



european  
youth forum

# Who are we?

# A European platform for youth organisations

- ▶ Entirely run by **young people** and **independently established** by youth organisations,
- ▶ It brings together **tens of millions of young people** from all over Europe and represents their common interests and **fights for their rights.**
- ▶ **Established in 1996**, as a result of the merging of three European platforms.

# Our vision



To be the voice of young people in Europe, where **young people are equal citizens** and are encouraged and supported to **achieve their fullest potential** as global citizens.

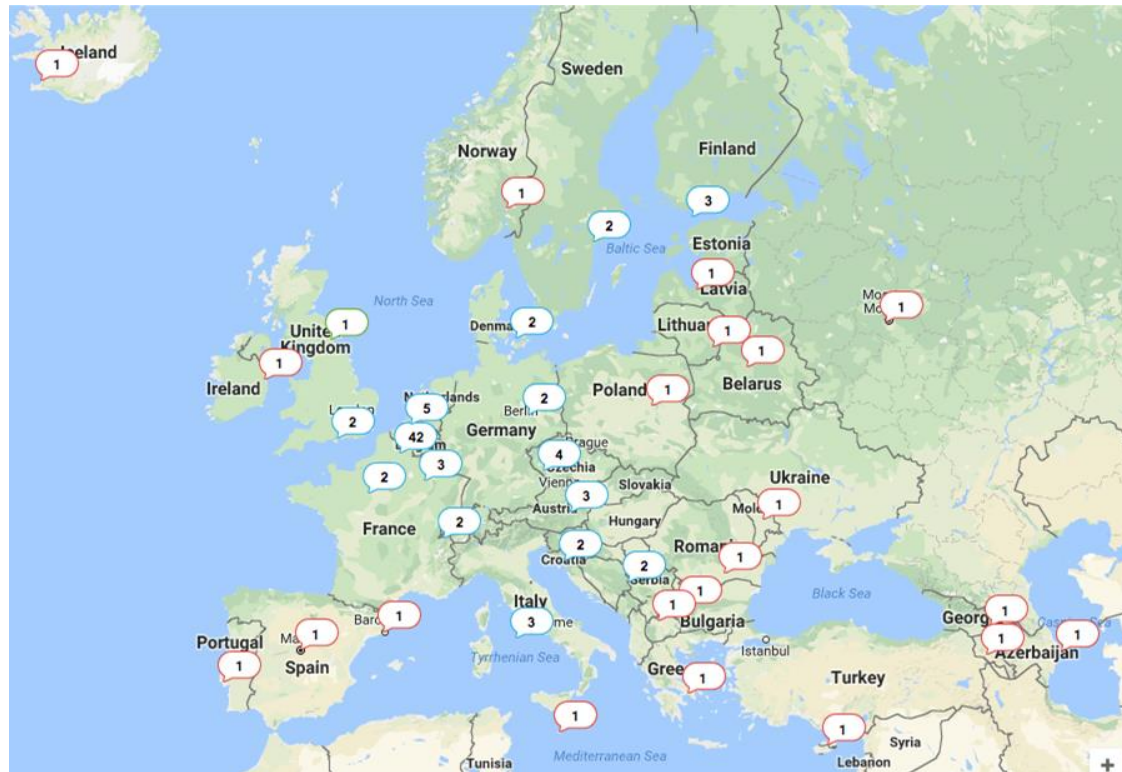
# Membership

## WE ARE A PLATFORM:

- ▶ The European Youth Forum is made up of over **100 National Youth Councils** and **International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations**, which are federations of youth organisations.
- ▶ Members contribute to the platform through statutory meetings, consultations, training/seminars, representation at external meetings.

# Membership

- OUR MEMBERS ARE WORKING ALL OVER EUROPE



# Membership

## ▶ WE ARE A *DEMOCRATIC* PLATFORM:

▶ **Board:** Elected for a two year mandate made up of 11 young volunteers

▶ **Secretariat:** 35 young professionals working full-time to support the Board and the Member Organisations in their daily work.

# Strategic Priorities (2013-2018)

## ▶ **What we want to achieve**

- ▶ Youth Participation
- ▶ Strong Youth Organisations
- ▶ Youth Autonomy and Inclusion

## ▶ **How we want to achieve it**

- ▶ Youth Forum as an Agenda-Setter on Youth Affairs
- ▶ Empowered Member Organisations
- ▶ A Rights-based approach in all our work



# What do we do?

# Youth participation

**Young people are politically active!** They are at the forefront of many global movements and youth-led organisations. They engage politically in different, unconventional ways outside of the traditional political system.

- ▶ How do we bridge the gap between young people and political institutions?
  - ▶ Better **citizenship education**,
  - ▶ **Electoral reform** and **lowering the voting age**
  - ▶ A rethink of how our **democratic systems** work. Look out for #ChangeisComing **European Elections** campaign!

# Strong youth organisations

Youth organisations play an essential role to **empower young people in society**. They contribute to personal, social, political and economic development and can help tackle the key challenges facing Europe, such as youth unemployment, the erosion of social cohesion and political disengagement.

- ▶ How do we strengthen youth organisations?
  - ▶ **Invest in youth** - new EU budget must prioritise youth
  - ▶ **EU Youth programmes** - more accessible Erasmus
  - ▶ **Value of youth work** - recognition of non-formal education

# Social and economic inclusion

Being able to find **quality work and to access all social rights** is essential for young people in order to participate fully in society and be autonomous.

- ▶ How to protect and promote social rights for young people?
  - ▶ **Quality jobs** - policies that ensure fair working conditions
  - ▶ **Social inclusion** - equal opportunities for education and employment
  - ▶ **More social Europe** - more funding for EU programmes like Youth Employment Initiative.

# Sustainable development

We need to shape a future where we value both people and planet. With so much inequality, limited resources and the threat of climate change, young generations will be at the forefront of the fight for a more sustainable world.

- ▶ How can we build a sustainable future?

- ▶ **Empower young voices** - make sure young people are setting the agenda.

- ▶ **Sustainable Development Goals** - Europe is falling behind. Young people have a strong role to play.

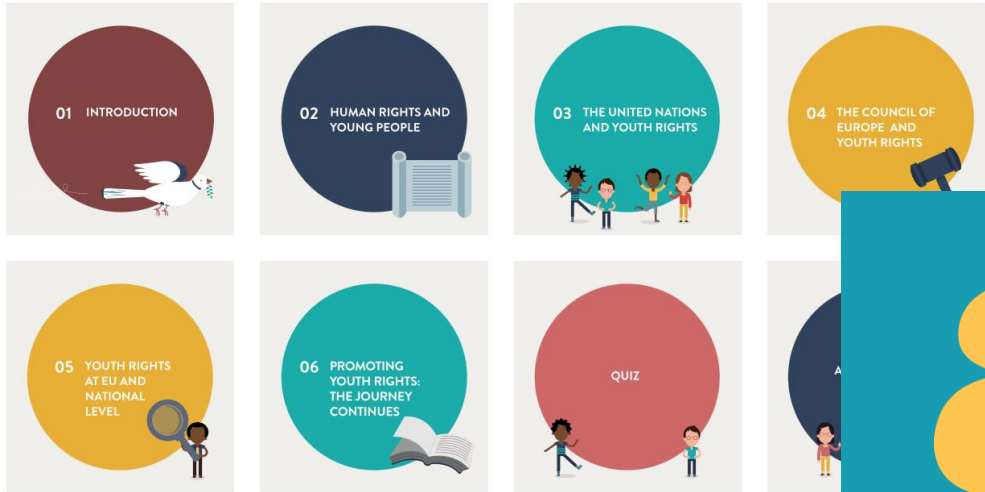
- ▶ **Mainstream sustainability** - more than just ticking a box!



# Tools & resources

## PROMOTING YOUTH RIGHTS

How to harness the power of human rights instruments

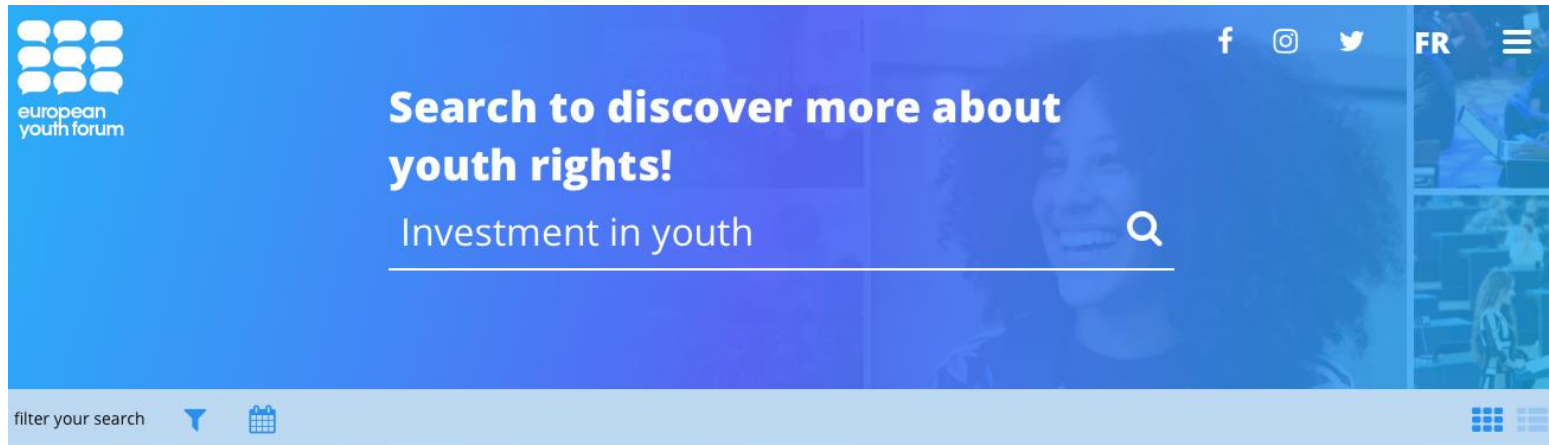


Standards for a  
quality youth policy



# ...And much more!

## [www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)



News

Youth Rights Time for



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Introducing the





# Thank you!

