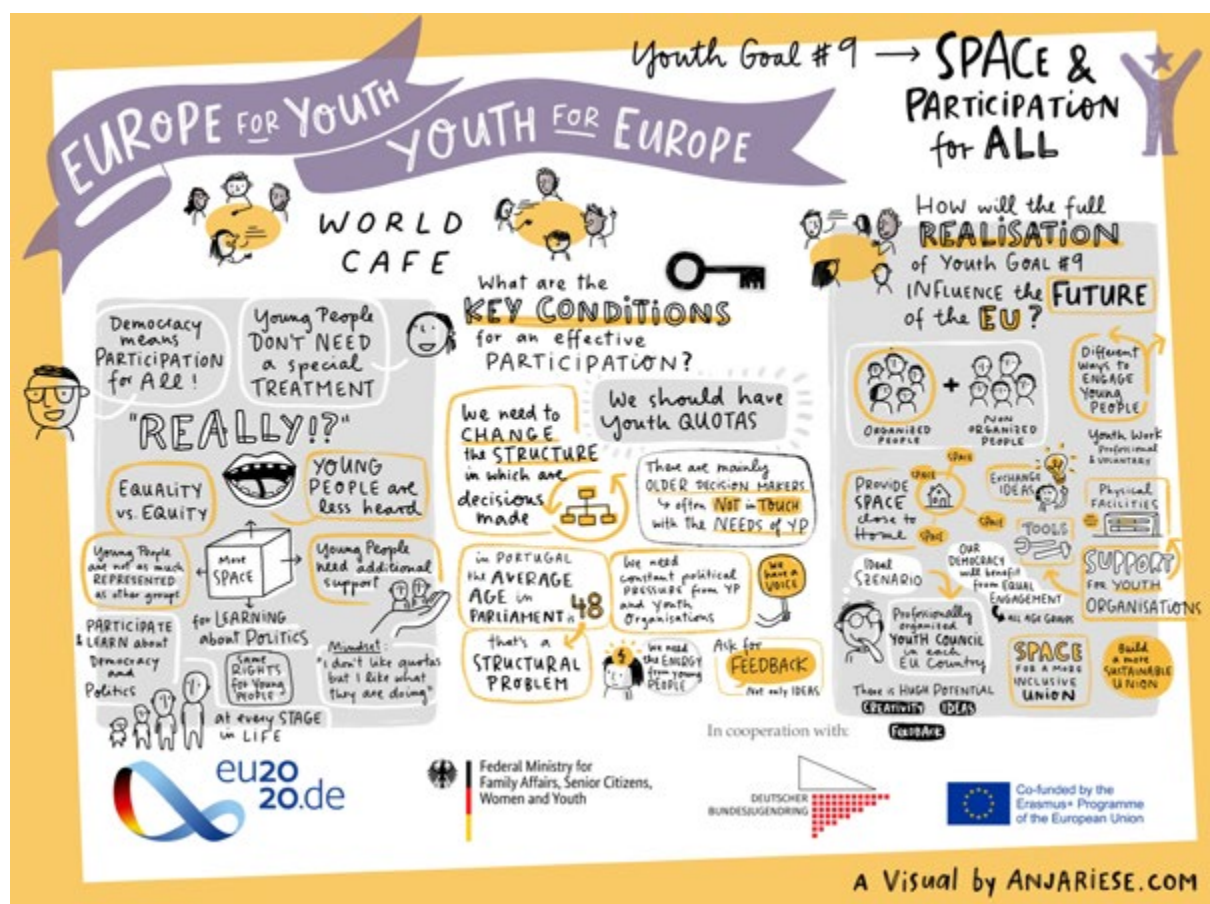
World Café

General impressions

All participants discussed the following questions in three rounds of World Cafés:

▶ **Round 1:**
"Democracy means participation for all. Young people don't need special treatment." What is your opinion about that provocative statement?

▶ **Round 2:**
What are the prerequisites for implementing Youth Goal #9 at European level? What are the key conditions for effective participation of young people in political decision-making processes?

▶ **Round 3:**
How will the full realisation of Youth Goal #9 influence the future of the European Union?

The discussions took part in 15 small groups and were held in parallel. After each round, the groups mixed again. The conclusions of the World Café sessions can be summarised as follows:

▲ *Behind the scenes: The technical team is checking in on the BarCamp sessions.*

Implementing Youth Goal #9 will lead to a strengthening of the democratic values of the European Union by involving all citizens, including young people. Fully achieving Youth Goal #9 will also partly implement every other Youth Goal, as "Space and Participation for all" is the key to inclusive politics on all other topics. The future of the EU depends on the inclusion of young people. Specifically, the current situation of COVID-19 imposed significant restrictions on youth participation in politics in 2020. This issue needs to be prioritised in EU politics. All of the participants agreed that EU politics need to focus further on including young people's opinions in policy-making because young people want to be heard and taken seriously by politicians.

Outcomes of the World Café rounds, clustered by topic[5]

Education
- Education about democratic participation and EU institutions as a necessary prerequisite for youth participation
- Need for different educational formats: non-formal, academic, practice-based learning
- Start political education at a young age

Information flow
- Inform young people of the process of policy-making in a youth-friendly manner
- Provide feedback and evaluation, for example on the implementation of Youth Goals
- Make the importance of meaningful participation visible so that a good information loop can be established
- Spread awareness of available platforms for participation to young people
- Foster regular meetings, dialogues and interactions between politicians and young people

Structural issues
- Need for more transparency
- Need to restore trust in institutions and the EU as a whole
- Establish youth quotas for elections

Empowerment
- Provide safe spaces for youth participation
- Accountability: Reflect the possibilities of youth participation in EU policy-making

Inclusiveness
- Need to include minorities
- Provide information in a simple language to reach a wide range of young people
- Need for youth representation in politics that reflects all social backgrounds

Values of youth participation
- Appreciation of young people's opinions, independent of gender and age
- Recommend a voting age of 16 years in all EU Member States
- Equal representation of young people compared to other social groups in all political institutions

Space and resources
- Access to funding for participation tools
- Need for spaces of participation (e.g. Youth Parliament)
- Strongly support already existing youth programmes as well as the establishment of new ones

Youth organisations
- Are a relevant space to empower youth
- Provide non-formal education with lower access barriers
- Important role in advocating for the rights of young people

For each round of the World Café, the hosts of the groups reported on what the main statement, most discussed idea, topic or their group's strongest demand was to the panel (see: Annex 2 – World Café Outcomes).

[5] Note: Outcomes presented in this overview might partly reflect the view of some but not all participants due to the overall harvesting approach (see: Harvesting approach, p. 4)

Workshops and Open Sessions

In the afternoon, nine workshops and open sessions were offered. The workshops were mostly organised by member youth organisations of the German Federal Youth Council. In addition, the European Youth Forum and the researchers of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue also offered workshops. The aim was to explore aspects and various angles of Youth Goal #9 by connecting young people, exchanging best practices, gaining insights into other topics and showing examples of youth work and youth participation.

The following workshops and open sessions took place:
● Ask your researchers
● Experiences of young people from Berlin with democracy
● Q&A on the BarCamp
● Safeguarding civic space for young people in Europe
● Schools of democracy? Youth participation in religious organisations
● Scouting in Berlin
● The future of Belarus – A democratic nation or an oppressive autocracy?
● YOUth ACTivity: EU and YOU!

In the evening, the participants who proposed a BarCamp session and any other participants who were interested met at the BarCamp Sessions on Sunday (Day3).

▲ *Young people at work: The harvesting team is explaining their approach to the participants and sharing their impressions.*

Day 3

Day 3

The EU Youth conference served as a space for youth participation. In the BarCamp sessions on day 3, the participants defined their own topics and priorities for discussion, thus setting the agenda for the day. In 25 session slots, lasting 45 mins each, 18 proposed topics were discussed.

The harvest of these discussions, the challenges and possible solutions are summarised under the following clustered subtopics. The

breakdown of this harvesting summary does not correspond with the names of the individual BarCamp sessions. The structure here corresponds with a thematic subdivision of the topics discussed. During the BarCamp sessions, a wide range of topics and perspectives were discussed. This summary gives an overview of the relevant points by summarising obstacles and possible solutions. However, you can find the detailed reports of the hosts of the BarCamp sessions in Annex 3 *(see: Annex 3 Reporting on BarCamp Sessions).*

Method: BarCamp

▶ Minorities

Obstacles

- Missing: representation of minorities in politics, among teachers, scientists and administration. Older people form the majority and are in charge of politics, but do not always recognize the issues of minorities,
- There are no common and well-known spaces, where people from of different backgrounds can meet up, discuss structural problems and discrimination, learn from each other and spread awareness, knowledge and information

Possible solutions

- Including minorities in decision-making processes as leaders/Youth Delegates/representatives, having them as a channel. Consultations with people from minority backgrounds have to be obligatory in political processes
- Ensuring equal access for all within politics, society and laws
- Equal representation of young people from all backgrounds at the government level
- Raising awareness of the inclusion of minorities through laws and education
- Stop thinking that quotas might be the answer to representing minorities throughout society.
- Focus on providing equal opportunities
- National Youth Councils and Governments can help organisations of minorities to build their own structures. They can also generate funds for them to create their own spaces.
- Encouraging people to share immigrant stories via their immediate environment and social media.
- Whether you just talk with your white friends or people identifying as BIPoC/Non-BIPoC, everyone has the right to belong, thrive and be heard wherever they live.

COVID-19

Obstacles

- Young people are not having much interaction with youth from minority backgrounds owing to COVID-19 because of the lack of physical spaces for young people to meet
- EU Youth Conference in Germany: A challenge but also an opportunity to show how a digital conference works. There are opportunities for synergies and we have to work with a certain pragmatism on the challenge
- Owing to COVID-19 many young people are facing unemployment and difficulties applying for jobs. Spaces are needed where they can be supported and educated during their unemployment

Possible solutions

- Creating special programmes for rural areas so young people can benefit from resources and funding and be equally included (also in times of crises)
- Seeing COVID-19 as a source of impetus that can create special opportunities
- Offering support such as orientation, training and education in different formats of digital learning for young people in different contexts who are suffering from unemployment owing to COVID-19
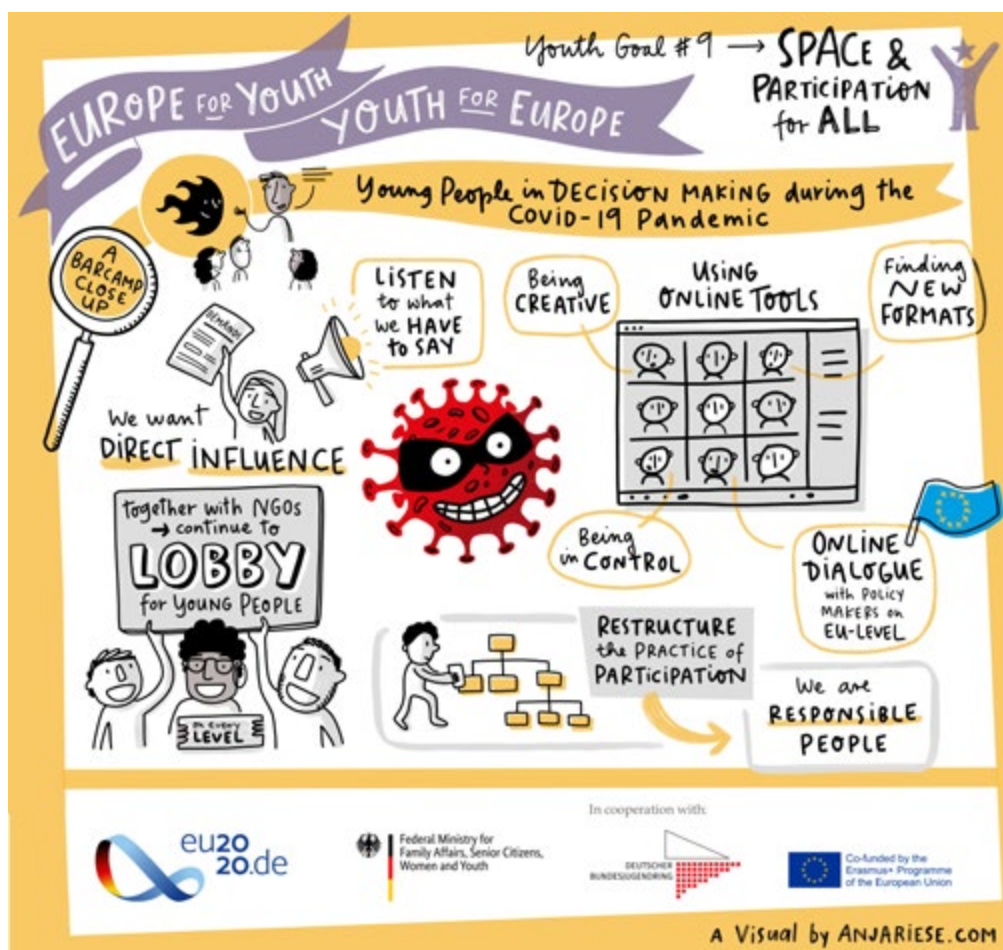
▶ Education

Obstacles

- Formal education is often isolated and not open enough to cooperation, self-management and providing spaces, especially for youth from all backgrounds
- The information provided is often too complicated and not in a suitable language for young people, which makes access to information more difficult.
- Accessibility is a huge issue, especially looking at the urban-rural cleavage. Many young people or organisations do not have access to the tools for digital meetings or the necessary financial means.
- At a young age, people are sometimes not aware of opportunities for non-formal education
- Safe spaces for young people are needed to develop their identity. Government power over the school curriculum can be problematic.

Possible solutions

- Participation must and can be learned at school. For example, by adapting and changing existing school models, promoting the learning of soft skills, encouraging students to pay attention to their own happiness and not only focussing on grading
- Empowering individuals through education to navigate the political space, i.e. developing knowledge and skills that will boost people's confidence to participate
- Formal education should cooperate with youth work and volunteering to strengthen the links between non-formal and formal education
- Young people have the right to political education they need to enable them to think critically and take ownership by educating others
- Going into schools to educate about youth participation programmes and integrating programmes into the curriculum

▶ Voting age

Obstacles

- In almost no country in Europe it is possible to vote under the age of 18
- Young people are not able to vote for the politicians who take action to protect the environment and climate

Possible solutions

- Throughout Europe the voting age should be 16 → Lowering the voting age

▶ Youth organisations

Obstacles

- Desire for more exchange and continuous collaboration between youth organisations and young people in Europe
- Support is needed at the local level (municipalities) for the creation of spaces, but also dissemination of their activities among young people
- Youth-led and youth-run places and facilities are rare

Possible solutions

- Organising regular meetings in between the EU Youth Conferences and more intensive use of existing communication and collaboration platforms
- Increase youth mobility and dialogue between young people from different backgrounds through financial resources and funding programmes such as Erasmus or other programmes for young people to join and reach youth organisations
- Exchange opportunities not only target university students, but also high school students, e.g. through exchange programmes
- Some grass roots initiatives and universities have created their own spaces and run them. These centres are very close to the needs of young people
- Co-leading of youth spaces to ensure maturity and functioning of the space, but still giving independence to youth
- Making it clear that youth participation is not always only political, it can be community or interest-based
- More "mature/ non-youth" organisations could share their physical spaces and offer facilities, not only in urban areas

▶ Volunteering

Obstacles

- Socio-economic barriers, for example explored by asking the question: "Is it common to volunteer in your environment or might you have to work at an early age to make your living?"
- Lack of knowledge on how to get involved locally or at the EU level

Possible solutions

- Jointly defining the personal interests of volunteering for young people, going into their spaces/local communities and informing
- Communication about volunteering opportunities: Creating open calls on social media, visiting schools, "face-to-face" dialogues
- Needs to be strengthened through youth organisations and funded by Member States: networking, more teaching about the EU, enhanced internet activity

▶ Communication between government authorities and young people

Obstacles

● Complex governance system: this means that the individual responsibilities are not directly visible and communication is more difficult

● Our society lacks awareness of structural racism and the discrimination of minorities. Minorities are often not included in decision-making processes because there is no space for them to participate and discuss their needs.

● Regarding youth participation and its effects: lack of feedback

Possible solutions

● Including young people more in political structures to help them understand the complexity

● When establishing local youth councils in every local institution one person should be responsible for youth participation
  → Talking to your city council and mayor and advocating for participation
  → Showing best practice from other cities or communities
  → Involving youth organisations from your city

● Encouraging young people to enter political structures by involving them in decision-making processes

● Creating a handbook on politics
  → With contact persons from politics (for young people)
  → Guide for politicians so they can effectively communicate their knowledge

● Teaching students about cultural communication in formal and non-formal education. Education must react to the diversity of our society and create spaces for exchange and discussion.

In the evening plenary, the BarCamp sessions were briefly reflected upon and the participants shared which topics they had taken with them from the BarCamp. In addition, the participants were asked which topics they would like to bring into the dialogue with the political decision-makers, thus building a bridge to the programme for the next day.

▲ *Various video conference rooms were used for dialogues between participants and political decision-makers. This enabled digital exchange in small groups.*

Day 4

Day 4

On Monday morning, the fourth and last day of the conference, the Youth Delegates had the opportunity to engage in dialogues with political decision-makers. After the dialogues, the participants came together in working groups where they reviewed and added to the outcomes of the conference which were clustered according to the seven Targets of Youth Goal #9.

During the following panel discussion, the results and political demands formulated in the working groups were presented. Three out of seven demands were then voted on by the participants and discussed in the closing panel discussion. Finally, a handover to the Portuguese Presidency took place and the conference was officially closed.

Political Dialogues

On the morning of 5 October several political dialogues took place in small groups, giving Youth Delegates the exclusive opportunity to directly address topics raised during the conference and to discuss them with political decision-makers. The central question in these dialogues was how the political decision-makers could implement Youth Goal #9 in their respective policy area.

The aim of the political dialogues was to create an open exchange between political decision-makers and young people in order to
- make youth participation tangible for the participants and to set an example of real youth participation
- discuss ideas and demands of young people with regard to the topic of "Space and Participation for All" with reference to the policy area of each respective political decision-maker
- jointly develop ideas on how "Space and participation for all" could be put into practice/made possible within their area of responsibility

Small groups of around 6-8 participants allowed for the dialogues to develop and offered a space where the Youth Delegates and political decision-maker were free to explain ideas and opinions and share mutual feedback. At the same time, this setting ensured the possibility for reaching a common understanding of different positions and perspectives. At the end of the session, each group developed one concrete implementation idea in collaboration with the political decision-maker.

The political dialogues were moderated by one of the facilitators, a representative of the Federal German Youth Council and a representative of the European Youth Forum. The youth delegates and youth representatives were split up in groups according to their preferences.

Political Dialogue Outcomes

In each of the groups, an intensive dialogue took place which was shaped and guided by the questions and demands of the Youth Delegates. Due to the diversity of the questions and policy areas, a wide range of topics, ideas, political demands and best practices were discussed. Each group formulated one main outcome of their dialogue.

Dialogue Group with Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot

Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+ at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

Main Outcome: Let's put a focus on programmes – for example, by making them operational in the digital area so they don't lose their relevance (e.g. exchange programmes). Use the Conference on the Future of Europe by creating a Youth Agora at the conference.

Dialogue Group with Dr Franziska Giffey

German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Main Outcome: We should integrate the Youth Check even further into the political system. Direct exchange at eye level between political decision-makers should be promoted in the context of formal education.

Dialogue Group with Dr Simona Kustec

Minister for Education, Science, and Sport, Slovenia

Main Outcome:

● Minister's main outcome: A structured dialogue with equal access for young people is needed in political decision-making processes.

● Youth Delegates' main outcome: Youth-friendly communication to and with young people as well as equal opportunities are needed. It is also necessary to support youth NGOs that are working for and with young people.

Dialogue Group with Stefan Olsson

Director for Employment at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Main Outcome: We should design a (virtual) platform that is accessible to all young people to make consultations (on local, regional and national level) easier and more direct. Young people should be able to give direct input on issues and have the platform to express how they want political decision-makers to deal with them. We need experts to create this kind of tool which would open up access to consultation and political decision-making for young people on all levels.

Dialogue Group with João Paulo Rebelo

Portuguese Secretary of State for Youth and Sport

Main Outcome: Policies should be created in cooperation with young people. A discussion about the voting age is also necessary as well as quotas, which should be taken to a concrete level.

Dialogue Group with Evelyn Regner

Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament

Main Outcome: Women should be financially and economically independent. Different steps need to be taken to implement these goals: It is necessary to get women into top positions. The gender pay gap must be closed and there needs to be more equal sharing of unpaid care work. Raising and developing criteria for minimum salary is specifically helping women to generate a fair income. Good education is the basis for women to achieve independence.

Dialogue Group with Adrián Vázquez Lázara

Chair of the Committee in Legal Affairs of the European Parliament

Main Outcome: It is necessary to put the focus on media, news and digital literacy (not only for young people but for all).

Dialogue Group with Sabine Verheyen

Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament

Main Outcome: We should ensure that young people are being heard by the European Parliament in the process of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) / #NextGenerationEU and convince other committees within the European Parliament to include young people and youth organisations in their discussions, also in regard to the RRF.

Working Groups on Targets

In the final participatory format of the conference, the participants had the opportunity to review and add to the gathered outcomes of the conference. The findings were structured and divided according to the 7 Targets of Youth Goal #9, which were then discussed in small groups. The participants were free to assign themselves to their preferred Target. For each Target, a member of the harvesting team presented the collected outcomes, which could then be reviewed together. The reviewed outcomes were summarised in the Youth Goal #9

Target Summary containing all the main conclusions of the conference clustered by the Targets. Based on these discussions, each Target group formulated one concrete political demand which can contribute towards implementing Youth Goal #9 at European level and in the Member States.

All detailed outcomes can be found in the above-mentioned Youth Goal #9 Target Summary in Annex 4 *(see: Annex 4 - Youth Goal #9 Target Summaries).*

The political demands on the seven targets were formulated as follows:

Target **#1**

We demand co-decision-making processes on all levels with young people and youth organisations, implemented through a rights-based approach.

Target #2

Decision-makers should encourage and invest in dedicated processes which amplify young minority voices and ensure their direct engagement.

Target #3

Ensure young people's access to formal decision-making by lowering the age of voting and political candidacy to 16 in all elections, while ensuring all youths have the opportunity to gain sufficient skills and motivation to participate actively and passively in elections, as well as removing all barriers to voting.

Target #4

We demand a new EU Fund to set up and sustain youth spaces.

Target **#5**

We request that the European Commission puts the creation of safe digital spaces for young people, along with the support and funding of developing digital literacy activities, as one of the top priorities in all programmes along prioritising it horizontally at European level.

Target **#6**

We demand funds to be made available for permanent structures of participation.

Target **#7**

We demand critical thinking to become a part of the obligatory private and public school curriculum for at least one hour a week from the ages 10-16 in order to fight fake news and disinformation with media and information literacy and to encourage youth participation and motivation to be a part of the debate.

During the closing panel discussion of the conference, the participants were given the opportunity to debate three of these political demands with the panel guests and to receive comments and feedback. The participants decided democratically that the political demands of Targets 1, 3, and 7 should be presented and discussed during the closing panel discussion.

Closing Panel Discussion

The conference ended with a panel discussion on the outcomes of the conference. The discussion was attended by the German Youth Minister Dr Franziska Giffey, the President of the Portuguese National Youth Council Rita Saias, the board member of the YFJ Benjamin Günther and three Youth Delegates who joined the discussion consecutively to present three of the formulated political demands: Mila Lukic, Simon Lindkær Andersen and Leverne Nijman.

The panel discussion was divided into three rounds. In each round, one of the three previously nominated Youth Delegates first presented the political demand which had been formulated in the previous Working Group on Targets on the basis of the outcomes of the conference. This was followed by a joint discussion with the panellists and the respective youth delegate.

Target # 1 – Ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people.

Demand: We demand co-decision-making processes on all levels with young people and youth organisations, implemented through a rights-based approach.

When presenting the demand, the Youth Delegate Mila Lukic stressed the need to integrate a rights-based approach for involving young people and youth organisations via organised and non-organised participation. Minister Giffey agreed and added it should not only be about youth topics. Germany, for example, introduced a youth strategy with all ministries. In the future, youth rights need to be guaranteed in the constitution. Rita Saias proposed widening the perspective. For example, strategies from different countries could be compared. She stressed the necessity to look at youth in a broader way and not only talk about youth topics specifically. Another point of discussion was the special focus on local youth movements which should be supported.

◀ *The German Youth Minister, the President of the Portuguese National Youth Council and a board member of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) talk about the conference-outcomes. The official parts were translated into sign language.*
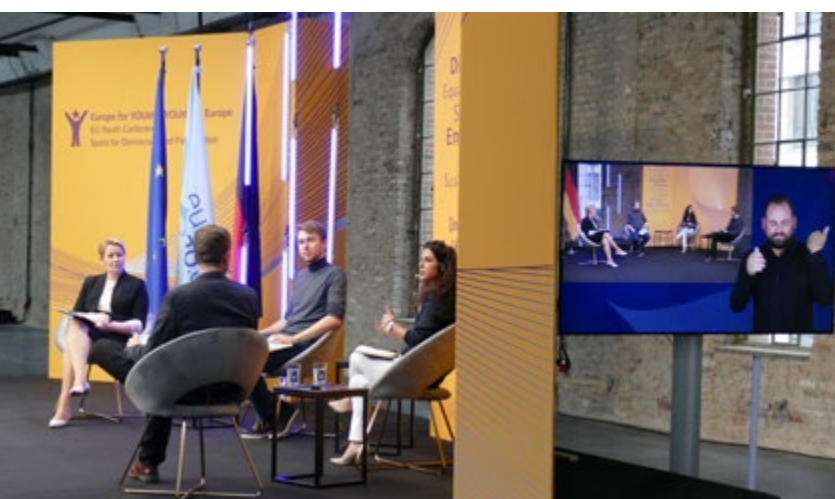
Target #3 – Increase youth participation and thus equal representation in the electoral process as well as in elected bodies and other decision-making organs at all levels of society.

Demand: Ensure young people's access to formal decision-making by lowering the age of voting and political candidacy to 16 in all elections, while ensuring all youths have the opportunity to gain sufficient skills and motivation to participate actively and passively in elections, as well as removing all barriers to voting.

The demand was presented by youth delegate Simon Lindkær Andersen. He emphasised the need for structures to support young people and the need to remove all kinds of barriers that prevent young people from participating in the electoral process. Opening the debate, Benjamin Günther stressed that the YFJ has long been working on promoting a lower voting age at both European and national level. It is important to recognise that lowering the voting age goes hand in hand with quality (political) education. Minister Giffey confirmed that the issue needs to be discussed publicly and that it is particularly important to support young people in their political participation and provide them with the necessary skills. During the discussion it emerged that the outcomes of the conference show that many young people are calling for a lower voting age and that this should be taken into account in further political processes. Equally important is the continued support of youth organisations, which play an important role in the political participation of young people.

Target #7 – Provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation.

Demand: We demand critical thinking to become a part of the obligatory private and public school curriculum for at least one hour a week from the ages 10-16 in order to fight fake news and disinformation with media and information literacy and to encourage youth participation and motivation to be a part of the debate.

Youth delegate Leverne Nijman further stated that young people get most of their information online. She emphasised that instead of providing young people with increasing amounts of information, it is essential to provide them with the skills for effective filtering and reflection at an early age. The Minister agreed with Leverne Nijman and acknowledged that it is particularly important to teach media skills in school contexts, preferably in various subjects from different perspectives. Beyond that it is also important to address the topic in the non-formal education sector. In addition, the topic would also relate to protecting young people in the digital space, e.g. with regard to cyber mobbing or fraud. Benjamin Günther underlined that it was particularly important to promote the topic at national level. He observed that for successful cooperation between formal and non-formal education, it is necessary for schools to open up to youth organisations and that more sustainable funding for the organisations is needed to fulfil their educational purpose.

Closing of the EU Youth Conference

The closing of the conference started with a speech by Themis Christophidou, Director-General at the European Commission for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, who underlined the importance of the EU Youth Dialogue and the achievements of the last 10 years.

Her speech was followed by Tobias Köck, President of the German Federal Youth Council, who emphasised the importance of young people for our democracy and emphasised that it is important to implement sustainable co-decision-making processes which could lead by example at all levels, including the European level.

Dr Franziska Giffey, German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as well as Dr Tiago Brandão Rodrigues, Portuguese Minister of Education, agreed with the previous speakers and highlighted the importance of human rights and democracy in the EU and how participation for all is an integral part of this at all levels. They were very pleased to receive the outcomes of the conference on behalf of their governments and the presidencies giving their assurance that they would incorporate them into Council conclusions under the German Presidency.

▲ *German Youth Minister Franziska Giffey promises to discuss the demands and proposals of the EU Youth Conference with her colleagues in Europe.*

Rita Saias and Marius Schlageter as the representatives of the National Youth Councils of the current and the upcoming EU presidency did a ceremonial handover, emphasising the relevance of the Trio Presidency and highlighting the cooperation between the three National Youth Councils of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia as a good example of fruitful cooperation which is contributing towards implementing the European Youth Goals. They stated that in a globalised world we need European solutions and that strong cooperation in the EU and a Trio Presidency can make this possible if the ideas and demands of young people are taken into account and young people can participate in the decision-making processes.

Wrap-Up

▲ *The DBJR President emphasizes the importance of strong and independent youth organisations and youth councils, especially in the view of shrinking spaces for civil society.*

The EU Youth Conference under the German Council Presidency aimed to contribute to strengthening democracy in Europe by exploring how the European Youth Goal #9: "Space and Participation for All" can be achieved, in particular at European level. Under the title „Europe for YOUth – YOUth for Europe. Space for democracy and participation", the topics of the EU Youth Conference were youth, democracy, space and participation for all. As the conference took place in the digital space, the organisers tried to set a best practice example of meaningful youth

participation in the digital environment and to create a space for meaningful youth participation. Hence, the conference was designed in such a way that young people had many opportunities to get involved and discuss the issues that are important to them. Various opportunities for interaction and discussion among young people and between young people and political decision-makers were offered. In addition to being participants in the conference, young people also facilitated different programme points and took part in the harvesting of the outcomes.

The topics of the conference were jointly explored, viewed from different perspectives, discussed and worked on. The conference was therefore a process. It began with „Blue Sky Thinking", then moved into a phase of elaboration and discussion. Through dialogue with political decision-makers, it was put into more concrete terms and underwent a form of „reality check" before culminating in the formulation of specific political demands by young people. However, it is impossible for the political demands formulated for each of the seven Targets of Youth Goal #9 to fully reflect the wide range of topics, ideas and discussions that arose during the conference. They should therefore be seen as the condensed outcome of all the discussions and ideas over the course of the conference.

This Harvesting Summary aims to give a deeper insight into the topics and ideas that were discussed during the four days. The harvesting team observed and took notes of as many outcomes as possible and clustered the findings. Additionally, the participants themselves reported on the sessions they had personally hosted. This summary provides an overview of the range of topics and ideas. However, it is unable to reflect and report on every single point raised due to nature of the harvesting process, as made transparent in the Summary.

Acknowledgements

▲ *Is it going to work out in the way we planned it?"*
Members of the conference team at work.

As the EU Youth Conference took place at the beginning of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, the collected outcomes from structured dialogues in the Member States had not yet been evaluated. Rather, it was a time when the EU Youth Delegates and all other participants explored Youth Goal #9 and the overall topics, approached different angles of the topics and looked at which issues were important and currently relevant to young people. The conference was therefore only one of the starting points of this 8th EU Youth Dialogue Cycle and was aimed at getting to know the topic, collecting questions and thoughts, and raising ideas that need to be further discussed and developed within this cycle. Furthermore, concrete demands were produced that need to be implemented. This Harvesting Summary will hopefully contribute to this further process and provide valuable input on what matters to young people and what needs to be worked on in order to truly create spaces and participation for all.

Harvesting Team

The organisers of the EU Youth Conference would like to sincerely thank the harvesting team who put a lot of effort and dedication into processing the outcomes of the conference in order to enable meaningful follow-up.

Abdul-Samet, Anastasia, Anna, Blanca, Janine, Janis, Katja, Leonie, Paula, and Selina
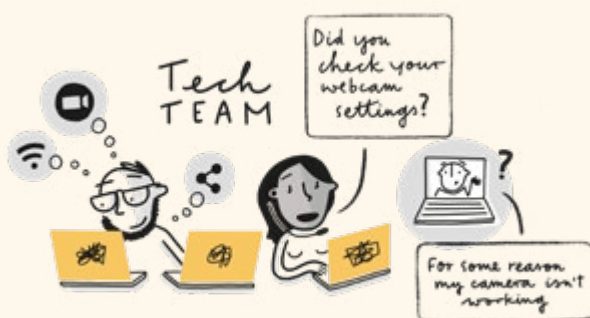
Tech Team

The organisers also want to thank the tech team who provided great support, not only to the participants, and quickly solved any technical issues.

Alina and Paul

Awareness Person

Furthermore, a big thank you to our chat moderation and awareness person who quickly answered all of the participants' questions and made sure that there was an atmosphere in which everyone could feel comfortable.

Özge

Facilitator Team

The facilitators who lead us through the conference also deserve a huge thank you. It was only thanks to their tireless efforts during the preparation stages, their tips and ideas for the programme and their fabulous moderation that the conference was so successful.

Clara, Martin, and Milosh
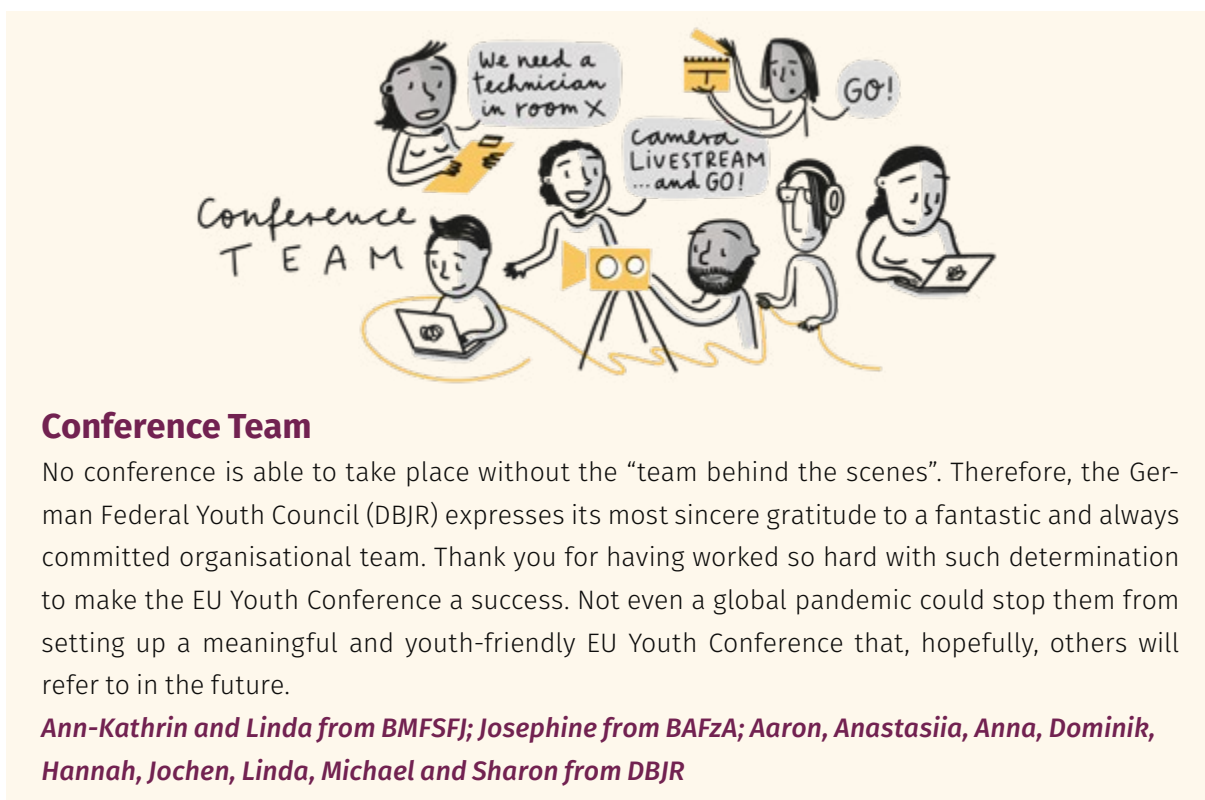
Conference Team

No conference is able to take place without the "team behind the scenes". Therefore, the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR) expresses its most sincere gratitude to a fantastic and always committed organisational team. Thank you for having worked so hard with such determination to make the EU Youth Conference a success. Not even a global pandemic could stop them from setting up a meaningful and youth-friendly EU Youth Conference that, hopefully, others will refer to in the future.

Ann-Kathrin and Linda from BMFSFJ; Josephine from BAFzA; Aaron, Anastasiia, Anna, Dominik, Hannah, Jochen, Linda, Michael and Sharon from DBJR

Last but not least, many thanks to the European Steering Group who supported the conference organisers with tips for ensuring a successful and coherent conference and for embedding it into the overall EU Youth Dialogue process. Due to the positive cooperation and constructive atmosphere that prevails in ESG, the organisers are sure that this cycle will contribute to meaningful youth participation, strengthening EU Youth Dialogue and therefore democracy in Europe.

Annex 1
Programme

2 – 5 October 2020

All times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST).

	Friday, 2 October 2020
14.30 Uhr	**Registration/Arrival**
15.00 Uhr	**Welcome & Introduction**
16.30 Uhr	**Break**
17.00 Uhr	**Official Opening** **Welcoming Speeches** ▶ Dr Franziska Giffey *Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany* ▶ Dr Angela Merkel (video address) *Federal Chancellor, Germany* ▶ Dr Ursula von der Leyen (video address) *President of the European Commission* ▶ Lisi Maier & Tobias Köck *Presidents of the German Federal Youth Council* **Interactive Panel Discussion "Youth and Democracy in Europe"** ▶ Dr Franziska Giffey *Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany* ▶ Silja Markkula *Board Member of the European Youth Forum* *EU Youth Conference – Annex 1	3* ▶ Marius Schlageter *Vice-President of the German Federal Youth Council*
18.00 Uhr	**Outlook on the Next Days**
18.45 Uhr	**End of Day 1**

Friday, 2 October 2020

Saturday, 3 October 2020

09.30 Uhr	**Morning Plenary** **Input: "Youth Participation: What's the current situation?"** ▶ Dan Moxon *Director of People Dialogue and Change, Member of the Researcher Team for the 8th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue*
10.00 Uhr	**World Café:** **Exploring Youth Goal # 9** **3 rounds à 25 minutes**
12.15 Uhr	**Wrap-up Plenary**
13.00 Uhr	**Lunch Break**
14.00 Uhr	**Open Sessions and Workshops** for Interested Participants
17.00 Uhr	**BarCamp Session Planning** for Participants who proposed a session and all others interested
18.00 Uhr	**End of Day 2**

Sunday, 4 October 2020

09.30 Uhr	**BarCamp:** **Introduction & Presentation of Session Plan I**
10.30 Uhr	**Break**
10.45 Uhr	**BarCamp: Session 1**
11.30 Uhr	**Break**
11.45 Uhr	**BarCamp: Session 2**
12.30 Uhr	**Lunch Break**
14.00 Uhr	**BarCamp: Presentation of Session Plan II**
14.30 Uhr	**Break**
14.45 Uhr	**BarCamp: Session 3**
15.30 Uhr	**Break**
15.45 Uhr	**BarCamp: Session 4**
16.30 Uhr	**Break**
16.45 Uhr	**Evening Plenary**
17.30 Uhr	**End of Day 3**

Saturday, 3 October 2020

Sunday, 4 October 2020

Monday, 5 October 2020

	Monday, 5 October 2020
09.00 Uhr	**Morning Plenary**
09.15 Uhr	**Preparation of Dialogues**
10.00 Uhr	**Dialogue with Political Decision-Makers** (This Part of the Programme is reserved for Youth Delegates.) **Dialogue Partners (in alphabetical order):** ► Mariya Gabriel *European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth* ► Dr Franziska Giffey *Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany* ► Dr Simona Kustec *Minister for Education, Science, and Sport, Slovenia* ► João Paulo Rebelo *Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, Portugal* ► Evelyn Regner *Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) of the European Parliament* ► Stefan Olsson *Director for Employment at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion* ► Adrián Vázquez Lázara *Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) of the European Parliament* ► Sabine Verheyen *Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) of the European Parliament*
11.00 Uhr	**Wrap up of Dialogues**
11.30 Uhr	**Lunch Break**
13.00 Uhr	**Introduction of Working Groups**
13.15 Uhr	**Working Groups on the Targets of Youth Goal #9**

Monday, 5 October 2020

14.30 Uhr	**Break**
14.45 Uhr	**Presentation of Results**
15.30 Uhr	**Break**
16.00 Uhr	**Official Closing**
	Strengthening Democracy in Europe by Promoting Space and Participation for All: Results from the EU Youth Conference
	▶ Dr Franziska Giffey *Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany*
	▶ Rita Saias *President of the Portuguese National Youth Council*
	▶ Benjamin Günther *Board Member of the European Youth Forum*
	Closing Speeches and Handover to the upcoming Portuguese EU Presidency
	▶ Themis Christophidou *Director-General at the European Commission for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture*
	▶ Tobias Köck *President of the German Federal Youth Council*
	▶ Dr Franziska Giffey *Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany*
	▶ Dr Tiago Brandão Rodrigues *Minister of Education, Portugal*
	▶ Rita Saias & Marius Schlageter *Representatives of the National Youth Councils of the current and the upcoming EU Presidency*
17.30 Uhr	**End of Day 4**

Annex 2
World Café Outcomes

On the second day of the EU Youth Conference, the participants explored different aspects of Youth Goal #9 in a World Café, focussing on the key conditions for successful youth participation.

The World Café methodology is a format for hosting dialogue within a large group. It consists of several rounds of conversation between small groups of people seated around a table. After each round, each member of the group moves to a different new table. One person stays as the "table host" to welcome the next participants and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. Each round is prefaced with a guiding question that is discussed at all tables in parallel.

At the EUYC, the World Café proceeded in three rounds. Instead of sitting at different tables, the participants discussed with each other in 15 different virtual rooms. To ensure a good mix of groups, the participants were divided into groups in advance. Furthermore, the participants had the chance to sign up as a "table host".

At the end of the World Café, every table host was asked to report on the discussions by formulating one main statement/the most discussed topic or idea/the strongest demand for each round. The reports in the following are sorted according to the respective rounds.

Round 1

Guiding question

„Democracy means participation for all. Young people don't need special treatment."
What is your opinion about that provocative statement?

Main statements/most discussed topics or ideas/ strongest demands of each World Café table

1

Including those with fewer opportunities.

2

Infrastructures are crucial but it is not enough that they exist; they should be used effectively and we should pay special attention to informal, digital ways of participating.

3

What is special treatment? How do we define it? As young people demanding their rights is usually considered „special treatment", this is a problem which needs to be discussed.

4

Agree with statement but does not reflect society; must ensure all voices are included and it is safe for everyone to participate.

5

Youth needs "tailor-made" solutions for communication and representation when participating in the decision-making process.

6

Democracy includes us ALL – young people need youth-friendly information to make mindful decisions.

7

Special treatment is needed such as information, however not as a condition for being granted a right, but to use that right meaningfully.

8

We only ask whether young people are educated enough to vote, but why does no one ask whether older people are educated enough to vote?

9

We are not asking for special treatment – we are just closing the gap!

10

It all starts with young people. Being politically active from a young age will have a positive effect in the long-term because they will be more likely to keep participating throughout their lifetime (Dan's statistic during the morning plenary).

11

Special treatment is necessary due to unequal possibilities and rights. Education and empowerment from an early age is key. Beneficial consequences for society (new views, active and informed citizens etc.).

12

Education is the key.

13

It is crucial not only to encourage but to actually enable young people. Only then will special treatment no longer be necessary anymore in the long run.

14

Democracies impose structural barriers which are a hinderance to offering equal opportunities for participation between adults and young people.

15

Special treatment is not the right wording. Support, space, knowledge/education and tools should be provided to enable constructive participation because it is the right of young people.

Round 2

Guiding question

What are the prerequisites for implementing Youth Goal #9 at European level? What are the key conditions for effective participation of young people in political decision-making processes?

Main statements/most discussed topics or ideas/ strongest demands of each World Café table

1

Youth quotas for elections.

2

For participation we should already start at the local level (e.g. through municipalities, political education) and the EU should make sure they are targeting minorities and young people with fewer opportunities.

3

The two dimensions of how we can support participation: the physical dimension (laptops, strong wifi connection, community places) and opportunities.

4

Ensuring communication back and forth between politicians and young people; ephebiphobia (fear of youth) exists.

5

Key conditions to be provided to support youth participation: space for both young people and decision-makers and clear communication.

6

Young people's voices have an impact! Together with INGYOs and (non-)formal education.

7

Strengthen independent youth organisations as the voice of youth in politics and society.

8

Understand the system and push each other.

9

We need youth-friendly information, representative youth participation and impactful youth participation.

10

Very difficult bureaucratic structures (difficulty in understanding how they work, young people lose interest).

11

Key factors are education and knowledge, transparency, stronger representation and representativity and youth-friendly spaces.

12

Don't only talk at the EUYC – friendly communication goes hand in hand with this issue because we need the space to participate in all parts of politics – not only about youth problems.

13

Society's vision of how young people's interest in participation needs to be challenged: Young people need to be seen as legitimated to shape policy. All (!) young people need to be listened to and feedback is very relevant to ensure constant motivation.

14

Politicians need to adjust their attitude by actually taking young people seriously since young people's opinions are equally as valuable as other stakeholders' input.

15

We should have a rights-based approach to implementing Youth Goal #9. Furthermore, education is crucial to enable young people to participate successfully. It is also pointed out that the right to vote gives you more influence.

Round 3

Guiding question

How will the full realisation of Youth Goal #9 influence the future of the European Union?

Main statements/most discussed topics or ideas/ strongest demands of each World Café table

1

Cooperation between youth organisations and informal groups

2

By reaching full youth participation by also making use of digitalisation, we could make the EU more inclusive and ensure that not only the „usual suspects" are included in decision-making.

3

Age gap, aging society, which make the situation of younger people more difficult.

4

Better trust in institution and communications in open spaces and voting; Youth Check is a great way to do that.

5

The future will look brilliant: with efficient and accepting institutions and organisations, better integration of youth and better funding (financial independence and transparency and equal chances for obtaining funds).

6

EU will become youth-friendly, youth-led and inclusive. Youthless policy is useless policy :P

7

Implementation of Youth Goal #9 would strengthen Europe and cohesion in society in general and lead to better politics.

8

Information on how to tell everybody what is already there and including young people in all the stages of decision-making.

9

A fully implemented Youth Goal #9 will lead to more influence and ownership for young people as well as better policies.

10

Have a correct balance between quantity and quality of youth participation to make it meaningful. Disseminate at a local level and have meaningful feedback from all sides (create a dialogue).

11

A more democratic and youth-friendly EU in general. Would lead to a change in priorities as well as the image and standing of the EU.

12

Youth participation is different in every country - the politics and programmes should consider this.

13

Future-oriented topics (e.g. sustainability, spaces for young people, reproductive health) that young people can relate to and that affect them would be more discussed and tackled, for instance ultimately leading to a more environmentally-friendly Europe

14

The achievement of full youth participation will lead to a better democracy, abandoning the perception of being obligated to include young people but rather welcoming their input.

15

The implementation of Youth Goal #9 will lead to a more enlightened EU, as young people usually have more innovative ideas and more people are involved in decision-making, so they will probably be more satisfied with the results.

Annex 3
Reporting on BarCamp Sessions

On the third day of the EU Youth Conference, the participants were able to set the agenda themselves in a BarCamp. During the BarCamp, the participants suggested content, decided on what content to include and were responsible for implementing and documenting the sessions. Unlike in classical conferences, the BarCamp programme was not fixed in terms of specific topics and speakers. Instead, all of the participants decided together on the topics during the session planning. Every participant was able to propose one or more sessions and contributed to creating the conference programme.

The hosts of the BarCamp sessions were asked to take notes during their sessions so that the discussion and outcomes of their conversations could be fed into the harvesting process. In addition, they were asked to fill in a short report form after their Barcamp session. The reports were then used by the harvesting team to incorporate the outcomes into the conference findings.

The reports can be found below. In total, 15 hosts filled in a report. They were not required to answer all of the questions but only those they considered to be important in relation to their session. As the hosts filled in the reports on their own, some of the points might reflect the perspective of the session host rather than representing all of the perspectives of the participants in the respective session.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Finland involving the youth in implementing the UN resolution 2250

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
I gave an overview of the process with which Finland has formulated a national action plan for 2250. Then we discussed different issues relating to young people's involvement in peace processes. Many of the participants came from areas in Europe where there is some kind of active or frozen conflict and talked about their experiences and the issues they have faced. Some important themes were how to fight disinformation, how to involve young people in committees in peace negotiations, how to motivate governments to involve young people and that we should bring young people together from around Europe to talk about these issues.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
1. The youth organisations and governments should work together to implement the Youth, Peace and Security resolution. Governments should be motivated to do this.
2. We should bring together young people from around Europe to discuss peace and conflict prevention (for example a youth conference for peace and security.)
3. In areas where peace negotiations are being carried out, young people should be involved in these negotiations.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
1. Trolls and disinformation campaigns which aim to promote extremism, escalate conflicts and „militarise the mind".
2. Being excluded from negotiation tables. The experience of the young generation is often different, especially when different generations have lived through different stages of the conflict.
3. Some governments try to exclude the opposition from talks.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
/

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?
1. Teaching critical thinking.
2. Organising a youth conference about peace.
3. Strengthening the ties between different youth organisations and then promoting these issues together.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?
Critical thinking skills help young people to avoid falling prey to misinformation campaigns.
Bringing young people together shows that we are all people and not „the enemy". Sharing ideas and supporting each other strengthens us all.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?
Yes, absolutely. Some parts of Europe are very peaceful and some parts have ongoing conflicts. However, some issues such as misinformation in social media are a threat to us all.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?
/

How would your group want the future to be different?
Young people should be included in peace talks everywhere and allowed to contribute to a better future. Bringing people together would prevent prejudices and misinformation from spreading. Democracy should work properly everywhere in Europe.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?
Governments should be motivated to promote the involvement of young people in these matters and to implement the Youth, Peace and Security resolution.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.
Every European country implements the Youth, Peace and Security resolution in collaboration with young people and youth organisations and this promotes peace and security all over Europe.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

How to involve minorities in youth work?

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
We discussed minorities' issues and challenges. Best practices, ideas and concrete initiatives that can solve these problems

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
That we need to be sensible about vulnerable topics. That we need to create spaces that can support and facilitate participation for young minorities at eye level. We need to educate the majority about minority topics.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
Barriers caused by culture clash. No role models/resourceful key actors in wider society. Lack of knowledge about minority work.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
It creates distance between minority groups and the majority. It decreases their access to jobs and pushes them away from opportunities. It also hits hard on their mental health and socioeconomic equality.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?
Exchanges. Talking about the topics at school at a very early age. Creating a safe space locally. Good practice exchanges.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?
They are all at eye level. They are local. They empower young people at an early age, helping them for the rest of their lives.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?
It might be the case. For example, if it is a minority group that fled from conflict areas in southern Europe or minority groups that are descendants of immigrants. But in both cases some of the same mechanisms of discrimination apply to both groups.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?
They do. But then again, they might experience the same barriers. What is most important is to take intersectional aspects into account when working with minority groups.

How would your group want the future to be different?
More inclusive.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?
/

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.
We want to work together across Europe. We want to solve the big issues in Europe with everyone onboard -> so we want to accomplish participation for all, where the minority groups also have a seat at the table.

▶ BarCamp Session Title:

How to: Youth spaces!

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
We discussed the definition of a youth space, the challenges faced by youth spaces and recommendations for the support they should have/solutions to the challenges.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
1. Youth spaces can be youth-led even if they are run by people over 29/35 and professionals.
2. Access to youth spaces should be ensured for young people so that they can actually benefit from them, especially youth from remote areas/poor finances.
3. Youth spaces should adapt and find a balance between physical activities and online/digital youth work in order to reach more people, deal with distance and other types of obstacles, but still find a way for digital youth work to be inclusive for youth with less access to wifi/technology.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
1. The cost of maintaining the space – bills, cleaning etc.
2. Accessibility of the space if it is not in a central location/geographical reach in remote regions.
3. How to find a balance between digital and physical services and spaces.
4. How to meet youth needs.

5. Many high-school students are not aware of these spaces so more advertising should be done in high schools, not just for university students.
6. For digital spaces there is a need for facilities – technology, software, etc.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
They prevent young people from benefitting from youth spaces and the support they offer. They prevent quality youth development and participation.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?
1. To develop digital youth work.
2. Funding for youth spaces.
3. Improve youth mobility (e.g. through EU funding; subsidising public transportation for young people around Europe; increasing ERASMUS funding with a specific focus on high-school exchanges rather than only for university students) so that young people from rural and urban areas have the possibility to meet no matter what their financial background is (this would also lead to increasing intercultural exchanges/ meetings across Europe and thus may strengthen European identity).
4. Focusing on high-school students increases equal access to youth spaces because university students often come from a more privileged background.

5. Solving financial issues: Either by having a more ‚mature' organisation (non-youth organisation) share their office and facilities with youth organisation or National Youth Organisations receiving financial support for this and then managing the availability and use of facilities and spaces among interested youth organisations. There could even be a couple of locations throughout the country.

6. It should be highly recommended that municipalities/regions in each Member State should introduce a specific fund for democratic local youth organisations to enable them to rent physical places for their work.

7. A fixed budget for equipment, maybe cooperation between Governments and companies could help.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?
They would make the existing youth spaces more accessible.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?
Yes, they find differences between a youth space and a youth centre.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?
Yes. Some countries are more developed when it comes to the number of youth spaces, others are struggling.

How would your group want the future to be different?
/

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?
Maybe more time to discuss different elements and solutions.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.
More accessible youth spaces for young people from different groups of society.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Integration – how can youth participation be an open space and opportunity for EVERYONE?

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
First, we talked about the situation of migration and integration in our countries in order to establish the same level of knowledge among all participants. After that, we discussed the topic on a personal level, i.e. we shared our own points of view and personal experiences and identified some of the challenges and problems we have encountered in integrating refugees over the past few years. We also talked about how people are treated in society who were born here but have parents with a migrant background and are therefore seen as „different". We then exchanged positive examples of integration at the local or federal level and identified what would be a good way to support such projects or organisations. At the end of the session, we realised that we all have very different views on integration because the situation in our respective countries is very different.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
1. We collected different views of what good integration looks like for us:
● Integration is more than a systematic and structural question: We need human integration. Integration does not only mean that people who are new to our countries/refugees have to integrate or adapt to our culture; it also means that we have to open ourselves up to new cultures and are willing to accept other people with their values, cultures and traditions.

2. We collected specific suggestions and ideas which we thought would be able to break down boundaries and prejudices, which is really important for meaningful and good integration:
● OPEN CONTACT POINTS: Open spaces, rooms and contact points where people from all backgrounds have the possibility to participate, gain knowledge of how to organise themselves and have the chance to share knowledge
● TANDEM PROJECTS: An initiative where an exchange relationship between two people (one who was born here and one refugee) enables them to help each other, e.g. with learning the other person's language, (home-)work, bureaucratic obstacles, understanding the culture, asking each other questions…
● OFFERS TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES OF PARTICIPATION: Programmes or offers in which refugees and people who were born in the country or city (or have lived there for a few years) together explore rooms and spaces for participation in the city. For example, speaking to politicians or parties, visiting NGOs and non-formal organisations…
● Education about other cultures and the way in which good integration can take place through school.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?

It extremely depends from which country the people come from!

- A German perspective: Someone who grew up here but has parents with a migration background said that one of the challenges we have to face is not to seeing these people as people who have to integrate because they already are.
- Speaking languages like Spanish or French is more highly regarded than speaking an Arabic language or Turkish.
- One perspective from Luxembourg was that integration is "lived" there and seems to work very well because they have many different nationalities there. However, there is also the problem of taboos. People do not talk about racism because they do not want to have it. But structural as well as personal racism is still there, so it would be really important to say it out loud and not cover up this problem.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?

/

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

Please see second question.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

They are very specific proposals for implementation. They are also close to society and some of them have already proven to be very good.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Yes, that was something we figured out really clearly. Especially in this topic we all had really different experiences. This also depends a lot of the national integration and migration policy of our countries.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Same answer as to previous question.

How would your group want the future to be different?

/

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

/

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

The vision for the future of my group is that we live in an open and free world where all people, independently were they come from and how long they have lived in the country, have equal spaces and opportunity to participate in society, politics and education (school, vocational training, studies).

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Means of INGYOs to increase effective participation in the EUYD

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
- Realities concerning the engagement of INGYOs within the process, such as:
a) difficulties in running activities due to lack of funding under the process,
b) neglect or ignorance around the added value of their engagement and the benefits it brings,
c) uncertainty of engagement due to lack of supportive mechanisms or framework for their engagement under the EUYS and the EUYD framework.
- Weakness in cooperation between INGYOs and NYC in their goal of reaching maximum impact through the EUYD;
- Specific measures between INGYOs and NYCs, with the support and guidance of the European Steering Group, that could help to increase their capacities and thus increase their impact in order to better benefit the process.
Measures include:
1) An online and user-friendly space for representatives of both pillars to be used as a space to share and exchange ideas, practices and tools
2) Create stronger links between delegates before the process kicks off and thus be more prepared and also better equipped as each part comes together
3) Ensure that we better link our memberships
4) Help to empower NYCs in their attempts to be included in the development of national youth policies/initiatives through coordinated actions on local and European level

5) Adapt or set up an adequate structure/funding scheme(s) which can allow INGYOs to do more under the consultation process. Being able to foresee how resources will be specifically allocated, especially with the current challenges in mind, would help INGYOs to be better prepared and to use such adequate funds to put forward more complementary actions with the same level of quality as what is happening at the national level.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
- The need to ensure equal access of National Youth Councils – NYC – (through National Working Groups) and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations – INGYOs – within the processes of the Youth Dialogue.
- Build a culture of support and cooperation between the different levels and diverse backgrounds of youth organisations. This includes
a) technical support,
b) exchange of good practices,
c) coordination and connection of delegates as a whole rather than split into NYCs and INGYOs during different phases (i.e. before, during and after a EUYC),
d) opportunity for cooperation between an INGYO and an NYC under funding schemes like KA3.
- Foster understanding of the different issues or perspectives addressed by each of the stakeholders. For the INGYOs, that would translate to:

a) ensuring the inclusion of a European Dimension throughout the process

b) the opportunity to highlight cross-border similarities or differences between participating States

c) support both NYCs and INGYOs (methodologically and financially) and empower the European Youth Forum to act effectively by following up with the implementation of the outcomes on a European level as NYCs should have the ability to do this on the national and local level.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?

The challenges mainly put forward concern the lack of engagement and recognition of youth organisations (INGYOS and NYCs) at different levels and in different formats within the process. This has a negative impact not only on the efforts to reach out and engage, but also on the ability of youth and civil society to scrutinise and evaluate both the process and the implementation of outcomes after the end of a cycle.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?

Not addressed in an extent to be able to provide an adequate answer.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

Included in the questions above.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

Focus on cooperation and understanding the current situation while seeking to create benefits by giving rise to more activities that can assist with furthering the process.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

This was partly addressed, but not from the perspective of young people. It was more from an institutional perspective and at the policy level (national vs European).

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

I think we could say yes, but we did not reach that level of discussion.

How would your group want the future to be different?

A process that is engaging and sets up a framework where all levels and people from different backgrounds and experiences come together.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

Included in the first part of this form

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.
A dialogue for a better future which starts with you and extends to Europe and the World.

► **BarCamp Session Title:**

Political independence of youth organisations and political education

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
First part:
In what ways youth organisations are dependent and how these forms of dependency can hinder them in fulfilling their crucial role in democracies.
Second part:
What is good political education, why we want it and what could be the ways to achieve it.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
1. Youth organisations should have no obligation to be politically neutral. On the contrary, to fulfil their important role as advocates for the interests of young people, they need to be able to raise political demands without fear of retribution.
2. Youth organisations are naturally dependent on political support and funding, which is not a problem as such. The problem only arises if this dependency is used to limit the youth organisations in the freedom of their work by forcing a political agenda upon them.
3. Political youth education is crucial for democracies and all young people have a fundamental right to it. The main goal should be to help people to form their own opinion about topics and through that to be an active part of a democratic society. Depending on the country, the best way to achieving this right can be very different, depending on the country's monetary resources, the general culture of the society and the will of the government

or other political actors to influence or misuse political education according to their interests.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
Depending on the country, the lack of independent youth organisations and access to empowering political education.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
The lack of independent youth organisations and good political education can severely damage the overall capacity of society to have real and constructive dialogue. As a result, this can lead to policies that are not in the interest of young people.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?
Youth organisations should have no obligation to be neutral or to support the government's political opinions. How can we create a culture and funding structure that ensures this? The best way to implement this can be very different from country to country. To achieve this goal European solidarity among youth organizations is key!

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Quotas

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

This session brought us a lot closer to defining the actual challenge. However, there is still a lot of work to be done to overcome it.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Yes! The situation differs strongly from country to country.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Partly yes.

How would your group want the future to be different?

Youth organisations being free to put forward political demands that reflect the demands of their members and youth in general.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

/

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

Political youth education all over Europe that is really dedicated to empowering young people to organise themselves and form their own opinions about political subjects.

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.

The conversation revolved around quotas on a philosophical, moral, ethical, political and pragmatic level. We started identifying what kind of quotas might be encountered and how that actually represented the group it is supposed to represent. Later we discussed the differences between equality of opportunity and equality of outcome (which was the basis for the discussion).

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?

Representation, equality and opportunities.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?

Having the same opportunities as other age groups to access certain areas of our society, whether it is in politics or the labour market.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?

Do we really think quotas, which are being implemented all around us (the most common being the gender quota), are the right way to achieve a fair representation of young people's point of view? Having quotas can also have a negative effect on young people because it does not necessarily mean that their ideas will be represented.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

Striving for equality of opportunity. Where everyone gets the same chance as everyone else regardless of their identity and is free enough to make personal choices regarding their professional or personal lives. Based on interests and not on identity.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

That we focus on the individual's point of view and not on the group based on a physical characteristic on which we have no say. It would allow young people to follow the path they want to follow in life and not make their journey predetermined on the basis of a number that should be filled by a certain person of a certain identity.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Completely. The idea changed from one country to another, as in some places quotas are already being implemented but are failing when it comes to actually representing the group. In others, quotas have helped in the past to get the normality we wished to achieve. The context of space and time should always be taken into account.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Yes. The whole point of quotas is to represent all the groups from every single background, so some quotas will affect some groups more than others. No quotas can affect all groups in positive or negative ways. That was the whole point of the conversation: How can everyone be represented and are quotas the answer to that?

How would your group want the future to be different?

That everyone has the same equality of opportunity and is free to choose the professional and personal path they want.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

Stop thinking that quotas might be the answer to representing minorities all throughout society.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

Focus on equality of opportunity and not on equality of outcome (= quotas).

▶ BarCamp Session Title:

Redesign education to foster youth participation

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.

Equality and inclusive education – no reforms can be made in education without giving everyone the opportunity to improve their skills to become active citizens. Within education systems, we need to focus more on soft skills training and civic education and also give more space and respect to extracurricular activities. This process should also involve teachers and parents. We need more harmonisation at national level, but it would be very difficult at the European level as all countries have different traditions and systems. Youth participation may significantly increase if we explore opportunities for the digitalisation of education.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?

Both formal and non-formal education are crucial to fostering skills for youth participation. It must be as inclusive as possible. We can learn from each other's experience within the EU and see what our neighbours do better. Digitalisation can be leveraged in the public debate on engagement.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?

Funding and respect of extra-curricular activities. As the skills necessary for youth participation are not yet being taught and respected properly in schools (which they should be!), there is a problem with equal access to ex-

tra-curricular activities where young people can learn these skills. The policy-makers, teachers (and sometimes parents) stick to the „old" ways and refuse to adapt to the needs of the 21st century because „it has all worked well for 30 years".

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?

They do not get sufficient skills and motivation to engage in public debate through formal education. If they do want to acquire these skills, it is often thanks to extracurricular activities that can be expensive and/or fostered mostly at more „privileged" schools. They are examined on the basis of only „facts-learning" without being taught to think analytically and being prepared to become active and conscious citizens. And teachers are not motivated enough to change and young people are not motivated to join the teaching profession. Young people thus are not sufficiently involved in decision-making as they do not acquire the skills and motivation in schools and some of them cannot access non-formal education for various reasons.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

We can all learn from each other within the EU and share our best practices, even though the competence remains at national level. We need to come up with specific demands we want to discuss with decision-makers so that non-formal education becomes more supported and the right skill set is taught in schools. We can

use the digital transformation in education as one of the spaces for our self-realisation as young people by understanding the subject and the needs of youth in that regard.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

We can increase cooperation among the EU and convince decision-makers that the concept of our educational systems is no longer effective and that we need to modernise it – not only digitally but also by teaching young people the skills to become active citizens not only through extracurricular activities (which should be supported) but also via formal education.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Definitely. As mentioned, we found that the systems differ substantially across Europe and it would be very hard to find a „one-size-fits-all" solution.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Yes. I gave a personal example speaking from the point of view of someone who is financially unable to pay for many of the extracurricular courses etc. I did not really have any time for them anyway because of having too much

school work that I had to get done if I wanted to keep my grades up and get to a good university and get a scholarship – otherwise I would never be able to study abroad. This is connected to the differences between school systems because in my country the state-run universities are actually the most prestigious, which is not the case for most of other countries. Also, people working in the non-formal (and sometimes even formal) education sector are not paid or are underpaid, which means they either need support from their family or live far below the average salary. There are also other forms of discrimination we need to consider – minorities especially, but also youth with various health issues.

How would your group want the future to be different?

We need to take these goals and come up with concrete measures which can be proposed at national level.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

As described above.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

Teach the relevant skills to the young generation in an attractive way so that all youth can engage in public life with us.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Space and participation for minorities

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
- Who are minorities?
- Minorities groups in our countries.
- What are the needs and issues they face in society?
- What are the social views of minorities in our countries?
- What is the mental health of Afro-European youth dealing with COVID-19 and racism (BLM)?
- What policies or actions been taken or made by your national government to include the voices of the minority in your country?
- Is there equal participation and representation of minorities when it comes to youth dialogue with decision-makers?
- What can we do as young people to make sure every young person's voice including minorities is heard by decision-makers?
- Do you think the voices of minorities should be highlighted as a separate goal or added to Youth Goal #6 in the European Youth goals?
- Should school curriculums include the positive and true history of minorities (African history and other ethnic groups) in school?

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
What policies or actions have been made or taken by your national government to include the voices of the minority in your country? During the discussion, some people explained that NGOs are working on the local level to make sure the voice of minorities are heard but it is

not enough. Others reported that there are no laws from their governments that they know of that are pushing for the inclusion of minorities). Therefore, how can minorities be equally represented or given the space to participate in dialogues with decision makers when on the national level it is very transparent?

Space and participation for minorities in our education system.
The school curriculums should include the positive and true history of minorities (African History and other ethnic groups) in schools.
We believe that if there is diversity in our education system and equal representation of teachers from all ethnic backgrounds in schools, young people from minority backgrounds will feel part of and included in their community, creating positive cultural learning among students.

By implementing this system, we could help to erase separation and promote individuality in order to build a strong society and an inclusive and diverse Europe. Important aims are to reduce discrimination, racism, colourism, abuse toward LGBTQ+, Roma, people with disability and other ethnic groups.

Understanding that democracy is not always power of the people but that it is also a form of majority verses minority. And if the majority is always in the forefront of discussions, their ideas and policies are represented, leaving the minority behind.

Therefore, we need to identify ways to make sure that no matter the outcome of an election, the voices of minorities should be included in aspects of discussion relating to change. This is something that our governments should take seriously, both at the national and European level.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?

There is no equal participation of minorities at the national and European level when talking about youth participation.

Young people are not having much interaction with youth from minority backgrounds due to COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 and racism on the mental health of Afro-European

There are no or few policies made by governments to help minority groups have easy and equal access, also for people with disabilities.

Not imposing laws that make it difficult for minority youths to integrate or participate as active citizens in their community or decision-making.

The group definition of minority. The meaning of minorities can be described as people who are oppressed and suppressed based on the dominance of other groups. The group of people who are seen as second class, not in front or part of the discussion and involved in decision making when it comes to tackling social issues. Being part of a minority could also be a feeling, not only physically. You can feel like a minority when you are being treated differently. Concerns should be raised about how we see young people from minority backgrounds.

Young people as a whole are facing a lot of challenges and are neglected in society and by decision-makers when making decisions. Therefore, imagine the challenges faced by a young person from a minority background.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?

Young people feeling neglected, not feeling European, not included (youthless policy is useless policy).

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

Education: Having equal space and participation for all in schools.

We need to think of equity and equality in order to help minority youth to move forward.

Equal access for all.

Government introducing laws that allow equal space and participation for all young people, especially minorities, when discussing change at the national and European level.

Equal representation of young people from all backgrounds represented at government level.

Minorities being selected to represent their group and talk on behalf of their group.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

„Tiktok, 16 o'clock – let's vote!" Lowering the voting age to 16 in more European countries

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

These ideas will bring us closer to the utopian Europe we are striving for which is inclusive, diverse and peaceful for all.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Based on our discussion, we identified that there are different groups of minorities in our countries. It is important to know who they are and find ways to include them in our discussions.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Yes.

How would your group want the future to be different?

Inclusive, diverse and with space and participation for all, no matter your background.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

Minorities included in decision making.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

Identifying the minorities in our countries and giving them the space to participate in decision making.

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.

1) Current situation overviews in different countries:

● Voting age has only been lowered in a small number of countries in the EU but discussions and/or referendums are still happening – the topic is alive and thriving!

2) Arguments for and against voting

● Clear majority in discussions in favour of lowering the voting age

● Views on age of responsibility and ability to participate in society as main points for pro- and contra-arguments

3) Advocating for lowering the voting age:

● Start in youth organisations (as living example of effectively functioning youth participation), networking and research

4) How can we continue collaborating in further conferences and bring together our ideas?

● Support and good practice, dissemination

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?

1) Voting as a fundamental right

2) Taking a strong stand on the ability and right of young people to take responsibility at this age

3) Voting at a young age part of a bigger „package" of political education and social involvement

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?

- Lack of trust in taking responsibility at a young age
- Lack of real involvement and participation for young people in political decision making
- Lack of good political education

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?

- Young people are often excluded from political participation
- High responsibility for informal education if hardly any political education happens in school
- Negative effects on political interest and trust of young people

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

- Exchanging and learning from good practice examples (Austria, Belgium etc.)
- Getting support from youth networks like YFJ
- Building on the experiences of youth organisations
- The idea of the voting habitus
- Developing appealing forms of political education

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

- Practically oriented
- Good communication and networking
- Enabling us to put more pressure on politics
- Make the topic more present and raise awareness

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Yes, depending on how young people are involved in politics in their country, experiences can vary. In general, however, you can see young people all over Europe taking responsibility for similar issues in society and wanting to be heard and taken seriously. This is something that unites young Europeans.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Yes definitely. Do people have a background in a youth organisation? Do they have good political education in school? How are they get politically educated at home? When can they vote for the first time? These questions are answered quite differently depending on the person's background and therefore shape people's experiences of this topic.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Volunteering as an engine of youth empowerment

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
- Volunteering can be a tool for young people to be more involved in society
- Education, volunteering culture and family background affect intention to get involved
- Challenges and opportunities of COVID-19 in volunteering
- Volunteering should begin locally – then regionally, nationally and finally globally

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
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What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
- They relate volunteering only with politics
- They prefer to socialise at university instead of participating in non-profit organisations

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
The less participation a young person has in volunteering, the less they participate in society.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?
Establishing a website and forum to map as many youth non-profit organisations as possible.

How would your group want the future to be different?
A future in which all European countries lower the voting age to 16 and in this sense put more trust into young people and enable real political participation.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?
- More trust in young people and in them taking responsibility
- More inter-country discussions and exchange
- Stronger advocacy for the topic
- Lowering the voting age to 16 in all EU countries

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.
A European Union in which it is normal and recognised that young people shape and influence the political decision making on all levels.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Young people in decision-making during the COVID-19 pandemic

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?
It will be easier to find organisations that can express you locally, nationally and at the European level.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?
Yes.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?
Yes.

How would your group want the future to be different?
By convincing young people to become volunteers and as a result active citizens.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?
Volunteering culture.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.
Volunteering is an engine for youth empowerment.

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
We talked about concrete practices that could be suggested to institutions at different levels so that COVID-19 is not an excuse for young people not being involved in policy making.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
● Online media for youth participation and campaigns against the stigmatisation of youth
● Need for coordination at European level
● There are also advantages for youth participation during this pandemic, as there is a greater willingness on the part of institutions to have online meetings

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
Physical safety in voting, etc. and guarantee some rights that we used to take for granted but that at one point or another have been suspended during the pandemic.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
Movement restrictions.
Impossibility of doing local events physically.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

In Norway, the prime minister held a COVID-19 briefing to answer children's questions > this should be done in every country.

We recently had local elections. We tried to organise some events which gathered together young people and the people running as local representatives to make sure that our voice is heard by them.

The president of our youth council was part of the post-COVID-19 recovery expert group > they created the recovery plan for our government (Belgium).

Online conference to „lobby" against young people's prejudices – could be done at the European level (Croatia).

Croatia: young people have weekly meetings with the state secretary for youth. We have online conferences with national decision makers and presented suggestions from NGOs for new measurements.

Digital meetings with MEPs (European level).

Presence in news to fight stigmatisation (national level).

New web design for our education ministry by students. Meeting with our education minister.

New mechanism for dividing the local distribution of funds by thematic priorities instead of geographically to have a better outcome.

After the local elections finished, we tried to come up with some statistics at a national level to see what percentage of young people voted.

The Dutch prime minister encouraged young people to speak up and organised several conversations with the President of the European Commission answering questions.

European decision makers in regular weekly online sessions with youth – dialogue with different NGOs, youth council, open for youth in rural areas, regardless whether they are part of an NGO or not.

Physical safety in voting and guaranteeing "ordinary rights" are not suspended.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

They are real experiences and suggestions from the different participants in the workshop about practices that can be implemented at the local, national or European level. We learned from each other and above all it was stressed that these good practices should be known at the European level so that other countries can implement them.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Youth participation in local communities

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Yes, in countries like Belgium there has been a high level of involvement by governments in developing a strategic plan during the pandemic; in others, there have only been online conference collaborations.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

We did not talk much about this, but it was mentioned that not being able to organise local events might exclude many young people.

How would your group want the future to be different?

That there is greater coordination at the European level in these situations between national youth councils and/or youth organisations.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

Same answer as above.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

We must be flexible and continue to fight for youth participation in institutions at all levels, taking advantage of the greater availability of policymakers for holding meetings online.

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.

We talked about youth participation on a local level because we think that if you gain political efficacy there, it will later multiply and affect your motivation to participate on a national and international level. We started out by brainstorming about the barriers young people can face when trying to participate on the local level. Some of the barriers identified were that young people are not taken seriously, centralisation of decision making, lack of information, lack of physical spaces, fading enthusiasm because of lack of recognition and age discrimination.

Afterwards, we devised possible solutions for these problems, for example creating a youth centre and lowering the voting age to 16.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?

We also discussed ways to implement the three most popular solutions.

The first was to create a handbook for youth participation. This should be developed by representatives of young people and municipalities together. It should also be developed both for and by youth.

The second was to include participation/active citizenship in formal education. This should be done in close cooperation between the ministry in charge of education, schools, teachers, students, etc.

The third was to establish local youth councils. Many different stakeholders should be involved in encouraging youth to participate. Furthermore, it could be mandatory to have a local youth council in every municipality.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?

That young people do not have the political efficacy to participate in political decision making.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?

It affects young people's motivation to participate.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

Creating local youth councils and including active participation/involvement in the school system from an early age.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

That we have already seen how they can work in practice and that it is not impossible to do.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Yes – some had best practices to share and others did not yet have that experience.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Yes - but that was not the theme of the BarCamp.

How would your group want the future to be different?

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What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

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In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

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▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Youth participation on the example climate change

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
We discussed the following three topics related to climate change and youth participation:
1) Why is climate change important to you?
Some of the delegates from Malta are directly affected. It is a matter of survival and it will affect every part of our lives. Decisions today have effects on our future. The strongest impact will be on the young generation and following generations. Climate change is going to make every other problem worse (inequality, lack of food, …)
2) Why is it not possible to participate appropriately?
It is not seen as a topic that affects society „immediately" and it is looked at in the short term instead of considering the long-term consequences. Young people who are unable to vote are not being taken seriously. Young people may feel they are not educated enough or in a position to comment on climate matters and to be taken seriously!
3) How can youth participation in this topic can be improved and implemented?
We need decision makers to establish structures through which young people can engage with them on the topic (such as an EU youth council on climate or youth representatives in important EU meetings). At the local level, local youth councils should also be involved. Creating partnerships between youth organisations and climate ministries etc. Voting at the age of 16. Green jobs and internships for youth. Knowledgeable experts and energetic and passionate youth at the same table.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
Climate change has the strongest impact on the young generation and is going to make every other problem worse (inequality, lack of food, etc.).
Young people are not taken seriously because they are not able to vote and do not feel educated enough or in a position to comment on climate matters.
To establish structures through which young people can also engage on the topic at the local level.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
Young people who are unable to vote are not being taken seriously. Young people may feel they are not educated enough or in a position to comment on climate matters and to be taken seriously!

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
Some of the delegates from Malta are directly affected. It is a matter of survival and it will affect every part of our lives. The strongest impact will be on the young generation and the following generations. Climate change is going to make every other problem worse (inequality, lack of food, …).

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?

We need decision makers to establish structures through which young people can engage with them on the topic (such as an EU youth council on climate or youth representatives in important EU meetings). At local level, local youth councils should also be involved. Creating partnerships between youth organisations and climate ministries etc. Voting at the age of 16. Green jobs and internships for youth. Knowledgeable experts and energetic and passionate youth at the same table.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?

They are from youth for youth and could have positive effects on policy.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?

Not really. Except that the countries which are directly affected want to have more climate protection.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?

Yes, but we all think it would be better to learn more about climate change at school.

How would your group want the future to be different?

Some already mentioned, not enough room for them all. ;)

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?

Already mentioned:

We need decision makers to establish structures through which young people can engage with them on the topic (such as an EU youth council on climate or youth representatives in important EU meetings). At the local level, local youth councils should also be involved. Creating partnerships between youth organisations and climate ministries etc. Voting at the age of 16. Green jobs and internships for youth. Knowledgeable experts and energetic and passionate youth at the same table.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.

An enormous challenge but there is also massive potential in youth.

▶ **BarCamp Session Title:**

Youth representation in European politics

Please give a brief general description of the things your group talked about.
We talked about the ability of youth to speak to decision makers and possible stigmas, how to solve them through education and making EU issues more local.

What were the three most important things to your group in this discussion?
Education seems to be there, but not enough. EU needs to be more youth-friendly to target people such as teenagers and young adults. MEPs need to be more accessible and also reflective of young people's issues.

What are the current challenges young people face (relating to your session topic) that your group identified?
Stigmas, barriers for young people.

How does your group think these challenges affect the life of young people in Europe?
Potential apathy regarding EU issues, disconnected.

What are good elements or ideas that your group believe we should build on (relating to your session topic)?
Certainly changing views and more awareness of youth issues.

What is it about these elements/ideas that make them good?
Shows people are listening in some ways.

Does your group think young people have different experiences of your theme in different parts of Europe?
Possibly, including a digital divide, what resources are available and the political education in each country.

Do your group think young people from different backgrounds have different experiences of your theme?
Same as above, yes.

How would your group want the future to be different?
More dialogue between young people and stakeholders in the EU, more accessibility and also more understanding of EU issues.

What changes would your group like to see relating to your session topic?
Youth-friendly language and other things previously mentioned to increase engagement.

In one sentence describe your group's vision for the future relating to your topic.
A way for young people to talk to EU politicians about issues they understand which affect youth and young people being able to directly see the changes for which they have advocated.

Annex 4
Working Groups on Targets & Political Demands

Youth Goal 9, Target 1

Youth Goal 9, Target 1: Ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people.

Guiding question:
What measures/actions can be implemented to ensure young people influence policy and decision-making at all levels?

- Young people need to be involved all the way from agenda setting to evaluation as co-decision-makers and advisors.
- At the stage of agenda setting (and before informing and educating), topics that are at the heart of youth concerns need to be addressed.
- Young people must not only be encouraged, but enabled to participate effectively, by being provided necessary structures and equal access.
- Structurally involving young people must lead to co-decision or self-management on all levels, implemented through a rights-based approach (best practises: governing bodies with equal distribution of seats, independent national youth councils, strong national youth laws).
- Youth organisations need to be recognised as representing and advocating on behalf of the youth, while not forgetting non-organised youth.

- Decision-makers need to listen and give feedback as a follow-up to consultation processes by revisiting the youth goals, outcomes and implementation of demands from the EU Youth Dialogue regularly through National Working Groups.
- The "Conference on the Future of Europe" should include a Youth Agora.
- Conditions for entering participation processes need to be rethought, such as lowering voting-age restrictions.
- The formats of the participatory processes need to be tailored and low-threshold yet qualitative, in order to ensure space for all young people of different backgrounds (best practises: local structures, digital adaptions)
- Youth organisations are the safeguards and integral elements for supporting, providing and empowering the processes alongside the institutions.
- The demands and requests should not only be reflected, but tangibly visible and evident in the policy-making on all levels in a measurable way.

Final political demand:
We demand co-decision-making processes on all levels with young people and youth organisations, implemented through a rights-based approach.

Youth Goal 9, Target 2

Youth Goal 9, Target 2: Ensure equal access to everyday decision-making for all young people from different backgrounds.
Guiding question: What actions/measures should be implemented to ensure young people from different backgrounds have access to decision-making processes?

- Give all young people the access to information about opportunities on how to take part in politics and how to participate (e.g. as part of political education in school).
- More connection between youth association work, youth social work and non-formal education to enable and motivate young people to participate.
- Ensure quality education for all, so that everyone is empowered to participate.
- Creating low barrier/open access to education/information e.g. using non-formal formats provided by youth organisations.
- Provide information, also in simple and/or youth-friendly language.
- Use formats which provide the opportunity for a larger number of young people to participate, with the goal to reach people of all backgrounds.
- Quotas in different spaces/areas may lead to more inclusiveness.

- Create safe spaces to allow and empower minorities to raise their voice and provide dedicated EU funding for local organisations working with minorities.
- Support youth organisations of minorities specifically.
- Ensure that there are participatory events dedicated to minorities/people with disabilities.
- Ensure that events are accessible to all, especially to young people with disabilities.
- Call on the European Commission to further identify targeting opportunities for the digitalisation of EU Youth Dialogue initiatives and to facilitate the access of SMEs and organisations to digital skills and infrastructure.
- The EU, the member states and local decision-making bodies should encourage the creation and empowerment of existing dedicated structures/processes/spaces that support and focus on promoting the voices of minority groups into decision-making processes.
- Improve digital infrastructure for rural youth.

Final political demand:
Decision-makers should encourage and invest in dedicated processes which amplify young minority voices and ensures their direct engagement.

Youth Goal 9, Target 3

Youth Goal 9, Target 3: Increase youth participation and thus equal representation in the electoral process as well as in elected bodies and other decision-making organs at all levels of society.
Guiding question: What measures/actions can be implemented to increase young people's representation in electoral bodies?
• Lowering the voting age to 16 as well as lowering the age for political candidacy and therefore enabling young people to actively participate in decision-making as well as a stronger physical representation in political bodies.   • Bringing voting closer to young people: Making sure the voting venues are close to young people, e.g. having voting places in schools. • Ensure young people's access to adequate civic education in school curricula.
Final political demand: **Ensure young people's access to formal decision-making by lowering the age of voting and political candidacy to 16 in all elections, while ensuring all youths have the opportunity to gain sufficient skills and motivation to participate actively and passively in elections, as well as removing all barriers to voting.**

Youth Goal 9, Target 4

Youth Goal 9, Target 4: Provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation.

Guiding question:
What kind of physical facilities and infrastructures should be available to young people and what actions/measures should be taken to ensure that they are autonomous, open, safe and accessible?

- Physical spaces are more important than digital spaces. Due to the pandemic, physical spaces have moved into the digital space. It is easier to create digital spaces, however, not everyone has access to Wi-Fi or a laptop/phone. Furthermore, physical youth spaces are by young people for young people.
- "Youth spaces" provide spaces and infrastructures in which young people are responsible. These spaces are independent, grant access to everyone, are safe spaces and also offer professional support for personal development and further opportunities of participation.
- Young people were hit specifically hard by the pandemic, since their spaces such as schools, kindergartens and youth centres were closed.
- Youth programmes could not take place; shutdowns destabilise social environments and shrink participation spaces.
- It is crucial to make young people's voices count equally in comparison to other age groups that have more access to networks, financial resources etc. as this phenomenon has worsened during the pandemic.
- Deterioration of rights during the crisis.
- Spaces are missing for young people to participate in political decision-making. Young people feel they are far away from those spaces. But why?
- Need for safe spaces.
- Need for funding for participation tools.
- Should youth centres be youth-led spaces or do you also see the benefit of older people, municipalities, structures being involved? Distinction between youth-led and youth-run, professional staff supporting and running youth clubs is a very important thing, BUT must still involve young participants in setting the direction of what the youth club does, agreeing on the programmes etc., by working in a participative way, so that it can still be youth-led, but also to have the day to day activities run and managed by youth workers.
- Greece has in the last 15 years seen funding go down for youth centres. Recently young people, grass roots initiatives and universities created their own spaces, are running them, sometimes funded by Erasmus+, for example. These centres are very close to the needs of young people.
- Spaces have to be accessible for people with disabilities.
- Spaces are co-managed between young people and professionals: support is provided on how to run a place for young people (e.g. business management courses to self-sustain spaces funded by the government).
- Co-leading the spaces seems like a good solution.

Final political demand:
We demand a new EU fund to set up and sustain youth spaces.

Youth Goal 9, Target 5

Youth Goal 9, Target 5: Ensure safe virtual youth spaces are accessible to every young person which provide access to information and services as well as ensure opportunities for youth participation.

Guiding question:
How can virtual spaces and tools be used to increase young people's participation?

- Strengthening possibilities of digital youth parliaments.
- Spreading awareness of available educational, networking and supporting platforms.
- Ensuring barrier-free access to information about the process of policy-making.
- Using the internet and online ways to enable the participation of young people and get feedback regarding conferences and politics. Foster regular meetings, dialogue and interactions between politicians and young people.
- Developing new and different educational formats for young people in difficult situations (unemployment, financial problems, searching for job or studies). Support young people's awareness and empowerment by training.
- Providing youth organisations with support, funding and the infrastructure to host digital events and projects.

- Working on meaningful formal and informal ways for young people to get engaged on national and European level.
- Providing equal opportunities for young people with different backgrounds.
- Youth-friendly website that has all EU info in one place (with language appropriate for young people and papers in all official languages).
- Talk about inclusivity and equal opportunities: How to be more inclusive?
- Organising the European Youth Portal in a youth-friendly way: provide information about discussions and outcomes from the three main EU bodies.
- Building infrastructure to speak with politicians digitally.
- Developing safe digital spaces (at all levels) and making existing tools more interactive.
- Fostering digital literacy and access to technology and building up digital capacity for youth workers.

Final political demand:
We request that the European Commission puts the creation of safe digital spaces for young people, along with the support and funding of developing digital literacy activities, as one of the top priorities in all programmes along with prioritising it horizontally at European level.

Youth Goal 9, Target 6

Youth Goal 9, Target 6: Ensure sustainable funding, common recognition and development of quality youth work in order to strengthen youth organisations and their role in inclusion, participation and non-formal education.

Guiding question:
What measures/actions should be taken to smart youth work, so it suitably supports young people's participation?

- Bypassing governments that limit the space for youth organisations - both through access to funds or with legal barriers.
- More recognition for youth workers.
- Tailored funding is needed for the needs of every country.
- Protecting youth organisations through strong national youth laws, acknowledging them as legally recognised, establishing independent national youth councils.
- Investments in (political) (non-)formal education and youth spaces as a solution to financial barriers.
- Sometimes the processes for getting funds and for being recognised are too complicated.
- Especially small organisations don't have the capacity or the administration to apply for funds – the access should be more fair.
- National youth organisations should receive sufficient funding to provide space and facilities for multiple "smaller" youth organisations, so it can be shared and managed efficiently.
- Creating a solidarity fund for youth organisations (e.g. within the Erasmus+ programme) in order to support youth organisations that are experiencing retribution from national governments and to secure their continued existence and independence from the governments.
- Youth organisations being politically independent enough to be able to support young people in forming their own opinion over political topics.
- Provide member states with sufficient funding to support national youth councils in taking their central role in sharing and managing facilities (such as office space or training tools) with smaller youth organisations.
- (Financially) encourage non-youth organisations or corporations to "adopt" a youth organisation that complements their goals/theme, in order to A) share facilities and space and to B) improve direct knowledge exchange and participation from youth in "mature" organisations.
- Ask for a stronger role of youth organisations in the "Conference on the Future of Europe", giving young people the opportunity to raise their voice and to participate in the discussions.

Final political demand:
We demand funds to be made available for permanent structures of participation.
Increasing the access to operation grants for youth organisations (and especially the ones who are currently too small to obtain funding) and expanding the scope of Key Action 3 (Erasmus+ Youth in Action) to also include permanent structures of participation – e.g. for local youth councils or bodies of cooperation between youth organisations. This part should be administered centrally, to create a possibility for the recipients to be independent from their national governments.

Youth Goal 9, Target 7

Youth Goal 9, Target 7: Provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation.

Guiding question:
What actions/measures can be implemented to ensure young people have access to youth-friendly, relevant and comprehensive information to participate in decision-making processes and society at large?

- Sometimes there is a lack of infrastructure for non-formal education (e.g. no NGOs in rural areas). This means the easiest way to distribute information is through the formal education system, as it the only place where every young person will be at some point.
- Distribute information about possibilities of youth participation to young people through means that can address all young people (e.g. schools).
- Create one specific webpage/social media page where young people can find all available information about NGOs, events, etc. in one place. This page needs to be promoted by governments.
- Reinforce the support of information networks. They inform young people about all the services that are tailored to them so that they can grasp related opportunities.

- Foster media and information literacy skills of young people. The best way of "fighting" against disinformation is having the skills to recognise it.
- Enforce the implementation of quality standards in providing information, e.g. by using the professional principles and guidelines of the European Youth Information Charter.
- Maintain and develop youth information providers. Make a call/programme under Erasmus+ in which youth organisations can get funding to facilitate youth-friendly information about EU policies, processes etc.
- "Knowledge clips" (film clips focussing on knowledge transfer) make it easier for young people to understand what is going on.
- Recognise the right to information as a prerequisite to exercising other rights, including civic participation.

Final political demand:
We demand critical thinking become a part of the obligatory private and public school curriculum for at least one hour a week from the ages 10-16 in order to fight fake news and disinformation with media and information literacy and to encourage youth participation and motivation to be a part of the debate.