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WORKING PAPER

INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Youth Working Party
Subject:	Background information concerning the 6th cycle of the EU Structured Dialogue with young people.

Delegations will find attached background information provided by the Presidency during the Youth Working Party meeting on 29 September 2017 concerning the 6th cycle of the EU Structured Dialogue with young people.

6th Cycle of the EU Structured Dialogue with Young People

“Youth in Europe: what’s next?”

July 2017 - December 2018

TOPIC OUTLINE

With the current EU Youth Strategy coming to an end in 2018, there is a unique opportunity to rethink and further improve how the EU is working with young people and on the issues that matter to young people. In addition, the current discussion on the Future of Europe and the future of not only the European project but also of Europe as a continent presents a significant opportunity to discuss the future for youth.

The VI Cycle of Structured Dialogue has the momentum to examine what do young people expect from the EU to allow them to live prosperous, sustainable and successful lives. Progressing towards the adoption of a new EU Youth Strategy at the end of 2018, the VI Cycle will gain a broad overview and participation of young people on what they expect from the EU and its cross-sectoral youth policies today and over the next decade. This will include feedback from a wide range and high number of young people on different areas EU youth policy should focus on, as well as more detailed discussions on how the strategy could work most efficiently, responding to young people’s needs, rights and aspirations. From the very beginning of the Cycle on 1st of July 2017, young people and decision makers can discuss and decide ideas or recommendations using young people’s opinions as the basis, while taking into account EU competences and feasibility. This ensures that the final outcomes of the 6th Cycle of the Structured dialogues – to be formulated as Youth Goals - will concretely impact future EU policy. The outcomes of the VI cycle would feed directly: 1) into the draft of the EU Youth Strategy of the Commission and 2) into the final document adopted by the Council. This would be the first time in the history of the Structured Dialogue that such immediate and tangible outcomes would be apparent.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The 6th Cycle of the Structured Dialogue is an 18 month process composed of three 6-month long Presidencies (Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria) and three European Youth Conferences (EUYC): 1st EUYC in Tallinn (23-26.October 2017); 2nd EUYC in Sofia (April 2018) and 3rd EUYC in Vienna (September 2018).

After the 1st EU Youth conference, there will be a pan-European consultation launched through National Working Groups (NWGs) and International non governmental youth organisations (INGYOs) to engage with a broad youth population to have their say on the topics and questions raised during the 1st conference. The results of these consultations from across Europe will be summarised, and will be a valuable input to the organisation of the 2nd EU Youth Conference. Moreover, youth and ministerial representatives will be able to base their conference contribution on their specific consultation findings. The third EU Youth Conference will focus on disseminating the results and discussing the possible implementation of the EU Youth Strategy, while also paying attention to the ideas that have not been fed into the EU Youth Strategy draft for different reasons. Or that could even be relevant for policy areas and initiatives, such as the Future of Europe discussion, the EU’s work on the social pillar etc.

These results, together with further ideas developed during the three EUYCs, will be fed into the European Commission's draft proposal on the new EU Youth Strategy (to be published before summer 2018), the Council of the EU's final Resolution and debates on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. The proposed timeline foresees the adoption of the next EU Youth Strategy by the Council of the EU Youth Ministers in November 2018 with the perspective that it will be effective from January 2019 onwards.

On 22nd of May 2017 the Council of youth ministers adopted the Council Resolution on the Structured Dialogue and the future development of the dialogue with young people in the context of policies for European cooperation in the youth field, post 2018. It states:

“Given that the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018) will conclude in 2018, the overall priority for the structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations for the next work cycle (1 July 2017 to 31 December 2018) should be focused on the next framework for the European cooperation in the youth field. The title for the sixth cycle of the Structured Dialogue will be “Youth in Europe: what's next?”.

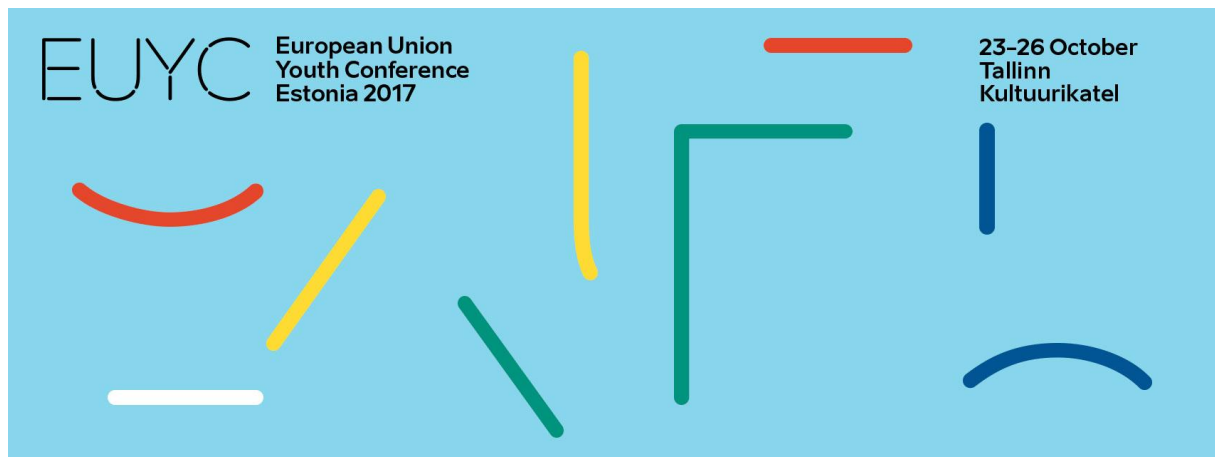
The focus of the next trio Presidencies - Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria - for the sixth work cycle of the Structured Dialogue will be to evaluate, review and renew the Structured Dialogue to further improve and promote it.“

Following that mandate, the European Steering Committee (ESC) has aimed to introduce several changes into the process of the 6th cycle, including:

- the overall logic and planned outcomes of the 6th cycle throughout its different stages;
- diversification of youth participating in the process of the dialogue;
- diversification of methodology used throughout the process, including conferences and consultation;
- involvement of professional youth research competence to support the overall quality of the process in different stages.

The Document explaining the approach to the 1st EUYC in Tallinn in October reflects on these elements as they have been planned for the 1st stage while all these will be incorporated and realised equally all throughout the 6th Cycle, through the next Conferences and consultation phase.

The Steering Committee of the Structured Dialogue is looking forward to good cooperation with all the stakeholders in order to support the good quality implementation of the 6th Cycle.



6th cycle of the Structured dialogue “Youth in Europe: what’s next?”

1st EU YOUTH CONFERENCE

23th – 26rd October 2017 in Tallinn Creative Hub, Estonia

The 1st EU Conference in the frame of the 6th cycle of the Structured dialogue will take place in Tallinn, Estonia and it aims to bring together young people, youth policy makers and other stakeholders from the youth field in order to:

- explore what really matters to the young people today (with possible outlook into the future);
- map all possible questions, topics, worries, hopes, problems and challenges influencing the young people and their lives today and in the future.

Having done so, in terms of **preliminary expected results**, the 1st EU Youth Conference aims to create an input that will:

- inform the guidelines for the open youth consultation to be launched in all the EU Member States as part of the Structured dialogue during the period November 2017-February 2018.
- in long term, inform the proposal for the next EU Youth Strategy, to be published by the European Commission early summer 2018 (tbc).

The Conference will bring together **approx 260 participants**, including **young people, youth policy makers and other stakeholders from youth field** from the **EU Member States, Eastern Partnership Countries and other partner regions** as well as **additional experts** and representatives of organisations from youth field and to certain extent also beyond.

All in all, the planning and organisation of the Conference in Tallinn respects the general outline of the 6th cycle of the Structured dialogue, as agreed by the Steering Committee of the Structured dialogue, involving representatives of Presidencies of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria; European Youth Forum and European Commission as well as the wider political context regarding the Structured dialogue as set out in the Council Resolution on the Structured Dialogue and the future development of the dialogue with young people in the context of policies for European cooperation in the youth field post 2018 (8034/17) and in the Council conclusions on strategic perspectives for European cooperation in the youth field post 2018 (8035/17).

The Conference will be organised by the **Estonian Ministry of Education and Research**, in cooperation with the **Estonian Youth Work Centre** and **creative partners** from Musiccase Ltd & Kingent Management Ltd (know also as the core creative and event management team for Tallinn Music Week, official opening party Enter e-Estonia of the Europe's leading startup event Slush in 2016 etc.), with the strong support of **Estonian National Youth Council**.

The guiding concept of the Conference is inspired by the latest rapid digital developments that have its impacts to the everyday life of our society in all of its aspects, notably to youth population, but showing itself also in the new formats of work and business models as well as in new ways of self-expression and self-development. The Conference is grounded on the belief that the future of Europe and society at large is dependant on young people. Hence it is of utmost importance to create good and supportive conditions for young people. Here, Estonia is one the countries where the young generation has had a key role in building up the society in its modern terms after restoration of independence since 1990-ies. We are proud of some of the outstanding examples of our youth leadership and entrepreneurship, for example Markus Villig who founded Taxify as a high-school graduate, or Mart Laar and Taavi Rõivas being respectively 32 and 34 years old at their first terms of Prime Ministers of the Republic of Estonia. This year we are happy to open the voting at local elections to young people since the age of 16. All of these are only some of the examples of how we believe in power of young people.

However, in order for all this to happen, there need to be certain conditions created and it is important to support that young people can create a meaningful relationship with their surrounding, be it in terms of social networks and people around them; environment, society at large.

The Conference organisation is supported by a dedicated website: <http://youthconf.eu/> (in addition to social media: Facebook etc). While it is work in progress and will be further amended with information throughout the coming weeks, it can already give you a first glimpse into the overall approach as well as into the visual identity of the Conference. Speaking of, the concept can be characterised by key-words like **innovative, smart, playful, internationally impactful, original and creative**. All these will be present in different elements of the Conference, for example:

- through the **general guiding principles** of the Conference and its approaches, being **engaging, interactive and celebrating diversity**,
- inviting everybody present at the Conference, all through its programme, to use their **Head (to follow your curiosity), Heart (to participate and share honestly and openly) and Hands (to make it visible)**
- through the overall approach to the Conference programme design trying to aim for **dynamic and diverse space for learning and sharing** with different programme elements encouraging learning and sharing with people at the Conference space and beyond; through self-organised participation formats, use of digital solutions, different arts, interactive spaces etc.

In line with the overall ambitions of the 6th cycle of the structured dialogue, we aim to further enforce some additional quality elements, like:

- **Diversification of young people** in the structured dialogue process and the EU Youth Conference respectively in cooperation with National Working Groups as they are responsible for nomination of youth delegates. It will be further supported through the use of **smart solutions (and web-streaming** of the Conference by **Estonian Public Broadcasting** during some parts of the Conference programme) with a view to open the Conference to more young people and facilitate their voice as input to the Conference as well. It means enhancing the participation of young people from Estonia and the rest of Europe more largely through the cooperation with the **Estonian**

National Youth Council, Association of Open Youth Centres in Estonia and other partners from national youth field as well as from Europe.

All this will hopefully also support **the wider involvement of young people and youth field in the process of EU Youth Conference**. One of the additional elements in this regard is also the involvement of **Change makers** – the Network created in the frame of the EU Youth Week in spring 2017 to promote and disseminate the experiences of Erasmus+ programme through the network of people with personal programme experiences. The representative of Estonia in Change makers Network, Anett Männiste, will be personally participating in the Conference and the rest of the Network will be invited to take part through web-streaming.

- Involvement of professional **youth research expertise in cooperation with the European Pool of Youth Researchers of EU-CoE Youth Partnership**. Also, for **better harvesting and sense-making of the results of the Conference**, cooperation with small group of experts (youth researchers, facilitators of the Conference, some additional experts and youth representatives) is foreseen, so that they take a role in actively collecting and reflecting on Conference programme and proceedings and take a role to formulate these into the final output of the Conference in the format of **Guidelines for the Youth Consultations in the Member States**, to be launched as result of the 1st EU Youth Conference in November 2017.
- With the view to wider impact and dissemination of the Conference results, cooperation with **Coyote magazine of EU-CoE Youth Partnership** on their future edition on smart youth work topic is foreseen.

The general conceptual approach, the principles and key quality elements described above will be taken into consideration when further designing the programme of the Conference in cooperation with the **leading team of facilitators: Piret Jeedas** ([Ruumiloojad](#), Estonia), **David Jul** ([Kaospilot](#), Danmark) and **Tea Jarc** (Slovenia, nominated through the European Youth Forum).

Even though the general approach of the 1st EU Youth conference in the frame of the 6th cycle is aiming to experiment with the programme outline and some other quality elements, it is our ambition to make sure that the 1st Conference will be well synchronised with the 2nd and the 3rd Conferences of the same cycle. In this regard, it has already been confirmed that Tea Jarc will be involved as facilitator in all the three Conferences planned in during the 6th cycle. In addition, the hand-over from the 1st Conference will be supported through written evaluation report by the team of facilitators as well as through the work of the Steering Committee of the Structured dialogue.

The 1st EU Youth Conference of the 6th cycle will take place in Tallinn Creative Hub. You can take a first glance at it in this video : <https://www.eesistumine.ee/en/multimedia/presidency-venue>

But what is even better – you are very welcome to join us and experience all that yourself on spot!

The detailed programme of the Conference is being finalised by the team of facilitators and will be published in the beginning of October.

CONCEPTUAL FACTSHEET FOR EUYC TALLINN: “Youth in Europe: what’s next?”, 1st phase:

Overall purpose:

To shape the future through exploring together the most burning issues, questions, concerns and ideas related to young people of today.

Why we come together?

- Create a space for meaningful conversations and connections across countries and backgrounds.
- Explore what matters to the young people today (with possible outlook into the future).
- Map all possible topics, questions, concerns and ideas for the future.

Overall outcomes: What we want to reach?

- Make visible diverse themes: Burning questions, unspoken issues and future ideas influencing young people.
- Inform the guidelines for the open youth consultation to be launched in all the EU Member States as part of the Structured Dialogue during the period November 2017 – February 2018.
- In long term, inform the proposal for the next EU Youth Strategy, to be published by the European Commission early summer 2018 (tbc).
- New perspectives to bring back home.

Working principles:

- Head (explore and inquire into what matters, what you care about)
- Heart (bring your passions, listening, empathy, connect to others)
- Hand (express yourself in different formats, make it visible)

Our approach: How?

- Self-organised and self-initiated: participants actively engaged in offering most burning conversations and finding the best way to work together
- Working with trust towards participants
- Embracing diversity, supporting the cooperation among different actors
- A space to share, explore and unfold
- Dare to inquire deeply, dare to challenge, speak the unspoken.
- Bring doubts, frustrations, hopes and dreams to the surface
- Step back and see what is happening in the wider field of youth. What new angles we haven't touched upon? What has not been reached and why?

Who? - Role of the participants

- Participants are at the centre of the conference and co-creating the process and the programme.
- Participants bring their wisdom (experience, competences, perspectives).
- We see participants as the shakers and shapers of the future.
- It matters for me to be here because: “I can share, I am heard, my ideas are captured and used in a meaningful way”.

Program elements

- Short inputs to spark curiosity, depth, future-orientation (incl speakers)
- Meaningful dialogue (asking questions, inquiring into, empathic listening, challenging assumptions, speak the unspoken)
- Different ways to express oneself (offline/online, creative)
- Place to connect across generations and field of work (breaks, welcome tours, informal meetings, evening program)
- Dynamic and creative places : using physical place as a source of inspiration (start-up area, city tours, venue, museum)
- Making visible : harvesting the essence (offline/online tools, improvisation, art)
- Researching the field: researches using the data to see what emerges and thus inform the consultation
- Supporters: looking for patterns, themes and making them visible for others (engaging contributors, small, diverse group)
- Connecting to young people outside of conference for input
- Using different means to communicate out of the conference room (FB/Twitter/Instagram)
- Preparing the participants: (short video, newsletters, webinars for National Working Groups)