

# Contribution of Erasmus Student Network to the 9th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue

Trio Presidency of France, the Czech Republic and Sweden 2022-2023

## Introduction

The following report outlines the active participation of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) in the [9th Cycle](#) of the [EU Youth Dialogue](#), held during the Trio presidency of France, Czech Republic and Sweden. ESN, as the representative of international and exchange students, played a crucial role in advocating for their interests and perspectives throughout the process. The 9th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue had as thematic priorities Youth Goal #10 Sustainable Green Europe and Youth Goal #3 Inclusive Societies under the title “Engaging together for a sustainable and inclusive Europe”.

**EU Youth Conference** Virtual Conference hosted by the French Presidency, 24-26 January 2022

## Objectives

- Explore the theme of the Ninth Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue: "Engaging together for a sustainable and inclusive Europe."
- Identify and rank priorities related to sustainability and inclusivity.
- Select topics for national consultations on youth engagement.
- Provide input into the draft text submitted to the Council by the French Presidency, i.e. draft conclusions to fostering engagement among young people as agents of change to protect the environment
- Present the conclusions to the European Ministers of Education and Youth during their meeting on January 27, 2022, in Strasbourg.

## **ESN's Contribution**

- ESN stressed the significance of Mobility and Solidarity at the EU Youth Conference. It emphasised the importance of accessibility to mobility for all, highlighted its positive impact on personal development and employment rates. ESN aims to improve public understanding of mobility programmes and unite different groups through effective communication. It approached the 9th Cycle as a starting point to empower current and future generations towards inclusive and sustainable practices.

## **EU Youth Conference Prague, Czech Republic 11-13 June 2022**

### **Objectives**

- Involve young people in discussions and deliberations on spreading good practices in the areas of inclusion and sustainability.
- Focus on good practice examples submitted by EU Youth Dialogue National Working Groups.
- Identify conditions for creating additional good practices in various contexts of inclusion and sustainability. Explore success factors contributing to the development of good practices. Discuss support mechanisms to establish policy and practice environments that facilitate good practice design and implementation.

### **Main Outcomes**

The conference participants identified key success factors contributing to the creation of good practices in the fields of sustainability and inclusion. These factors include

- Low thresholds for participation within projects and initiatives.
- Access to trustworthy information.
- Accessible and attractive communication and outreach approaches.
- Political participation mechanisms that hold decision-makers accountable.

These success factors are detailed in the conference report, along with other significant points from the conference program.

### **Mid-Term Review Report**

The Mid-Term Report highlighted the following key conclusions regarding the importance of:

- Finding the right mix of aims and methods: This involves considering various approaches, such as involving different organisations and partners, and combining policy and practice strategies.
- Finding synergies: Identifying opportunities for collaboration between national and international levels, as well as fostering cooperation among different bodies, to enhance the effectiveness of initiatives.
- Finding the right composition of authors: Ensuring diverse representation, including policymakers from different contexts and young people from all walks of life, to enrich the perspectives and outcomes of projects.
- Capitalising on innovations: Leveraging the cumulative effect of establishing good practices to drive further advancements and improvements.
- Setting inclusion as a default approach: Making inclusivity an inherent and essential aspect of all activities and initiatives.
- Employing intergenerational dialogue: Promoting constructive communication and collaboration between different generations to foster mutual understanding and learning.
- Strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation: Facilitating collaboration among different sectors and stakeholders to tackle complex challenges and achieve comprehensive solutions.

## EU Youth Conference Växjö, Sweden 20-22 March 2023

### Objectives

- Formulate recommendations that link with Youth Goals 3 and 10 which fed into the [\*Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the outcomes of the 9th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue.\*](#)
- Reflection on the process of the EU Youth Dialogue.

### ESN's Contribution

- Actively participated in the working group “Mobility & Solidarity”. As a product of discussions and deliberations between Youth Delegates and policy-makers a recommendation was formulated, which was approved by the Council of the European Union on May 15-16th 2023.
- Co-presented the recommendation of the working group at the plenary session:  
  
16. Recommendation for sub-theme 4 on mobility and solidarity: We urge the European Commission and the Member States to create action plans, aimed at the formal

education sector and at the labour market, in order to ensure formal recognition of experience and key competences acquired through participation in volunteering and learning mobility’.

## **Outcomes**

- In light of the EU Youth Dialogue's outcomes, it is of utmost importance to move beyond mere documentation and ensure accountability, measuring the impact of the proposals. To effectively translate these written commitments into tangible actions at the national and local levels, active implementation of the approved recommendations, coupled with robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, is crucial.
- In regard to the recommendation produced by the Working Group on Mobility & Solidarity by “urging the European Commission and the Member States to create action plans for the formal recognition of experience and key competences gained through volunteering and learning mobility”, we strive to unlock the potential of young people. Implementation is essential as it paves the way for tangible benefits, ensuring that the skills and knowledge acquired through these experiences are acknowledged and valued in both formal education settings and the labor market.

## **Youth Dialogue Breakfast Brussels, Belgium 15 May, 2023**

Representatives of the Trio Presidencies (Ministries and National Youth Councils), European Commission, European Youth Forum. ESN was the only representative of INGOs.

## **Objectives**

- How to engage more young people in the EU Youth Dialogue and make it better known among Europe’s young people, especially among young people with fewer opportunities?
- How to improve follow-up and transparency on how the messages from the EU Youth Dialogue influence policy areas that impact young people’s daily lives, as well as their future?

## **ESN's Contribution**

- Engaged in meaningful discussion with stakeholders to further enhance EU Youth Dialogue.

- Highlighted the significance of international student mobility for young people, especially in view of the upcoming European elections 2024.

## **Legacy Event on Mainstreaming of Youth Policy Brussels, Belgium 19 June, 2023**

### **Objectives**

- Highlight best practices of mainstreaming, especially linked to climate, labour market and mental health
- Reflecting on the EU Youth Dialogue role in mainstreaming

### **ESN's Contribution**

- Shared insights on how youth policy relates to ESN's policy area of international education and mobility.
- Present during the break-out session impact assessment tools of ESN (ex. [ESNsurvey](#))
- Emphasised the importance of incorporating youth perspectives into policies, especially of international students.

### **Reflection**

#### **Role of INGOs in the EUYD**

- To enhance collaboration and effectiveness, it is suggested that the coordination of International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations (INGYOs) and National Youth Councils (NYCs) be outsourced to the European Youth Forum (YFJ), fostering better alignment of objectives and streamlining communication channels. This would optimise resource utilisation, enable strategic planning, and ensure efficient evaluation throughout the cycle, ultimately strengthening the collective impact of these organisations. Especially before each EU Youth Conference.
- INGYOs encounter the challenge of uncertainty regarding their expected contributions to the EU Youth Dialogue, as their roles appear to be dynamic and subject to significant variations across different cycles. Clarifying and defining the expectations placed upon INGYOs in this context is crucial to empower them to actively participate and effectively contribute to the dialogue, ensuring their valuable perspectives and expertise are fully recognized and utilised.

## Conclusion

ESN's participation in the 9th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue during the Trio presidency was marked by active engagement, constructive dialogue, and advocacy for the interests of the Erasmus Generation. By actively contributing to three EU Youth Conferences, the Legacy Event & the Youth Dialogue Breakfast of the Swedish Presidency, ESN demonstrated its commitment to empowering young people and ensuring their voices are heard in shaping policies and initiatives at the European level.

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## About ESN

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is a non-profit international student organisation. ESN has 44 National Organisations and more than 500 local associations, active in more than 1000 Higher Education Institutions. Our mission is to represent international students, thus providing opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of Students Helping Students.

## Contact

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