



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION
NATIONALE
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REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

January 24-26, 2022



European
Commission



CONTEXT

The EU Youth Conference was broadcast live from the European Parliament in Strasbourg from January 24 to 26, 2022.

This virtual conference, held under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, was organised by the French Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the French National Youth Council (CNAJEP) with the support of the European Commission and the backing of the European Parliament.

The conference launched the Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue led by the trio of French, Czech, and Swedish presidencies. Over the next 18 months, the cycle's work will focus on "Engaging together for a sustainable and inclusive Europe".



Over 300 virtual participants attended the conference from across Europe – EU Member States, EFTA countries, and the Western Balkans – to discuss how the selected Youth Goals (No. 10: A Sustainable Green Europe and No. 3: Inclusive Societies) should be delivered at EU level.

Young delegates, government, NGO representatives, and policy-makers used the three days to discuss together the challenges and obstacles that young people face in working towards a sustainable and inclusive Europe.

The conference was also organised in conjunction with the European Young and Eco-Committed call for proposals led by France to promote innovative environmental projects by young people. Five projects from the 14 finalists won awards, with the schemes presented at the informal meeting of the Ministers for Education and Youth. In total, the call for projects will have enlisted 117 young participants from 15 Member States for 55 projects.

GOALS

The EU Youth Conference held from January 24 to 26, 2022 was the first of three conferences in the Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue.

For the young delegates, the conference acted as an exploratory phase for examining the theme of the cycle. It was dedicated to identifying and ranking several priorities based on the subject of the Ninth Cycle: “Engaging together for a sustainable and inclusive Europe». It was also an opportunity to select the topics that will lead to national consultations.

The outcomes of the conference also aimed to provide input into the draft European text submitted to the Council by the French Presidency, i.e. draft conclusions to fostering engagement among young people as agents of change in order to protect the environment.

The conclusions of the young delegates were also brought to the attention of the European Ministers of Education and Youth at their meeting on January 27 in Strasbourg.

EVENT ORGANISATION

The event took place in a hybrid format: speakers, officials, facilitators, and moderators were invited to take part from the European Parliament (Strasbourg), with the young delegates, government representatives, partner associations, and young project leaders participating remotely. The press conference was conducted virtually.

The conference was held from January 24 to 26, 2022.

On January 23, Fresque du Climat (a French NGO) offered the young delegates a virtual introductory session that focused on raising awareness about climate change.

Round tables were held – and broadcast to the public – from January 24 to 26 on actively involving young people in sustainable development, with almost 20 participatory workshops reserved for the young delegates and government representatives.

These workshops were held with groups of 15 or so participants: the first was organised by non-profit or institutional partners on the theme of inclusion and sustainable development. Subsequently, on January 25, discussions were held between participants and French and European policy-makers, including local and regional elected representatives, and senior administrative officials from national, European, and international institutions. The discussions were the subject of feedback in a plenary session; in addition, they were presented on January 26 to Sarah EL HAÏRY, the French State Secretary for Youth and Engagement, and the European Commission.

The projects that reached the final of the Young and Eco-Committed call (launched by France) were also presented on January 26, with the jury and young delegates then casting their votes. The winners were announced in the evening prior to a remote award ceremony on January 27 at the informal meeting of Ministers for Education and Youth.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE YOUTH DELEGATES

Information and education

A lack of awareness about climate change was mentioned. The young participants pointed out that there is a lack of information, which could be remedied by using educational tools (formal, informal, and non-formal) and active involvement. High-quality information about sustainable development must be given to young people from specific groups who have particular problems regarding their social and vocational integration, particularly young people who have fewer opportunities.

The skills and competencies acquired through non-formal education should be acknowledged as a learning outcome in their own right. Local and national bodies should validate the work of youth organisations that provide information about environmental and sustainability issues, develop skills and empower young people to act. Youth organisations, as bodies that provide educational services, play a crucial role in developing the learning process and helping young people look for appropriate solutions to new challenges.

Action and accountability

Young people are too often ignored and under-represented even though they voice ideas and concerns that should be of interest to high-level decision-makers. They should be given the opportunity to play an active role in the decisions that will shape their lives and the lives of future generations. The participants highlighted the lack of mechanisms or resources available to help young people take part in decision-making processes about the environment. The rapporteurs laid particular emphasis on the desire to ensure that young people are more than mere communicators about climate change and that they become genuine actors. They must be part of the entire decision-making process at every stage, and their participation should not be limited to the consultation phase alone. Young people must be involved in decision-making in every policy area and all sectors. The young people asked for the process for monitoring the implementation of their ideas to be strengthened. It is crucial to put mechanisms in place that ensure meaningful and active involvement, joint creation, and monitoring.

Governance

The growing interest of young people in taking part in the decision-making process was indicated, particularly in terms of the environment. The global proportion of young Members of Parliament aged under 30 is less than 2.6% . Effort must be undertaken to ensure that the presence of young people is not used as a «youth washing» mechanism. Existing bodies, such as the EU Youth Dialogue, must be equipped with effective tools for acting as decision-making structures. The work that takes place during the Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue needs to be sustainable and inclusive so that young people take part in the decision-making. It is equally fundamental that young people receive adequate support, funding, and information so they can be meaningfully involved. Participatory processes at the national level need to be reviewed to ensure that they are more sustainable and inclusive. Representative bodies that have already been democratically created, such as the National Youth Councils at the national level, and international non-governmental youth organisations, need to be included in a broader range of decision-making processes to ensure that young people's voices are heard.

The young participants laid particular stress on the role rural youth networks play in conveying information to young people who have fewer opportunities to get involved. Youth organisations perform a key role in enabling awareness-raising suited to all groups of vulnerable young people by providing expertise on specific needs.

Mobility and solidarity

It was observed that mobility is not equally accessible to - or possible for - all young people. Mobility is essential not just to improve personal and professional development and raise environmental awareness among participants, but also to boost the employment rate of young people and promote social mobility. There is a need for accessible, more inclusive mobility and solidarity programmes. These would allow current and younger generations to promote green practices and a sustainable lifestyle while helping communities and society as a whole. We need to move towards more virtuous practices that will help society better understand solidarity programmes and reach all its members.

Access to infrastructure

There is a close link between infrastructure and the quality of life and education of young people. Whether they come from rural or urban areas, the way young people make their decisions has an impact. In rural areas, public transport is a genuine problem. Transportation difficulties can lead to isolation for young people. However, the infrastructure sector also includes other areas such as access to healthier and affordable food, lifestyles, and other means of transport. Consequently, a more inclusive society cannot be achieved if certain groups of young people are excluded. We must guarantee sustainable and affordable choices for everyone.



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

23

JANUARY

3:00 p.m. **Fresque du Climat: optional awareness-raising workshop on climate change**
For young delegates

24

JANUARY

11:00 a.m. **Official opening of the conference**
Plenary – public session

11:45 a.m. **Round table: Views and perspectives on the active involvement of young Europeans in sustainable development**
Plenary – public session

2:00 p.m. **“Partner” sessions** : workshops organised by non-profit associations and institutional partners on the conference themes

For conference delegates

- Workshop 1 – **Young people and climate change** organised by the French Red Cross
- Workshop 2 – **Everyone committed to a greener Europe: mobility for encouraging action!** led by the French Erasmus+ Youth and Sport agency
- Workshop 3 – **Playing with and debating on the uses of artificial intelligence for transport** organised by the Arbres des Connaissances non-profit association with the support of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation
- Workshop 4 – **The role of climate change in the intercultural discussions of young people, particularly young persons who are far away from mobility systems** organised by the Centre Français de Berlin, Peuple et Culture, and the Mission Locale des Bords de Marne with the support of the Franco-German Youth Office
- Workshop 5 – **The 25% of youth votes for the Conference on the Future of Europe** organised by the European Youth Forum
- Workshop 6 – **Ecology: only for the rich?** organised by ATD Quart Monde
- Workshop 7 – **Young, European and committed to a green and inclusive Europe** organised by the Jeunes Européens France and the French Youth Forum
- Workshop 8 – **The Sustainable Development Goals at your fingertips** organised by the Scouts and Guides of France
- Workshop 9 – **The green deal and you** organised by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA)
- Workshop 10 – **Rural youth for a green, inclusive and sustainable Europe** organised by Maisons Familiales Rurales

4:00 p.m. **Presentation of the projects in the Young and Eco-Committed call for projects**

Presentation of each project before the jury and public
Vote for the Audience Award
Plenary – public session

5:45 p.m. **Closing session**
Plenary – public session

25

JANUARY

- 9:00 a.m.** Thematic workshops on the following topics
- Information and education (two workshops);
 - Action and accountability (two workshops);
 - Governance (two workshops);
 - Mobility and solidarity (one workshop);
 - Access to infrastructure (one workshop).

1:30 p.m. **Workshops – Dialogue with policy-makers***, in thematic groups
*Decision-makers listed in the Annex

3:15 p.m. **Continuation of thematic workshops**

5:00 p.m. **Summary of workshops and dialogue with policy-makers**
Plenary

26

JANUARY

10:00 a.m. **Introduction**

10:15 a.m. **Conclusions of the conference**
Presentation of the conclusions by the rapporteurs
Round table with policy-makers to discuss the conclusions
Plenary – public session

11:30 a.m. **Announcement of the winners of the Young and Eco-Committed call for projects**
Plenary – public session

11:45 a.m. **Official conference closing**
Speeches by officials and closing remarks by facilitators
Plenary – public session

KEY INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC PLENARY SESSIONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

OPENING SESSION

The conference participants were welcomed by:

- Sarah EL HAÏRY, French State Secretary for Youth and Engagement;
- Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth;
- Anne SANDER, Member of the European Parliament and Quaestor at the European Parliament;
- Audrey BAUDEAU, representative of the French National Youth Council, CNAJEP;
- Jeanne BARSEGHIAN, Mayor of Strasbourg.

The speakers emphasised the fact that the EU Youth Conference (EUYC) is a major event in the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, whose priorities are: actively involving young people in environmental issues, promoting youth mobility, and youth participation in the EU.

They reminded participants that the EUYC is the right time to give a fresh impetus into the European project, especially as we start the European Year of Youth, which must be constructed jointly with young people, and which must be ambitious and audacious.

Finally, the speakers emphasised the fact that this EUYC marks the beginning of the Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue on the theme of sustainable development and inclusion. This is a subject that young people have a lot to say on, and we must listen to them.



ROUND TABLE No. 1: “DIVERSE VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES ON THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG EUROPEANS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Facilitators :

- Clara DRAMMEH ;
- Léonard LY TRI.

Speakers :

- Sarah EL HAÏRY, French State Secretary for Youth and Engagement;
- Neringa TUMENAITE, researcher;
- Anne GARLATTI, European Solidarity Corps volunteer.



Why do young people get actively involved in promoting sustainable development?

Sarah EL HAÏRY underlined the fact that there is a two-sided emergency, consisting of immediate measures to repair biodiversity and transforming public policies to move beyond the short-term climate response. Young people are an essential part of this process. The issues and actions need to be aligned so that they include the voices of young people more effectively with a view to a more sustainable, more responsible, and more citizen-led Europe.

Neringa TUMENAITE stated that there is a difference in the active involvement of young people in sustainable development. Some are put off and lack trust in the climate actions of policy-makers. Others are involved concretely in NGOs, with some even filing complaints about climate inaction in national or European courts.

Anne GARLATTI stressed that sustainable development is not something abstract: it is everyone’s responsibility. Individual actions help shape the world we want. For example, mobility as part of the European Solidarity Corps helps change the way we look at the world and makes a contribution towards changing the world. «We need to think globally and act locally.»

What opportunities do young people have to become more actively involved in sustainable development?

Sarah EL HAÏRY stated that there are numerous engagement programmes at the national level (Civic Service) and European level (Franco-Italian Civic Service, Franco-German Volunteering, European Solidarity Corps). European mobility must be for all young people and not just for those who are studying at university, and it should be a right that emancipates people and gets them actively involved. We must fight against the “non-use” of the right to mobility, and we must experience Europe on a daily basis so that we feel we belong to Europe and feel responsible for it. Engagement pathways help young people grow.

Neringa TUMENAITE underlined the fact that several opportunities have been developed in Europe. The European Economic and Social Committee has also examined ways to combat climate change, and a coalition of 381 youth organisations is also calling for more

action. Erasmus+ in particular can be used from an environmental perspective. Several educational resources exist, including a responsibility checklist for self-assessing the consequences of one's own actions for the environment.

During the discussions, the young delegates highlighted the fact that active involvement is still a privilege since it requires capacities and skills. How can we help young people get actively involved?

Sarah EL HAÏRY stressed that the skills acquired through active involvement should be recognised. Support should also be given to non-profit associations that encourage young people to get actively involved. Change has to be supported.

PLENARY SESSION 3: Feedback from the work in workshops

Facilitators :

- Clara DRAMMEH ;
- Léonard LY TRI.

Information and Education Workshops

Young rapporteurs: Martina SCHIATTARELLA (National Youth Council, France), Kaja TRZAN (National Youth Council, Slovenia)

"We concentrated on enabling young people to take action on climate change and seeing the link between climate change and social phenomena. We think it's important to recognise skills through non-formal learning, especially when it comes to climate change and sustainability, both at European and national level. We believe it's also important to build the capacity of youth organisations regarding sustainability and viability. The next stage of the consultation is to see what challenges and obstacles young people have to face when they get actively involved in climate action.

We think we can do a lot to improve things, and this is what we are proposing:

- *First of all, climate change must be linked to school curricula and the social component. We think there is a need for long-term work to be carried out in order to provide enough information to young people so they understand the social phenomena and climate change.*
- *Secondly, the responsibility is shared, and local authorities must give young people the opportunity to learn more about the environment and find solutions.*
- *To conclude, we have clearly seen in the dialogue with decision-makers that education is the most profitable way to invest in democracy."*

Action and Accountability Workshops

Young rapporteurs: Eva KOTNIK (National Youth Council, Slovenia), Niels HUBERTY (National Youth Council, Luxembourg)

"We said [at the start of the event] that the European Union needs a genuine vision for young people. As representatives, we are a federating, unifying agent, and we have the opportunity to take part in creating the European Union. It's not enough to empower

and inform young people: they need to have the opportunity to play an active role in the decisions that will shape their lives and the lives of future generations. Young people must be part of the decision-making process at all levels. Unfortunately, however, they are very often marginalised and under-represented even when they have voiced ideas and concerns that should be of interest to leading decision-makers.

They are really used as pawns but their voice is not taken into account, even though they form a sizeable part of the population. Why don't we listen to them? They are not listened to because there aren't any resources available. Mechanisms should be put in place that allow young people to express themselves in a more inclusive way so that there is equality for everyone. We need a vision of a more unified, more inclusive Europe, and we need young people to be able to take their place as citizens. It is very important that we all work together to protect our common European values and our human rights; it is our future, and we have the right to shape it as well by taking part in decision-making.»

Governance Workshops

Young rapporteurs: Andreea SCRIOSTEAN (National Youth Council, Romania), Virbasius POVILAS (National Youth Council, Lithuania)

“The population of the EU is decreasing. Young people want to play a part so they can have a direct influence on decision-making and policy, and we have to be able to influence these policies and put pressure on decision-makers since this is crucial for our future.

The challenge is not just to hear from young people, but also to be inclusive in the process of involving young people in decision-making. This is an issue that is of the utmost importance, and it is clear that changes are needed in the system. Young people are missing from decision-making processes: they are barely present not only in the European Union but also in the world in general. The global proportion of young MPs aged under 30 is less than 2.6%. The EU's political discourse must tackle this issue and take the question seriously. Young people should not be seen as mere pawns; there is a lack of feedback on the initiatives they have launched, and this is a problem. Transparency and inclusion are essential for incorporating young people into decision-making and ensuring that they are not used as a «youth washing» mechanism.

There is one outstanding issue, and we would like to address the question to the decision-makers at the conference: how old were you when you were able to take a seat at the decision-makers' table?

Now that we have got your attention, we want to stress that existing bodies, such as the EU Youth Dialogue and the Youth Parliament, need to be given effective tools so that they can become decision-making bodies. The Conference on the Future of Europe is only just beginning – in addition to the consultation and dialogue methods, there needs to be civic engagement on the part of young people so they can make their voices heard on an equal footing in the decision-making process alongside the people making the decisions.

During this Ninth Cycle, we need to work in a sustainable and inclusive way to ensure that young people participate in decision-making. Let's think about inclusion and vulnerable groups, which are often classified in the same category even though each group of individuals

has its own particular needs, which must be met very precisely. This is why we must be able to involve each group of young people (with disabilities, different origins, etc.) with a differentiated approach to their needs.

It is also crucial that young people have enough support, funding, and information to be meaningfully involved. We need to focus on several areas during this cycle: it is not just the actions initiated by civil society organisations that count, but also those launched by the institutions of the Member States.

Participatory processes at the national level need to be analysed to make sure they are as sustainable and inclusive as possible. Change will also come from the national level.»

Mobility and Solidarity Workshop

Young rapporteur: Iva LJUBICIC (Erasmus Student Network)

“This issue [of mobility and solidarity] is very important. It is a huge question for young people and society in general, and it needs to be a priority in this context. Mobility and freedom of movement are very important achievements for young people. Based on various studies, mobility – voluntary or otherwise – does not just contribute to personal and professional development; it also increases the employment rate among young people and results in upward social mobility. We are aware of the environmental issues.

Even with more funding, mobility is not accessible for everyone: research helps us pinpoint the young people who do not take part in mobility programmes.

Our goal has become clear: we need to improve the public’s understanding of solidarity programmes. All of this is important for reaching under-represented groups.

We want to find out more about how we can share information about mobility and solidarity with different interested groups by uniting them nationally and through communication.

We also want to see what efforts and strategies are being undertaken by policy-makers to reach young people, and to understand how these processes can be further improved.

This Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue can be a starting point and provide momentum for these solidarity programmes. We can strengthen our own and future generations. We will move towards more virtuous practices that will help communities and society as a whole, and not just young people.»

Access to Infrastructure Workshop

Young rapporteurs: Enikő GOSZTOM (National Youth Council, Hungary), Federica VALERI (Ministry of Youth, Italy)

“Access to infrastructure may seem a less important theme than those of the other workshops – but there is a very important link between it and the quality of life of young people. It has an influence on how they will make decisions, whether they come from rural or urban areas.

In rural areas, one of the challenges is public transport. Transport is often on the receiving end of criticism because it is too costly, is difficult to access or is non-existent, which results in the isolation of young people. As we know, if certain groups of young people are isolated and excluded, an inclusive society is impossible.

Let's take a concrete example: it sometimes takes young people in rural areas hours to get to school or work. This lack of infrastructure may be explained by the potential costs involved; however, this is the least sustainable scenario since everyone is forced to take transport (i.e. the car) for hours on end.

A greener, more inclusive Europe is important so that everyone has access to transport infrastructure, especially in rural areas. We also need to make sure that people have access to all the vital infrastructure in rural areas, and make sustainable choices for everyone. These sustainable choices must be at an affordable price for all young people, i.e. they must be priced fairly so that all young people can afford to use, for example, hybrid cars, make vegan choices or even be able to practice zero waste at reasonable prices. These options are currently more expensive than less sustainable solutions.

We want to see change take place. All young people need to be capable of making virtuous decisions: taking public transport, for instance, rather than their car or prioritising ecological modes of transport.

This means we need to work towards more inclusive societies and a more sustainable model for everyone.»

PLENARY SESSION 4:

ROUND TABLE No. 2: Reactions to the speeches made by the young delegates with the policy-makers

Facilitators:

- Clara DRAMMEH ;
- Léonard LY TRI.

Speakers:

- Sarah EL HAÏRY, French State Secretary for Youth and Engagement
- Jeanette GUSTAFSDOTTER, Minister of Culture of Sweden
- Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU, Director General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC) for the European Commission
- Tanguy GUIBERT, French National Youth Council - CNAJEP representative
- Thomas MATTHEW, European Youth Forum representative

Jeanette GUSTAFSDOTTER stated that the discussions held during the conference would feed into the work of the 18-month Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, including the work of the Swedish Presidency that will bring the cycle to an end. She said that the active involvement of young people is precious, and that we will achieve a green and inclusive Europe together.

Sarah EL HAÏRY underlined that it was important not to see young people as collateral and take part in «youth washing». It was to be acknowledged that young people should not express themselves only on youth issues but on every subject – environmental and economic – regarding the future of the planet. The challenges of peace and the transformation of society are in the hands of young people. Long-term mechanisms must be introduced so that young people can speak for themselves and are given feedback about their proposals. They must be at the forefront of decisions.

Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU heard the demand from young people to recognise the skills acquired and build the capacities of youth organisations. Young people today are better informed and more engaged than previous generations, which means they need to be more involved in the decision-making processes and the ecological transition. All institutions must make it possible to lead more sustainable lifestyles. Europeans as a body must be able to contribute. Being an active citizen starts with education. Volunteering is also essential, and the European Solidarity Corps plays an important role. Tens of thousands of young Europeans have made a difference by taking part in the programme, and this is only the beginning.

The enthusiasm and contributions of young people at the EU Youth Conference serve as valuable food for thought regarding the Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue.

Tanguy GUIBERT stated that the active involvement of young people should be promoted at every level. Particular vigilance is called for to avoid «youth washing».

Thomas MATTHEW stressed that young people have been key actors in creating the EU Youth Dialogue process. This should be highlighted by ensuring that dialogue is a standard for strengthening the dialogue between young people and decision-makers and for extending it to other areas.

PLENARY SESSION 5: Presentation of the Young and Eco-Committed projects and announcement of the results

Launched on October 15, 2021, the Young and Eco-Committed call for projects resulted in 55 projects led by 117 participants. Fourteen projects were selected for the final, reflecting the major theme of education for sustainable development.

This session was an opportunity for the selected teams to present each project to the jury, which was chaired by Emmanuelle PERES, Interministerial Delegate for Youth, and the public. Each team had 3 minutes to make their presentation followed by 2 minutes of questions with the jury

Jury

- Emmanuelle PERES, Interministerial Delegate for Youth, French Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports;
- Robert GUILLAUMONT, Member of the French Academy of Sciences;
- Louis OCTOBON, CNAJEP/FAGE;
- Nicolai BOYSEN, European Youth Forum.



Presentation of the 14 projects, January 24, 2022

Aquapim : project to introduce aquaponics to a young audience with the aim of producing 400 starter kits.

Biodiverse city : physical and digital map project for exploring biodiversity in an urban environment.

Biodiversity and food independence in urban gardens: sociological research and raising awareness about the impact of urban gardens.

Green TSUNAMI : low-carbon festival wristband that gives festival-goers access to benefits during an event and makes organisers responsible.

La Friperie du Sport : low-cost thrift stores (“friperies”) promoting second-hand sports equipment.

IziGo : discovery app to encourage users to behave eco-responsibly.

La Germethèque : call for volunteering and social initiatives for planting vegetables.

Let's Save Food Projet : local volunteering for delivering food products and avoiding waste.

Luniwave : bath equipment to promote water savings in the hotel industry.

OURO BORO : aims to set up local recycling points for collecting plastic and recycling waste as well as active awareness-raising in schools.

Social and environmental justice podcast: featuring the accounts of young French speakers committed to sustainable development.

Recypient : aims to set up a system of standardised, returnable environmentally-responsible packaging in supermarkets.

Revolution is in the hair : creates ocean filters against pollution made from hair.

Wonderlab : offers an interactive travelling exhibition on sustainable development designed for schoolchildren, especially students in priority education.

Announcement of the winners of the Young and Eco-Committed call for projects, January 26, 2022

Announcement of the winners by Sarah EL HAÏRY, Secretary of State for Young People and Engagement:

- Jury prize :

- Green Tsunami ;
- Ouro Boro ;
- Wonderlab ;
- Recypient.

- Audience Award: la Friperie du sport.



FR RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

The winning projects received a prize of 10,000 euros and are given support to implement their plans. These projects were presented at the informal meeting of Ministers for Education and Youth held in Strasbourg on January 27, 2022.

FINAL PLENARY SESSION: CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORK

Facilitators :

- Clara DRAMMEH ;
- Léonard LY TRI.

Speakers

- Sarah EL HAÏRY, French State Secretary for Youth and Engagement;
- Martin FATURA, Director of European Affairs, Ministry of Youth of the Czech Republic;
- Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU, Director General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC) at the European Commission;
- Tanguy GUIBERT, French National Youth Council - CNAJEP;
- Cristina JELINKOVA, National Youth Council of the Czech Republic.

Sarah EL HAÏRY hailed the active participation of the young delegates, which shows how eagerly anticipated and needed the conference was. The results of the work will be considered as part of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The very next day, the young delegates will present their work in a highly original fashion at the informal meeting of Ministers for Education and Youth. This will also feed into the citizens' reflections about the conference on the future of Europe. The substance of the conclusions will be incorporated into the draft findings on the active involvement of young people in environmental protection scheduled for adoption by the EU's Council of Youth Ministers. It will also be integrated into the work of the European Year of Youth. Furthermore, this is all included more broadly in the work of the French presidency, which will highlight the voluntary commitment of young people that breathes life into European citizenship.

Martin FATURA highlighted the fact that the conference has laid the foundations for the work of the Ninth Cycle. Young people in Europe serve as a link for concretising the outcomes of the EU Youth Dialogue. The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU will focus on the priorities of inter-generational solidarity and environmental justice. Today's rights must not conflict with those of future generations.

Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU reminded attendees how relevant and urgent a sustainable and green Europe is for young people. They have shown that tackling climate change is a major priority for them. Programmes such as Erasmus+ or the Coalition pour le Climat initiative help integrate environmental sustainability. The success of the European Green Deal will also depend on the efforts made to promote education. Making Europe green is a major challenge for European education systems. The European Commission calls on the Member States to include sustainable development in European programmes.

These topics feature among the top priorities of the European Year of Youth. There will be numerous opportunities for youth action in this context. The year 2022 is only the beginning: it can lay the foundations on which a new future can be built.

Tanguy GUIBERT underlined the fact that the conference showed that young people were once more equal to the challenge. This first conference only marks the beginning of the work that will last for 18 months. He issued an invitation and an appeal to all policy-makers to commit themselves to youth and young people as a whole. It is possible to meet the challenges resulting from the proposals made by young people. Young people don't just want to be listened to: they want joint decisions. The torch has now passed to the Czech National Youth Council.

Cristina JELINKOVA stated that young people need to see engagement as something that is positive. It is important that young people see that their voice counts, and the outcomes of the EU Youth Conference in France will be taken into consideration, and they will be incorporated during the consultation and subsequently during the implementation phase.

The facilitators closed by reminding those present that the end of the conference is only the beginning of the Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue. Everyone who took part in the conference must take the actions needed to ensure that Europe is **a more sustainable and inclusive Europe**.



ANNEX 1

LIST OF DECISION-MAKERS WHO SPOKE AT THE JANUARY 25 WORKSHOPS

- **Tobias ADOLFSSON**

Civil Society Division, Ministry of Culture (Sweden)

- **Béatrice ANGRAND**

President of the Civic Service Agency (France)

- **Sam BARRATT**

Head of the Youth, Education and Advocacy Office at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- **Véronique BERTHOLLE**

Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg responsible for European and International Relations (France)

- **Emil BOC**

Former Prime Minister of Romania, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca (Romania), rapporteur of the opinion Creating a European Education Area by 2025

- **Martin BORTZMEYER**

Head of the Sustainable Development Delegation at the Sustainable Development Commission, Ministry of Ecological Transition (France)

- **Karine GLOANEC MAURIN**

First Deputy Mayor of Couëtron-au-Perche, Regional Councillor for Centre-Val de Loire and former Member of the European Parliament (France)

- **Inês GOUVEIA DA SILVA**

Coordinator for the European Youth Event, European Parliament

- **Zdenka MASKOVA**

Youth Policy Office, Ministry of Education, Young People and Sports (Czech Republic)

- **Kieran MCCARTHY**

Member of Cork City Council, Member of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (Ireland)

- **Emmanuelle PERES**

Interministerial Delegate for Youth, Director of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations (France)

- **Yoomi RENSTRÖM**

Member of Ovanåker City Council, rapporteur for A Union of Equality: EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025 (Sweden)

- **Biliana SIRAKOVA**

EU Youth Coordinator, European Commission

- **Anne TALLINEAU**

Secretary General of the Franco-German Youth Office (France)

ANNEX 2

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH AND ECO-COMMITTED JURY

- President of the jury: Emmanuelle PERES, Interministerial Delegate for Youth, Director of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (France).
- Robert GUILLAUMONT, Member of the French Academy of Sciences and honorary professor at Université de Paris-Sud 11 (France).
- Louis OCTOBON, Vice-President responsible for the ecological transition for the Fédération des Associations Générales Etudiantes and CNAJEP (France).
- Nicolai BOYSEN, Member of the Board of Directors, European Youth Forum (Denmark).

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Conference facilitators: Clara DRAMMEH, Léonard LY TRI

Facilitators of the thematic workshops: Alexandre BEDDOCK, Adam ELSOD, Filip GABOR, Olivier GINESTE, Álvaro GONZALEZ PEREZ, Tereza HANAJOVA, Emilie HORNUS, Dragana JOVANOVSKA, Tilen LAH, Julius LAJTHA, Loïc LE MORVAN, Stephanie LOCQUEVILLE, Sara NATAL, Zuzana PAVELKOVA, Antoine PAYEN, Cécile PELTIER, Claire VARNOUX and Florian ZAPPA.

Facilitators of the partner workshops : Johanne ARNASSON, Katarzyna BALUCKA, Antonia BARTELS, Clara BELLOC, Viola BIANCHETTI, Maxime BOITIEUX, Lou BORDERIE, Céline CAUBET, Cécile COLLE, Luca DE CARLI, Pauline FAUCHER, Clara FRUCHON, Maëlys GARCIA, Olivier GINESTE, Iulia GORDON ENDLA, Elise HALTZ, Magali KITZMANN, Julius LAJTHA, Samuel LE FLOCH, Elisa MEYNIER, Lauren MICHAUD, Lucas NITZSCHE, Antoine RIBOUD, Antoine ROUSSEAU, Axel SENGENES-CROS, Alicia VARGAS, Camille VOLOVITCH, Jeremy TREMOLIERES, Elena TURCI, Julien VERMIGNON and Sofia TELES.

Young rapporteurs: Enikő GOSZTOM, Niels HUBERTY, Iva LJUBICIC, Eva KOTNIK, Andreea SCRIOSTEAN, Virbasius POVILAS, Martina SCHIATTARELLA, Kaja TRZAN and Federica VALERI.

All the young finalists in the Young and Eco-Committed call for projects

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