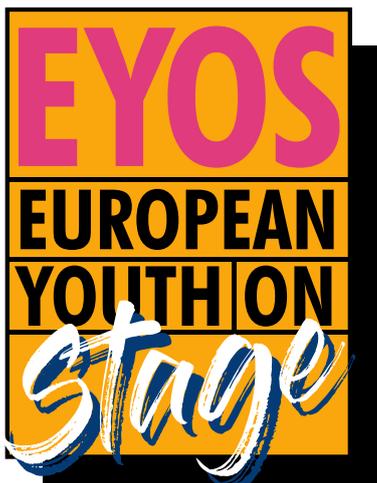
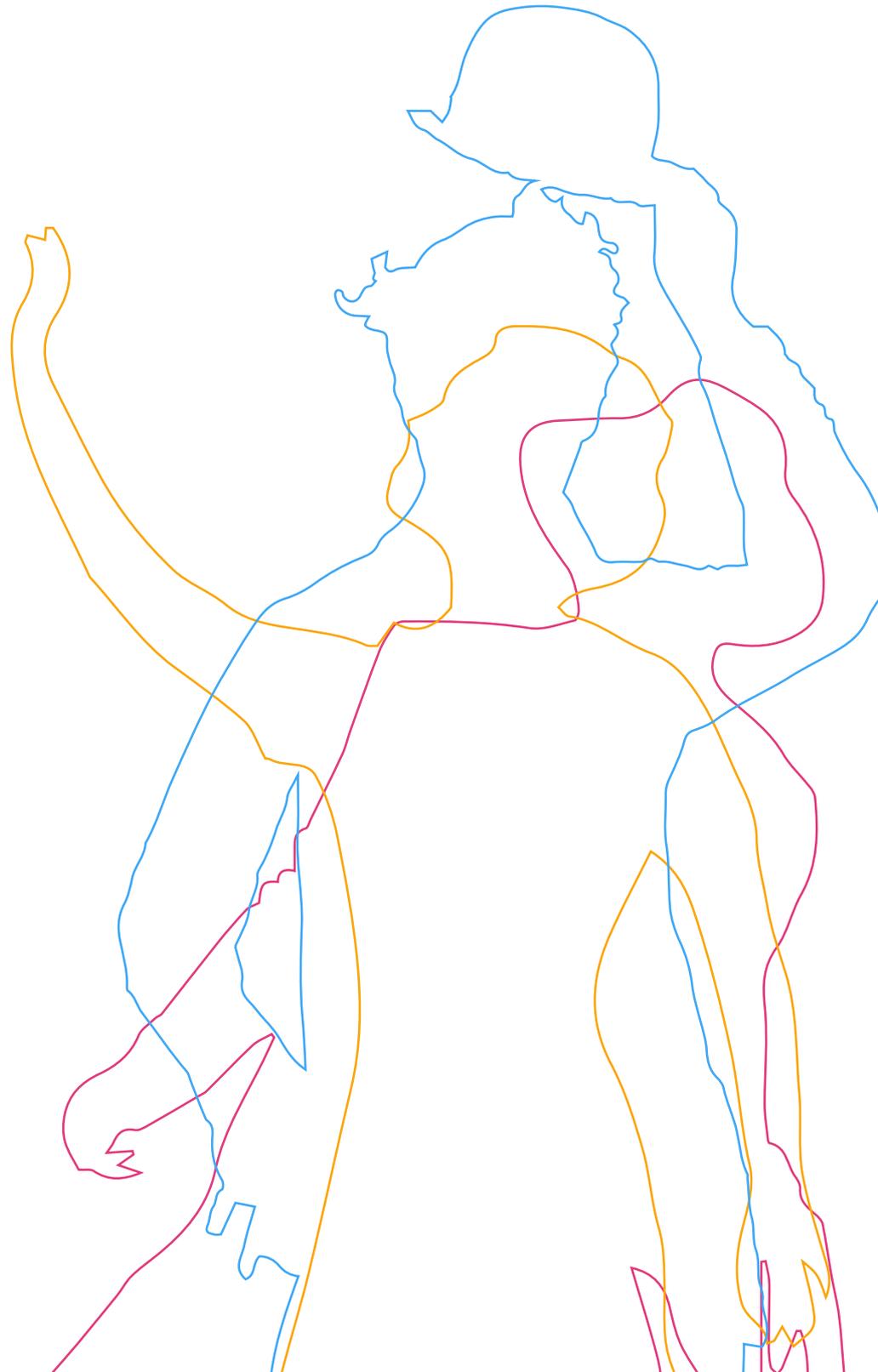


TOOLKIT FOR YOUTH



Co-funded by the
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INTRODUCTION AND GOALS OF THE TOOLKIT

This Toolkit is a result of work and exchange of practices between experts, educators, trainers, youth workers and theatre practitioners who took part in a 4-hours international training event for Youth Workers within the Erasmus+ KA3 project EYOS, held online on the 23rd of April 2021.

The objectives of the Toolkit are:

1. Deepen knowledge on the main EU youth policies
2. Increase the number of young people informed about the values of the EU and actively engaged in discussion over the future of the EU, especially those who are socio-politically passive and have fewer opportunities

Here you will find all relevant information about EU possibilities for the Youth. The aim of the toolkit is to strengthen the involvement and participation of youth on the EU issues, European Youth Goals and future EU youth policies.

For any further information and contact, please visit project's website <http://eyos.reteiter.it#!/up>

PROJECT SUMMARY

The EYOS (European Youth on Stage: Engage Connect Empower on the future of Europe) project aims at promoting an aware knowledge and an active contribution to the European Youth Goals and future EU youth policies among all youth, with specific attention to under-represented groups, through peer approach, digital multimedia and civic social theatre.

Within this project we want to achieve five specific objectives:

1. Create networking and mutual engagement and solidarity between active youth/youngsters already engaged on EU issues and less engaged youth /under-represented youngsters, potential new European citizens (as young refugees, kids born in EU from migrant families without citizenship...), to promote participation in EU civic life mobility activities among a wider and more inclusive group of youth, including the possible citizens of tomorrow
2. Strengthen capabilities of youth workers and youth organizations to promote effective engagement of under-represented groups of youth with less opportunities of participation and civic actions, to improve their capacity to ensure a more inclusive representation and impact among youth in Europe
3. Promote digital multimedia and civic/social theatre as universal tools of communication to increase active and creative engagement of different groups of youth on EU issues, valorising and increasing skills, attitudes and mutual cooperation among youngsters
4. Improve an aware and critical knowledge of EU Youth Goals, Youth Agenda and main EU youth policies and instruments and their practical connections with local and regional youth provisions and instruments, increasing dialogue and involvement of youth in decision-making processes
5. Foster networking, capacity building and mutual cooperation among youth organizations from different areas of Europe to improve their effective engagement of all youth on EU issues.

The action will impact 6 European countries, involving 7 partner organizations including 1 national and 2 European youth networks, impacting directly on 140 young people and 48 youth workers and indirectly 14000 young people and 400 youth workers, at least 40% of them from under-represented groups.

The partnership of the project includes seven partner organisations from six European countries: the leading partner Rete ITER (Italy), GEA Coop Sociale (Italy), EU DIASPORA COUNCIL (Sweden), Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo mesto-DRPDNM (Slovenia), Udruga za promicanje aktivnog gra anstva – ECHO (Association for Promoting Active Citizenship - ECHO) (Croatia), Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany) and DYPALL NETWORK - Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Participação Cidadã (Portugal).

Many young people, especially those with less opportunities, are less informed and engaged on EU values and policies and less represented. Nevertheless, some European youngsters excluded from EU citizenship are even more active and aware than their peers with citizenship's rights. The project wants to avoid this unfair mechanism: under-represented youth will be included through an inclusive peer approach, with gender/ethnic/cultural background-friendly

inclusion. Through all phases of the project, youth groups will be actively appointed to support partners in preparation and implementation of activities. Youth exchange and mobility for youth workers will be tailored to be inclusive, using practical approaches to overcome language and cultural barriers, combining formal and informal learning to give skills to create multimedia products and social theatre performances involving participants as actors, directors, technicians, creators. The groups will benefit from international activities to boost transnational impact and experience, spreading youth ideas and expectations in the EU, increasing networking and cooperation among youth organizations.

WHAT THE EU DOES FOR ITS CITIZENS

Since 1957, the European Union has benefited its citizens by working for peace and prosperity. It helps protect our basic political, social and economic rights. Although we may take them for granted, these benefits improve our daily lives

PEACE & SECURITY

Central and western Europe has never known so long a period without war. The EU is the most successful [peace](#) project in human history and has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Europeans are closely linked economically and culturally, and through the democratic values we share.

SINGLE MARKET

The [single market](#) is the world's most highly developed and open marketplace. It is based on the EU's 4 key freedoms, which enable you and other citizens to:

1. Live or work in any EU country
2. Move your money
3. Sell goods without restrictions
4. Provide services on the same basis.

HIGH FOOD & ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Because EU countries cooperate so closely, our [food](#) and our [environment](#) meet some of the world's highest quality standards. Unscrupulous companies can't get away with selling contaminated food or polluting our rivers and countryside.

CONSUMER BENEFITS

Shoppers can now feel safe in the knowledge that they will get their money back if they return products. Travellers can buy train or plane tickets, knowing they can get a refund if their journey is delayed or cancelled. And the standards which goods in EU shops are required to meet are among the world's most stringent, in terms of both quality and safety.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU protects all minorities and vulnerable groups, and stands up for the oppressed. Regardless of a person's nationality, gender, language group, culture, profession, disability or sexuality, the EU insists on [equal treatment for all](#).

GLOBAL POWER

[EU countries acting in unison](#) have much more of a voice on the world stage than 27 small and medium-sized nations

acting separately. We have political clout. As regards [trade](#), our regulatory and product standards are adopted worldwide as the global norm.

OTHER BENEFITS THE EU BRINGS ITS CITIZENS ARE:

1. You can use your phone and online services at no extra cost wherever you are in the EU. You can also access your online video and music streaming services across the EU, safe in the knowledge that your personal data is protected under EU law.
2. Your rights are protected while you're travelling: EU rules protect your rights in the event of delays or cancellations. Whether travelling by plane, train, boat or bus, you are entitled to fair treatment.
3. You can benefit from training and support for your business: EU programmes like Erasmus+ help you get training to make the most of your career. The EU also helps you get the most out of your business – from finance to coaching, and from business networks to exchange schemes.
4. As a worker, you're protected from unfair treatment in the workplace under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. This bans discrimination, including in the areas of pay and dismissals.
5. As an EU citizen, you're protected against the downsides of globalisation by EU support for small businesses and rules to make sure that big companies pay their fair share of tax.

Discover how the EU makes a difference to your life. You may be surprised by just how many examples you'll find.

1. [What Europe does for me](#) – 100s of concise, easy-to-read fact sheets showing how the EU makes a positive difference to people's lives
2. [Citizens' App](#) - who does what in the EU, how all of this is relevant to your daily life and what challenges the EU faces, many of which will shape your future.
3. [EU results](#) – examples of EU-funded projects

EU CITIZENSHIP - YOUR RIGHTS – AND HOW TO USE THEM

All citizens of an EU country are automatically citizens of the EU. Being an EU citizen gives you some important extra rights and responsibilities.

YOUR EU CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

These are spelled out in the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (Article 18) and the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) (Chapter V).

[Need help exercising your rights?](#)

To raise awareness of EU citizenship among both the public and national authorities, the Commission periodically publishes an [EU Citizenship Report](#).

[Summaries of EU legislation on EU citizenship](#)

MOVING & LIVING IN THE EU

As an EU citizen, you have the right to [live and move within the EU](#) without being discriminated against on the grounds of your nationality.

You may set up home in any EU country if you meet certain conditions, depending on whether you are working, studying, etc.

PARTICIPATING IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE EU

Every EU citizen has the right to [vote and stand as a candidate](#) in both local and European elections in the EU country they live in, under the same conditions as nationals of that country.

PETITIONS & COMPLAINTS

You can [petition the European Parliament](#) to address either a personal need or grievance, or on a matter of public interest. The subject must fall within the EU's remit (i.e. it mustn't be something that is decided at local or national level) and must affect you directly.

You can [complain to the European Ombudsman](#) about misconduct by an EU institution or body.

You can also contact EU institutions and advisory bodies directly, and are entitled to a reply in any of the EU's [24 official languages](#).

CONSULAR PROTECTION

If you are in a non-EU country and need help, as an EU citizen you are entitled to consular protection from the embassy or consulate of any other EU country, if your own country does not have an embassy or consulate in the non-EU country.

You can ask for assistance in situations involving, for example, death, accident or illness, arrest or detention, being the victim of violent crime and repatriation.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN EUROPEAN POLICY-MAKING?

CITIZENS' INITIATIVE : SETTING THE AGENDA

The [European Citizens' Initiative](#) allows you to ask the European Commission to prepare legislation. The petition must be signed by at least 1 million people from at least one quarter of the EU's countries (currently at least 7 countries).

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC LIFE OF THE EU

1. [Europe for Citizens programme](#) – this aims to improve people's understanding of the EU, its history and diversity, to develop awareness of the rights granted by European citizenship, and to increase democratic participation at EU level.
2. the Commission regularly launches [public consultations](#) on initiatives it is planning, allowing every European to have their say on the issues.
3. [Citizens' Dialogues](#) – these are held in cities across the EU, to listen to people's views and discuss issues people are concerned about.
4. [Civil Dialogue](#) – these are discussions between the Commission and civil society organisations who specialise in various subjects

EU YOUTH STRATEGY

The EU Youth Strategy is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027, based on the [Council Resolution of 26 November 2018](#). EU youth cooperation shall make the most of youth policy's potential. It fosters youth participation in democratic life; it also supports social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society.

The EU Youth Strategy focuses on three core areas of action, around the three words: [Engage](#), [Connect](#), [Empower](#), while working on joined-up implementation across sectors. During a 2017-2018 dialogue process which involved young people from all over Europe, [11 European Youth Goals](#) were developed. These goals identify cross-sectoral areas that affect young people's lives and point out challenges. The EU Youth Strategy should contribute to realising this vision of young people.



ENGAGE

With “Engage” the EU Youth Strategy aims towards a meaningful civic, economic, social, cultural and political participation of young people.

Member States and the European Commission are invited to:

1. Encourage and promote inclusive democratic participation of all young people in society and democratic processes;
2. Actively engage young people, youth organisations and other organisers of youth work in policies affecting the lives of young people on all levels;

3. Support youth representations at local, regional and national level, recognising young people's right to participate and self-organise;
4. Support and convey the EU Youth Dialogue in order to include diverse voices of young people in decision-making processes on all levels;
5. Foster the development of citizenship competencies, through citizenship education and learning strategies;
6. Support and develop opportunities for 'learning to participate', raising interest in participatory actions and helping young people to prepare for participation;
7. Explore and promote the use of innovative and alternative forms of democratic participation e.g. digital democracy tools.

CONNECT

Young people in Europe are getting more and more connected. Connections, relations and exchange of experience are a pivotal asset for solidarity and the future development of the European Union. This connection is best fostered through different forms of mobility.

Member States and the European Commission are invited to:

1. Enable access for all young people and youth workers to cross-border mobility opportunities, including volunteering, by eliminating obstacles and implementing support measures with special attention to young people with fewer opportunities;
2. Encourage young people's engagement in solidarity, promoting support schemes and seek complementarity and synergies between EU funding instruments and national, regional and local schemes;
3. Actively engage young people and youth organisations in the design, implementation and evaluation of relevant EU funding programmes;
4. Share best practices and further work on effective systems for validation and recognition of skills and competencies gained through non-formal and informal learning, including solidarity and volunteering activities, continuing the implementation of the 2012 Council Recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

EMPOWER

Empowerment of young people means encouraging them to take charge of their own lives. Today, young people across Europe are facing diverse challenges and youth work in all its forms can serve as a catalyst for empowerment.

Member States and the European Commission are invited to:

5. Develop and implement a European Youth Work Agenda for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work;
6. Support quality youth work development on all levels, including policy development in the field, training for youth workers, the establishment of legal frameworks and sufficient allocation of resources;
7. Support youth work activities, including grassroots, and recognise youth organisations as providers of competences development and social inclusion through youth work and non-formal education activities;
8. Create and further develop easily accessible youth contact points that deliver a wide range of services and/or provide youth information

11 EUROPEAN YOUTH GOALS

The aim of the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue - Youth in Europe: What's next? which took place in 2017/2018 – was to collect voices of young people and contribute together to creating the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. As a result, eleven European Youth Goals were developed. These goals reflect the views of European youth and represent the vision of those active in the EU Youth Dialogue:

1. Connecting EU with Youth
2. Equality of All Genders
3. Inclusive Societies
4. Information & Constructive Dialogue
5. Mental Health & Wellbeing
6. Moving Rural Youth Forward
7. Quality Employment for All
8. Quality Learning
9. Space and Participation for All
10. Sustainable Green Europe
11. Youth Organisations & European Programmes

The EU Youth Strategy should contribute to realising this vision of young people by mobilising EU level policy instruments as well as actions at national, regional and local level by all stakeholders.

FIND OUT MORE

12. [European Council Resolution on The European Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#)
13. Dedicated website to the [Youth Goals](#), with versions in various European languages.
14. You can find the previous (2010-2018) youth strategy on the following page: [EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018](#)

EU INITIATIVES FOR THE YOUTH

Get informed about the different EU initiatives offering young people funded opportunities. Explore how you can take part in youth exchanges, volunteer, study, work, travel or participate in democratic processes in the EU.

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Are you between 18 and 30 and looking for an opportunity to help the wider community, in Europe and beyond?

You could do this with funding and support from the European Solidarity Corps, which helps young people take part in projects that benefit communities, either abroad or in their own country.

These projects offer an inspiring and empowering experience, as well as the chance to bring change while developing your skills and competences.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Broadly, you can get involved in:

1. [Volunteering](#)
2. [Traineeships](#) (whereas traineeships can still run this year funded by the budget from the previous programme, please be aware that in the new programme 2021-2027 they are discontinued)
3. [Jobs](#) (whereas jobs can still run this year funded by the budget from the previous programme, please be aware that in the new programme 2021-2027 they are discontinued)
4. [Local Solidarity Projects](#)

These can be in a wide range of fields – education and training, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and natural protection, migration, culture, and many others.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The European Solidarity Corps funding is provided in the form of grants to organisations through call for proposals.

Young people wishing to engage in such activities need to [register in the European Solidarity Corps portal](#). The European Solidarity Corps portal offers a place for those young people and organisations, holding a grant, to implement activities and to find each other.

WHO RUNS THE CORPS?

The European Solidarity Corps is managed by the European Commission.

It is implemented on the ground by a variety of bodies:

1. [European Education and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#)
2. [National Agencies in each participating country](#)
3. [SALTOs](#)
4. [European Solidarity Corps resource centre](#)

EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK

https://europa.eu/youth/week_en

Future is created now and you have the power to set up goals and contribute to initiatives on how to make things better.

Want to learn more about new EU funding opportunities or raise your opinion about the processes that matter to you?

Take part in various events and discussions and raise your voice for a noteworthy cause!

WHY “OUR FUTURE IN OUR HANDS”?

Do you think more youngsters need to be active and make a pitch for better tomorrows? Would you like us to live in a more inclusive society? Is the environment a vital topic for you? It is important to create a space where you can share your opinions and learn about new ways and opportunities to make meaningful contributions. Because your future is in your hands.

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK?

The European Youth Weeks allow to discuss relevant topics for young people, showcase EU opportunities in the field of youth and celebrate success stories. It's a pinnacle of European gatherings for young people and the youth sector in Europe.

WHO ORGANISES THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK?

The main organisers of the European Youth Week are the National Agencies for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps and the Eurodesk network. In 2021 the European Youth Week will predominantly take place at national level and online.

EU YOUTH DIALOGUE

https://europa.eu/youth/eu-youth-dialogue_en

WHAT IS THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE?

The EU Youth Dialogue is a dialogue mechanism between young people and decision makers taking place in the framework of the EU Youth Strategy.

WHY THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE?

This is a way to ensure that the opinion, views and needs of young people and youth organisations are taken into account when defining the EU's youth policies.

It supports the implementation of the [EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#) which focuses on three main core areas 'connect, engage and empower' and encourages cooperation between the EU countries in respect to all issues concerning young people.

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

The dialogue with policy makers and other dialogue activities happen in 18-month work cycles. Each cycle focuses on a different theme set by the Council of Youth Ministers.

The current one (from 2019 to mid-2020) is "Creating opportunities for Youth" with three sub-themes, focusing on:

1. Future of work and quality employment;
2. Access to youth work and education and training of youth workers;
3. Opportunities for rural youth.

The Youth Dialogue aims to address all young people, including those with fewer opportunities and those currently not involved and active. In every Member State, the process is organised by national working groups that are in charge of conducting consultations and activities in their country with young people, youth organisations and policy makers.

The Trio Presidency takes the lead role with regard to steering the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue, in close cooperation with the European Commission and the National Agencies, as well as with the [European Youth Forum](#) and other youth civil society representatives, within a coordination group.

WHAT IS THE OUTCOME?

Once national and European activities are over, the results are compiled, analysed and further discussed at the EU Youth Conferences. There, youth representatives and policy makers have the opportunity to work together and present a joint message to the EU. These conferences take place twice a year and are hosted by the country that holds the EU Presidency.

The conclusions based on the EU Youth dialogue activities will be presented to the Council of the European Union. The Council might then adopt a policy document containing the views of young people. For instance, the last cycle saw

the creation of [11 Youth Goals](#) in 2018 that were then added to the EU Youth Strategy following a political process and negotiations in the Council of the EU

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE?

It's your turn. Get involved. Have your say. Be listened. Your voice matters!

One of the easiest ways to have your say through the Youth Dialogue is to contact the [national working group](#) of your country and take part in the activities they organise. You might find more information about the events and activities they organise on [their webpage](#).

These groups bring together, amongst others:

1. Representatives of youth ministries and other ministries,
2. National youth councils,
3. Local and regional youth councils,
4. Youth organisations,
5. Representatives of the National Agency for Erasmus+ youth in action,
6. Young people from diverse backgrounds,
7. Youth information providers, and
8. Youth researchers.

DISCOVER EU

If you're 18 and an EU citizen, it's time to expand your comfort zone.

https://europa.eu/youth/discovereu_en

WHAT IS DISCOVER EU?



DiscoverEU is an initiative of the European Union that gives you the opportunity to discover Europe through learning experiences. Travelling predominantly by rail (there are exceptions to allow those living on islands or in remote areas), you will discover Europe's stunning landscapes and its variety of cities and towns. You can apply during the two application rounds which take place each year. Successful applicants are awarded with a travel pass.

As an 18-year-old citizen of the European Union, DiscoverEU offers you the opportunity to participate in a travel experience that will enable you to take advantage of the freedom of movement throughout the European Union, explore the diversity of Europe, learn about European cultural heritage and history, and connect with people from all over the continent. Furthermore, DiscoverEU enables you, as a young person, to develop life skills of value to your future, such as independence, confidence, and openness to other cultures.

Interested in the previous application rounds? Check the [DiscoverEU factsheet](#) to read more about the initiative and the experiences of some of our young DiscoverEU travellers.

ERASMUS+

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>



WHAT IS ERASMUS+?

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

It has an estimated budget of €26.2 billion. This is nearly double the funding compared to its predecessor programme (2014-2020).

The 2021-2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.

It supports priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan and the European Skills Agenda. The programme also

1. Supports the European Pillar of Social Rights
2. Implements the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027
3. Develops the European dimension in sport

OPPORTUNITIES

Erasmus+ offers mobility and cooperation opportunities in

1. Higher education
2. Vocational education and training
3. School education (including early childhood education and care)
4. Adult education
5. Youth and sport

Detailed information on these opportunities, including eligibility criteria, is available in the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#).

OUTCOMES

The outcomes of Erasmus+ are available in reports and compendia of statistics, as well as through the [Erasmus+ Projects Platform](#). This includes most of the initiatives funded by the programme and a selection of good practices and success stories.

See also

1. [Download the 2021 factsheet on Erasmus+](#)
2. [Statistics on Erasmus+](#)
3. [Reporting on Erasmus+](#)

EU AID VOLUNTEERS

EU Aid Volunteers
We Care, We Act



https://europa.eu/youth/euaidvolunteers_en

EU Aid Volunteers is an initiative bringing together volunteers and organisations to provide practical support to humanitarian aid projects of disaster-affected communities

WHAT IS IT?

EU Aid Volunteers brings volunteers and organisations together from different countries, providing practical support to humanitarian aid projects and contributing to strengthening local capacity and resilience of disaster-affected communities. Participants in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative must be over 18 years of age and be a citizen of an EU Member State or a long-term resident in the EU. Volunteers receive accommodation and travel expenses, insurance, ongoing learning and development, a monthly allowance, and a resettlement allowance to help with expenses of returning home.

HOW ARE WE HELPING?

EU Aid Volunteers supports humanitarian aid organisations. EU Aid Volunteers projects, run by partners of EU-based and non-EU based organisations, strengthen the capacity of non-EU based organisations to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises and to improve their volunteer management. It also provides funding for technical assistance to EU-based organisations to strengthen their technical capacity and meet the standards and procedures required to deploy EU Aid Volunteers.

Organisations deploying volunteers must comply with the initiative's standards on volunteer management and go through a [certification process](#) before submitting a [proposal for volunteer deployment](#).

THE EU AID VOLUNTEERS INITIATIVE OFFERS:

1. Opportunities for European citizens to [become volunteers in humanitarian projects worldwide](#), showing solidarity with people in need of assistance,
2. Professional support by trained and well-prepared volunteers to communities affected by disaster,
3. Capacity building for local staff and volunteers of aid organisations in countries hit by disasters,
4. Technical assistance for organisations based in Europe to strengthen their capacities to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

WHAT IS NEXT?

In the new upcoming European Solidarity Corps regulation for the period 2021-2027, the European Solidarity Corps programme will take up the EU Aid Volunteers initiative as a new strand. As from January 2021, DG EAC will be responsible for young people's volunteering activities in the field of humanitarian aid.

For more information on EU Aid Volunteers projects, and to manage your project – if you are a beneficiary – please visit the EU Aid Volunteers Platform.

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/echo/eu-aid-volunteers_en/

ERASMUS+ VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

https://europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual_en



Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is part of the [Erasmus+ programme](#), providing an accessible, ground-breaking way for young people to engage in intercultural learning. Working with Youth Organisations and Universities, the programme is open to any young person aged 18-30 residing in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.

Through a range of activities, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange aims to expand the reach and scope of the Erasmus+ programme through Virtual Exchanges, which are technology-enabled people-to-people dialogues sustained over a period of time.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange offers a safe online community to participate in facilitated discussions, increasing intercultural awareness and building 21st Century skills through Virtual Exchange. The programme encourages and promotes intercultural dialogue, employability, and citizenship, strengthening the youth dimension of the [EU neighbourhood policy](#).

This flagship project is established under a contract with the [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency](#), financed by the European Union's budget, and it is implemented by a consortium composed of [Search for Common Ground](#), [Anna Lindh Foundation](#), [UNIMED](#), [Sharing Perspectives Foundation](#), [Soliya](#), [UNICollaboration](#), [Kiron Open Higher Education](#), and [Migration Matters](#).

Developed over the past 30 years from experience in the field of educational exchange and study abroad – and evolving rapidly with the explosive growth in new media technologies and platforms – Virtual Exchange has been integrated at all levels of education from kindergarten through university and is distinctive in its use of new media platforms to enable deep, interactive social learning.

By employing a wide variety of technologies and educational pedagogy, Virtual Exchange makes it possible for every young person to have meaningful, transnational and intercultural experiences.

Virtual Exchange distinguishes itself from other forms of online learning in several ways:

1. The focus is primarily on people-to-people interaction and dialogue whereas the primary focus in many e-learning programmes is on content.

2. The learning goals or outcomes include soft skills that are often not formally recognized, such as the development of intercultural awareness, digital literacies, group work, etc.
3. It is primarily learner-led: following the philosophy of dialogue where participants are the main recipients and the main drivers of knowledge; learning through dialogue means that participants will be seeking mutual understanding and co-creating knowledge, based on their own experiences.
4. Finally, a key tenet of virtual exchange is that intercultural understanding and awareness are not automatic outcomes of contact between different groups/cultures, and virtual exchange programmes explicitly address intercultural understanding and engaging with difference.

Virtual Exchanges function in a synergistic and complementary way with physical exchange programmes. They can prepare, deepen, and extend physical exchanges, and, by reaching new populations and larger numbers, fuel new demand for physical exchange.

EURES

The European Job Mobility Portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/homepage>



Launched in 1994, EURES is a European cooperation network of employment services, designed to facilitate the free movement of workers. The network has always worked hard to ensure that European citizens can benefit from the same opportunities, despite language barriers, cultural differences, bureaucratic challenges, diverse employment laws and a lack of recognition of educational certificates across Europe.

WHAT CAN EURES DO FOR YOU ?

EURES helps jobseekers to find jobs and employers to recruit from all over Europe

The European Union's principle of free movement of workers is considered one of the most important rights of EU citizens. It means that you can move to any EU Member State, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland to look for and take up a job.

Yet, it may sometimes seem like a daunting and difficult task to make use of this right. The purpose of EURES is precisely to help and support jobseekers and employers with that.

This involves the provision of a broad range of services, available on the EURES portal or through the vast human network of more than a thousand advisers working in the EURES Member and Partner organisations.

EURES services to jobseekers and employers include:

1. Matching of job vacancies and CVs on the EURES portal
2. Information and guidance and other support services for workers and employers
3. Access to information on living and working conditions in the EU member states, such as taxation, pensions, health insurance and social security
4. Specific support services for frontier workers and employers in cross-border regions
5. Support to specific groups in the context of the EURES Targeted Mobility Schemes
6. Support to dynamic recruitment events through the European (Online) Job Days platform
7. Information on and access to post-recruitment assistance, such as language training and support with integration in the destination country

To learn more about EURES services you can visit the various sections of this website, find contact details of the EURES Members and Partners on the “[EURES in your country](#)” page or get in direct contact with a EURES Adviser by [phone, mail or chat](#), You can also contact the [EURES Helpdesk](#) for help with using the portal or any other questions you may have.

Read more about EURES and its services:

[Finding a job in Europe - a guide for jobseekers](#)

[Recruiting in Europe - a guide for employers](#)

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