

## Consultation of the membership of the European Youth Forum on Youth Policy

Dear members,

The European Youth Forum is launching a **consultation on Youth Policy** among its membership.

The objective of this consultation is:

→ To collect data and input from our member Organisations, regarding the youth policies that are being carried out in their countries

→ To collect data on the assessment of existing frameworks for youth policy, at European and Global levels.

→ To assess where we are in Europe regarding the implementation of the rights based approach as well as the advancement of youth rights.

It is important to stress that the information gathered will be a **valuable resource** for the European Youth Forum, **to contribute to several political processes at different times. For this reason, we encourage all organisations to answer as many questions as possible and to read them in their specific context** (*ex: for an INGYO, read "EU Institution" when we mention "National Government" or for a non EU NYC, read the question in your national context. We want to know about youth policy in all the countries!*)

- First of all, YFJ is aiming at preparing a **shadow report to the EU Youth Report 2015**, which is being prepared by the European Commission on the basis of a questionnaire answered by National Governments of the 28 Member States. To react on this Report, which is supposed to assess the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018, YFJ will prepare the Shadow Report, which shall be published by **September 2015**, and which will **point out the perspective of youth organisations regarding the EU Youth Strategy implementation in their countries, as well as the role that they play in its implementation.**
- Moreover, YFJ also wants to know **your awareness and use of the WPAY, the UN Global Framework on Youth Policy**. Indeed, 2015 commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WPAY, and it is a good occasion to prepare an **assessment of this programme**, which should be published **by January 2016**.
- In addition, and in line with YFJ's workplan 2015-2016, we want to use this consultation to find out about the actual implementation of the **Council of Europe Resolution on "the role of NYC in Youth Policy development"** and your **assessment** on it.
- Also, this consultation will also provide YFJ with important data regarding the status of youth rights in your country, and will enable us **to prepare a more up to date version of the publication on the State of youth rights in Europe**, which dates back from 2010.

- It will also give us some information about the understanding and the use of the **Rights Based Approach (RBA) to youth policy**, which an important principle on which Youth Policy should be based, according to the Forum

For all these reasons, we **warmly ask you to contribute carefully to this consultation**.

As it is a vast consultation, we are giving you enough time to be able to discuss it within your members, with other NYCs / INGYOs, and with the YFJ Secretariat and board.

You can find the online consultation [here](#).

Moreover, attached is a PDF version of the consultation that we encourage you to use for preparing your answers and contributions.

The consultation will be open until **May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015**.

In order to support you, the YFJ will organise specific activities such as:

- Online discussions/Q&A sessions (dates will be communicated further)
- Session/workshop during the COMEM
- Ad hoc meetings with Brussels' based MOs.

We also strongly encourage you to **get in touch with the board member** appointed to your organisation, if you have any question.

It is important to point out that this consultation concerns **all of our members**. We are aware that some question refer specifically to the EU framework, however, we are interested in hearing the opinion of our non EU Members. Likewise, some question are rather formulated for NYCs, however, we also want to hear the viewpoint of INGYOs, bringing their European perspective

For any question, you can contact Lucille Rieux, Policy Officer, Youth Policy, [Lucille.rieux@youthforum.org](mailto:Lucille.rieux@youthforum.org)

## Questionnaire

1. Are you a:

NYC

INGYO

2. What is the name of your organisation:

### **Question on Youth Policy in general**

3. Does your country have policies that specifically address youth needs and issues?

Yes

No

4. Under which form are they formulated?

Different uncoordinated laws:

A Member state's youth strategy:

A Youth plan:

Other:

5. Is there a person or a structure coordinating them?

6. Is there any national coordination mechanism to ensure the cross-sectorial development of youth policies? Yes/No

If yes, please specify:

7. Who are the stakeholders involved in the development of youth policy in your member state?

8. On a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much), how does your member state engage your national youth council in:

- the development of policies in the youth sector
- the development of policies that affect young people
- the implementation of policies in the youth sector
- the implementation of policies that affect young people
- the evaluation of policies in the youth sector
- the evaluation of policies that affect young people

Please, illustrate your answers if relevant:

9. What are the main challenges to the development, the implementation or the evaluation of youth policies in your country?

10. On the cooperation with the government, your organisation ...

- Works in close cooperation with the department in charge of the youth sector: Yes/no
- Is consulted regarding budget allocation in the youth sector: Yes/No
- Is consulted regarding programme development in the youth sector: Yes/No
- Works in (close) cooperation with other ministry(ies) of your National government:

11. Does your Organisation receive financial support from the National government?

Yes/no

If yes, how much per year, all together

## Questions on the EU Youth Strategy

### General

12. On a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very well):

- How well does your organisation know the EU Youth Strategy?
- How useful does your organisation find the EU Youth Strategy for the development of National Youth Policy?
- How useful does your organisation find the EU Youth Strategy for the development of your work?
- How well do your members know the EU Youth Strategy?

13. Do you consider the 8 priorities of the EU Youth Strategy relevant to the current challenges faced by young people?

Education and Training : Yes/no/maybe

Employment and Entrepreneurship: Yes/no/maybe

Health and well-being: Yes/no/maybe

Culture and creativity: Yes/no/maybe

Social Inclusion: Yes/no/maybe

Volunteering: Yes/no/maybe

Youth participation: Yes/no/maybe

Youth and the word: Yes/no/maybe

Do you consider that one/or several field(s) of action is/are missing? if yes, which one(s)?

14. Did you know that the Council adopted a Work Plan for Youth for 2014-2015? Yes/no

If yes, how relevant was it at National level (in terms of prioritizing)

15. Regarding the EU Youth Report 2015,

- You were approached by the Government to contribute to the evaluation: Yes/no
  - You were consulted by the Government on all the sections of the questionnaire: Yes/no
  - You were consulted by the Government on some of the sections of the questionnaire: Yes/no
  - you consider that the government made a full use of your expertise and input in this process: Yes/no
- If no, please explain how it could have been done better?

### Education and Training

*As formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, the aim with this priority, is to provide an **equal access for young people to high quality education and training** at all levels. As a complement to formal education, **non-formal learning** for young people should be **promoted and recognized**. Young people's transition between education and training and the labour market should be facilitated, **and early school leaving reduced**.*

*With this section, we want to know from the NYCs and INGYOs,*

- *What is your opinion on what is currently done at National level and what could be implemented in those fields*
- *what is your organisation doing and how it does contribute positively to reaching the goals set in the EU youth strategy*

16. Is Non Formal Education included in any legislation and/or mentioned in political strategies in your country? Yes/No

If yes, please specify:

17. What do you think should be done concretely by your government in order to ensure the recognition of NFE and of youth work?

18. Has your organisation/NYC worked on the development of tools to validate the competences acquired through Non Formal Education? Yes/No

If yes, please, describe

19. Has your organisation been involved in the National processes towards the implementation of National validation arrangements? (Referring to the [Council Recommendation on the validation of Non Formal and Informal learning](#) of December 2012). Yes/no

If yes, do you think the expertise of your organisation/NYC has been used to its fullest?

20. What does your organisation/NYC do to promote the learning mobility<sup>1</sup> of young people?

21. What does your organisation do to promote the recognition of youth work?

22. Does your organisation promote youth work as a way to acquire skills and competences? Yes/No

If yes, how do you promote it?

23. Through its activities, is your organisation providing skills that are useful for young people on the job market? Yes/No

24. If yes, which ones<sup>2</sup> (please tick the ones your organisation is providing)

- Communication skills
- Organisation/planning skills
- Decision-making skills
- Team working skills
- Confidence/autonomy
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Problem solving skills
- IT skills
- Foreign language skills
- Other:

25. Has your organisation/NYC introduced measures targeted at young people in the field of Education and Training other than the ones mentioned above?

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<sup>1</sup> By learning mobility, we mean the knowledge, competences and attitudes that young people develop thanks to mobility experiences.

<sup>2</sup> This list displays the 10 most frequently demanded skills, according to a [study on the impact of Non Formal Education in youth organisations on young people's employability](#)

## **Employment and entrepreneurship**

*As formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, with this priority, the aim is to support young people's integration into the labour market, either as employees or as entrepreneur. The transition from education and training, or from unemployment or inactivity, to the labour market should be facilitated while opportunities to reconcile working life with family life should be improved.*

*With this section, we want to know from the NYCs and INGYOs,*

*- What is your opinion on what is currently done at National level and what could be implemented in those fields.*

*- what is your organisation doing and how it does contribute positively to reaching the goals set in the EU youth strategy*

26. Is there any regulation toward tailored employment measures (career advisor, mentorship...) in your country?

If yes, please specify

If no, what do you think should be done?

27. Could you rate from 1 (not good) to 5 (very good) the quality of the internships in your country, based on 3 main criteria's<sup>3</sup>: remuneration, working conditions, educational purpose of the internship-

28. Does your member state have any legislation regulating the internships?

If yes, please specify

If no, what do you think should be done on that issue?

29. Do you have any specific activity to support the transition of young people from the university to the job market? Yes/No

2.b) If yes, which ones:

30. Is there any regulation in your country to support young people's access to credit?

If yes, please specify

If no, what do you think should be done in order to support young people in accessing credit?

31. What do you think your MS should be doing in order to promote youth entrepreneurship?

32. Does your organisation contribute to the promotion of youth entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills among young people?

33. Please, rate from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much) the following statements:

In my country, young people are provided with enough relevant information about job opportunities:

We are providing young people with relevant information about job opportunities

In my country, young people are easily provided with traineeship opportunities

We are providing young people with traineeship opportunities at National or international level

In my country, public institutions work closely with information services and companies:

We are cooperating with public information services in the field of youth employment

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<sup>3</sup> Based on the quality charter for traineeship of the YFJ

34. Has your organisation been involved at National, Regional or local level in the preparation of the National Youth Implementation plan of the Youth Guarantee?

Yes/No

If yes, how?

35. How could the role of the Youth Organisations and NYC be reinforced in the field of Employment ?

**Health and well being**

*Within the EU Youth Strategy, the aim of this priority is to ensure the health and well-being of young people, with a focus on the promotion of mental and sexual health, sport, physical activity and healthy life styles, as well as the prevention and treatment of injury, eating disorders, addictions and substance abuse.*

*With this section, we want to know from the NYCs and INGYOs,*

*- What is your opinion on what is currently done at National level and what could be implemented in those fields.*

*- what is your organisation doing and how it does contribute positively to reaching the goals set in the EU youth strategy*

36. Does your organisation promote:

<b>What</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Physical Activity as a tool for well being		
Food Education		
Healthy lifestyle		
Peer to peer health Education		
Cooperation with health centre		

37. What do you think should your MS work further on/implement in the field of health and well being for young people?

**Participation**

*The aim of this priority is to encourage young people’s participation in representative democracy and civil society at all levels and in society at large.*

*With this section, we want to know from the NYCs and INGYOs,*

*- What is your opinion on what is currently done at National level and what could be implemented in those fields.*

*- what is your organisation doing and how it does contribute positively to reaching the goals set in the EU youth strategy*

38. Overall, would you say that young people in your country are participating in civic and political life? Yes/No

39. What do you think your Member states should concretely do in order to increase the political and civic participation of young people?

40. From 1 to 5, whose responsibility is it that young people can and are participating in their societies?

- young people themselves
- families
- school
- National government
- local government
- Other

41. Has co-decision been introduced at any level in your country? Yes/no  
if yes, how was this carried out?

42. What is the age limits for voting in your country?

43. Please, list the activities (if any) that your organisation/NYC is carrying out in front of each statement:

Ensure dialogue between young people and decision makers	
Build up young people willingness and interest in political and social participation	
Build up young people willingness and interest in political and social participation, especially young people with fewer opportunities	
Increase young people's participation through ICTs	
Provide information about participation' opportunities	

44. Does your organisation/NYC is involved in formal participation mechanism at local, regional, national and/or European level?

If yes, please state which one as well as the level of involvement

45. Does your organisation carry out cross-border activities to promote participation and mobility of young people? Yes/no

If yes, please detail which ones

46. Does your organisation contribute to European Citizenship Education? Yes/no

9.b) If yes, how?

47. Does your organisation/NYC receive sufficient funding to ensure its independence and sustainability? Yes/No



48. Do you think the role of youth organisations/NYC is valued and promoted enough by public institutions in the promotion of youth participation? Yes/No

### **Voluntary activities**

49. Do you think that volunteering (at local, national or cross border level) is enough promoted by public institutions in your country? Yes/No  
Why?

50. What does your organisation do to promote volunteering (at all level) of young people?

51. Is your organisation cooperating with public institution at local, national or European level in order to increase volunteers' opportunities ? Yes/no

52. Do volunteers have rights according to any national legislation?

53. Does your organisation has an internal charter for volunteers' rights? Yes/no

### **Social Inclusion**

54. Do all young people have the same access to social protection in your country?

55. What do you think your Member States should do in order to support the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities into the society?

56. Does your organization/NYC has any specific project aiming at including young people with fewer opportunities? Yes/No

If yes, please describe

57. Is the role of youth work and NFE as a tool  
- to support the inclusion of young people (especially NEET) recognised: Yes/no  
- to address gender issues and stereotypes recognised: Yes/no

58. What does your organisation/NYC do to address gender issues and other stereotypes through its activities?

59. Does your organisation/NYC uses NFE and youth work as a tool for social inclusion and social cohesion, targeting in particular NEET<sup>4</sup>/young people with fewer opportunities?  
Yes/No  
If yes, how?

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<sup>4</sup> **NEET**, which means *Not in Education, Employment or Training* is a new social classification of people not in activity, mainly targeting young people.

### Youth and the world

60. How your INGYO/NYC:

Measure	How
Support the awareness raising of young people about Global issues	
Provided opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy makers on global issues	
Supported the organisation of trainings/meetings gathering young people from different regions of the world	
Promoted participation in green volunteering	

### Culture and Creativity

61. How does your organisation contributes to

Measure	How
Facilitate access to culture for young people, reducing obstacles	
Promote trainings in culture, new medias and intercultural competences	
The use of culture as a tool to enhance the participation and entrepreneurial skills of young people	

### Structured Dialogue

62. Does the NYC lead the NWG in your country: Yes/No  
If no, explain why

63. Do you think the NWG in the form it is right now, is a suitable structure to coordinate the SD at NL

64. Does the NWG work with other department than the youth department?  
If yes, how?

65. Is the NWG working on the follow-up and monitoring of the Structured Dialogue?

66. Is the SD used as a tool to increase the participation of young people at local level?

67. Do you consider the SD is an effective tool to enhance the participation of young people in decision-making?

68. Do you consider the SD is an efficient tool to influence the EU priorities at EU level?

69. Do you consider the SD is an efficient tool to influence the national policies?

70. How do you think the Structured Dialogue could be improved as a tool to involve young people in policy making?

71. What would you think of the Structured Dialogue as a tool to discuss with decision-makers on other policy issues than the one limited to the EU Youth Strategy?

<b>Questions on the Rights Based approach to youth policy</b>
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72. To what extent freedom of expression for young people is protected in your country?

73. How are the rights of young people being considered in the justice system of your country? Is there any particular protection for young people in the justice system of your country?

74. Can young people in your country refuse to engage in activities, which are contrary to their conscience, religion or belief, without negative consequences?

75. Which youth rights have particular importance for young people in your country?  
*List of youth rights.*

76. How clear is the concept of youth rights for you/your organisation?

Very clear

Clear

Not very clear

Not clear at all

77. What is the meaning or definition of youth rights for you/your organisation?

78. Do you promote / deal with youth rights in your work as organisation?

If yes, which one(s) and how you promote them?

79. Does your organisation have a clear understanding of the concept of RBA? Yes/No

80. In your lobby and advocacy work do you apply a rights-based approach to youth policy?  
Yes/no

81. Do you think that youth policies in your country are based on rights? Yes/No

82. What are the main challenges for a RBA in your opinion?

83. How are the rights of young people protected in your country?

84. Does your country somehow monitor the access to rights and freedoms of young people? If yes, how?

85. Are there any human rights that are being denied / violated / restricted for young people in your country? If yes, which one(s)?

86. Do you think that young people need a preferable status, compared to other segments of society? Yes/no

87. Do you think there are any youth rights that are not included in the European Convention on Human Rights / European Social Charter? If yes, please briefly specify.

88. Do you have networks/contacts/partners with (other) human rights organisations (national / European / international)? If yes, please briefly specify. If no, please explain why.

89. Do your networks/contacts/partners have experience with using legal tools / procedures? (national procedures, common complaints procedures etc) If yes, please briefly specify. If no, please explain why.

90. How aware are, in your assessment, young people in your country about their rights? Do they know which mechanisms that can be used by young people in your country to claim their rights? How is your country (on local and national levels) working on educating young people regarding their rights?

### **Questions on the WPAY/Global**

91. On a scale from 1 to 5, what is your level of awareness of the WPAY, the World Programme of Action for Youth? 1-5

92. On a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much), how useful is the WPAY to provide guidelines to youth policy development in your country?

93. Which policy areas of the WPAY are the most relevant to your reality? (list of all priority areas and they can tick)

94. What is, according to you, the added value of the WPAY, regarding other policy guidelines, such as the EU Youth Strategy for instance? (for EU countries)

95. How could the WPAY become a useful tool and guideline for developing, implementing and evaluating youth policy in youth country?

96. In your opinion, which stakeholders at global level could be resourceful for youth policy development, why?

**Questions about the Council of Europe**

97. Regarding the [Recommendation from the Committee of ministers on the involvement of NYC in the development of National Youth Policies](#), rate the following statements from 1 to 5:

- The NYC can express freely its opinion regarding political and societal decisions in the country
- The NYC can formulate, by law, opinions and recommendations on any issue that concerns youth
- The NYC can determine its own working structure and method
- The NYC can have, by law, an easy access to relevant information on youth issues
- The recommendations from the NYC are taken up by the government
- In case recommendations are not taken up, the NYC receives the reasons why it has not been?
- The NYC are involved in the definition of the procedures and mechanisms used by public authorities to consult young people

98. Has your Government been supportive to the process of creating the NYC when it was not existing

99. On a scale from 1(not at all) to 5(very much), how do you consider that the Government of your country acknowledge that NYC can and do actively contribute to the development of public youth policies?

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION 😊**