EUROPEAN UNION



European Youth Goals

Revised version, produced after the EU Youth Conference in Dublin, 27-30th September 2026

Erasmus+ Youth

Background

The European Youth Goals summarise the issues affecting young people in Europe and the political priorities important to them. The Youth Goals show where change is still needed so young people in Europe can reach their full potential.

The original European Youth Goals were initially created through the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue which ran from July 1, 2017, to December 30, 2018. They were then revised during the 11th and 12th cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue through a participatory youth-led process which ran between January 2025 and September 2026.

This document contains the revised version of the European Youth Goals and outlines the process used for the revisions.

At the time of writing, the original Youth Goals are annexed to EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, which is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027. As this strategy comes to an end in 2027, it is necessary to consider how the goals need to be updated as part of the revision of the Youth Strategy. However, it needs to be noted that the ultimate decision on the inclusion of the revised Youth Goals in proposals and decisions related to the post-2027 EU Youth Strategy lies with the European Commission and the Council of the EU. Thus, it cannot be guaranteed that the revised Youth Goals will, in the end, be part of the new EU Youth Strategy. The intention of the revision of the Youth Goals is to provide input and consideration to the process of the update of the EU Youth Strategy. Moreover, several aspects, such as the timeline, depend on the decision-making processes within the European Commission and the Council. While the overall goal is for the revised Youth Goals to feed into the EU Youth Strategy, it is also possible for them to be a standalone product, independent of the EU Youth Strategy or other youth policies.

How Were The Goals Revised?

The European Commission, working in collaboration with the European Youth Forum and researchers supporting the EU Youth Dialogue, developed a participatory youth-led process designed to enable young people across Europe to contribute to revising the European Youth Goals. The purpose of the participatory process was to revise and update (rather than rewrite completely) the European Youth Goals as part of the revision of the EU Youth Strategy.

The process was linked to the 11th and 12th Cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue and especially the EU Youth Conferences in Cyprus (online, 18-20th March 2026) and Dublin (27-30th September 2026). The EU Youth Dialogue is a dialogue mechanism between young people and decision-makers taking place in the framework of the EU Youth Strategy. Each cycle of dialogue lasts 18 months and includes three EU Youth Conferences

The revision of the European Youth Goals occurred in several stages as follows:

Stage 1: A Consultation Held As Part Of The 11th Cycle Of EU Youth Dialogue

The consultation conducted in the 11th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue explored what updates might be needed to the European Youth Goals in the view of young people. The results identified that, while most current goals remain relevant to young people, there are several 'missing themes'. These include peace, security, economic security (including cost of living), and digitalisation, all of which are increasingly of concern to young people and are not featured in the current European Youth Goals, because they were of less concern to young people when the goals were originally created.

Stage 2: The Youth Goals Task Force

A Youth Goals Task Force was convened by the European Youth Forum with the support of the European Commission. This group was made up of young people from National Youth Councils, International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, as well as young people not engaged directly representing a youth organisation. The task force had the mandate to interpret the consultation results and develop proposals for the structure of the new European Youth Goals, including the total number of goals and the theme of each goal. The group developed two proposals in total.

Stage 3: A Vote At The EU Youth Conference In Cyprus

Youth delegates at the EU Youth Conference in Cyprus, 18th - 20th March 2026, voted between the two proposals from the Youth Goals Task Force. By selecting their preferred proposal, participants set the structure of the revision of the European Youth Goals in terms of the final number and the theme of each goal. This vote decided that five of the original goals would be retained, five would be amended, two new goals would be created, and one goal would be removed (see below for further details).

Stage 4: A Consultation On The 'Missing Themes' And Use Of Results From Previous Cycles Of EU Youth Dialogue

To gather further views from young people to inform the drafting of the two new goals and five goals being amended, a consultation was held on the themes of digitalisation, peace and security and cost of living. The consultation was open to all National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations in the European Youth Forum's Membership. The results of this consultation were then combined with the results from consultations held during the 8th, 9th and 10th Cycles[1] of the EU Youth Dialogue to create a series of background papers. These papers identify young people's views related to the topics and themes of the amendments and new goals.

Stage 5: Drafting And Amendments To The Goals At The EU Youth Conference In Dublin

Building on the background papers, the delegates at the EU Youth Conference in Dublin, 27th-30th September 2026, engaged in a series of deliberative workshops to draft the two new goals and amend five of the original goals. Over a two-day period, delegates engaged in debate and discussion to create and draft the relevant text. An editing team, consisting of the European Youth Forum, Irish National Youth Council, Irish Presidency representatives, and researchers supporting the EU Youth Dialogue, was then tasked with finalising the text and minor edits to ensure coherence and consistency.

Between the initial creation of the goals in the 6th cycle of EU Youth Dialogue, the revision process in the 11th and 12th Cycles, and by drawing on the results of consultation from the 8th, 9th and 10th Cycles of EUYD Youth Dialogue, an estimated 130,000 young people have contributed to the goals in their current form.[2]

[1]Dates of these cycles were as follows - 8th Cycle: 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2021, 9th Cycle: 1 January 2022 – 30 June 2023, 10th Cycle: 1 July 2023 – 31 December 2024

[2]This figure is a crude estimation, based on summing participant consultation figures from the 6th cycle (48369), 8th cycle (10798, qualitative elements only), 9th cycle (22719), 10th cycle (28723), 11th cycle (38402), and factoring in that 10% of participants are returning participants each cycle.

Revised European Youth Goals Compared To The Original Youth Goals

EYG#1: Democracy And Meaningful Participation	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal *'Space and Participation for all'.*
EYG#2: Equality Of All Genders	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#3: Inclusive Societies	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#4: Information, Dialogue And Digital Environments	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal *'Information and Constructive Dialogue'.*
EYG#5: Mental Health And Wellbeing	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#6: Moving Rural Youth Forward	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal with the same name.
EYG#7: Quality Employment For All	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#8: Quality Learning	This goal is identical to the previous goal with the same name and has not changed.
EYG#9: Dignified Living	This is a new youth goal.
EYG#10: Sustainability And Climate Justice	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal *'Sustainable Green Europe'.*
EYG#11: Youth Organisations, Youth Work And EU Programmes	This goal is an updated version of the previous goal '*Youth Organisations & European Programmes'*
EYG#12: Peace And Security	This is a new youth goal.

The previous goal, '*Connecting EU With Youth'* has been removed from the revised version of the European Youth Goals.

The full set of revised goals is shown on the following pages.

EYG#1: DEMOCRACY AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Background: An increasing number of young people lack trust in democratic institutions, with young people being underrepresented and not meaningfully involved. Young people need to have an active role in democracy.

Goal: Strengthen democracy and young people's trust in democratic institutions through meaningful participation and education.

Subgoals:

a. Build young people's trust in the political institutions and processes by addressing the democratic deficit, the influence of money on politics and the lack of transparency and information.

b. Ensure safe and accessible youth spaces for every young person that provide young people with access to opportunities for meaningful youth participation, dialogue and democratic representation at all levels.

c. Guarantee access to quality citizenship and democracy education within non-formal and formal settings, including youth spaces.

d. Ensure systematic, inclusive, accessible and representative youth participation across all sectors in order to achieve youth mainstreaming.

e. Promote young people's agency in democratic processes by lowering the voting age to 16 and better supporting young people seeking elected office;

f. Guarantee transparency within youth participation processes from start to finish, enabling feedback, follow-up, and further dialogue between young people and decision-makers.

EYG#2: EQUALITY OF ALL GENDERS[3]

Background: Gender-based discrimination still affects many young people, especially young women. Equal opportunities and access to rights need to be ensured for young people of all genders, including non-binary and LGBTQI+[4] young people.

Goal: Ensure equality of all genders and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas of the life of a young person.

Subgoals:

a. Tackle discrimination and ensure equal rights for all genders in cultural, political and socioeconomical life.

b. Achieve universal awareness of gender-based inequality and discrimination, particularly in the media.

c. End gender-based violence by addressing and tackling it effectively in all its forms.

d. Eliminate stereotypical gender roles and embrace diverse gender identities in education systems, family life, the workplace, and other areas of life.

e. End gender-based structural discrimination in the labour market and ensure equal rights, access and opportunities.

f. Ensure equal pay for equal work and the equal sharing of the responsibilities of care work.

g. Ensure equal access to formal and non-formal education, and that the design of education systems follows gender-sensitive approaches.

[3]With due regard to the subsidiarity, 'all genders' should be interpreted in accordance with the national and Union legislation and national circumstances.
[4]The abbreviation 'LGBTQI+' aims to sum up non-heterosexual and/or non-binary identities, the letters stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, the + symbolises that it is a non-exhaustive list.

EYG#3: INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Background: One third of young people in Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Many do not have access to their social rights. Many continue to face multiple discrimination, experience prejudice and hate crimes. New migratory phenomena have brought several social and inclusion challenges. Therefore, it is crucial to work towards the fulfilment of the rights of all young people in Europe, including the most marginalised and excluded.

Goal: Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society.

a. Provide legal protection and enforce international legal instruments to fight against all kinds of discrimination and hate speech, recognising that young people are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination.

b. Strengthen outreach of information to marginalised young people, to ensure they are aware of spaces, opportunities and experiences available to them.

c. Ensure that all marginalised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion.

d. Strengthen the capacities of educators to work with marginalised young people.

e. Provide more spaces, opportunities, resources and programmes to foster dialogue and social cohesion, and combat discrimination and segregation.

f. Strengthen social support by implementing the right to a living wage, fair working conditions, universal access to quality health care, and ensure specific measures for marginalised young people.

g. Ensure that marginalised young people are participating in all decision-making processes and are key players, particularly in processes concerning their own rights, wellbeing and interests.

EYG#4: INFORMATION, DIALOGUE AND DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS

Background: Young people experience difficulties in verifying the accuracy and reliability of information, both online and offline. They need to be more adequately equipped to navigate the media and digital landscapes, to understand, exercise and enjoy their digital rights, to strengthen their digital literacy, and to participate in constructive dialogue in safe and inclusive digital environments.

Goal: Empower young people to effectively navigate and engage in digital and physical information environments.

Subgoals:

a. Empower young people to be critical thinkers as well as responsible users and producers of information.

b. Ensure young people have the ability to recognise misleading information, verify the accuracy of information sources, and have easy ways to report misleading information, with a guarantee of accountability from relevant authorities.

c. Ensure young people have the ability to recognise and address hate speech, abuse and discrimination both online and offline.

d. Ensure young people can engage in respectful, tolerant and non-violent dialogue, both online and offline.

e. Ensure easy access to understandable, youth-friendly information that follows codes of ethics and quality standards, in line with relevant legislative frameworks.

f. Ensure parents and carers, and all those involved with educating and training young people, are equipped with media and digital literacy skills and are reliable information sources for young people.

g. Implement transparent AI and digital platform regulations that empower young people to navigate safely within age-appropriate digital landscapes.

EYG#5: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Background: A significant and increasing number of young people across Europe are expressing their concern about the prevalence of mental health issues such as high stress, anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses amongst their peers. Young people cite the immense societal pressures they face today and express a need for better youth mental health provision.

Goal: Achieve better mental wellbeing and end stigmatisation of mental health issues, thus promoting social inclusion of all young people.

Subgoals:

a. Encourage the development of self-awareness and less competitive mindsets by fostering appreciation for individual skills and strengths.

b. Safeguard the rights to work and to study of people with mental health issues both during and after illness to ensure their ability to pursue their own ambitions.

c. Develop an inclusive intersectional approach to mental health provision for all, especially marginalised groups.

d. Provide all professionals working with young people as well as family and friends with quality mental health first aid training.

e. Provide inclusive, respectful and well-funded treatment by incorporating high-quality mental health provision across all medical institutions.

f. Focus on prevention measures that ensure young people are equipped with the knowledge and the skills required for better mental wellbeing.

g. Fight stigma about mental health issues by developing awareness programmes.

EYG#6: MOVING RURAL YOUTH FORWARD

Background: Young people in rural and remote areas face territorial inequalities in access to transport, public services, education, employment, housing, digital connectivity, youth work, and participation. They need access to equitable rights and opportunities regardless of where they live and have a genuine choice to stay, leave or return to their communities.

Goal: Create conditions which enable young people to thrive within rural areas.

Subgoals:

a. Ensure appropriate and affordable infrastructure in rural and remote areas in order to provide equitable delivery of transport, public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people.

b. Increase young people's access to sustainable, high-quality jobs in rural and remote areas, and enhance their ability to commute to other areas or work remotely.

c. Ensure diverse activities and structures for young people, which are designed with rural and remote areas in mind and decentralised, in order to support young people's inclusion in rural and remote communities.

d. Ensure that young people in rural and remote areas have access to civic spaces and are actively participating in decision-making processes.

e. Ensure equitable access to high-quality formal and non-formal education, training and lifelong learning opportunities for young people in rural and remote communities.

f. Support a positive image of remote and rural areas by protecting and promoting their cultural life and heritage.

EYG#7: QUALITY EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

Background: Young people are suffering from high youth unemployment, precarious and exploitative working conditions as well as discrimination in the labour market and the workplace. The lack of information and suitable skills for future employment are preventing young people from being fully integrated into the labour market. Thus, measures need to be taken in order to ensure quality employment for all.

Goal: Guarantee an accessible labour market with opportunities that lead to quality jobs for all young people

Subgoals:

a. Create quality jobs which guarantee fair working conditions, working rights and the right to a living wage for all young people.

b. Safeguard social protection and healthcare for all young workers.

c. Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market.

d. Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market.

e. Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education.

f. Ensure involvement of young people and youth organisations as equal partners in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies at all levels.

g. Ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work.

EYG#8: QUALITY LEARNING

Background: Education remains a key to active citizenship, an inclusive society and employability. That is why we need to enlarge our vision about education for the 21st century, focusing more on transferable skills, student-centred learning and non-formal education to achieve truly equal and universal access to quality learning.

Goal: Integrate and improve different forms of learning, equipping young people for the challenges of an ever-changing life in the 21st century.

Subgoals:

a. Guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and lifelong learning.

b. Ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated.

c. Promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills.

d. Create and implement more personalised, participative, and cooperative learner-centred methods in every step of the education process.

e. Guarantee that education equips all young people with life skills such as money management and health education, including sexual and reproductive health

f. Incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity and learning.

g. Ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation.

EYG#9: DIGNIFIED LIVING

Background: Increasingly, young people face difficult access to quality housing, economic security, healthcare, employment and culture. This prevents young people from claiming a dignified, meaningful life. More than their basic needs, young people require equitable access to all their rights, which can only be achieved through a holistic approach.

Goal: Guarantee socio-economic security and quality of life for young people.

Subgoals:

a. Ensure all young people have access to quality, secure, and affordable housing, especially young people with fewer opportunities and at risk of homelessness and poverty, respecting principles of intergenerational fairness.

b. Improve the holistic and intersectional understanding and use of data beyond economic indicators on young people's quality of life, ensuring that their realities and needs are included in decision-making and public policies.

c. Support young people's autonomy and transition into adulthood with stronger support mechanisms for gaining financial security and skills needed to build their independent future.

d. Enable young people to overcome the rising cost of living, which disproportionately affects them, by providing sufficient, equitable support, resources, and opportunities.

e. Promote young people's right to health by ensuring access to quality healthcare, prevention measures, and opportunities for physical recreation across rural and urban communities.

f. Maintain and expand public spaces, cultural amenities and infrastructure to be youth-friendly, through co-creation, ensuring they are inclusive, accessible, and wisely located.

EYG#10: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Background: The impacts of climate change and environmental crisis are rapidly worsening, impacting the present and future of young people. A just transition requires urgent actions that are backed by science-based evidence and consider intergenerational fairness and equity. These actions must consider and prioritise disproportionately affected communities.

Goal: Achieve an equitable, sustainable and climate-neutral Europe, through urgent action, and stronger accountability, where young people are fully integrated into policy and decision-making

Subgoals:

a. Ensure a just transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral Europe that creates opportunities for all people, and that does not widen existing inequalities.

b. Ensure institutions urgently develop, implement and enforce ambitious existing and future legislation on sustainability.

c. Use legislative and financial measures to support urgent climate adaptation in order to protect vulnerable groups and create resilience.

d. Develop more effective legislation to hold corporations financially and legally accountable for their impact on climate change.

e. Ensure equitable access to an affordable and sustainable way of living for all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities or facing socio-economic barriers.

f. Guarantee that young people have an influential role throughout the entire decision-making process and at all levels of climate and sustainability governance.

g. Acknowledge that the climate crisis contributes to conflict affecting young people and respond with internationally coordinated peace-building and solidarity measures.

EYG#11: YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, YOUTH WORK AND EU PROGRAMMES

Background: Youth organisations, youth work and EU youth programmes involve millions of young people. They support young people's active citizenship, develop their life skills and strengthen their connection with European values. However, youth organisations, youth work and EU youth programmes remain underfunded and lack recognition and accessibility, shrinking the civic space for young people

Goal: Ensure equal access for all young people to youth organisations, youth work and the EU youth programmes, building a society based on European values and identity.

Subgoals:

a. Ensure equal opportunities to participate in youth organisations, youth groups, youth work and EU youth programmes for all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities

b. Increase the visibility of youth organisations, youth work, and EU youth programmes, and provide quality information on them.

c. Ensure youth organisations, youth work, and EU youth programmes are fully linked with educational systems, and recognise youth organisations and youth workers as actors who foster life skills, democracy, and active citizenship.

d. Increase the resources and diversify the grants and initiatives available for youth organisations, youth groups and youth work.

e. Commit to accessible, inclusive, and adequately funded European youth programmes that provide structural, financial, and individual support for youth work, youth organisations, and informal groups of young people.

f. Ensure EU programmes provide sufficient resources for youth organisations to develop projects, access structural support, carry out their missions, and support their work.

g. Ensure meaningful participation of young people in the governance processes of EU youth programmes.

EYG#12: PEACE AND SECURITY

Background: Security is a growing concern for young people across Europe. Domestic and global security issues affect all areas of life, amplifying the vulnerabilities of our society. Young people should be educated, supported, recognised and included in creating a peaceful world.

Goal: Enable and empower young people to contribute to a peaceful and safe Europe.

Subgoals:

a. Recognise and engage young people inclusively and meaningfully, as actors in building sustainable peace, and contributors to participatory decision-making processes, while holding stakeholders accountable.

b. Ensure young people can exercise their freedom of speech, protest and other civic rights safely in online and offline spaces.

c. Guarantee peace and human rights education through non-formal learning and formal education, so young people gain the competences and values to ensure peace and build resilient societies.

d. Ensure young people are protected from physical, psychological, verbal and other forms of violence, while also providing targeted support to those who have been affected.

e. Empower the youth sector to strengthen crisis preparedness and response through knowledge, skills and sustainable resources.

f. Ensure young people are able to resist and tackle the influence of radicalisation and polarisation.

g. Recognise and support vulnerable and marginalised groups who are disproportionately affected by conflict and crisis situations.