



International Youth Panel Position Paper

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

Comment and recommendation on the Blue Paper –Focusing on inequalities in youth active citizenship: Findings from large European surveys

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 WP4 Blue paper. This document reflects the views of the IYP members on the results of the WP4 that was aimed to examine individual and contextual influences that affect youth active citizenship at the European level across statistical analyses of large survey data from several research projects carried out from 1995 to 2014. 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.



Recommendation #1

The EU and Member States should develop and implement tailored mechanisms to tackle multiple levels of discriminations such as those based on age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, political preferences, gender identity, gender expression or socio-economic background. To reduce inequalities in the active citizenship of young people in Europe, the European Institutions should encourage more measures to support local Institutions against social exclusion of young people, starting from school, from active employment policies up to local support programs to young NEET.

Recommendation #2

Active European citizenship must be encouraged with more lifelong learning programs implemented starting from elementary school. The national Institutions must encourage schools and training agencies at all stages to promote greater opportunities for international mobility and exchange of good practices for inclusion of young people complement the school curriculum. In order to reduce the mismatch between education systems and labor market, Member States should constantly update the curricula with a priority on practical and soft skills development.

Furthermore, it is necessary that the Member States promote more training programs for teachers in relation to active European citizenship, and to promote the involvement of youth and student organizations in the definition of curricular and European exchanges between students and teachers.

Recommendation #3

Youth and education need to play a role. We encourage that the funding for exchange programmes, other e.g. than sports activities, has sufficient funds allocated from Erasmus Plus. We believe that every young person should have the chance for a European experience. It needs to be considered that youth exchange activities have to be for all and for instance have not a lobby as strong as e.g. sports.

Recommendation #4

The European Institutions and National have to monitor on the abuse of the internship that will no longer be for free but properly compensated to avoid precarious conditions and to ensure youth autonomy. It is necessary to involve youth organizations in the identification of the priorities and real needs of young people for a better and stronger implementation of the active labor market policies. The European Institutions must ensure the harmonization of the labor market in Europe, with measures dedicated to the creation of more jobs for young people, encouraging turnover in public administration and the principle of intergenerational solidarity.

Recommendation #5

National Youth Councils should, as the main youth stakeholders, be empowered to

take part and have a role in the implementation of inclusion policy for young people. National Youth Councils should thus receive adequate support through the future youth programme and from national authorities to effectively fulfill this role.

This could be encourage e.g. though a factor that is considering and awarding these youth councils who show active efforts in providing assistance and encouraging best practices exchange in reaching out to young citizens, that are not yet organized, so as to give more young people a voice.

Recommendation #6

European Institutions and Member States should share more the responsibility of the inclusion of young migrants both coming from European countries and from outside (young refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors etc) favoring inclusion and employability through the exchange of good practices that aim to improve their European active citizenship and the access into the European labour market.

Recommendation #7

Aiming towards active citizenship works best by not just engaging with different age groups but also by acknowledging differences in representation of woman and men. Especially young woman need to be taught and empowered to become active citizens and to lead. This way, we can provide better opportunities for all.