



RESEARCH ON EUROPEAN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Period : July - October 2018

Background

Civil society organisations, including **youth organisations**, play a crucial role in the **achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**¹.

The European Youth Forum has identified multiple potential roles for youth organisations in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, for example:

- By **raising awareness** of the Agenda, communicating it to young people and building their capacity to contribute
- By promoting and carrying out **education** for sustainable development
- By **participating in decision-making** structures for sustainable development, where these exist
- By **advocating** for the achievement and implementation of the Agenda at regional level, at national level, at local level or thematically
- By **monitoring and reviewing progress** towards the Agenda: at global, regional, national and local level or thematically
- By **implementing** parts of the Agenda through specific projects and communicating results

The 2030 Agenda recognises young people as “**critical agents for change**” and youth rights and needs are embedded to a greater or lesser extent throughout the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, **young people’s empowerment and participation** should be understood as both a **means and an end if sustainable development is to be achieved**.

The **type of engagement and the challenges faced by youth organisations** differ according to the mandate and focus of the organisation and the institutional framework within which it operates.

The European Youth Forum aims to examine and **map the contribution** of youth organisations in Europe and collect evidence and examples of **good practices and challenges** faced by those organisations **working towards sustainable development** and on projects, policies and activities that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This also includes the work of organisations that are contributing without being fully aware of the 2030 Agenda or explicitly framing and communicating their work in the language provided by the SDGs.

¹ United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

Objectives

The aims of the research project include:

- Mapping how youth organisations in Europe, particularly the Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum and their members, whether consciously or unconsciously, are contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Clustering the contribution of youth organisations according to the type of engagement (awareness raising, monitoring and reviewing, implementation, etc.) and according to the Sustainable Development Goals their work contributes to
- Gathering evidence on the positive impact of youth organisations on sustainable development through the 2030 Agenda
- Highlighting best practices in using the 2030 Agenda to address sustainable development challenges
- Understanding and highlighting the challenges youth organisations are facing in working with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as barriers to using the 2030 Agenda as a framework for their activities relating to sustainable development
- Compile a set of recommendations for different stakeholders (from youth organisations themselves to local, regional, national and European public authorities) to strengthen the role of youth organisations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²
- The final research product should support youth organisations, particularly the Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum and their members, in understanding how their actions are contributing so that they can communicate about it in future

Let us know about the work your organisation is doing!

Link to the platform used to collect data from youth organisations :

<https://framaforms.org/european-youth-organisations-and-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-1532680349>

Interested in this research?

Do not hesitate to contact Claire, claire-gillette@orange.fr .

² Recommendations will be based on existing positions of the European Youth Forum, in particular its [Position on the Comprehensive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe](#) and its [Policy Paper on Sustainable Development](#)