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EU YOUTH CONFERENCE 2024 in a glimpse

The EU Youth Conference (EUYC) took place in Ghent, Belgium, from **2nd till 5th March 2024** under the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The thematic framework of the **10th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue** (EUYD10) was defined by **Youth Goal no.3** *"Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society"* and summarised under the title **"WE NEED YOUTH".**



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The most important part of the EU Youth Conference in Ghent took place in <u>working groups</u> in which participants supported by the editing team designed ideas on the future of inclusion in Europe, creating **6 recommendations**.



Member States and European institutions are urged to enhance support for young people facing poverty and financial exclusion through measures like promoting **affordable housing**, improving **job accessibility**, and enhancing **financial literacy**.

Additionally, there's a call to ensure accessible and youth-friendly healthcare, including mental health services, and to bolster funding and training for educators to foster inclusive learning environments while improving youth media literacy. Furthermore, promoting inclusive education and youth work and implementing policies to combat discrimination and biases are emphasised, with a focus on involving young people in policy development processes. Initiatives such as dismantling systematic discrimination and fostering continuous learning about diversity are underscored, suggesting a collaborative approach between policymakers and young people to address these challenges comprehensively and inclusively.

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Furthermore, the working groups prepared **34 implementing measures** to provide concrete examples of initiatives that could support making the abovementioned recommendations a reality.

The implementing measures **in the domain of structural barriers** included: conducting research to enhance mobility for young people in border regions; providing subsidies for youth housing through the Independent Youth programme; empowering European youth in rural and outermost areas digitally; offering free public transport to all youth; utilizing Vacancy Tax as financial incentives for social youth housing; and establishing high-quality financial literacy standards for all youth in the EU.

The implementing measures **in the domain of health and mental wellbeing** included: ensuring access to a psychologist in every school; incorporating diverse research groups in the criteria for health research funds; supporting education and initiatives for youth mental wellbeing; including health as a ground of discrimination within legislation; and implementing a mental well-being training programme for educators and youth workers.

The implementing measures **in the domain of formal education and schools** included: integrating non-formal education led by NGOs into formal civic education; establishing legal frameworks for nationwide and inclusive regional student representative bodies; enhancing anti-discrimination practices in vocational education and training (VET); initiating joint educational initiatives with school students of diverse backgrounds; providing streamlined funding for young people facing fewer opportunities in education; and implementing lifelong teacher training on inclusion.

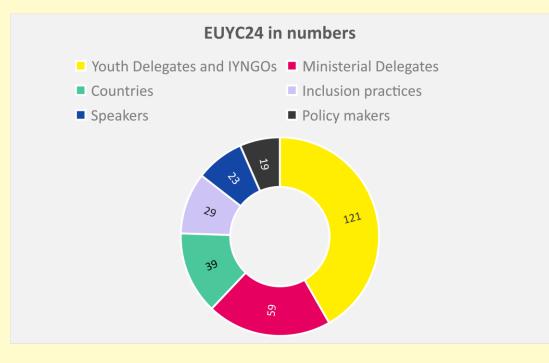
The implementing measures in the domain of non-formal and informal education and youth work included: promoting professionalized youth work across Europe through structural investments and trainings; ensuring capacity building and continuous dialogue between youth workers and stakeholders; increasing access to funding opportunities at the local level; implementing youth-centered participatory budgeting; establishing mobile youth work initiatives; and formalizing recognition of volunteer youth work.

The implementing measures in the domain of information included: conducting youth information and critical thinking workshops in schools; exploring reliable news sources and promoting verifiable information; launching campaigns for quality information and media literacy to empower youth; establishing inclusive youth spaces serving as information hubs; and systematically ensuring that EU information is made accessible and inclusive for all.

The implementing measures **in the domain of discriminatory attitudes and cultures** included: incorporating inclusive language in EU policy documents; promoting continuous learning to foster acceptance and awareness of diversities; adopting an intersectional and representative approach across all strategies; ensuring equal rights by implementing the Youth Test at all levels; allocating EU funding for intergenerational spaces within European municipalities; and preventing prejudice through acceptance of minority groups and promoting self-reflection through education.

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Want to know more about the outcomes of the European youth conference? Go to <u>https://euyouth2024.be/event/eu-youth-conference</u>



Curious to see all videos related to the conference? Take a look on YouTube! https://www.youtube.com/@EUNeedsYouth