



Fourth meeting of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group

11 - 12 June 2026, Brussels

MEETING REPORT

On 11 – 12 June 2026, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) organised the fourth meeting of [the EU Youth Stakeholders Group](#), a network launched in March 2025 as a legacy of the 2022 European Year of Youth, delivering on commitments made in the [Communication on the Year of Youth](#).

The meeting was moderated by **Marta Markowska** ([EU Youth Coordinator](#) in DG EAC) and attended by 90 members of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group (representatives from Member State Ministries, national youth councils, European youth organisations, stakeholders and EU institutions). The European Parliament, the General Secretariat of the Council, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee were also represented.

DG EAC published the report, presentations and an overview of the Youth Check Consultations conducted on 11-12 June on the [European Youth Portal](#).

Highlights



Ingrid Bellander Todino (Head of Unit of Youth and Intergenerational Fairness) opened the meeting and briefly informed on key developments including European Youth Week, the Intergenerational Fairness Strategy, and the future of the next EU Youth Strategy, including its [public consultation](#).

Representatives of the Youth and Intergenerational Fairness Unit in DG EAC, took part in an interactive panel and presented updates on key initiatives and policies, such as the [European Youth Week 2026](#), the [Intergenerational Fairness Strategy](#), the [Youth Check](#), the [Youth Policy Dialogues](#), the [EU Youth Dialogue](#), the [President's Youth Advisory Board](#) and [Erasmus+](#) programme.



A presentation and Youth Check consultation on the Quality Jobs Act was implemented by colleagues from DG EMPL and focused on four key issues as relate to the right to disconnect, algorithmic management, occupational safety and health, and workers' rights in subcontracting chains. Participants worked in groups to address the question: *“What are the three key messages or priorities that young people would like to share with EU policymakers working on the Quality Jobs Act initiative?”* As concerns the right to disconnect, participants highlighted that change requires an overall review of work and organisational culture and that laws should allow for a sectoral approach. As to algorithmic management and AI at work, issues raised included the need for stricter regulation of data and the existence of a clear gap on AI in education. Key insights on Occupation Health and Safety emphasised the importance of companies being transparent about the support and provisions they offer their employees and, moreover, that mental health should be treated as an occupational illness. Lastly, participants input on workers' rights in subcontracting chains focused on the need for workers to have equal working conditions and that any changes in subcontracting practices should be properly regulated to prevent misuse.



Colleagues from DG COMM's Youth Unit presented **strategies for effective communication with young audiences** and outlined the development of their Youth Outreach Strategy which aims to improve understanding of young people and support more effective communication with them. The presentation emphasized the importance of addressing young people's concerns and engaging with them through the channels and spaces they already use. A multi-platform, interest-led approach tailored to the distinct expectations and language of each platform was recommended. Finally, they shared findings from their research on young people's communication habits and media consumption patterns. Young people were described as discerning but passive audiences who prefer private over public sharing. Participants were advised to communicate with young people in a respectful, honest and clear manner, while balancing authenticity with visibility.

Colleagues from the Youth Policy Sector in the Youth and Intergenerational Fairness Unit, facilitated **a consultation on the post-2027 EU Youth Strategy**, gathering ideas and perspectives from participants. The consultation aimed to identify the strengths of the current Strategy and explore priorities for its future development over two days. On the first day, participants reflected on the current Strategy and discussed future priorities. On the second day, they reported back and shared their conclusions during a plenary session. Key suggestion included boosting youth mainstreaming with greater transparency of youth checks, creation of safe and sustainable access to funding for youth work organisation (including from other EU funds) and, lastly better harmonisation of actors and streamlining of national consultation processes related to the EU Youth Dialogue.



The first day concluded with a presentation and exchange on citizenship skills with colleagues from DG EAC's Policy Strategy and Union of Skills Unit. Colleagues described how the EU policy mandate for a **Guidance on Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC)** has grown in response to democratic erosion, disinformation and misinformation. As announced in the European Democratic Shield, EAC.A1 is currently developing Guidance on Education for Democratic Citizenship as well as a Competence Framework on the EU Dimension of EDC. Stakeholders were invited to reflect on how to make the EU dimension of EDC more meaningful for youth, and to strengthen the links between non-formal education and youth work with formal education on EDC. Colleagues recommended preparing young people for democracy by respectfully bringing contested issues to the classroom and encouraging young people to engage with democracy every day, rather than solely during elections.

On the second day (half day), a **Youth Check consultation** was implemented **on the Education Package** by colleagues in the Basic Skills, Schools and Teacher's Unit and the Digital Education, STEM and AI Literacy Unit. The focus was on basic skills attainment, cross-border collaboration between schools, addressing challenges in the teaching profession, as well as boosting the rollout of high-quality digital education. Participants stressed the need for supporting teachers and learners at foundational level and providing resources to boost basic skills and provide equal education.



Without targeted funding and inclusive frameworks, they warned, initiatives like the European Education Area risk deepening inequalities, leaving rural and marginalised students further behind. Their vision prioritises collaborative, tech-enabled learning, but only if paired with safeguards to ensure no school or learner is left offline. As policymakers move forward, these youth-led insights underscore the urgency of aligning digital innovation with equity, ensuring that EU education reforms bridge gaps rather than widen them. The Commission's next steps must therefore balance ambition with accessibility, turning these shared priorities into tangible support for every classroom across Europe.

The meeting concluded with an interactive breakout session to incentivise participants' engagement with others outside of their working group.

Next steps:

The members of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group were encouraged to continue exchanges on the online Teams Channel of Group.

Members were also invited to share with their networks and contribute to ongoing consultations and debates especially relevant for young people:

- [The future post-2027 EU Youth Strategy](#)
- [Eurobarometer - Impact of excessive screen time and social media on young people's mental health](#)

The report, presentations and a collection of good practices from this meeting are available [here](#). The next meeting is foreseen for October/November 2026 online.

