The pandemic caused young people to sacrifice many key life experiences.

To recognise the role young people play in our society and encourage them to get even more involved, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced in her State of the Union Speech 2021 that 2022 would be the European Year of Youth.
‘Our Union will be stronger if it is more like our next generation: reflective, determined and caring. Grounded in values and bold in action. This spirit will be more important than ever over the next twelve months.’

URSULA VON DER LEYEN
President of the European Commission
Highlight how the green and digital transitions, and other Union policies, offer opportunities for young people after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Empower and support young people, including young people with fewer opportunities, to become active and engaged citizens and actors of change.

Promote opportunities available to young people from public policies at all levels.

Bring a youth perspective into policymaking at all levels.
9 THEMES

Green
Youth and the world
Digital
Health, well-being & sports
Culture
Education and European learning mobility
Employment and inclusion
Policy dialogues and participation
Solidarity with Ukraine

EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH
EYY IN NUMBERS

91,4 MILLION+ citizens reached via social media.

10 MILLION+ engagements on social media.

210 MILLION+ impressions on social media.

13 000+ activities in the EU and beyond.

67 countries.
A YEAR FOR YOUTH.

2022

EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH
Throughout the European Year of Youth 2022 and until February 2023, each EU Commissioner invited 12-15 young people to Brussels to take part in a Policy Dialogue. More than 300 young people had the chance to exchange directly with the Commissioners about key issues such as climate change, innovation, media freedom, the right to repair, etc.
In 2022, the European Commission launched new youth networks, including the Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors and the Network of Young European Ambassadors for Holocaust Remembrance, to build bridges and friendships among young people from EU countries, the United Kingdom and the Eastern partnership countries.

The European Commission also invited master-level students to participate as ‘Young Observers’ in the evaluations of the Horizon Europe calls Youth 2022 under Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation funding programme.
NEW INITIATIVES

The European Commission identified more than 130 policy initiatives for young people, many of which were developed in cooperation with youth, that were connected to the 9 EYY themes.

HealthyLifeStyle4All
Youth Ideas Labs
Initiative to give young people a voice on how to ensure a healthy lifestyle for everyone.

ALMA initiative (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve)
Initiative to help young, disadvantaged people (aged 18-30 years) access the labour market across EU borders.

EU4Youth Days
Initiative that brought together young people, youth workers, policymakers and researchers from all EU neighbourhood regions to highlight opportunities and good practices for the first time during its 2022 edition.

Youth Climate Pact Ambassadors:
Launch of Youth Climate Pact Dialogues and Forums in 2022
Initiative enabling young people to engage in dialogues with decision-makers, to help raise awareness on nature, biodiversity, circular economy and zero pollution.
The EYY featured policy makers across the EU institutions, EYY National Coordinators and national contact points, and stakeholders who collaborated to make the European Year of Youth impactful beyond 2022.

13,000+ events were organised in the EU and beyond.
Here are some of the EYY flagship events.

These were real highlight moments which united young people, stakeholders and policy makers.

**LevelUp! event**

With more than 200 workshops over 2 days, this event boosted young people's communication, organisation and advocacy skills to help them become the leaders of tomorrow.

**‘Claim the future’ conference**

To close the EYY 2022, a day-long conference in December gathered more than 700 participants, including young people, stakeholders, and policy makers in Brussels.
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The EYY was truly a year created by and for young people. These are some of the ways young people co-created EYY:

Pool of European Young Journalists

The European Commission and Eurodesk created a pool of European young journalists during EYY to help elevate young voices. The Young Journalists also participated in international events and received training from experts.

Youth Talks

READ THEIR ARTICLES ›

WATCH THE YOUTH TALKS ›
The EYY Youth Voice Platform was launched during EYY to give all youth a direct way to raise their ideas and concerns for the future of Europe, and shape a future built on solidarity, democracy and justice.

Even if 2022 is over, you can still voice your vision for the EU! You can express your views on the 9 topics of EYY, in one of the 29 languages available.

Launched during the second half of 2022, Discord became the hub for European youth to connect with others and exchange ideas, questions, resources and memes.

The 9 EYY themes are front and centre, with channels dedicated to discussions on topics such as:

- Wellbeing
- Climate action
- EU values

... and many more.
If there’s one message for young people beyond 2022 it’s this:

The year 2022 may be over, but opportunities for young people in the EU are only growing.

Here are just a few examples of programmes for young people in the EU that will continue far beyond 2022:

#DiscoverEU
It is an initiative offering 18 years olds the chance to travel around and discover Europe. Each year the European Union awards selected young people with a travel pass. Now with DiscoverEU Inclusion Action, more young people are encouraged to enjoy the adventure and participate!

European Solidarity Corps
The European Solidarity Corps programme creates opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity activities abroad or in their country in projects that benefit communities. The Humanitarian Aid Strand offers new cross-border volunteering activities in support of humanitarian aid operations all over the world!

Erasmus+
Erasmus+ is a programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. It creates opportunities for young people to study, do trainings, and gain experience abroad. Erasmus+ can also be enjoyed virtually through the Virtual Exchanges in Higher Education and Youth!
VOICE
YOUR
VISION.

2022

EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

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