

Concept note on CSO-LA Consultation in the framework of the Policy Forum on Development on the Youth Action Plan - involving young people in EU external action

16 November 2021

13:00h - 15:30h CET

Overview

Young people are change-makers and essential partners in ensuring the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and in delivering the green and digital transitions. Meaningful and long-term engagement with young people is a key element for EU's external action and in its relations with partner countries.

In the June 2020 Council Conclusions on Youth in External Action, EU Member States invited "the Commission, in cooperation with the High Representative and the Member States, to devise an action plan and to develop adequate toolkits to ensure that EU's external action contributes to the meaningful global engagement of youth at all levels in all regions."¹

The European Commission and the European External Action Service are preparing a **Youth Action Plan in the EU external action** for the period 2022-2027. It is expected to be adopted as a Joint Communication in September/October 2022.

The Youth Action Plan will contribute to the ambition of a "Stronger Europe in the World"² and constitute the external dimension of the EU Youth Strategy³. The Plan's focus will be on youth participation and empowerment and cover several thematic areas. It will provide policy orientation to be operationalised at different levels (global, regional, national and local) through programmes and projects. The framework will help in the identification and monitoring of objectives. There is no specific budget allocated to the Youth Action Plan. Most actions will be funded through EU geographic and thematic programmes, and there could be limited funds for piloting innovative global initiatives. In terms of geographical scope, the Youth Action Plan will cover all regions of the EU's external action⁴.

In order to collect the views and input from relevant stakeholders to feed into the Youth Action Plan, the European Commission is conducting a targeted consultation.

This meeting complements the online survey which global and regional youth organisations and civil society working with youth in partner countries, members of the Policy Forum on Development, EU Member States, relevant UN agencies and other multilateral organisations have been invited to respond to.

We are inviting PFD members and a selected number of youth organisations and civil society organisations working with youth to this consultation meeting to provide them with information on the process of development of the Youth Action Plan and create a dedicated space to exchange and gather their ideas and perspectives.

The summary of the input received through all the targeted consultation activities will be publicly available online. The input provided will be taken into consideration for the development of the Youth Action Plan.

For more information on the Youth Action Plan, you can refer to the [Roadmap available online](#).

Participants will be able to:

¹ [June 2020 Council Conclusions on Youth in External Action](#)

² [A stronger Europe in the world](#)

³ [EU Youth Strategy](#)

⁴ [EU in the World - European External Action Service \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Better understand the context, procedure and aims of the Youth Action Plan;
- Contribute to the constructive, forward looking and ongoing dialogue with the EU with a view to integrating different stakeholder perspectives and recommendations.

Methodology

The meeting will bring together EU officials and representatives from CSOs, LAs networks and youth organisations from regional and global levels. The aim will be to inform participants about the Youth Action Plan and collect their views and suggestions.

The 2.5 hour moderated discussion will consist of an initial presentation and clarifying questions session on the Youth Action Plan, its timeline and consultation process. This will be followed by an interactive discussion focused around three main questions. Depending on the number of participants, this session may take place in parallel groups (either by region or by language), in order to allow for more active participation.

Participants have been invited to respond to the online survey, therefore there will not be a request for written inputs after the meeting.

Questions for the moderated discussion

1. What could be considered a successful Youth Action Plan?
What would you like to see accomplished by 2027?
2. Based on your experience, what are the main challenges for meaningful youth participation?
In addressing those challenges, where would the EU action have the biggest impact in strengthening youth participation and empowerment?
3. Which should be the thematic priority areas of the Youth Action Plan?
How could the areas of intervention be linked to an overarching approach/framework/narrative?

Agenda

13h00 - 13h10 Welcome and Introduction

13h10 - 13h45 Presentation of Youth Action Plan in the EU external action and taking clarifying questions

13h45 - 15h05 Group discussion on the basis of the 3 guiding questions

15h05 - 15h30 Report from groups and concluding remarks