

May 2023

# Youth activities as part of **EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH** **2022**

**Report commissioned by  
the Chancellery  
of the Prime Minister**



# CONTENTS

Introduction .....	4
<b>What is the European Year of Youth? .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Youth in the European Union .....	6
Main objectives of the European Year of Youth .....	8
Initiatives targeting young people .....	11
European Year of Youth from start to finish .....	13
<b>European Year of Youth – Key events .....</b>	<b>17</b>
We are Europeans .....	18
Top sites on the web .....	19
Dialogue between generations .....	22
Young people have a lot to say .....	24
<b>EYY in Poland .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Activities of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister .....	27
Enhanced EU programmes dedicated to youth.....	30
Variety of activities .....	31
Year of Youth in numbers.....	41

# CONTENTS

<b>Youth engagement .....</b>	<b>42</b>
Dynamics of events .....	43
Scope of activities .....	44
What is important for young people? .....	46
<b>Youth in the media .....</b>	<b>49</b>
Youth in the media .....	50
What does the EU offer young people? .....	51
What do young people expect from the EU? .....	54
What needs improving? .....	58
Glossary .....	60
<b>Sources of information – Find out more .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Sources of information – Find out more .....</b>	<b>63</b>
Editorial details .....	66

# INTRODUCTION

The President of the European Commission delivered a State of the Union address in September 2021, which contained the idea of making 2022 the European Year of Youth. President Ursula von der Leyen cited several reasons for this decision. One was the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young generations. ‘This is our most educated, talented and motivated generation. And it has missed out on so much to keep others safe. Being young is normally a time of discovery, of creating new experiences. A time to meet lifelong friends, to find your own path. And what did we ask this generation to do? To keep their social distance, to stay locked down and to do school from home. For more than a year’, said the President of the European Commission.

The decision to declare a European Year of Youth has been taken, and meanwhile, Russia has already attacked Ukraine in early 2022. Watching the war just across the border of the European Union, or in the case of Poland, across the border of the country, became another experience that shook the world of young people. They were often directly affected by this situation when they helped refugees as volunteers or hosted them in their homes. Together with their Ukrainian friends and acquaintances, they experienced fear, confusion and compassion. Even more meaningful were the remarks in the address that spoke of the dedication of young people and the loss of the chance to be carefree.

But young people are strong, committed and still full of hope. They are the ones who often teach the older generations that when things go wrong, you have to act. Our activities as a European Community are to support them in this. And this is what the European Year of Youth was intended to do.

The events and initiatives in connection with it were aimed at working in the here and now towards developing current opportunities and building the future. We encourage you to learn more about them through this study.

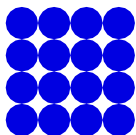


# What is the European Year of Youth?





# YOUTH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



Youth activities have been a priority in European Union policy for years. Youth programmes have been operating in EU Member States since 1988, and since 2002 a strategy has been developed and implemented in official documents that provide a framework and guidelines for action. **The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, based on the Council Resolution of 26 November 2018, is currently being implemented. It focuses on three main areas: engaging, connecting and empowering.**

# YOUTH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Engaging is understood as fostering youth participation in democratic life. Connecting means fostering voluntary engagement, learning mobility, solidarity and intercultural understanding in young Europeans. Empowering their position is to be achieved through qualitative and innovative youth work tools, e.g. educational and volunteer programmes, training of staff related to education.<sup>1</sup>

The commitment to improving the lives of young people is bearing fruit. **Among all generations, young people believe in the EU the most and see it as an opportunity for a better tomorrow.** According to the 2019 Eurobarometer survey, more than 70% of persons aged 15-30 said they had a positive view of the European Union.<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, the global situation, the Covid-19 experience and the war in Ukraine have put additional pressure on young people, negatively affecting social contacts and reducing the sense of stability and calmness. **It has become necessary to step up actions to support young people in these difficult times.**

The designation of 2022 as the European Year of Youth (EYY) was intended not only as a source of concrete action but also as a signal to young people, a way of showing them how important they are to Europe today and in the future.

---

1 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy, Brussels, 22.5.2018. COM(2018) 269 final)

2 European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer 485. Summary. European Union Citizenship and Democracy. Fieldwork. February-March 2020.

# MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

The best way to have an EYY that meets young people's expectations was to ask them what they thought it should involve. A call for ideas launched through the European Youth Portal in 2021 received almost 5,000 replies from young people from EU Member States and beyond.

The call included questions about who, what and how young people would like to talk to during their year.

There was also room for suggestions and ideas. It also produced an English-language [report on the results of the call for ideas on the European Year of Youth](#).

The call's findings became the starting point for outlining the framework of the entire event. **A significant number of young people felt that they wanted to discuss the European Year of Youth with members of the European Parliament, representatives of youth organisations and local politicians.**

**However, most people indicated a desire for interaction and conversation with other young people from European countries.**

The responses further showed that the preferred activities for young people were mainly **festivals, workshops, debates and interactive dialogues online or in person**. There was also a strong emphasis on social media as a form of contact and a way of staying up to date on EYY events.



# MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

**The young people indicated the most important themes to be discussed during the EYY as follows:**

- Education and training,
- Climate change/environment,
- Health/mental health,
- Inclusive societies, including gender, anti-discrimination,
- (Un)employment
- Europe and the world,
- European values,
- Entrepreneurship,
- Digitalisation,
- Migration,
- Economy for the people,
- Intergenerational solidarity.

# MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

Based on these assumptions, and as a result of cooperation between the European Commission, the European Parliament, representatives of Member States and youth organisations, the programme for the European Year of Youth 2022 was created.

## **The four main objectives of the EYY as defined by the Council and the European Parliament<sup>1</sup> are:**

- highlighting how the green and digital transitions offer opportunities for young people,
- helping young people to become active and engaged citizens,
- promoting opportunities available to young people,
- bringing a youth perspective to the Union's policies.

To put it another way, the European Year of Youth was about including young people in decisions that will affect their future. Inclusion through various events: conferences, debates, meetings and competitions for exchanging ideas, inspirations, thoughts.

---

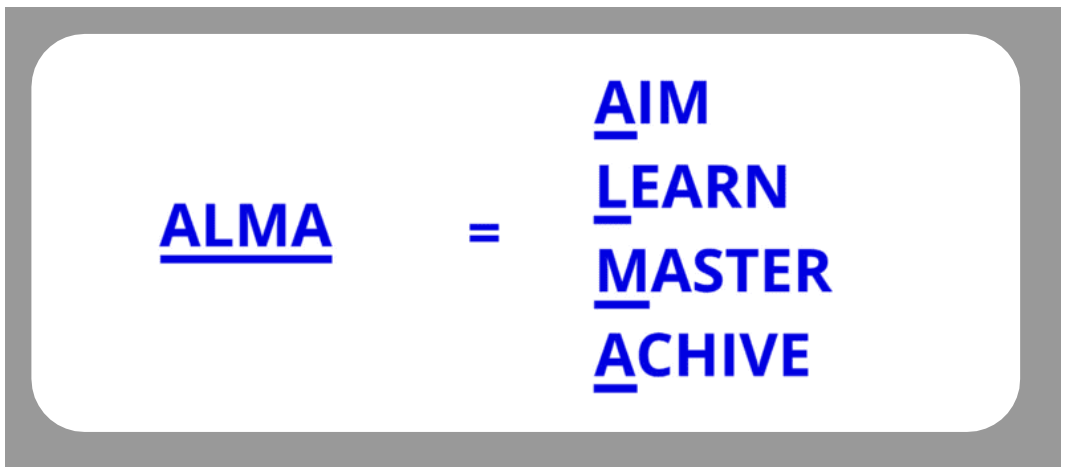
<sup>1</sup> Decision (EU) 2021/2316 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 2021 on a European Year of Youth (2022)

# INITIATIVES TARGETING YOUNG PEOPLE

A key role in the direct implementation and funding of European Year of Youth activities was to be played by the EU's existing youth programmes, namely Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. These programmes provided a **budget of EUR 8 million for implementing EYY events.**

In addition, other activities were undertaken, such as launching a [new youth initiative called ALMA](#). Its name is an abbreviation for **Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve.**

It targets young people who find themselves disadvantaged because, for various reasons, they are unemployed or do not receive education or vocational training at any given time in their lives. It offers these people training in their home country and opportunities for supervised work-related experience in another EU country. Participants can gain experience, network and simply be reintegrated into society.



(Figure of the origin of the name ALMA)

# INITIATIVES TARGETING YOUNG PEOPLE

**In addition, the following permanent European Union initiatives were enhanced and integrated into European Year of Youth activities:**

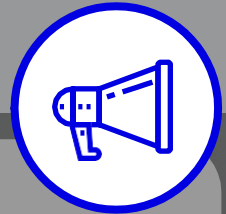
- [EU Youth Dialogue](#) (#EUYouthDialogue), which enables an exchange of views between young people and politicians,
- [DiscoverEU](#), which allows 18-year-olds to travel around Europe and discover its cultural richness,
- [EURES](#), which is a portal that makes it easier to find work abroad.



The European Year of Youth was intended as additional support for the EU's [NextGenerationEU](#) instrument. It is a recovery and financial support instrument in response to the problems of contemporary Europe, designed, among other things, with the youngest generations and their future in mind.

# EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH FROM START TO FINISH

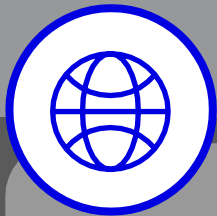
2021



## December

- Official designation of 2022 as the European Year of Youth

2022



## January

- Launch of the European Year of Youth web [portal](#)



## January

- Establishment of the European Pool of Young Journalists



## February

- EU Industry Days with a youth theme

# EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH FROM START TO FINISH



## March

- Statement by Mariya Gabriel on support for Ukrainian students abroad



## May

- Creation of the [youthvoices.eu](https://youthvoices.eu) platform to give a voice to young Europeans



## July

- Launch of #TheEuropeIWant competition for reels showing what kind of Europe young people want



## May

- Inauguration of Youth Talks – a series of 15 to 20-minute speeches by young people



# EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH FROM START TO FINISH



## July

- Creation of the European Year of Youth channel on [Discord](#)



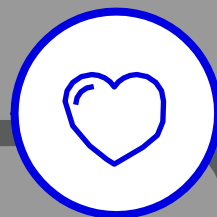
## October

- EU4Youth Days – a conference and an online event



## October

- Level Up – a two-day boot camp at European
- Parliament



## August

- 12 August – International Youth Day

# EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH FROM START TO FINISH



## October

- Hack for Earth Youth Hackathon at COP27



## December

- European Education Summit:  
#BrightYoungMinds



## December

- European Year of Youth Closing Conference at the European Parliament in Brussels



## November

- Establishment of the IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUTH AWARD at the prestigious European Festival Awards 2022

# European Year of Youth – Key events



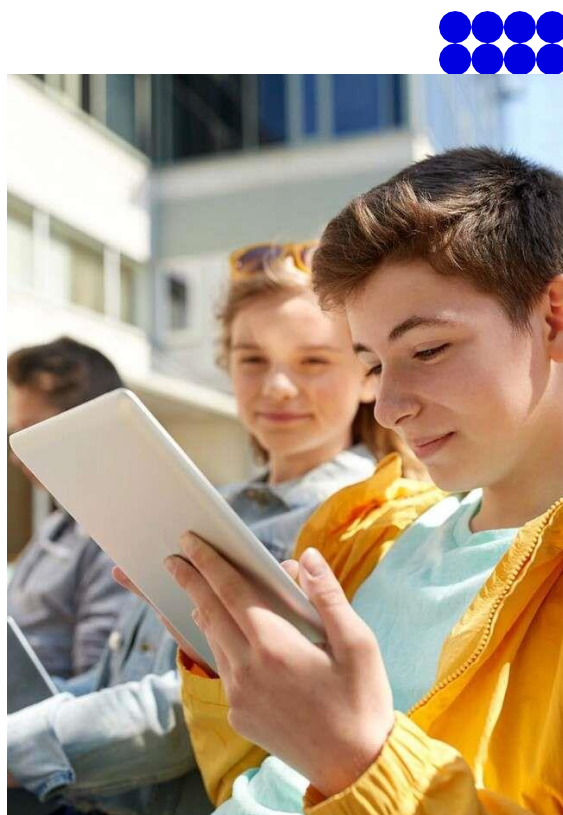
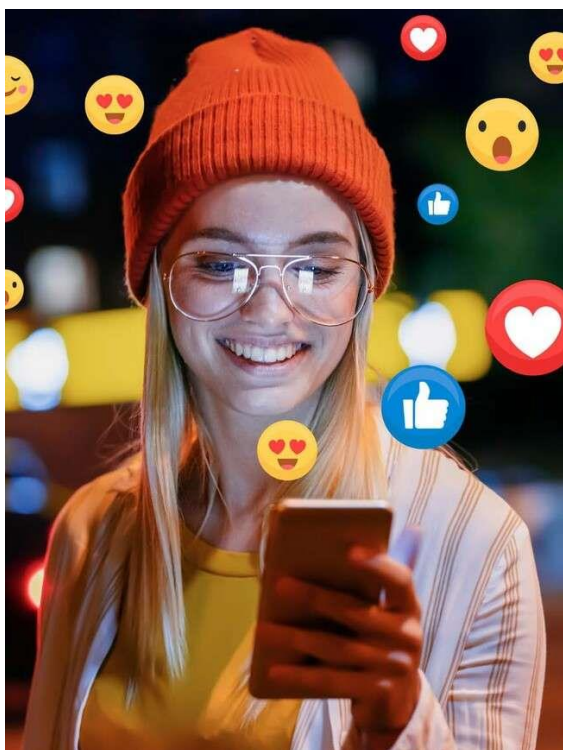


The European Year of Youth was part of the European Union Youth Strategy and policy as a community. Therefore, related activities were planned with all young Europeans in mind. The EYY also includes the work of national coordinators, whose task was to organise activities at the Member State level. This implies a certain duality of events, some of which took place in the country in a local context, while others went beyond national borders and had an international character. Inevitably, these events intersected, not least because of the way information was distributed and how society, especially the young part of it, functions. For young people, it was natural that what happens around the European Year of Youth happens first and foremost online. National borders or any kind of separateness did not matter much here, and young people could act locally and globally at the same time, taking part in a variety of events together with their peers from any part of Europe.

## TOP SITES ON THE WEB

Creating a site on the web as a hub for the European Year of Youth was crucial in terms of coordination and building its reach. The [European Year of Youth 2022 website](#), which is part of the European Youth Portal, has become such a hub. All essential information about the EYY can be found here.

It also features a search engine for projects from all over the world launched in connection with the European Year of Youth. Communications support for the website is provided by social media profiles on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), which the young are keen to use. However, the website provides quick and easy access to key information and reference material.





**The website was also used to deliver a digital tool that expresses the idea of the European Year of Youth, namely, giving young people a voice.**

In May 2022, the [youthvoices](#) platform was launched under the slogan ‘Voice Your Vision’. On it, young Europeans recorded their messages addressed to other young people and also to decision-makers. In them, they shared personal opinions, ideas, questions and needs regarding the future of Europe in areas such as education, employment, humanitarian action, inclusivity, health and well-being, arts and culture, environment, technology and European values. Depending on the user’s choice, the website was made available in either accessibility or immersive mode. It was intended that the recorded messages would be collected and presented as the ‘Voice of the European Youth’ at the ‘Claim the Future’ Conference – the official closing of the EYY scheduled on 6 December at the European Parliament in Brussels.

**However, the tool is still in place because, as one young participant said during her speech – the end of the European Year of Youth should not mark the end but only the beginning of intergenerational cooperation.** The platform is still active and accessible. You can record your messages on it. At the time of compiling this report, there were almost 1,800 recorded messages. Most of these were on European values and environmental protection; the fewest concerned digitalisation, employment and career opportunities.



## TOP SITES ON THE WEB

[The European Year of Youth channel on Discord](#) has also become a site for young people to connect, discuss and exchange ideas. Discord is particularly popular among the younger generations. It allows them to create communities, discuss a variety of topics, share ideas and chat live.



# DIALOGUE BETWEEN GENERATIONS

Young Europeans have many opportunities for substantive dialogue with representatives of older generations managing EU structures and policy-making. However, the space for discussion is still being expanded. These are the expectations of young people, who want to have a real say in their future, and these are the needs of representatives of EU structures, who are aware that Europe needs a fresh outlook and new energy to move in the right direction.

**The European Year of Youth was packed with events such as online sessions with EU Commissioners as part of the Youth Policy Dialogue series.** The EU Youth Dialogue programme is underway and is currently in its 9th cycle dedicated primarily to two of the [11 Youth Goals](#): Inclusive Societies and Sustainable Green Europe.

Young people also played a key role in the Conference on the Future of Europe. A third of its participants were under the age of 25. Youth issues were, therefore, an important part of the Conference. The [European Youth Event 2021 report](#) became an important document and a topic of further discussion, which compiles the findings of the youth consultation held at the European Parliament.

# DIALOGUE BETWEEN GENERATIONS



The theme of youth also dominated numerous other events. EU Industry Days, one of Europe's most important annual industry events, included a segment addressing how the younger generations can shape industry in the European Union.

**In December 2022, the 5th European Education Summit: #BrightYoungMinds put young people and their contributions at the centre of the debate in shaping the future direction of education.**

**As part of the prestigious European Festival Awards 2022, a special IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUTH AWARD has been created in connection with the European Year of Youth.**

Festival projects and initiatives were eligible for the award in 4 categories: Young Activism, Young Artistic Projects, Young Team Developments and Young Innovation.



## YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A LOT TO SAY

In addition to the numerous conferences, workshops and debates, 2022 also saw the launch of exciting initiatives that enabled active young people to inspire others and bring interesting issues to them from their own perspectives.

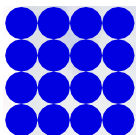
In early 2022, Eurodesk and the European Commission set up [a pool of European young journalists](#). The activities of the group of 11 people from different European countries were to create journalistic content (articles, videos and podcasts) aimed at young people and communicate from the perspective of young people, based on their opinions and experiences. The content was created in teams on topics chosen by individual group members. It also included journalistic reporting and coverage of EYY events. The success of the event's first edition has now led to a second pool of young journalists, selected through a competition to report on activities and topics of interest in 2023. The resulting [content is available on the EYY website](#).



## YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A LOT TO SAY

The Youth Talks project was an activity of a similar nature but with a completely different format. **As part of Youth Talks, young speakers prepared and delivered short speeches addressing inspiring and important topics for young people, such as solidarity and inclusion, the environment, volunteering and activism.** Selected speakers were invited to participate in public speaking and rhetorical training and then delivered their speeches at 'Level Up! Accelerating change'. It was a two-day boot camp at the European Parliament dedicated to developing the skills of young activists so that they can have an even greater impact their communities.

All the [speeches](#) presented at Level Up [were recorded and can be viewed on the EU Academy website.](#)



These are just some of over 13 000 events linked to the European Year of Youth. Their scope, richness and diversity were enormous. It is worth looking at how these activities have been received by the young people or how they have influenced their involvement in co-creating the European Community.

# EYY in Poland





# ACTIVITIES OF THE CHANCELLERY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

In addition to pan-European events, there were also various activities in Poland in connection with the EYY. These included both grassroots initiatives and larger nationwide events. The latter include, among others, the 3 competitions announced by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister:

- ['Transformacja Ekologiczna Cyfrowa – Twój projekt' \(Green Digital Ecological Transformation – Your Project\)](#) ,
- ['Pomysł na Samorząd Przyjazny Młodzieży' \(Idea for a Youth-Friendly Local Government\)](#),
- ['Pomysł na Młodzieżową Inicjatywę Roku' \(Idea for Youth Initiative of the Year\)](#).

The rules for participating in all three competitions were similar, except that each was about an idea for action from a slightly different area – green and digital transformation, youth cooperation with local government and youth initiatives.

There was a strong emphasis in the competitions on involving the participants' whole communities, schools or universities in the projects. The winners were invited to a European Year of Youth conference at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, where they had the opportunity to present their award-winning projects.



# ACTIVITIES OF THE CHANCELLERY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Another initiative of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister was the [Competition for the European Year of Youth Ambassador](#). It aimed to honour 16 young people who cooperate on a daily basis with local or student governments, student councils or NGOs and have been particularly active in youth activities and the promotion of the EYY. The Ambassadors' activities will be to continue to work in working groups on youth-related topics and solving the problems that young people currently face.

The announcement of the winners and the awarding of the prizes took place during the [National Conference for young people promoting volunteering, green digital transformation, civil society, learning mobility and mental health](#). The event was the official conclusion of the European Year of Youth 2022 in Poland. It included a training session, 'Resources for youth initiatives, or how to use the youth fund'. The event also included speeches, 'Effective communication online and its impact on the recipient' and 'How to deal with stress and hate speech'.

The conference was attended by Piotr Mazurek, Co-Chair of the Council for Dialogue with the Young Generation, who explained how the Government Programm Youth Fund works and the benefits it offers to young people.

# ACTIVITIES OF THE CHANCELLERY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

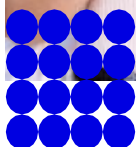
Training on topics of importance to socially engaged young people also abounded [at the two-day EYY Congress at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister in December 2022](#). Its participants had the opportunity to take part in the following training courses:

- ‘How to take care of young people’s mental health’,
- ‘Resources for youth initiatives, or how to use youth funds’,
- ‘How young people can influence the future of the European Union’,
- ‘How to be an active young citizen – setting up associations and volunteering’,
- ‘Traineeships and careers in the European Union Institutions’,
- ‘Green digital transformation – benefits and opportunities for young people’,
- ‘Learning mobility in the European Union ERASMUS+’.

In addition, youth mental health was discussed during the Congress. Representatives of the Council for Dialogue with the Young Generation presented the role of youth in government policy and the benefits of the Youth Fund.

The award-winning projects in the 3 competitions of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister were also presented.

# ENHANCED EU PROGRAMMES DEDICATED TO YOUTH



As the National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme and the European Solidarity Corps, the [Foundation for the Development of the Education System](#) has launched two additional calls for project ideas to support youth participation in the European Year of Youth.

One of them concerned ‘Youth participation activities (KA154)’. It covered any activity – workshops, training courses, debates, online or offline information campaigns that encourage youth to participate in the democratic life of Europe.

The second call covered the activities of the ESC Solidarity Projects. Here it was possible to submit projects supporting the local community in various ways.

## VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

Both the Foundation for the Development of the Education System and the EU institutions and other actors involved in the organisation of the European Year of Youth continually encouraged young people to get involved, create and implement their own ideas and initiatives. They could be posted and promoted on the EYY website, with a map and a search engine for events. Activities uploaded by users verified and approved by the National Agencies of the respective Member States appeared on the portal.

It was a way to inform young people about interesting actions but also to inspire them to act and create similar initiatives in their communities.

It was important that a wide variety of events could be registered on the EYY website without any particular restrictions.

This meant that both large, more significant events and very small local initiatives were promoted on the EYY website.

The following pages present a brief overview of selected activities, showing their diversity and nature and illustrating the scale of involvement and youth activities.



# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES



## Conferences

**Dzień Europejskich Perspektyw Młodych. Konferencja Ambasadorów Karier Unii Europejskiej na Uniwersytecie Warszawskim (European Youth Prospects Day. European Union Careers Ambassadors Conference at the University of Warsaw)**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/374>

The Conference took place in March 2022 at the University of Warsaw. Topics discussed included student exchanges, EU programmes aimed at young people and youth organisations. The European Youth Prospects Day gave young Europeans a space for dialogue and the opportunity to acquire practical knowledge and inspiration. The speakers shared their practical knowledge, as they have participated in student exchanges and have experience working in government administrations. Among other things, interested parties learnt how to find traineeships under the Erasmus+ programme and how to create a successful European CV.



# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

## **Stan Młodych 2022 (Status of the Young 2022)**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/1852>

The Conference took place in May 2022. During it, young people discussed topics that were relevant to them. Experts, activists and decision-makers from various fields attended the event. The Status of the Young brought together more than 150 male and female students from across Poland to discuss the economy, education and social policy. Among other things, the young people discussed the values that should be promoted in schools, what role society should play in the economy and what housing policy should be in place. More importantly, the participants did not just passively listen to their colleagues but also took an active part during the 30 hours of discussions, 6 expert panels and 6 workshops.

## **Conference: Youth Councils – Advisors and Activists Together**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/2661>

Conference: Youth Councils – Advisors and Activists Together was held at the Hotel Skaut in Chorzów. It brought together representatives of Youth City Councils from Poland, Estonia, Ukraine and the Czech Republic. Participants took part in panel discussions with city managers, workshops and discussions using the World Cafe method, i.e. working in small groups in parallel. The exchange of experiences broadened the perspectives of its participants. The topics discussed focused on solving the problems that City Councils are confronted with on a daily basis, issues of competence enhancement and cooperation.



# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

## **II Forum Edukacji Obywatelskiej w Białymstoku (2nd Civic Education Forum in Białystok)**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/3153>

Held in the auditorium of the Eastern European University of Applied Sciences in Białystok, the event was the culmination and conclusion of the 'School participatory budgeting – we decide together' project. Teachers, young people, students, educators, people working in non-governmental organisations and representatives of local governments and education institutions attended it. During one part of the Forum, all those interested could learn how participatory budgeting was distributed in Białystok, Augustów, Sobolewo and Kleszczele. The next two parts were a conversation with social activists and an Oxford debate on youth issues.

# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES



## Meet up

### **EuroPeers Annual Network Meeting 2022**

[https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/3324\\_pl](https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/3324_pl)

EuroPeers are young people who have participated in Erasmus+, Youth In Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes and want to share their experiences with their peers. The theme of the meet-up was Solidarity and Synergy, and the annual ANM meeting is an opportunity for young people and European Commission or Eurodesk staff to network, exchange positive practices and gain inspiration. The 2022 meet-up discussed the latest updates to EU youth programmes, planned international EuroPeers actions and shared the challenges of the national networks, which mainly operate in Poland, Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway and Romania.

# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

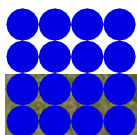


## Debate

### European Forum of Young Leaders 2022

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/1313>

The Forum was held for the first time; it was a side event of the European Economic Congress in Katowice. The European Forum of Young Leaders brought together activists from across Europe, students from regional universities and entrepreneurs attending the Congress. The event facilitated the exchange of experiences, good practices and making new contacts. The themes of the Forum related to what was happening in the world at the time and the new challenges posed by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Debates touched on security and hybrid threats during this conflict, public engagement, media during armed conflict and cybersecurity.



# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

## **EU & Me, czyli Unia Europejska dla młodzieży (EU & Me, or the European Union for young people)**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/1242>

The event was part of the 18th edition of the Podlasie Science and Arts Festival. It took the form of a debate addressing the themes of participation, European values, social inclusion, equality and student exchange. The EU & Me name refers to the European Year of Youth in 2022. The event took stock of youth activities and also defined the new challenges facing the European Union. Speakers at the event included David Lawton, a PhD student at the German Historical Institute London. Lawton talked about how Brexit has affected the lives of young Britons.



## **Training**

### **Kolegium Służby Publicznej – spotkanie z historią i kulturą (Civil Service College – meeting history and culture)**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/2351>

The Fundacja Służby Niepodległej project was a training and information cycle carried out across several conventions. It aimed to increase the competence and knowledge of young people in culture and art history. Topics from the artistic fields were presented by historians, columnists and people who deal with the arts on a daily basis. Participants could participate in debate and discussion, as well as enjoy entertainment choices such as concerts or karaoke.

# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES



## Workshop

### **Warsztaty Europejskie (European Workshops)**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/277>

The European Workshops prove that nothing is impossible in the age of modern technology. All 15 events took place online, and the whole project ran from February to June. Participants in the 75-minute meetings broadened their knowledge of the EU, talked to experts in European issues, activists and representatives of the non-governmental sector. They also learned about the European Commission's current priorities and about opportunities for traineeships and work in the EU institutions.



## Competition

### **European Universities Games Lodz 2022**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/102>

The 2022 European Universities Games took place in July in Łódź, Poland. It is the largest university sport event where young people (aged 18-30) from all over Europe can compete against each other in 20 disciplines (including handball, basketball and judo). In addition to competing, students could take part in educational workshops covering a wide range of sporting topics. The meetings touched on issues including anti-doping, dual careers and volunteering.



# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES



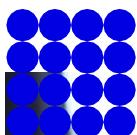
## Film club

### **Klub Sztuki Filmowej i Teatralnej ‘w Dobrym Tonie’ (Film and Theatre Arts Club ‘In Good Tone’)**

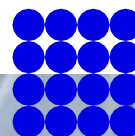
<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/2377>

In response to the limited access to cultural events resulting from the pandemic, the Białystok’s Fundacja w Dobrym Tonie organised a series of several dozen film and theatre meetings.

The meetings were available free of charge to everyone at the TON Cinema in Białystok. The meetings took the form of a film discussion club; the screenings were accompanied by talks and discussions with the directors or actors involved in the films. The event aimed to engage young people in culture, enhance educational methods and create a space for constructive artist-audience dialogue.



# VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

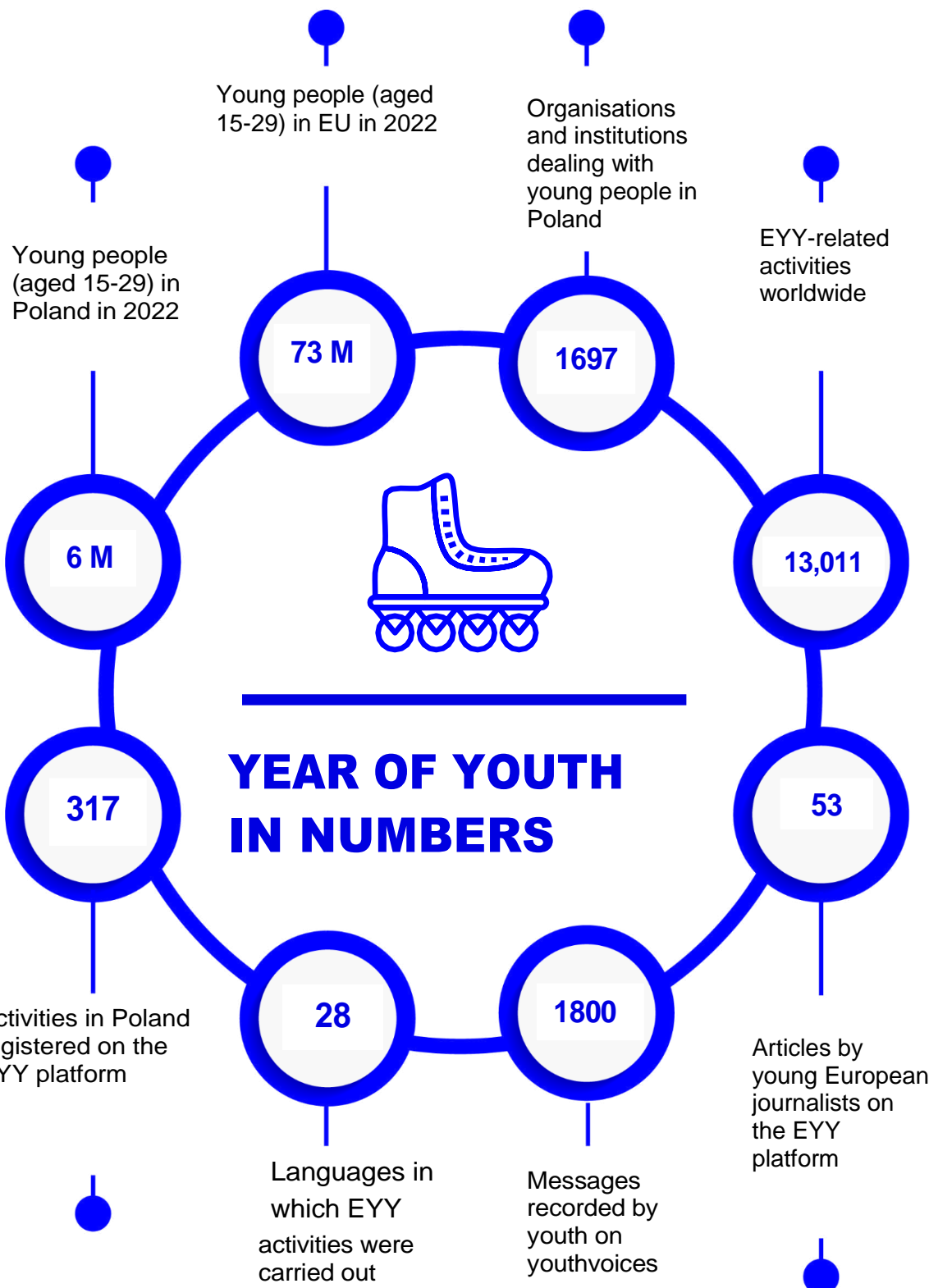


## Other

### **POWER 2 WORK**

<https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth/activities/4671>

The virtual event, organised by the Voivodeship Labour Office in Gdańsk, made it possible, among other things, to talk to a career adviser who offered assistance in choosing a school or university and preparing application documents. The event also included 3 webinars for young people, which covered the competences needed for their dream job, topics related to entrepreneurship and showed them how to create their first CV.

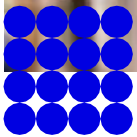


Data sources:  
Eurostat, European Youth Portal, europarl.europa.eu, Eurodesk

# Youth engagement



## DYNAMICS OF EVENTS



Young people's activism and activity in NGOs and public institutions in 2022 were primarily centred around initiatives related to the European Year of Youth and dictated by its calendar. In addition, young people's attitudes, activism and social engagement have been greatly influenced by Russia's attack on Ukraine and the subsequent influx of refugees into the European Union. Much of the assistance offered to refugees and residents of Ukraine was initiated spontaneously, from the grassroots up, based on the individual ideas and capabilities of young people. On the other hand, all youth organisations also became involved in helping Ukraine in various ways. In Poland, the engagement in assistance was so intense that it undoubtedly somewhat influenced the course of EYE events planned and organised in our country.

## SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Young people are undoubtedly civically engaged. Moreover, this engagement has been growing in recent years. In the 2019 Flash Eurobarometer survey,<sup>1</sup> 41% of young people declared to have been active (ever) in student and youth organisations, and in the 2022 Flash Eurobarometer survey,<sup>2</sup> entirely dedicated to youth and democracy in the European Year of Youth, up to 58% of respondents responded in the affirmative to this question.

Systematising the scale and scope of youth activities in NGOs and public institutions in Poland is very difficult due to the scattering of information and lack of research on the subject. Undoubtedly, associations and unions with a large scope and scale of activities, such as scouting and guiding associations, religious associations, student organisations and associations, and associations and unions for specific social or professional groups, e.g. the Rural Youth Union, play an important role among such organisations. They bring together many young people and determine the direction and nature of their activities.

---

1 European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer 478: How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people, March 2019.

2 European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer 502: Youth and Democracy in the European Year of Youth, February-March 2022.



## ■ SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

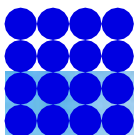
Another significant strand of activity is the engagement in initiatives related to education and volunteering, such as Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps. An advantage of this type of ‘offer’ for young people is the intermediation of schools and universities in publicising and promoting them. Young people are keen to participate in programmes that not only allow them to broaden their knowledge and gain new competences and skills but also open them up to the world of experience and discovery through travel. Such a bundle of benefits is particularly attractive to young people who do not feel constrained by locality, by belonging to a place but literally live in Europe because the whole of Europe is within reach in their virtual world.

Environmental and climate change organisations have also gained great importance in recent years. The strength of the grassroots movement, for which environmental concerns and climate protection are the most important and undisputed priorities, is immense. Initiatives, such as the School Strike for Climate, are still going strong. Although the number of street protests has decreased recently, the activity of these groups has not diminished; it has been channelled into actions that are more constructive than critical. It could also be argued that the Russian war in Ukraine has, in some ways, redefined priorities, and a significant number of young people have, for a time, abandoned concern for the future of the Earth in favour of concern for the here and now.

It should be noted that in recent times, probably as an aftermath of the pandemic and war, various volunteering activities are gaining importance. Societies have learnt a lesson and have opened themselves up to helping, cooperating and solidarity.

# WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

This type of hierarchy of values is reflected in the order of the themes identified in the aforementioned Eurobarometer survey as those on which the European Year of Youth should focus.<sup>1</sup> Most respondents indicated improving mental and physical health and well-being as an important theme (40% in Poland, 34% average for all European countries). In second place was protecting the environment and fighting climate change (30% in Poland, 34% European average). In third place was improving education and training, including the free movement of students, apprentices/pupils (33% Polish and European average). And in fourth place was the altruistic theme of fighting poverty and economic and social inequalities (30% in Poland, 32% European average). In last place was promoting the digitalisation of society (12% in Poland, 13% European average), which, while still relevant, seems to be losing its value in the eyes of young people who are, as it were, already immersed in the digital world.



<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

# WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

An analysis of the responses to the question posed in the same survey, 'In your opinion what are the most effective actions for making young people's voice heard by decision makers?'<sup>1</sup> also provides interesting information. Voting in local, national or European elections came first (41% Poland, 39% Europe), but engaging in social media by expressing my opinion, using hashtags or changing my profile picture (37% Poland, 30% Europe) came second. This answer ranked far ahead of 'Taking part in the EU Youth dialogue' (8th) or 'Contacting a politician about an issue' (9th).

Evidently, this is a different mindset from the older generations. In this context, it becomes particularly apparent how important it is, when planning initiatives such as the European Year of Youth, to research the area of action in advance and to prepare events targeted at young people accordingly. Something that, from the point of view of the older generations, is merely a communication add-on to the main event, such as a conference or a debate, from the point of view of young people, can be no less an essential component of the whole, a means of action, a tool with concrete effects.

---

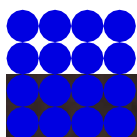
<sup>1</sup> Ibid.



## WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

For this reason, the European Year of Youth included events such as Level Up – a boot camp at the European Parliament with online experts and EYY ambassadors, which aimed to develop skills for effective and efficient communication using online channels.

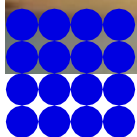
Also, the cross-section of events featured on the EYY website, often conceived and implemented by young people themselves, shows the importance of thinking outside the box, openness and hybridisation of the virtual and real worlds in youth activities.



# Youth in the media







In 2022, the European Year of Youth, there were numerous publications in the media related to, and only inspired by, the EYY itself, addressing the situation of today's youth in a broader sense. Journalistic reports, articles and broadcasts featuring the stories of specific individuals or organisations, the point of view of specific young people, reveal the true needs and capabilities of young people.

These publication samples, selected from the many that are available, give an overview of the problems and needs, but also of the successes of youth and youth work, showing what has already been done and what is still worth looking into.



# WHAT DOES THE EU OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE?

It must be said that in the relationship between the EU and youth, the benefits are mutual, as are the needs. Initiatives to support young people after the pandemic, giving them the opportunity to integrate, are working and were also working before the European Year of Youth. Young people need them, especially in small towns, less developed regions of the country. If there is nothing going on in their local area, no prospects and no sociocultural offer, young people flee to big cities. And this is precisely the problem of the older generations, who remain in an abandoned space.

This situation is illustrated by Andrzej Mielnicki's article in *Gazeta Olsztyńska*, which shows activities aimed at young people through the prism of the NORA (Nowatorski Ośrodek Rozwoju Artystycznego) association in Bartoszyce. The association's activities include, among others, a project called 'Art, Culture and Dance as Tools for Education', which involved 35 people from five countries: Poland, Türkiye, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania. The project was implemented as part of the Erasmus+ programme.

<https://gazetaolsztynska.pl/818052,Uwaga-Elk-Idzie-mlodosc.html>

# WHAT DOES THE EU OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE?

The European Year of Youth coincided with Poland reaching the age of maturity in the EU. The year 2022 marks the 18th anniversary of Poland's membership. The Euractive.pl coverage provides interesting conclusions and reflections. Its author talks to young people who are also coming of age in 2022. 18-year-olds from different regions of Poland respond to questions about what the EU means to them, what they like, what they gain, and what they think is the problem. The cited benefits, apart from the more obvious ones such as new roads, green transport or greater opportunities to travel in Europe, also include an increased sense of security following Russia's invasion of Ukraine or the preservation of the beauty of the Polish landscape thanks to EU regulations.

The problems cited primarily include bureaucracy, internal bifurcation and lack of alignment of goals, excessive cultural unification, lack of decisiveness in action and conservatism, which have manifested themselves in the issue of aid to Ukraine.

Overall, however, the youth evaluation is positive, and the article provides many valuable reflections.

<https://www.euractiv.pl/section/polityka-wewnetrzna-ue/news/un-ia-european-integration-eu-ukraine-climate-ecology-germany-brussels-science-education-future/>

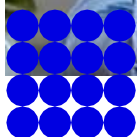
# WHAT DOES THE EU OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE?

An interesting publication is a modern form of a live anniversary report, '35th Anniversary of the Erasmus+ Programme. Values Uniting Europe'. It features interviews with experts, beneficiaries and participants of the Erasmus+ programme. It presents the values of international education through 'live' examples and stories of people who have used the programme over its 35 years of existence. These stories show how Erasmus beneficiaries look back on their adventure from the perspective of years, how, sometimes in a non-obvious way, this experience influenced their later life and professional career. They are also a source of inspiration for young people to take advantage of the opportunities the EU offers them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVBME8pNk7g>



# WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE EU?



According to reports, a still unresolved problem affecting young people is their difficult labour market situation.

Unpaid internships and traineeships, lack of employment contracts and legal regulations disadvantaging young workers are just some of the problems raised by young people, cited by Mateusz Kosiński in articles on the TVP INFO website. Their author expresses hope that the European Year of Youth can be a way to shed light on these problems and start working towards a systemic solution. This is what youth organisations, such as the ETUC Youth Committee, are calling for from the EU institutions.

<https://www.tvp.info/62005443/mateusz-kosinski-bez-paid-contracts-temporary-challenges-european-ro-ku-young-people>

<https://www.tvp.info/58598903/mateusz-kosinski-czas-zakazac-free-stases>

# WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE EU?

From the young people's point of view, closing oneself off to the whole of European culture only in one's local bubble is limiting. This is the conclusion of Daniel Morgenstern, a guest on Radio Rodzina's programme on Erasmus+. He lives in Germany and is currently studying history in Wrocław, thanks to Erasmus. For someone from Germany, studying history at a Polish university, from a Polish perspective, is certainly an interesting experience and perhaps also a challenge.

This situation is a good illustration of the attitude of today's youth, their need to look for new opportunities, their willingness to leave their comfort zone and their orientation towards discovering higher values. In addition to an interview with a beneficiary of Erasmus+, the radio programme also presents practical information for those interested in participating in Erasmus+ projects.

<https://www.radorodzina.pl/audycje/program-erasmus-i-europejski-year-youth-2022-announcement-jubilee/>





# WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE EU?

A Radio Kraków reporter talked to young residents of the Małopolska region who visited Brussels as part of a project. The interviewees highlighted issues such as the need to protect the planet. Another interesting point is the call for counselling support for young people by the EU, which would help them to plan their career paths.

For young people facing such life choices, counselling programmes have certainly been a big help taking at least some of the pressure off them in making a decision.

<https://www.radiokrakow.pl/aktualnosci/europe-year-young-young-people-at-the-meeting-how-young-young-people-think-the-future-should-be>

# WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE EU?

In October 2022, ahead of World Mental Health Day, the European Commission published a report, 'The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people'.<sup>1</sup> Publications appearing in connection with the report highlighted that 'one in seven children in the country experience dissatisfaction with their lives to the extent that their mental health is threatened, so intervention is needed'.

Improvements in mental and physical health and well-being were also indicated by young people themselves in the Flash Eurobarometer survey, 'Youth and Democracy in the European Year of Youth', as the most important theme to be discussed during the EYY.<sup>2</sup> For more on this topic, see, for example, the article by Karolina Nowakowska on the Sukces jest kobietą! website.

<https://www.sukcesjestkobieta.pl/nowy-raport-na-tem-at-mental-health/>

---

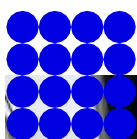
1 European Commission, The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people. Policy responses in European countries, October 2022.

2 European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer 502: Youth and Democracy in the European Year of Youth, February-March 2022.

## WHAT NEEDS IMPROVING?

At this point, it is worth looking at what the debates held in relation to the EYY looked like. One example is the European Debate held by TOK FM. Apart from pointing out numerous superlatives, such as a general change of approach resulting in listening to the voice of young people and emerging new opportunities or programmes targeted at young people, the discussion was also punctuated by some doubt and criticism. It was pointed out, among other things, that the Erasmus+ programme, which is undoubtedly useful and necessary, is still under-promoted among young people, and information about it that reaches young people is unclear and laconic. In addition, the cost of living in the exchange country often exceeds the funding received, which is a major barrier and excludes some young people from participation. Another issue is the lack of a similar offer for people who do not enter higher education but who want, for example, to train in technical fields.

<https://www.tokfm.pl/Tokfm/7,103454,28131676,unia-europejska-jest-duzo-more-oriented-na-mlode-generation.html>



## WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED?

There are also voices of young people in the public discourse that they feel the EU is interested and concerned about their problems, but wanting to be heard is one thing and implementing the suggestions is another. An article on the Res Publica website informs that young people, despite numerous activities on the part of the EU involving them in European policy and engaging them in the discussion, do not receive clear or indeed any feedback as to how many of their proposals have actually been implemented by decision-makers. This is a problem because no one likes to get involved in activities they are not convinced are effective. This situation can cause frustration and discourage young people in the long run. The author of the article puts it bluntly: 'less talk, more action'. Although this may not be the dominant view among the target group of the European Year of Youth, it should undoubtedly not be ignored.

<https://publica.pl/teksty/mlodzi-w-ue-glos-ktorego-nadal-nie-slychac-70448.html>

# GLOSSARY

**EU Youth Dialogue** – a dialogue between young people and politicians as part of the EU Youth Strategy. It is organised into 18-month cycles, during which national working groups conduct local consultations and activities with young people and politicians. The results of national activities are collected, presented and discussed at the EU Youth Conference.

**European Youth Goals** – 11 challenges and areas defined as having an impact on young people’s lives. They are intended to guide the implementation of the EU youth policy.

**Erasmus+ and ESC National Agencies** – institutions of the Member States organising the calls under both programmes and overseeing their funding.

**Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange** – a project that allows young people to access similar benefits to the classic Erasmus+ online. The virtual exchanges include discussions for students and people from youth organisations and training for teachers, academic staff and other youth workers.

**#Discover EU** – an initiative for 18-year-old EU citizens or third-country nationals associated with the Erasmus+ programme to finance their travel across Europe to acquire intercultural knowledge and competences.

## GLOSSARY

**EU Youth Coordinator** – the person appointed by the European Commission to oversee and strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and knowledge exchange on youth issues between European Commission services. This position is currently held by Biliana Sirakova.

**Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council** – a forum for cooperation, exchange of information and experience between ministers responsible for education, culture, youth, media, communication or sport in EU Member States. The scope of its work is primarily the creation of recommendations, but it can sometimes adopt legislative acts.

**European Year of Skills 2023** – the next leading theme for EU action after the European Year of Youth, announced by the European Commission as an inspiration to strengthen the strategy to help Europeans acquire qualifications and specific skills to improve the quality of the labour market.



# Sources of information – Find out more



# SOURCES OF INFORMATION – FIND OUT MORE

## **European Year of Youth website**

[https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth\\_pl](https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth_pl)

The official international portal of the European Year of Youth, available in 28 languages, is a hub for promoting the idea of and information on all initiatives and events.

## **European Youth Portal**

[https://youth.europa.eu/home\\_pl](https://youth.europa.eu/home_pl)

A website containing all news and information about opportunities, activities and programmes aimed at young people in the European Union.

## **European Union portal**

<https://european-union.europa.eu/>

The official EU portal with the most important information about EU activities, events and directives. It contains links to the websites of the individual EU institutions and agencies, e.g. the websites of the European Commission, the Publications Office of the EU and EU offices in Europe and worldwide.

# SOURCES OF INFORMATION – FIND OUT MORE

## **Chancellery of the Prime Minister website**

<https://www.gov.pl/web/premier>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/pozytek>

The website publishes information on the most important activities of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister aimed at young people.

## **Foundation for the Development of the Education System website**

<https://www.frse.org.pl/>

The FRSE website provides information on all the news and youth programmes the Foundation runs as a National Agency. These include the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes.

## **Eurodesk website**

<https://www.eurodesk.pl/>

The website of the international Eurodesk network, operating in 37 European countries. Its members are organisations and institutions working with young people, dealing with European and/or youth information. There are over 3,000 organisations in Eurodesk, including nearly 50 in the Eurodesk Poland network. The website contains information about competitions, grants and programmes for young people across Europe.

# SOURCES OF INFORMATION – FIND OUT MORE

## **Eurobarometer surveys**

<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/browse/all>

The website publishes opinion polls conducted by the European Union twice a year since 1973. Their results are a source of interesting information on the societies of the Member States and the changes taking place in them. They help provide a diagnosis of current needs and outline EU policies.

## **Eurostat publications**

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Publications based on the analysis of various statistical data allow us to explore the regularities of the European population. They also include many publications on youth and youth issues and problems.

## **Statistics Poland website**

<https://stat.gov.pl/>

The website contains publications and reports based on statistical data, including those on youth, education and volunteering, conducted by this Polish institution on the territory of or in relation to citizens of our country.

# EDITORIAL DETAILS

This publication is the subject of the contract carried out on behalf of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister (KPRM) by APLAN MEDIA Sp. z o.o. The performance of the service is financed by the European Union under a grant agreement for the project entitled: 'Poland – European Year of Youth 2022'.

## **Chancellery of the Prime Minister,**

Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3,  
00-583 Warsaw,  
NIP: 526-16-45-000

[www.gov.pl/premier](http://www.gov.pl/premier)

## **APLAN MEDIA Sp. z o.o.**

Ul. Wróblewskiego 18,  
93-578 Łódź,  
KRS: 0000467623  
NIP: 7312045370  
REGON: 101629330

[aplanmedia.pl](http://aplanmedia.pl)