



Proposals for the Structure of the New European Youth Goals

Developed by the Youth Goals Task Force

February 2026





Background

For further background on the process of how the EU Youth Goals are being revised and the Youth Goals Task Force, please see the European Youth Portal post [here](#) and the explanatory document [here](#).

To see the original EU Youth Goals, see [here](#).

Rationale for the Proposals

The Youth Goals Task Force has developed two possible proposals for the structure of the new EU Youth Goals.

Both of the proposals aim to:

1. Provide a framework that can realistically be developed into a full set of goals at the Irish EU Youth Conference, in a quality participatory manner. The Irish Youth Conference anticipates dedicating 5 working groups to update the goals. Roughly speaking, this capacity allows for up to 5 youth goals to be created from scratch or fully rewritten with major updates. However, more Youth Goals can be addressed if fewer goals are fully rewritten/created and only minor changes are made to some goals. It is not possible to rewrite all goals from scratch within the conference. Part of this includes the decision not to open certain youth goals for changes, as they are considered to still be relevant and important. Even if some of them might benefit from very small changes, the feasibility of redrafting during the Irish Youth Conference has led to not opening these Youth Goals for discussion.
2. Avoid substantially increasing the overall number of youth goals. A large number of Youth Goals may make the goals less effective at influencing policy.
3. Incorporate the 'missing themes' identified through the [consultation on Youth Goals](#), run as part of the 11th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue, as well as create space for smaller modifications identified as needed in this consultation, such as those relating to participation and climate justice.

The two proposals address these needs in different ways.

Proposal 1

Aims to incorporate the feedback from the consultation with as little restructuring to the original Youth Goals as possible.

Incorporates the missing themes identified through the consultation by;

- Add two new Youth Goals on *Peace and Security* and *Quality of Life* (working titles)
- Updating the existing goals on *Information and Constructive Dialogue (YG#4)* to have a stronger focus on digitalisation and rights in the digital field, and to become focused on *Information and Digital Rights* (working title).



Provide opportunities to make smaller updates to the youth goals relating to participation, climate justice, and rural youth.

Avoids increasing the number of youth goals substantially by;

- Integrating the existing goal of *Connecting EU with Youth* (YG#1) into other goals. The goal of *Connecting EU with Youth* was indicated by the consultation as being one of the least important to young people. Nonetheless, all aspects and subgoals of the goal *Connecting EU with Youth* are already found in other Youth Goals, hence not erasing this topic from existence.

Proposal number 2

Incorporates the missing themes identified through the consultation by;

- Add two new Youth Goals on *Peace and Security* and *Quality of Life* (working titles)
- Updating the existing goals on *Information and Constructive Dialogue* (YG#4) to have a stronger focus on digitalisation and rights in the digital field, and to become *Information and Digital Rights* (working title)

Provides opportunities to make smaller updates to the youth goals relating to participation and climate justice.

Creates a strong cross-cutting focus by creating a new youth goal on *Equality and Equity* (working title) by integrating the existing goals on *Moving Rural Youth Forward* (YG#6), *Equality of all Genders* (YG#2) and *Inclusive Societies* (YG#3) into a single goal rather than addressing different social groups under multiple goals. This would allow to create a stronger focus on all angles of inclusion, as the current structure suggests rural youth inclusion and gender-based equality are the only groups of young people that would need a specific focus. Instead, a cross-cutting focus could advance overall inclusion of all marginalised groups of young people.

Avoids increasing the number of youth goals substantially by;

- Integrating the existing goal of *Connecting EU with Youth* (YG#1) into other goals. The goal of *Connecting EU with Youth* was indicated by the consultation as being one of the least important to young people. Nonetheless, all aspects and subgoals of the goal *Connecting EU with Youth* are already found in other Youth Goals, hence not erasing this topic from existence.
- Integrating several goals through the creation of the *Equality and Equity* Goal, which reduces the overall number of goals.



Proposal number 1

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| Quality Learning (current YG#8) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal for this topic. |
| Mental Health and Wellbeing (current YG#5) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal for this topic. |
| Equality of all Genders (current YG#2) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal for this topic. |
| Quality Employment for all (current YG#7) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal for this topic. |
| Inclusive Societies (current YG#3) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal on this topic. |
| Moving Rural Youth Forward (current YG#6, updated, working title) | Minor updates to existing Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to make minor updates to this goal, which may include things such as, a new title, reference to transport, the needs of young people in remote areas (such as islands), decentralisation of services and opportunities, and equal access to opportunities in all regions, digital infrastructure. This will draw on the recommendations made on rural youth from past cycles of EUYD. |
| Youth Organisations, EU Youth programmes, and Youth Work (current YG#11, updated, working title) | Minor updates to existing Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to make minor updates to the existing youth goal of <i>Youth Organisations & European Programmes</i> . This may include setting a new title, including a stronger focus on youth work and shrinking space for youth civil society, as well as integration of elements of the previous Youth Goal, <i>Connecting EU with Youth</i> . |
| Information and Digital Rights (current YG#4, updated, working title) | Minor updates to existing Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to make minor updates to the existing Youth Goal, <i>Information and Constructive Dialogue</i> . This may include a stronger focus on digitalisation, AI, media and information literacy, digital rights and privacy, and a new title. A consultation will be launched on this topic to inform the work of Youth Delegates. |
| Participation and Democracy | Major updates to existing Youth Goal(s): Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to update the current Youth Goal on <i>Space</i> |



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| (current YG#9, updated, working title) | <i>and Participation For All</i> to focus exclusively on Youth Participation and young people's involvement in Democracy. They will be asked to set a new title, consider integrating relevant parts of the current Youth Goal, <i>Connecting EU with Youth</i> , and to take into account the of consultations and recommendations from past EUYD cycles on participation and democracy. |
| Climate Justice and Sustainability (current YG#10, updated working title) | Major updates to the existing Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to make major updates to the existing Youth Goal of <i>Sustainable Green Europe</i> , to include, a new title, a stronger focus on climate justice, and greater relevance to current environmental issues, and to take into account the consultations and recommendations made on sustainability from past cycles of EUYD. |
| Quality of Life (new goal, working title) | New Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to create a new Youth Goal that addresses economic inequality, cost-of-living issues, housing costs, and poverty. A consultation will be launched on this topic to inform the work of Youth Delegates. |
| Peace and Security (new goal, working title) | New Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to create a new Youth Goal that addresses young people's contributions to peace, security, and resilience. A consultation will be launched on this topic to inform the work of Youth Delegates. |
| Removed Goals | This proposal leads to the removal of the current Youth Goals #1 <i>Connecting EU with Youth</i> , which is merged with the new goal of <i>Participation and Democracy and Youth Organisations, EU Youth programmes, and Youth Work</i> . |



Proposal number 2

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| Quality Learning (current YG#8) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal on this topic. |
| Mental Health and Wellbeing (current YG#5) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal on this topic. |
| Quality Employment for all (current YG#7) | No change: This goal will remain the same as the current Youth Goal on this topic. |
| Information and Digital Rights (current YG#4, updated working title) | Minor updates to existing Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to make minor updates to the existing Youth Goal, <i>Information and Constructive Dialogue</i> . This may include a stronger focus on digitalisation, AI, media and information literacy, digital rights and privacy, and a new title. A consultation will be launched on this topic to inform the work of Youth Delegates. |
| Youth Organisations, EU Youth programmes, and Youth Work (Current YG#11, updated, working title) | Minor updates to existing Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to make minor updates to this goal, which may include a new title, a stronger focus on youth work and shrinking space for youth civil society, as well as integration of elements of the previous Youth Goal, <i>Connecting EU with Youth</i> . |
| Equality and Equity (new youth goal, working title) | Major updates to existing Youth Goals: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to integrate the existing goals on <i>Equality for all Genders</i> , <i>Moving Rural Youth Forward</i> and <i>Inclusive Societies</i> into a single goal, as well as to take into account consultation results and recommendations from previous cycles of EUYC relevant to these topics. <i>Equity and Equality</i> is a working title, and delegates at the Irish EUYC will choose a new title. |
| Participation and Democracy (current YG#9, updated, working title) | Major updates to existing Youth Goals: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to update the current Youth Goal on <i>Space and Participation For All</i> to focus exclusively on Youth Participation and young people's involvement in Democracy. They will be asked to consider integrating relevant parts of the current Youth Goal, <i>Connecting EU with Youth</i> , and to take into account the consultations and recommendations from past EUYD cycles on participation and democracy. A new title will also be set at the IRISH EUYC |



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| <p>Climate Justice and Sustainability (current YG#10, updated working title)</p> | <p>Major updates to the existing Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to make major updates to the existing Youth Goal of <i>Sustainable Green Europe</i>, to include a new title, a stronger focus on climate justice, and greater relevance to current environmental issues, and to take into account the consultations and recommendations made on sustainability from past cycles of EUYD.</p> |
| <p>Quality of Life (new youth goal, working title)</p> | <p>New Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to create a new Youth Goal that addresses economic inequality, cost-of-living issues, housing costs, and poverty. A consultation will be launched on this topic to inform the work of Youth Delegates.</p> |
| <p>Peace and Security (new youth goal, working title)</p> | <p>New Youth Goal: Youth delegates at the Irish EUYC will be asked to create a new Youth Goal that addresses young people's contributions to peace, security, and resilience. A consultation will be launched on this topic to inform the work of Youth Delegates.</p> |
| <p>Removed Goals</p> | <p>This proposal leads to the removal of the current Youth Goal #1 <i>Connecting EU with Youth</i>, which is merged with the new goals of <i>Participation and Democracy</i> and <i>Youth Organisations, EU Youth programmes, and Youth Work</i>, where the topics overlap.</p> <p>This proposal leads to the removal of current goals on #2 <i>Equality for all Genders</i>, #6 <i>Moving Rural Youth Forward</i> and #3 <i>Inclusive Societies</i>. These are merged into the new goal on <i>Equality and Equity</i>, where the topics overlap.</p> |