

MEETING of the **DIRECTORS-GENERAL** for **YOUTH**

4-6 March 2025 | LUBLIN



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Information from the European Youth Forum

*5 March 2025 / Wednesday / Lublin
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EU Youth Strategy



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EU Youth Strategy

- Appreciation for the **Council's work on the current Council Work Plan.**
- **EU Youth Dialogue recognised as the key consultation mechanism,** strengthening participation and mainstreaming.
- Ensuring **cross-sectoral approach is crucial for the MFF** and future EU programmes.
- Looking ahead: **Consultation with YFJ members** on the future of EUYD in autumn 2025.

EU Programmes

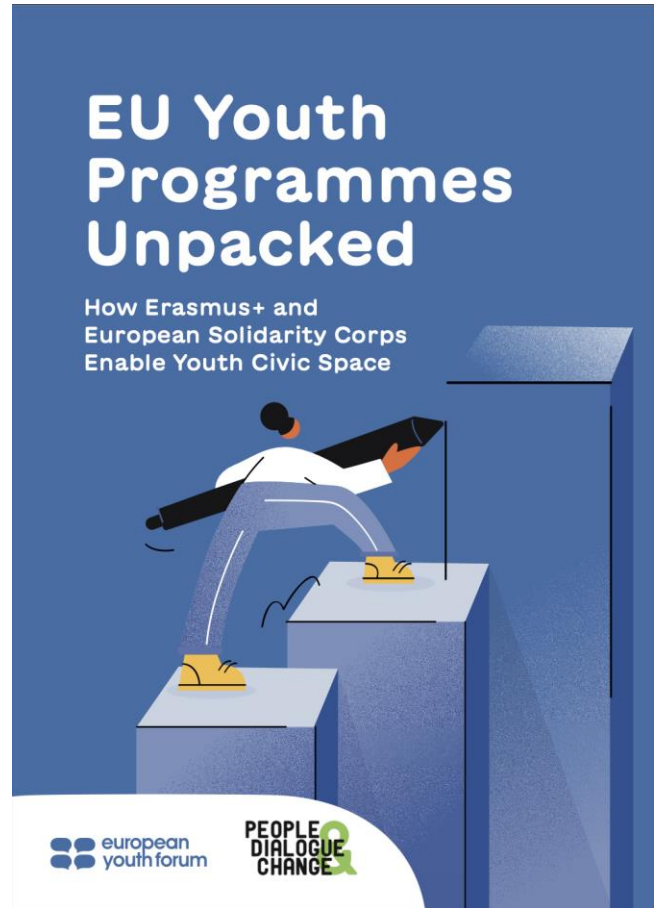


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How Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps enable youth civic spaces

It can be found [here](#)





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How Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps enable youth civic spaces

- Number of grants has risen in the current programming period, **this increase has not benefited youth-related civil society organisations and youth organisations** as much as other types of organisations.
- Organisations led by young people with fewer opportunities face two layers of disadvantage when accessing the programmes:
 - **firstly**, the financial structure of programmes may not fully meet the needs of their participants,
 - **secondly**, technical and administrative barriers in the programme favour more well-staffed and professionalised organisations over volunteer- and youth-lead organisations
- While the number of grants has risen in the current programming period, this increase has not benefited youth-related civil society organisations and youth organisations as much as other types of organisations



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How Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps enable youth civic spaces

- The vast majority of surveyed organisations indicated the programmes enabled them to support young people to participate in civil society either to a great extent or to some extent. It is important to note that this support mainly relies on individual learning and immediate projects rather than long-term development.
 - To tackle this:
 - The next Erasmus+ Regulation should have more explicit references to youth organisations as main stakeholders of the programme
 - The next iteration of the programme should include a youth chapter with among others: lower administrative threshold, grants targeted to youth organisations or regranteeing schemes for international youth organisations

Youth Programmes

- Explicit recognition of **youth organisations as key stakeholders in the next Erasmus+**.
- A dedicated youth chapter with:
 - Lower administrative thresholds.
 - Grants targeted at youth organisations.
 - Regranting schemes for international youth organisations.
- **Fivefold increase in Erasmus+ funding** to expand its reach from 1% to 5% of the EU's youth population, as per the Draghi Report.

EU Youth Dialogue Governance



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Unsolved issue: EUYD Secretariat?

- A key unresolved issue in the update to the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) governance resolution is whether it should have its own Secretariat—and what role that Secretariat should play.
- **The EU Youth Dialogue is the largest participatory tool for young people in the EU. Strengthening its structure means increasing efficiency, ensuring institutional memory, and supporting National Working Groups (NWGs) and Youth Delegates.**
- This is why **we support the broad call** from National Working Groups, Youth Delegates, and the EESC Opinion for a **more coordinated EUYD, with the ESG having a political role taking decisions relating to the running of the EUYD process**, without getting “bogged down” in administrative and procurement processes.

President Von der Leyen's Youth Advisory Board



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Youth Advisory Board

The Board must be democratically legitimate. It must reflect the voices of Europe's youth through elected representatives from the National Youth Councils (NYCs).

- We call upon President Von der Leyen and the European Commission to ensure that the Youth Advisory Board is composed of an elected representative from the **National Youth Council of each Member State**, as permanent board members. NYCs are the elected voice of young people in their communities – with a democratic mandate to represent their peers from across the political spectrum
- For the Youth Advisory Board to be cohesive and impactful, it must also be **connected to and amplify pre-existing youth participation mechanisms**, most notably the EU Youth Dialogue

Thank you for your attention



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