

# Youth Dialogue Platform

## in the framework of the Youth Action Plan in EU external action

### Call for expression of interest

#### BACKGROUND

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the EU adopted the first-ever [Youth Action Plan in EU external action](#) (YAP).

The Youth Action Plan (2022-2027) is the new policy framework for the EU external action that aims at establishing a **meaningful and strategic partnership with young people** in the EU external action.

The Youth Action Plan aims to put youth at the heart of EU external relations for **sustainable development, equality, and peace**. It includes clear targets and a monitoring framework will help measure progress and impact.

Children rights, youth and women organisations were [consulted](#) in the design of the Youth Action Plan. The first cohort of the Youth Sounding Board for International Partnerships (YSB) was [engaged](#) along the process of co-creation.

Through the Youth Action Plan, the EU aims at building a **strategic partnership with youth** around three pillars of action: (1) engage, (2) empower, and (3) connect.

1. **ENGAGE:** increasing young people's voices in policy and decision-making.

Young people demand and deserve a comprehensive approach to ensure meaningful, inclusive and effective youth participation. The EU is committed to increasing the voice and leadership of young people worldwide, in particular young women and girls, youth activists and organisations, at all levels of governance, from domestic politics to multilateral forums, and within EU policy-making processes.

2. **EMPOWER:** fighting inequalities and providing young people with the skills and tools they need to thrive.

Young people are empowered when their voices are heard and the inequalities that affect their lives are tackled. The EU will continue its support to transform education worldwide - not least through Global Gateway investments - to improve young people's access to economic opportunities, strengthening young people's capacity to contribute to sustainable development and drive the green and digital transitions across the world. Young people's health, mental and physical well-being and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, will remain in the focus, too. The EU will continue paying a particular attention to children and young people living in conflict settings.

3. **CONNECT:** fostering opportunities for young people to network and exchange with their peers worldwide.

The EU aims to promote youth mobility, exchanges and networking as an essential aspect of the people-to-people dimension of the Global Gateway strategy. The goal is to ensure diversity and inclusiveness, while paying special attention to social and economic barriers, the digital divide and risks related to disinformation.

In the Youth Action Plan, the EU outlines its wish to **enhance institutional youth engagement** to:

- Promote young people's involvement in the design, implementation and monitoring of EU external policies and actions;
- Ensure further accountability on youth issues through strategic, inclusive and participatory communication to reach out to young people, including children, in all their diversity.

As announced in the Joint Communication, the Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA) is setting up a **platform for a regular dialogue with youth organisations** through the Policy Forum on Development (PFD).

Since spring 2023, an informal group of 40 global and regional youth-led and youth-focused organisations has been supporting DG INTPA in defining the features of the platform. This group of organisations will continue to inform the further development of the Youth Dialogue Platform in EU external action, its working modalities and focus. It will also contribute to monitor the implementation of the Youth Action Plan.

## OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The aim of the Youth Dialogue Platform is to provide a space for dialogue with youth-led and youth-focused organisations on EU's external action, with a view to strengthen cooperation with young people across the world as part of the Youth Action Plan implementation.

The Youth Dialogue Platform in EU external action will be a dedicated space to:

- build a community of organisations with a strong interest in advancing and potential to promote the youth agenda in EU external action;
- consult youth organisations on EU initiatives and processes;
- exchange information on youth-related initiatives, events and projects;
- involve youth organisations in the monitoring and implementation of the YAP.

The members of the Youth Dialogue Platform are expected to:

- participate and contribute to the annual global meeting (first online meeting in 2024, with possibility to participate in English, French and Spanish);
- represent their organisation and the interests of their members bringing the views of their constituencies at EU level;
- actively contribute to the discussions and exchanges online during and in-between meetings.

Possible self-organised sub-groups following geographic or thematic interest and expertise might be created as needed.

Members will need to respect the code of conduct and ethics when participating in the virtual platform. Breach of the code of conduct and ethics will lead to the automatic termination of the membership.

## COMPOSITION and MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The group shall be composed of a maximum of 500 members.

- Members of the platform will have to:
  - be organisations with an **overt youth participation and empowerment purpose**;
  - be **youth-led<sup>1</sup> and/or youth-focused organisations** (operating at national, regional, global level);
  - demonstrate alignment to **EU values**: Human Dignity, Freedom, Democracy, Equality, Rule of Law, Human Rights;

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<sup>1</sup> To be considered a youth-led organisation, the organisation will need to demonstrate that in their organisations young people under 30 occupy the majority of the decision-making positions, or have youth-led structures that have a formal say in the decision-making bodies, or that the majority of the members who make decisions on the working plan are young people under 30.

- demonstrate representativeness (i.e. number of members) and capacity to reach a wide number of diverse young people
- be active since **at least three years** (demonstrated by online and social media activity);
- be active and demonstrate expertise in one or more **thematic fields of the EU external action**<sup>2</sup>;
- be active in **at least one geographical zone of the EU external action**: Central, East, South and South-East Asia, Eastern Partnership region, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, West, Central, East or Southern Africa, Pacific, and Western Balkans. If an organisation is from an EU country, they should explain how their work contributes to the EU external action (for example, programmes, initiatives implemented which involve and affect young people in EU partner countries);
- Agree on the **code of conduct and ethics** of the virtual platform (to be provided at the time of selection announcement).

Members shall be appointed until 2027, unless a new call for interest is issued before then. They shall remain in office until replaced or until the end of their mandate. Their term in office may be renewed, or ended in case of inactivity or breach of the code of conduct and ethics.

If branches or members of international, global or regional organisations apply, their application will be considered together with the umbrella organisation or main branch.

## SELECTION

The selection of the members shall be carried out via an [open call for expression of interest published on EUSurvey](#).

The deadline to submit applications is **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2023 at midday CET**.

The selection of the members of the Youth Dialogue Platform will be communicated by January 2024.

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the expressions of interest performed against the membership criteria listed above. It will be followed by the establishment of a list of the selected applicants, and concluded by the appointment of the members of the platform, after their acceptance of the code of conduct.

The European Commission will strive to achieve a balanced representation in order to ensure diversity and inclusion. It will also aim to ensure, as far as possible, a high level of competence, balance of thematic and geographical coverage, while taking into account the specific tasks of the platform, the type of knowledge required, and the relevance of the applications received.

Organisations applying to become members of the Youth Dialogue Platform will be included in a youth mailing list to share information and opportunities, unless they express their objection in the registration form.

## Contact

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<sup>2</sup> Agriculture and Fisheries, Culture, Democratic Governance and Political Participation, Employment and entrepreneurship, Energy, Environment and climate action, Science, Technology and Digitalisation, Education, Gender Equality, Health, Humanitarian aid and development, Justice and fundamental human rights, Migration and forced displacement, Peace and Security, Social policy, Transport and urban development, Youth