



Ressort: Politik

2022 is the European Year of Youth

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The 2022 European Year of Youth will focus on re-establishing a positive outlook for European young people negatively affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Designating 2022 as a year focused on young people means increased efforts will be made to include youth priorities in relevant EU policy areas and at every level of the EU's decision-making process. MEPs backed the decision by 604 votes in favour,

25 against and 68 abstentions. Europe needs the vision, engagement and participation of all young people to build a better future, that is greener, more inclusive and digital. With this proposal, Europe is striving to give young people more and better opportunities for the future. The Commission is also publishing its latest EU Youth Report, which provides an overview of the situation of young Europeans in terms of education, training, learning, employment, and civic and political participation.

The EYY will aim to engage young people in key consultation processes, such as the Conference on the Future of Europe, and in other public policies at EU, national and local levels.

Thanks to a push by MEPs, there will be a special focus on young people with fewer opportunities and on dealing with mental health issues.

The European Year of Youth will include conferences, initiatives promoting youth participation in policy making, awareness-raising campaigns on a more inclusive, green and digital EU, as well as studies and research on the situation in which young people in the EU find themselves.

The European Parliament secured an €8 million top-up for the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, to support the activities of the year (a figure previously agreed in the 2022 budget conciliation talks with the Council).

Additional funding for the implementation of activities will be found in 2022 from other, relevant EU programmes and instruments. MEPs added the option to make EU funds available after 2022, in order to secure a lasting legacy for the year. The European Union aims to honour and support the generation that has sacrificed the most during the pandemic, giving them new hopes, strength and confidence in the future by highlighting how the green and digital transitions offer renewed perspectives and opportunities. Promoting opportunities provided by EU policies for young people means to support their personal, social and professional development. The European Year of Youth will go hand in hand with the successful implementation of NextGenerationEU

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in providing quality jobs, education and training opportunities.

“The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disproportionately affect young people”, said rapporteur Sabine Verheyen (EPP, DE) before the vote. “They face the challenges of trying to continue their education and enter the job market (...) make new acquaintances and discover other countries. Young people have accepted and supported the ongoing restrictions out of solidarity. Now it is time to let them flourish”, she said.

“The next year will lay the foundation for giving young people a stronger platform to make their voices heard”, she stressed, adding that we need “all young people to be involved and participate in creating a better, greener, more digital and inclusive future

future in Europe.”

European Year of Youth activities will be organised by national coordinators in each member state, together with the European Commission and civil society organisations, and will be overseen by the European Parliament. MEPs successfully negotiated that at national and EU levels there will be an obligation to involve young people and youth organisations at the planning stage of activities.

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