

What are the main future challenges for youth policy in the EU?



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While the 2009 deadline fixed for assessing the recent Europe-wide cooperation in the field of youth policy and setting the common strategy until 2020 is approaching, the Commission of the European Union has just launched a consultation. Based on six questions, the Commission's experts are asking for feedback from national and regional ministries, researchers, youth organisations and other relevant civil society stakeholders as well as from young people themselves.

The main objectives of the current framework for European cooperation in the field of youth are active citizenship of young people, mainly via the open method of coordination, social and professional integration of young people through the implementation of the European Youth Pact and youth mainstreaming in other policies (priorities here are health, culture, the fight against racism and discriminations).

The beginning consultation is another step in a decision making process on key questions, political priorities and policy instruments for a European youth policy in the next 10 years to come. Last year already, youth ministers from all Member States agreed on several basic principles, namely strengthening the European cooperation, reinforcing a cross-sectoral policy approach, promoting mutual learning between Member States and broadening knowledge and evidence through a regular report on youth issues.

The recent questionnaire now asks about the main social, economic and political challenges for youth that need to be tackled by youth policies in the coming years, especially those that have a clear European dimension. The priorities of a future EU cooperation framework in the field of youth should reflect and deal with these political objectives. A letter has been sent to the national ministries responsible for youth affairs, asking for the implementation of national consultations. Final results from the Member States are expected to be available by the end of October this year.

Background material can be found [online](#).

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