

The Declaration of Luxembourg

**Declaration on the outcomes of the Youth Event hosted by the Luxembourg
Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Luxembourg
National Youth Council**

Luxembourg, 24-26 April 2005

Preamble

2005 is an important year for the future of youth in Europe. The European Youth Pact was adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the European Union as one of the instruments of the Lisbon Strategy, which brought youth issues on the employment, education, social and economic agendas, as well as on the agenda of the European Heads of State and Government. This meant a big step forward in realising the White Paper's objective of taking more account of youth in other policies than (vertical) youth policy.

Volunteering is one of the central issues in youth policies. Hundreds of thousands of young people in Europe are active volunteers of some kind, in local associations or clubs, local, regional or national organisations, or even on an international level. Since the adoption of common objectives on voluntary activities and greater knowledge and understanding of youth in November 2004, the first cycles of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in the youth field are now fully in their implementation phase. Member states now have to give real meaning to the OMC by implementing measures that bring about positive change for young people.

This declaration was drawn up during the Youth Event that took place from 24 to 26 April 2005 during Luxembourg's Presidency of the European Union. Young people from the 25 Member States of the European Union, the European Union Candidate Countries, the Member States from the European Free Trade Agreement Area, Croatia and the European Youth Forum took part in this event. It was organised in the framework of Luxembourg's Presidency by the Ministry of Family Affairs and Integration, with co-funding of the European Commission and the assistance of the Luxembourgish National Youth Council and the European Youth Forum. This declaration reflects the discussions and issues that were raised by the participants during the Youth Event on two issues: the implementation of the common objectives on voluntary activities and the newly adopted European Youth Pact.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a precondition for every working democracy and for a strong society. Giving young people the chance to get involved in political processes, community work and dialogues with other cultures creates the active, independent and "thinking" human beings that form the basis of our European societies. Especially young people want to learn by doing and they want to be engaged in something that they enjoy. Being involved in youth work on a voluntary basis offers them this possibility. However, we stress that volunteering must not be used to camouflage unemployment, or as a substitute for employment.

Volunteering does not only offer the chance to acquire social values, it also helps to strengthen the individual skills of young people, to gain experiences as well as to learn about the principles of life. Further it strengthens communicative and interpersonal skills and helps develop management and leadership capacities.

The EU Youth ministers recently adopted common objectives on voluntary activities. We strongly support the objectives that were set, but we are aware of the fact that reaching these objectives entirely depends on the success of the implementation phase. We have identified four important challenges that have to be met to improve volunteering policies, and we have some suggestions of possible ways to answer these challenges. The implementation can only be successful, if all these challenges are answered in a combined effort by the European Commission, the national governments, youth organisations and the European Youth Forum.

Promotion

Until today, too few young people are doing voluntary work. Not because they are not interested in it, but because there is too little awareness about the possibilities and the added value it can offer. We ask the governments to take measures aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding amongst decision makers, society at large and young people, about the value of volunteering. In close cooperation with youth organisations and other actors in the field of volunteering, pan-European and national campaigns have to be organised to raise visibility of voluntary work. Coordinated national research should be undertaken to facilitate the development of this information.

We consider promotion of volunteering as a crucial objective in developing activities in the future. The 5th of December, the International Volunteers Day, is an important instrument to increase the awareness about volunteering. However, this day has to be promoted much better by decision makers and us young people. By organising various activities and information campaigns we are willing to contribute to the success of the International Volunteer Day. We stress nevertheless, that information about volunteering should not be provided only one day a year. We see the necessity of running information campaigns on volunteering in schools, universities and other environments of young people throughout the year. A good opportunity for such information campaigns is the “All Different All Equal Campaign”, run by the Council of Europe, which allows a big number of youth organisations to recruit new volunteers and inform about their work.

In order to increase the participation in voluntary activities, programmes promoting these forms of activity have to be set up and extended. Especially relevant for European volunteering is the European YOUTH Programme, which should be more effectively promoted in the member states.

The best propaganda for voluntary work remain young people who actively take part in volunteering and share their positive experiences with friends and other young people. Additional information has to be disseminated in schools, universities and youth organisations. Also an exchange of best practices about volunteering should be established, targeted at state authorities and decision makers as well as young people.

Development

In order to continuously meet the challenges faced by volunteers and voluntary activities in an ever changing environment, it needs constant development. Volunteering as a concept has to be adapted to the development of society.

A big challenge remains the inclusion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into voluntary work. For these people volunteering is often not interesting, because they cannot afford to spend a long time doing unpaid work, they do not know enough about volunteering and they do not see an added value of being a volunteer. Therefore we need improved information about the advantages of voluntary work as well as better recognition of volunteering.

Several national policies influence opportunities for volunteering. The implementation of these policies needs to be harmonised and aimed at creating more opportunities for undertaking voluntary work. First of all, volunteering must be recognised through legislation and policies on the national level, as being distinct from other modes of activity, such as

employment and education. The establishment of a national centre for volunteers, responsible for providing volunteers with a nexus of information and for voicing their opinions on volunteering policies, could also be an important step forward.

The European Voluntary Service programme has been very successful and we would like to see more people profiting from this programme. Also a national voluntary service could be set up to provide opportunities for mobility within the member states. However the number of people that can possibly be reached with such programmes will always be less than the people volunteering in other settings. More attention should be devoted to opportunities for youth volunteers to be active in the framework of youth organisations, other NGOs and special youth activities, like, amongst other, the activities funded through other actions of the YOUTH programme.

Removing Obstacles

There are various obstacles that prevent young people from volunteering. The main obstacles can be divided into four categories: visa problems, economic obstacles, lack of information and insufficient recognition of voluntary work on different levels. The in-transparent and bureaucratic visa application procedures of the EU member states is preventing young people from outside the EU from undertaking voluntary work in the EU. Also EU citizens face problems in obtaining visa when they want to volunteer outside the EU.

We propose more unified procedures, better information as well as the recognition of volunteering as a specific purpose for entering a country. Also, a legal status should be accorded to voluntary activity to ensure that all volunteers can reside legally in the country where they are volunteering.

A second obstacle to tackle is the economical situation of potential volunteers as well as youth organisations offering opportunities for volunteering. Special efforts should be made and additional resources should be provided to support young people with fewer opportunities to volunteer. We want governments to ensure that youth organisations receive sufficient recognition and support to be able to offer quality volunteering opportunities to as many young people as possible. These organisations should, apart from project funding, also receive sufficient structural funding to cover their administrative costs.

Also other obstacles to volunteering, such as the lack of information on possibilities for undertaking voluntary work (see above) and insufficient recognition of its value (see below), should be tackled. Also regular reports on the obstacles to mobility should inform and sensitise authorities as well as the public about these issues.

Recognition

A better recognition of voluntary activities, on national as well as EU level, is crucial to making voluntary work more attractive. All forms of volunteering should be recognised on an equal basis. It is also important to recognise and support providers and organisers of voluntary work. In particular the role and added value of participatory youth organisations as providers of opportunities to volunteer, while at the same time actively participating in the organisation, should receive special recognition.

Member states as well as the EU should undertake efforts to promote volunteering by providing necessary resources and by consulting young people in the implementation and assessment of the common objectives on voluntary activities. We would like to see the

involvement of young people and youth organisations in decision-making processes regarding volunteering.

A major condition of success in developing volunteering policies is to ensure that social networks and families, employers, government and education institutions recognise the value of volunteering and of the non-formal learning that volunteering provides. A concrete idea to ensure the recognition of volunteering is the creation of a national award for volunteers. Additionally, there could be networking seminars organised between volunteers and prospective employers in the private and public sectors. These have to be based on the idea of partnerships between national youth councils on the one side, and public sector services on the other. Also cooperation between the private sector and youth organisations as well as youth councils is possible, for example in the framework of involving young people better in the macroeconomic dialogue. Another important step would be the recognition of volunteering in education. Therefore all schools should allow students who wish to do so, to participate in voluntary work for at least five school days a year, without risking losing their grades or possibilities of taking exams etc.

Youth Pact

At the Spring European Council of 22 – 23 March, the EU Heads of State and Government adopted a European Youth Pact as one of the instruments contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon Objectives. We very much welcome this initiative, which adds a youth dimension to the overall Lisbon Strategy. We are also glad to see the incorporation of the line of action of the European Youth Pact in the proposal for Integrated Guidelines. Now it comes down to translating these guidelines into ambitious national reform programmes. That includes concrete targets aimed at achieving measurable results for young people, based on the following recommendations.

Employment and social integration

For young people in Europe, unemployment is an issue of key concern. In many countries, the rate of youth unemployment is even bigger than the normal unemployment rate. This is particularly relevant, since young people without a job quickly face poverty and slowly get excluded from society. Especially young people that have been unemployed for a longer term, have seldom a chance to find their way back into the labour market. Although all these developments have been recognised in the Lisbon Strategy, so far no improvements are to be seen.

Even if young people find a job, they face discrimination in many ways: jobs for young people are rather unstable; young face poorer working conditions and have less social rights. Special attention needs to be paid at the transition period from education to employment. When this period is too long, these young people lose the skills they have just required and every year their chances decrease to contribute to the economic development of Europe and to their own well being. Even if they get a new job after a few years, they will face difficulties adapting to the working environment. Despite good initiatives on the EU level on gender discrimination, unemployment among young women is still considerably higher than among men. New initiatives, tackling these problems, should be launched. Also the integration of migrants and groups from disadvantaged groups has to be guaranteed.

We young Europeans ask for a real commitment of all EU governments to decrease the unemployment rate considerably. A special focus needs to be put on improving the working conditions, guarantee more rights, ensure gender equality and integrate the social excluded. The first step towards bringing more young people into work is the creation of new jobs. Both governments and the private sector need to prioritise employment even more than previously. Concrete measures proposed are to give financial incentives, such as tax reductions, to companies hiring young people. Further, the introduction of compulsory internships, improved education in communication skills and the recognition of extracurricular activities will help young people to access the labour market. In addition, we ask for the creation of career centres which help to coordinate the cooperation between governments, national agencies for employment, the education system, the employment market, and the unemployed. Furthermore, we ask for the governments to promote entrepreneurship for young people as an alternative for conventional jobs, and to improve the conditions of being self employed.

Education, Training, Mobility and Citizenship

A competitive European economy is highly dependent on well qualified and educated citizens. Therefore it is the field of education and training that requires special attention. As regards education, we recommended the recognition of non formal education and validation of competencies gained from these activities making these transferable within society on local, national and European level. Further, we call for a better recognition and comparability of certificates and degrees in Europe by developing common standards.

A big challenge for the education policy of the member states is the high number of early school leavers. One of the reasons why many young people do not go to school is because they get bored in classes which they do not consider as relevant and interesting. Concrete measures to make school a more attractive place would be a broadening of the syllabi, thus providing a bigger choice for the youth to choose a subject they are interested in. Besides, there should be a bigger choice of extracurricular activities that give young people the chance to do something interesting in the framework of their school day.

In the field of training we strongly recommend the further implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration which is establishing the framework for European standards and recognition of vocational training.

In order to improve mobility of young people in Europe, we ask for standardising visa regulations and make them more transparent. A European-wide accepted transparency index for Visa procedures would be an important step in this perspective. Young people active in youth work and asking for a Visa face the problem that they are neither tourists, nor employed. Therefore there is no Visa-category they can apply for. We ask for a special youth work visa to be developed. In order to help young people to require Visa, a standard invitation for young volunteers, accepted by all European Embassies, could be developed. Furthermore we would like to see free and easy access to visas for young people who participate in youth work.

The knowledge of languages plays an important role for mobility. In light of the eastern enlargement, we stress the importance to promote the learning of all European languages, not only English. This could be facilitated by the establishment of language centres across Europe or the development of existing centres.

We strongly condemn the fact that the European Youth Pact pays no attention to the entire field of participation, volunteering and citizenship. From our point of view, the link between participation, volunteering, citizenship, training and education is essential for fulfilling the Lisbon strategy. We would like to see greater steps being taken to bring policy makers and young people together in decision making in order to encourage greater participation by young people as active citizens.

Mainstreaming and new priorities

The European Youth Pact added a strong youth focus to certain aspects of the Lisbon Strategy. This is an important step forward in realising the White Paper objective of taking more account of youth in other policies. However, we would like to see a permanent and wide mainstreaming of youth in the future.

As a general principle, member states and the EU should always consult representative youth organisations when the decisions made will affect the lives of young people. This consultation should take place at the different stages of the policy processes affecting young people: the drafting and implementation as well as the final evaluation. Youth organisations should have the right of appeal on issues that concern young people.

Youth is a diverse group. It is important that this should be recognised by the member states and the EU and taken into account when involving youth in decision making.

Beside this general principle, we propose that EU member states agree on a list of areas of high importance to young people. Some of the policy fields of this non-exclusive list are governance, health, housing and employment. This list should be completed by co-management structures in the member states.

Demographic challenges

Current demographic trends confront us with challenges in the following four distinct areas: intergenerational solidarity, immigration, flexibility in moving from the labour force into education and, finally, the birth rate and women in the workforce.

In the sphere of intergenerational issues we consider that a rigid retiring age is no longer applicable in today's society, recognising that many people would not be ready to retire and that the skills shortage by retiring workers cannot be filled. Also recognising that there already exists a skills shortage in the EU that cannot be filled with the domestic workforce, greater attempts should be made to attract skilled workers from outside the Union. However a proper programme of integration of immigrants needs to be crafted, with an emphasis on language and cultural training—to avoid problematic situations that have recently arisen.

A better transition process between formal education and entering the labour market is required, allowing young people to work earlier and return to education later—also returning workers who need to retrain for their careers.

In relation to the topic of raising young families a fundamental re-appraisal of the role of men and women in the home and work place is needed. Common EU regulations are required to establish and highlight maternity leave rights to allow either the man or woman to take career breaks to raise young children. Also a new found respect is needed for house parents who

have taken the decision to leave the labour force and raise a family; they also contribute greatly to society.

In conclusion we consider that the Green Paper on confronting demographic change is not adequate, in that it appears simplistic in thinking that more children would solve the current demographic problems. It also appeared incompatible with the Lisbon Agenda, which advocates higher labour productivity with fewer people, against the reality of taking people out of the work force to raise young families.

Conclusions

We participants of the Luxembourg Youth Event welcome the initiative of the Heads of Government and State and the European Commission to develop and adopt the European Youth Pact. We believe that this Pact can play a major role in bringing the problems and challenges for youth on a more prominent level in the political agenda of the EU. Although the European Youth Pact includes many good ideas, some issues are missing. Participation is not touched upon and the Pact is missing concrete targets for really improving the living and working conditions of young Europeans. We have developed several ideas on how to concretely implement the European Youth Pact, which we hope will be taking into consideration by the national governments as well as the European Commission and Parliament. Also we want to stress that the implementation of the European Youth Pact is not possible without involving youth, especially national youth councils, national and European youth organisations and the European Youth Forum.

Within the framework of the OMC, but also for creating links to the European Youth Pact, the effective implementation of the newly adopted common objectives is of high importance. We call upon the member states to pay specific attention to promoting voluntary activities, developing the different possibilities of volunteering and broadening its scope, removing the different obstacles to volunteering and the recognition of voluntary work as well as of the participatory youth organisations providing valuable contexts for volunteering.

Annex I: Recommendation on the implementation of the Common Objectives on Voluntary activities

Workshop A: Development and recognition of voluntary activities at the national, regional and local level.

Recommendation/goal	Implementing measures	Actors
A coordinated approach to volunteering policies and a forum for voicing volunteers opinions and concerns	Establishing a national centre for volunteers	National youth council National Government National Agency for YOUTH/EVS
	Agreement on a definition of volunteering	EU Council in cooperation with YFJ Operational definitions at the national level by government in cooperation with NYC
	Research the contribution of volunteering to society as a whole	EU / EUROSTAT National government (National youth council)
	ONE government ministry should be responsible for volunteering issues	National government
	Allowing citizens to assign a certain percentage of their income tax directly to volunteering organisations etc.	Governments NGOs
Enhancing the social status of volunteering and increasing recruitment	National marketing campaign aimed at recruiting volunteers	NYC Government funds
	Information about the YOUTH programme need to be distributed to school students	National Agency YNGOs
	National marketing campaign aimed at informing about volunteering to society as a whole	NYC Government funds
Enhancing the recognition of skills obtained by volunteering	Special marketing towards educational institutions and students	NYC Government funds
	Special marketing towards employers about the benefits of volunteering experience and about the needs for flexibility for young volunteers who also work	NYC Business associations Public agencies Government funds

	(example: networking seminars with exchange of knowledge between volunteers and business/public employers)	
	Develop certification systems for volunteering skills – nationally standardised or voluntary systems	NYC Governments /Business associations / Trade Unions
	Raising the self-awareness of gained skills for volunteers by organising self-awareness seminars and developing self-evaluation systems	NYCs YNGOs Governments
	Awarding credits in the education system for voluntary work (but NOT introducing compulsory “voluntary” work)	Governments NYCs/YNGOs Educational institutions
	Allowing at least a minimum number of days for days off from school to perform voluntary work for those who want to	Governments Educational institutions
	Giving out an annual award to volunteers	YNGOs nominate Media facilitate Government funds and awards
Recognise all volunteering organisations and the specific character of volunteering	Specifically support membership based organisations organising volunteering, where they are underfunded compared to other volunteering organisations	Government at all levels
	Day-to-day volunteering must be recognised as important – support and marketing should not be limited to more high-profile volunteering like EVS, social volunteering etc.	Society ☺
	Government legislation must recognise that volunteering is distinct from employment and education activities (e.g. so as to avoid camouflaging unemployment, or replacing employment with “volunteering”	Nat’l government

Legal and financial frameworks need to be in place to ensure equal opportunities to volunteer	Volunteers should have their expenses and necessary living expenses covered through grants.	Government in cooperation with NYC.
	Volunteering should qualify for benefits normally tied to status as employed or student (such as unemployment benefits or public transportation rebates)	Government at all levels
Increase internal mobility in countries	Establish a national volunteer service akin to EVS	YNGOs/NYCs and governments

Workshop B: Development and Recognition of Volunteering at the European Level

Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Encouraging young people to participate in voluntary activities	<p>We should lobby for designing of funding programmes by the European Union for the organisation of training courses on the theme of volunteering, which has to be implemented by youth organisations</p> <p>We should prepare training materials on volunteering in different languages</p> <p>Create a network of volunteering promoters amongst the trainers</p>	<p>European Union Youth organisations</p> <p>European Youth Forum</p>
	<p>We should lobby for European Union and national governments to initiate campaigns about volunteering.</p> <p>We should influence European Union to declare 2007 as the European Year of (Youth) Volunteering</p>	<p>European Union</p> <p>Ministries of youth and education</p> <p>Youth organisations</p> <p>European Youth Forum</p>
	<p>We should lobby for inclusion of obligatory courses within curriculum to allow students to join voluntary activities.</p> <p>Students can create and carry out civic involvement projects within academic semesters.</p>	<p>European Union</p> <p>Ministries of Education</p> <p>student, youth and teachers associations</p>
	European institutions and global	European Union

	<p>organisations should establish partnership agreements on volunteering.</p> <p>There should be a partnership agreement between the EU and the Council of Europe with the UN on youth training, similar to that between the EU and the Council of Europe.</p>	<p>Council of Europe</p> <p>United Nations volunteers</p> <p>youth organisations</p>
Promoting volunteering amongst young people	<p>‘International day of Volunteering’ at 5th of December, should be promoted efficiently and large-scale</p> <p>European activities should be organised to celebrate the day by the European institutions and the youth organisations.</p>	<p>European Union</p> <p>national governments</p> <p>Youth organisations</p>
	<p>A large-scale network of volunteering organisations should be set up in order to ensure better promotion of volunteering and exchange of best practices in the field.</p>	<p>Youth organisations</p> <p>European Youth Forum</p>
	<p>Civic education should be introduced and improved in schools</p> <p>Volunteering should be integrated in civic education by schools</p>	<p>Ministries of Education</p> <p>European Union</p> <p>volunteering organisations</p> <p>student and teachers associations</p>
	<p>We should launch efficient information campaigns on volunteering</p>	<p>European Union</p> <p>Youth organisations</p> <p>European Youth Forum</p> <p>Non-organised youth</p>
Recognition of volunteering	<p>Designing and implementation of consultation process by the governments</p> <p>Involvement of young people and youth organisations in the implementation and assessment of common objectives on volunteering</p>	<p>National governments</p> <p>youth organisations</p> <p>national youth councils</p>
	<p>Establishment of youth ministries in every country with a specific unit in</p>	

	charge of volunteering	
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WORKSHOP C: Removing of obstacles for undertaking voluntary work

Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Transparency on the visa procedure	<p>Clear information on documents required to obtain a visa</p> <p>Clear information in case of refusal for applied visa</p> <p>European annual report on transparency of the procedure</p> <p>Creation of a website with official and additional documents required and a guide helping to successfully apply for Visas.</p>	<p>Ministries of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Embassies of all member States</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p>Council of Europe</p> <p>European Youth Forum</p>
Unified visa requirements among EU member states	Creation of a single EU application form for obtaining visa with the same criteria, also concerning Schengen visa applications	<p>European Council</p> <p>Ministries of Foreign Affairs</p>
Creation of a special policy for youth voluntary work towards visa	Creation of a special visa category for voluntary work	<p>European Council</p> <p>Ministries of Foreign Affairs</p>
Promoting the importance of transparent visa procedures outside the EU	Cooperation with other institutions on the implementation of the above	

There should be sufficient and accessible funding mechanisms for youth initiatives and voluntary work.	<p>Less project funding, more money for initiatives of organisations' own interest.</p> <p>Funding and administrative institutions must be open to all democratic organisations, also the ones that are not</p>	<p>NYCs should lobby the national governments.</p> <p>YFJ should lobby on the European level.</p> <p>NYCs and YFJ must recognise and support new ways of organising youth and create the same</p>
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	<p>built in the traditional way (new organisations, minority groups, web based, women's organisations, networks)</p> <p>Easier access to and less bureaucratic funding mechanisms.</p> <p>National governments must be allowed to keep monopolies on national lotteries funding voluntary youth work.</p> <p>Simplify the application and report processes to ensure that the funding is not all used for administrative routines.</p> <p>Youth NGOs should not pay tax on necessities for their voluntary work (telephone, stamps etc).</p>	<p>understanding within national governments, the EU and the Council of Europe</p> <p>EU court ESA</p> <p>National governments EU Council of Europe</p> <p>National governments</p>
Children's and youth's right to Freedom of Association, as stated in the Convention on the rights of the Child should be implemented in national legislation.	Democratically elected board members must have the right to open bank accounts regardless of their age, per example	National governments

Workshop D: The role of participatory youth organisations in volunteering

Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Promotion of volunteering	<p>Think of volunteering as a "product" you want to sell, reflect about the image of this product and sell it actively, mainly on local level. Educate the people of the organizations on promotion.</p> <p>Point out the positive points of volunteering.</p> <p>Concentrate the information; people need</p>	<p>Influencing actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government - Formal education system - Local level <p>Youth org. can influence government and educational system on 2 levels:</p> <p>- Being an active part of decision making</p>

<p>Improving structures/efficiency/sustainable</p>	<p>to know where to get the information to avoid an "information overload"</p> <p>Keep people interested in volunteering work by creating a system of certification of the achieved personal goals</p> <p>Engage young people in decision making structures, responsibly them</p> <p>Use more flexible and open structures, where young people can chose their own level (inclusive groups)</p> <p>The process, not the result, is a priority (Learning by doing approach)</p> <p>E-Democracy: Using Internet to reach young people, listen to young people to improve the work of YO</p> <p>Give space to free socializing (not only sitting in meetings)</p>	<p>- Arrange meetings with students to influence the students in first hand</p> <p>Knowledge should be an objective for educational systems → Active citizenship</p> <p>Network of local youth organizations</p> <p>Local government can play a role</p>
<p>Involving young people with fewer opportunities</p>	<p>Encourage participatory youth organizations to work with new targets of young people (example: young mothers, gipsy communities, poor city centers)</p> <p>Allow more space for young people to develop themselves in associations through decision making</p>	

	<p>processes → Introduce age limits</p> <p>Providing basic needs (transportation, food)</p> <p>Get organizations to empower volunteers on different levels, use level of language and dress code that is appropriate to that community, act on the same level.</p> <p>Encourage organizations to have a gender balance within the organization and to include minority groups. Get them to be reflective about community problems</p>	
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Annex I: Recommendation to de implementation of the European Youth Pact

Workshop A – Employment and social integration

Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
<p>Improve the communication and the mediation and links between institutions of education systems and employment market</p> <p>Missing structures between needs and demands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new legal framework for employment law in order to offer more benefits to the employees (ex: if the employer hires a young person, the government will give a percentage of the salary and both government youth organisations can follow and control the equality of salary) <p>Sustainable employment Government has to secure the transition between education and the long term jobs</p> <p>Good structures at local, regional and then European level of career centres independent of national agencies of unemployment, but in collaboration with them and the Education system and Employment Market and unemployed persons</p>	<p>Government National agencies of unemployment Education system Unemployed persons Companies</p>
<p>Youngsters are more preoccupied by the lack proposals of attractive long term employment</p>	<p>Equal chances for minorities and equal gender employment</p>	
<p>Differences of employment for man/woman and minorities</p>	<p>Equal chances for minorities and equal gender employment</p>	
<p>Upcoming of dumping work</p>	<p>Fight against social dumping</p>	
<p>In order to tackle the problem of unemployment, the possibilities of youngsters to become entrepreneurs should be promoted</p>	<p>Self-employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teach how to set own enterprise - information about needs in market in medium and long 	<p>Government Youth organisations Universities</p>

<p>Students should be better skilled to increase the chance of getting employment</p>	<p>term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free consultancy (guidelines about how to create a company) - Easier bureaucracy - Lower interests in loans at the starting up <p>Education and employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of skills (speak in public, interviews) - more than 1 year of validity of grades to get in university - introduction during school year courses about different sectors of the market, studies related to the different sectors and the skills required in each sectors - introduction of compulsory internship during studies - recognition of extra curricular activities 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gap between rich and poor young people. 2. Geographical differences (European and national level) 3. Economic vulnerability 	<p>Encourage national governments for development of programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fighting against stereotypes - protection of young people <p>Equal access to education a More personally orientated education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - integration - less special schools - group size in schools - cheaper high level education <p>Campaign for accountability of young people (to be responsible)</p>	

Workshop B - Education, Training, Mobility and Citizenship

Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Participation of young citizens in the youth pact	Youth pact linking with white paper officially	EU-level
Involvement of young people in decision-making procedures	Using existing structures (e.g. youth councils) Create meeting places for all stakeholders	EU-level/national level
Using OMC on youth on other themes than white paper: link with youth pact	Involvement of young people, youth services and youth NGOs in the OMC process on these issues	National government NGOs Youth councils
No participation without recognizing that young people are equal stakeholders to be involved in youth pact issues	There should be a youth impact analysis of all policies Foras should be created where all stakeholders can network, make contacts and meet (administration, policymakers and young people)	EU level: Commission National level: government Local level government
Ensure efficient information, on youth pact issues	Enhance existing information networks; support youth NGOs working on information and participation	National level, EU level and local level: Governments, Eurodesk and youth information centres, youth NGOs

Facilitate the coordination of education systems across Europe	*Establish a set of best practise *Greater co-operation between education system across Europe. In adopting practise and Policy *Teacher Exchange	E.U. And ministers of education across Europe
Recognition and accreditation of non formal education and validation of	*"Youth Paso" - vecord of competencies gained *Make people aware of competencies *Credits given in school and in universities for such activities *Make them part of decissions on future employees	E.U. - national government and youth organisation - Education system and Employers
Decrease the rate of school drop-outs	Broadening syllabas, extra curricular activities given more emphasis	E.U and Education system

Free visas for young people going for youth activities	- Simple and standard procedures - More information	National implémentation, EU- making
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		standard
Transparency and e-governance in the field of mobility	Research and standardization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work permit - residence permit - social security 	National implementation
Knowledge in languages other than English	Establishment of European Language Center	National Implementation

Group C: Mainstreaming and new priorities

Recommendations	Implementations	Actors
Life conditions Transportation	Freedom of mobility requires transportation should be affordable for young people (discounts)	European and Nation
Health issues	should be offered at all times of the day in order to provide a safe means of transportation proper and affordable health care should be available to young people within reasonable time	National/regional
Housing	young people are more inclined to suffer from mental health issues, therefore proper structures should be imposed and accessible. Pills are not enough. Ban alcohol commercials	
inter-generational solidarity issues	provide sufficient information about health issues for young people encourage architects to develop and construct housing that is appropriate and affordable for young people	National politicians in consultation with youth and other groups
Education	national discussions regarding the allocation of resources between the respective groups of age financial rewards based on young people's active citizenship	

<p>spend free time being active in society</p>	<p>Provide proper educational options for young people</p> <p>students should have the option of influencing curriculum and daily issues of importance for them</p>	
<p>employment and economics</p>	<p>make information about possible funding available</p> <p>provide alcohol & drug-free spare time activities for various age groups especially at night and weekend</p> <p>establish volunteer bureaus providing coordination of voluntary activities available</p>	
<p>Human rights & social inclusion access to proper life conditions</p>	<p>ban "required experience" in job adds</p> <p>minimum wage</p>	
<p>access to education/exchange on social differences</p>	<p>student loans and student benefits should not be dependent on other part time income</p> <p>provide unemployed with meaningful experience</p>	
<p>Access to information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing • transportation • health/social protection • citizenship • increase tolerance and social actions • encourage youth to act in domains of work, studies and being volunteer • access to communication and multimedia tools → training on computer use / internet 	

<p>Access to employment</p> <p>Consultation in the policy drafting stage in these areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform on student / not qualified jobs → direct contact • imply youth on projects → give responsibly → increase volunteership (particularly before university or job) • educate to global issues • implement exchange sessions between youth from different backgrounds → festivals and youth fairs • free internet (places where less privileged people can use a computer) <p>three phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drafting • during phases • evaluation of questionnaires at school (16-25 year old) <p>using the internet</p>	
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Group D: Demographic challenges

Recomandation	Implementation	Actors
<p>Y.O and the EU have to promote more actively the subject of volunteering</p> <p>Create a positive image of the important role of the volunteers in our society.</p>	<p>On the european Level : Establish a European Youth capital and European Youth days with effects on national level and local level.</p> <p>On the national level : Concentrate the information and make the access to it easy through creating a national server.</p> <p>On the local level : Advertise voluntary work for young people and link schools and the youth</p>	<p>European Union</p> <p>Gouvernement</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Youh Organizations</p>

	organizations.	
Participatory youth Organization should be the interlocutors for different levels of government as well as for the formal educational system	Youth Organization should be involved in the formulation of educational policies. Links should be established between the YO and school's having the chance to create joint projects and involvement of the students.	Gouvernement Schools Youth Organizations
Improving our work by learning by doing approach	Giving to the young people responsibilities Engaging them in the decision making structures The outcome is not the priority but the process and learning.	YO
Improving our work by meeting the needs and interest of young people	Learning to listen the people youth research questionnaires E-democracy.	YO
To involve more young people with less opportunities.	EU should provide funds in order to involve more young people with fewer opportunities to become volunteers. The basic needs of volunteers need to be met. Providing more opportunities to the next generation in process. Ensuring equality by empowering new volunteers on a peer level Youth should be representative of the community	EU YO