

Youth Action Plan in EU External Action

Monitoring framework

Introduction

The European Union (EU)'s work for and with youth in external action is guided by the [Youth Action Plan](#) (YAP) in European Union external action for 2022-2027, the EU policy framework for a strategic partnership with young people around the world*. The ambition of the YAP is to shape external action in partnership with young people, to support their empowerment and thus accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international commitments, such as the UN Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

Since the adoption of the YAP, the Commission, in cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS), has been developing a monitoring framework to “[...] track the *institutional change* towards strengthening youth engagement in EU policymaking, and progress towards *YAP objectives in thematic priorities*.”

It was developed in consultation with young people, youth organisations and experts. And, although “the international data landscape on youth is only a patchwork [...and] there are also significant gaps in the available data”¹, it aims to monitor the implementation of the Youth Action Plan using existing reporting tools/mechanisms, indicators for actions and for objectives. It will be improved along the way.

The YAP monitoring framework is divided into 2 parts:

- PART I outlines EU institutional commitments and objectives and identifies concrete indicators to monitor actions on which the EU has a direct influence;
- PART II draws from global indicators to monitor the overall context for youth participation and empowerment.

*In accordance with the YAP, the focus will be on young people between the ages of 15 and 29 years old.

¹ McMahon, S., Kalantaryan, S., Kaslama, P. and Ueffing, P., [Patchwork: Mapping international data on youth](#), EUR 31036 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-50144-2, doi:10.2760/443755, JRC128858.

PART I – YAP, EU institutional and strategic objectives and indicators

1.1. Strengthen inclusive and meaningful youth engagement in EU policymaking and programming [ENGAGE]

Action	Indicators	Source
Promoting and enabling inclusive and meaningful youth participation		
Set up a platform for regular dialogue with youth organisations	Existence of a platform developed with EU support	COM
	# of dialogue and consultations set up with EU support	
	# and type of youth organisations that reflect diversity (grassroots, local youth organisations, organisations advocating for gender equality, disability and inclusion, etc.)	
	Level to which recommendations from dialogues were taken into account	COM, youth organisations
	Level to which units responsible provided feedback on the recommendations	
Develop and maintain Youth advisory structures at headquarters and country level	Existence of functioning Youth Sounding Board for international partnerships	COM
	# of youth advisory structures developed in EU delegations	COM
	Level of satisfaction of young people participating in the Youth advisory structures in HQ and EUDs	COM, Members of Youth advisory structures
Promote participation of Youth organisations in CSO consultation processes	# Civil Society roadmaps @country level identifying/targeting youth (organisations) needs	COM
	# of consultations and dialogues with CSO including youth organisations @country level and regional level	COM
	Extent of contribution to consultations of organisations active on Youth participation, youth empowerment, or youth organisations	
Promote and enable inclusive and meaningful youth participation in bi-regional and multilateral institutional processes and programmes	% of bi-regional (AU-EU, ASEAN-EU, EU-CELAC etc.) institutional processes in which the EU is involved, and which include youth engagement (e.g., in bi-regional summits and pre-summits, ministerials, Commission to Commission, ...)	COM, EEAS
	# of young people and youth organizations /representatives participating in institutional meetings (e.g. AU-EU partnership, bi-regional summits, ministerials, Commission to Commission etc.) or formal high-level preparation formats (e.g. side events, seminars), with due regards to diversity	COM, EEAS

	# of young people engaged in regional policy dialogues with EU support (disaggregated by age and sex, according to OPSYS availability)	COM
	# of youth organisations engaged in regional policy dialogues with EU support	
	Qualitative information on types of opportunities and quality, safety, inclusivity of participation	
	# of young people participating to multilateral processes with EU support	COM
	Evolution of participation in 'side events' towards participating in the main events, including opportunities to share recommendations with leaders	COM
Promote the participation of youth and women in all aspects of public life	# of EU delegations promoting youth and women participation in their political and policy dialogue at country and regional level	COM
	# of countries in which national youth strategy comprises youth participation in public affairs with EU support	COM
	# of young people involved in politics and political representatives supported in developing their skills, advocating for democratic reforms and achieving positions of influence	
	% of young candidates present in elections that received training from the Action (sex-disaggregated)	
	# of young people who received training on issues concerning democracy disaggregated by sex	
Enhance the protection of young activists and young human rights defenders, through the new EU human rights defenders` mechanism	# of participants to Global Campus trainings, disaggregated by sex and country of origin	COM
	# of youth Human Rights Defenders (HRD) supported by the EU HRD mechanism	
	% of youth HRDs in relation to our overall # of beneficiaries - yearly monitored, starting in 2023	
Enabling youth meaningful participation through EU support	Estimated # of young people engaged through YSB, YAS, Youth Dialogue platform, Policy labs, bi regional and multilateral institutional dialogues, etc.	COM
	Qualitative indicator on meaningfulness Key processes/ items we have engaged them on MIPs, TEI, actions/policies	COM, Youth organisations, Youth participants

	List of policy processes / proposals / initiatives directly incorporating input from the YDP, YSB, and Delegation structures	COM
	# of people trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge and/or skills (disaggregated by sex and age)	COM
	Extent of incorporation of YAS during the consultation on TEIs	COM
	Extent of incorporation of YAS during the consultation on MIP actions/ programs	
Contributing to the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda		
Promote the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda into the EU's political dialogues and multilateral fora	# of dialogues with partners and multilateral fora where the YPS agenda has been promoted by the EU	EEAS, COM
	# of follow-up initiatives with partners contributing to the YPS agenda	
	# of dialogues on YPS that the EU participates or supports at national, regional and global level	
Enhance youth participation in furthering the YPS agenda	% of Conflict Prevention Reports and Conflict Analysis Screening Reports that meaningfully consider youth and youth issues	COM, EEAS
	# of young people supported by the EU to participate in peace negotiations or mediation and dialogue processes	COM
Promote and enable youth participation and leadership in peacebuilding	# of youth-led organizations that participate in peacebuilding processes with the support of the EU	COM
	# of young people that are participating/consulted in the formulation of EU development policies/programmes, peacebuilding, and disaster recovery/reconstruction strategies	COM
	# of youth civil society actors, and young members thereof, trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge and/or skills in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/ negotiation/ reconciliation/ mediation/ conflict management/ conflict transformation/ peacebuilding/stabilisation (disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and ethnicity)	COM
Increase youth relevance of programming		
Ensure youth organization participation in MIP and MTR consultations	% of Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) that have been prepared or reviewed (MTR) in consultation with youth organisation	COM
	# of EU-funded programmes that target youth	COM

Increase the number and funding of actions in support of youth	% of NDICI funding across different thematic areas going to youth-led or youth-focused organisations	Feasibility to be explored
Build institutional capacity		
Build expertise of EU staff on meaningful youth engagement and provide guidance on YPS	# of Youth Focal Points in place in EUDs	COM
	# of trainings delivered and resources (e.g. guidelines, policy briefs) developed and offered to EU staff	COM, EEAS
	Youth specific guidance developed, e.g. Guidance on Youth in EU peace mediation developed; EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict have been updated; setting up of YAS, etc.	
	# EU staff from HQ and Delegations trained on meaningful youth and child participation, child protection and child safeguarding policies, YPS	COM

1.2. Empower young people to make their voices heard and tackle inequalities [EMPOWER]

Action	Indicators	Source
Environments and opportunities that empower young people		
Ensuring access to education (including during emergencies, crises or conflicts)	Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance directed towards education	COM
	# of students enrolled in education with EU support: (a) primary education, (b) secondary education, (c) tertiary education	COM
	Amount and % of humanitarian budget dedicated to funding education in emergencies and protracted crises	COM
	# of learners benefitting from education in emergencies interventions, disaggregated by gender	
	# of students participating in EU-funded mobility actions, disaggregated by sex	COM
	# of students with disabilities benefitting from individual education plans, support measures and other accommodations, with support of the EU-funded intervention (disaggregated by sex, age, disability and geographical location)	COM
	# of mechanisms/ policies/ initiatives supported or implemented by EU-funded interventions to prevent or eliminate child labour and any form of forced labour	COM
	# of children involved in child labour who have been (re)integrated into education or training with EU support, disaggregated by sex	COM

Improving young people's access to economic opportunities	Status of the Youth Guarantee implementation in the Western Balkans	COM
	# of countries in which the EU provides support to programs targeting youth employment, entrepreneurship and/or skills	COM
	# of young people reached by EU initiatives for youth employment and entrepreneurship (e.g. programmes such as Investing in Young Business in Africa, African European Digital Innovation Bridge, New Deal for Youth in the Eastern Partnership, EU4Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship mechanism)	COM
	% of beneficiaries of EU-funded interventions with increased income 6 months after EU support, disaggregated by sex, population group, disability status, age	COM
	% of individuals who found a job within 6 months after having received support from the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex, age, disability status	
Facilitating young people's involvement in the SDG and green and digital transitions	Status of the EU Youth Empowerment Fund development	COM
	# of youth-led initiatives supported through the Youth Empowerment Fund	COM
	# of young people, disaggregated by sex, reached through initiatives supported through the Youth Empowerment Fund	COM
Supporting health, mental and physical well-being , and access to SRHR	Extent to which sexual and reproductive health (SRHR)-sensitive policies, strategies and programmes are introduced by partner government on: a) ending harmful practices e.g. child marriage and female genital mutilation; b) adolescent SRHR; c) comprehensive sexuality education; d) family planning; e) removal of third parties consent for contraception; f) control of sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS; g) cancer screening	COM

1.3. Enhance youth mobility, exchange and networking [CONNECT]

Action	Indicators	Source
Opportunities for young people to connect		
Increase opportunities in education for mobility in education, training and work	# of young people from partner countries benefitting from Erasmus+	COM
	# of young people benefitting from Marie Skłodowska-Curie Programmes	COM
	# of young people benefitting from intra-African mobility programme	COM
	# of students participating in EU-funded mobility actions (disaggregated by sex, type of institution of origin (HE academic, technical/vocational/other), location, wealth quintile)	COM
Promote contacts among young people	# of young people participating in the Africa-Europe Youth Academy	COM
	Status of the EU youth Alumni platform community development	COM
	# of alumni registered on the platform (disaggregated by geographic distribution)	
	# of activities organised by/with Alumni	
	% of alumni registered on the platform participating to at least one activity per year	
	Level of satisfaction of EU alumni	COM, Alumni
	# of beneficiaries of Global Erasmus+ Alumni Mentoring Scheme	COM
	# of young people taking part in European Solidarity Corps projects in third countries	COM
	# of participants in European Solidarity Corps (ESC) activities	COM, Participants
	# of participants in ESC who are young people with fewer opportunities	
	% of participants reporting positive learning outcomes	
	The overall satisfaction rate of participants with regard to the quality of ESC activities	COM
	Extent to which the EU Youth portal is featuring opportunities for young people in third countries	
	# of young people from the EU and third countries connected through the DEAR programme	

PART II: Objectives and indicators for youth participation and empowerment

1.1 Strengthen inclusive and meaningful youth engagement in EU policymaking and programming [ENGAGE]

Action area	Indicators	Source
Promoting and enabling inclusive and meaningful youth participation	% of youth population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive (disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and population group)	UNSTATS ² SDG 16.7.2
	% of young people involved in social activism (donating to a group or campaign, contacting a government official, encouraging others to take political action, encouraging others to vote)	World Values Survey ³
	% of young members in parliament [Ratio of the proportion of young members in parliament (age 45 or below) in the proportion of the national population (age 45 or below) with the age of eligibility as a lower bound boundary]	UNSTATS ⁴ SDG 16.7.1
	Forms of political action people take (Signing a petition, join boycotts, authorized demonstrations, joining strikes)	World Values Survey ⁵ (Q209-212)
	% of respondents aged 15-29, answering yes to the question, "Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for gay or lesbian people?"	Gallup World Poll ⁶ World Happiness Report ⁷
Promoting an enabling environment for CSO and youth participation	Trend in government attempts to repress civil society organizations	Global State of Democracy ⁸
	# of countries in which the government achieves control over entry and exit by civil society organizations into public life	
	# of countries in which individuals and groups have freedom of assembly and association, that is, the right of citizens to gather freely and carry out peaceful demonstrations as well as to join, form and participate with other persons in	

² [Metadata-16-07-02.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

³ [F00010738-WVS-7 Master Questionnaire 2017-2020 English.pdf](#)

⁴ [Metadata-16-07-01A.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

⁵ [F00010738-WVS-7 Master Questionnaire 2017-2020 English.pdf](#)

⁶ [Discover Global Datasets for Public Use | Gallup](#)

⁷ [Home | The World Happiness Report](#)

⁸ [The Global State of Democracy Indices Methodology: Conceptualization and Measurement Framework \(idea.int\)](#)

	political parties, cultural organizations, trade unions or the like of their choice without being subject to limitations or restrictions [above average: 0.56]	
	# of countries with a downward trend in terms of upholding democracy and human rights	
	# of countries with an annual participation value below the average [0.4]	

1.2. Empower young people to make their voices heard and tackle inequalities [EMPOWER]

Action area	Indicators	Source
Access to quality education	Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	UNSTATS ⁹ SDG 4.1.2
	Participation rate of youth in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months (disaggregated by age and sex)	UNSTATS ¹⁰ SDG 4.3.1
	Youth literacy rate, population 15-24 years, both sexes, male, female, rural, urban	UNESCO/SDG ¹¹
	% of 15- to 24-year-olds enrolled in vocational education, both sexes, male, female	UNESCO/SDG ¹²
	% and # of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	SDG 8.7.1 UNSTATS ¹³
Access to economic opportunities	% of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment, or training	UNSTATS ¹⁴ SDG 8.6.1
	Youth labour force participation rate by sex, age and school attendance status: Annual	ILO/Youth labour market indicators (YouthSTATS) ¹⁵
	Unemployment rate by sex, age and persons with disabilities (OPSYS core indicator)	UNSTATS ¹⁶ SDG 8.5.2 ILO/Youth labour market indicators (YouthSTATS) ¹⁷

⁹ [Metadata-04-01-02.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

¹⁰ [Metadata-04-03-01.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

¹¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.1524.LT.FE.ZS>

¹² [UIS Developer Portal \(unesco.org\)](https://uis.unesco.org/)

¹³ [Metadata-08-07-01.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

¹⁴ [Metadata-08-06-01.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

¹⁵ <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/youth/>

[ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer14/?lang=en&id=EAP_3WAP_SEX_AGE_DSB_RT_A](https://shinyapps.org/bulkexplorer14/?lang=en&id=EAP_3WAP_SEX_AGE_DSB_RT_A)

<https://apiportal.uis.unesco.org/bdds>

¹⁶ [Metadata-08-05-02.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

¹⁷ [Statistics on youth - ILOSTAT](#)

Participation to the green and digital transition	% of people with access to the internet at home (disaggregated by age)	Gallup World Poll ¹⁸
	% of individuals with ICT skills by type of skills by gender	International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication/ ICT Indicators Database
	% of upper secondary schools with access to Internet for pedagogical purposes	UNESCO/SDG ¹⁹
	% of upper secondary schools with access to computers for pedagogical purposes	
	% of youth/adults who have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in digital literacy skills, younger adults	
	Extent to which global citizen education and education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in a) national education policies, b) curricula, c) teacher education and d) student assessment	UNSTATS ²⁰ SDG 12.8.1
Health, mental and physical well-being and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights	Coverage of essential health services (disaggregated by age)	UNSTATS ²¹ SDG 3.8.1.
	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	UNSTATS ²² SDG 3.7.2.
	Population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (%)	WHO Global Health Observatory ²³
	% of respondents aged 15-29, answering 'satisfied' to the question, In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the availability of quality healthcare?	Gallup World Poll ²⁴
	% of countries that have integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as the prevention and response to gender-based violence and harmful practices into the	WHO/UNFPA strategic plan 2022-2025 ²⁵

¹⁸ [Country Data Set Details \(gallup.com\)](https://countrydata.gallup.com)

¹⁹ <https://apiportal.uis.unesco.org/bdds>

²⁰ [Metadata-12-08-01.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

²¹ [Metadata-03-08-01.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

²² [Metadata-03-07-02.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

²³ [Population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS \(%\) \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/data/stories/population-aged-15-24-years-with-comprehensive-correct-knowledge-of-hiv-aids)

²⁴ [Country Data Set Details \(gallup.com\)](https://countrydata.gallup.com)

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https://guides.library.harvard.edu/public_opinion/gallupmicro

²⁵ [PROG SP 2022 2025 Annex1.pdf \(unfpa.org\)](#)

	universal health coverage-related policies and plans, and other relevant laws, policies, plans, and accountability frameworks	
	# of countries with laws and policies on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and child marriage that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, are evidence-based and in line with international HR standards and treaty body recommendations	INTPA G1 through the UNICEF-UNFPA programmes on ending FGM and child marriage (annual reports)
	% of respondents aged 15-29, answering 'yes' to the question, Do you have any health problems that prevent you from doing any of the things people your age can normally do?	Gallup World Poll ²⁶ World Happiness Report ²⁷

1.3. Enhance youth mobility, exchange and networking [CONNECT]

Action area	Indicators	Source
Increasing opportunities for mobility and for young people to connect	Total number of outbound internationally mobile tertiary students, studying abroad, all countries, both sexes	UNESCO
	Outbound internationally mobile tertiary students per region of destination	UNESCO

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