



International Youth Panel Position Paper

Perspectives on research findings and recommendation from the CATCH-EyoU project

Comment and recommendation on the Blue Paper –
Perspectives of policy makers on EU and on youth active
citizenship

CATCH-EyoU International Youth Panel
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The aim of this position paper is to provide recommendations from the International Youth Panel (IYP) members on the results of WP3 Blue paper. This document reflects the views of the IYP members on the results of the WP3 that was aimed to examine contemporary youth policy discourses in the EU-member states by identifying and analyzing key policy discourses on young people at the European, national and regional level, investigating potential coherence or tension between these levels and investigating congruence and/or conflicts between formal youth policy documents and the views of youth policy actors.

All the IYP members are involved with youth organizations active on a European level or they have had a significant experience in the National Youth Councils.

All the recommendations contained here are addressed to politicians, policy makers and stakeholders who are involved in the development of European and National youth policies and are intended to complement those provided by the researchers of the consortium.

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Recommendation #1

A strong and long-lasting investment aimed at European youth policy should be ensured; awareness must be risen towards more common or joint programs of all countries. A positive example in this respect is the new European Solidarity Corps. A European civil service that would enable all young people who request to spend a period of their lives in active citizenship and service to the Union with the experience in another European country. It is important that such policies are connected to and interlinked with already existing ones, aiming to guarantee sustainability and coherence over the years. Special emphasis deserves to be put on youth organizations or initiatives trying to follow a structured cross-sectoral cooperation among institutions and NGOs at all levels: local, regional, and national ones.

Recommendation #2

As long as Structured Dialogue as well as Erasmus+ seem to work well in serving and promoting the development of a European identity, EU Institutions need to continuously maintain, reinforce and implement all programme that ensure and stimulate the empowerment of young people, lifelong learning and non-formal education.

Recommendation #3

Creating jobs for young people must be at the center of EU policies. Community policies must focus on fighting youth unemployment and, consequently, social exclusion.

The abovementioned measures are however likely to be ineffective if they are not activated - at a community level – in form of a special plan to promote employment, especially among young people- and which is able to reverse the trend that followed the 2008 crisis. As a result, in many countries the number and quality job opportunities decreased.

There is a need to provide financial incentives to encourage employers to create stable and quality job opportunities for young people, to invest in education and training of their labor force. Only through innovation the economic situation can be improved in a sustainable way.

Hence, a focus on the young generation and investments into them and their education is a necessity in ensuring not just social peace but economic success of entire nations. At the same time, young people need to be protected against discriminatory employment practices and rigorous abuse.

Recommendation #4

Next generation of European Youth Policy should take the point of departure in heterogeneity and inequalities in the long run interests of all European youth groups to get instruments and resources to become active European citizens. The Institutions should recognize, support and cooperate with youth organizations and civil society. We stand for a greater involvement from the local to the European level of young people by expanding the opportunities for participation by ensuring higher quality and sustainability of social and civic participation processes. We all must become better with reaching out to young citizens in our countries – so that we are by the same extent smarter and better organised as there are young people less organised or represented. We must encourage young people to feel in charge of their fate and we need to explain our systems and institutions much more easily.