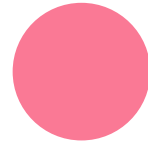
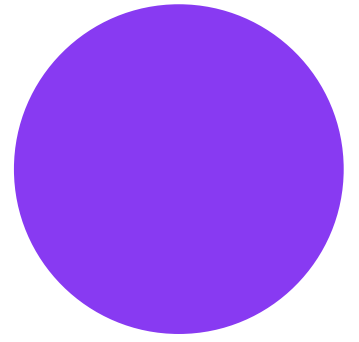


Regional and Local Implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue



Grant Project Name: Youth Goals Laboratory
Grant Project Number: 18-K21-012

Imprint



The information and views set out in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Neither the European Union institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



The publication was spearheaded by Martin Kitzberger and Eleonora Kleibel with the support of the Youth Goals Lab project members. With this project a consortium of National Youth Councils together with research partners aim at contributing to more effective youth policies at the European, national and regional level. The partners promote the use of the Youth Goals in order to empower regional-national-EU level decision makers and multipliers as well as young people and youth representatives to achieve progress towards those goals.

Thanks to Ondřej Bárta, Natalie Lehner, Helderise Rendall Évora, Laura Gies, Linda Stein, Josip Miličević, Nino Preložnjak, Christiana Xenofontos, Christina Yiannapi and Sara Amaral for their help and feedback.

© 2020 Youth Goals Lab

Web: youth-goals.eu

E-Mail: office@jugenddialog.at





Table of contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Definitions.....	4
3. EU Youth Dialogue.....	5
3.1. Legal Basis	5
3.2. Implementation	7
4. Regionalisation of the EU Youth Dialogue	8
4.1. Analysis of the Regional Implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue	9
5. Case Studies	13
5.1. Germany	13
5.2. Cyprus.....	15
5.3. Austria.....	17
5.4. Portugal.....	19
6. Conclusions and success factors	21
7. Sources.....	23





1. Introduction

This publication offers insights into the current regional implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue. An online survey with members of National Working Groups (NWG) was designed and analysed to share their experiences. Additionally different interviews had been held for in-depth discussion about the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue and specific programmes (e.g. Youth Dialogue ambassador programmes). Analyses of the collected data show that the EU Youth Dialogue is implemented in very different ways in each country. Several key elements could be identified as success factors for the local and regional implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue.

2. Definitions

The **EU Youth Dialogue** had been previously known as Structured Dialogue as defined by the EU Youth Strategy 2010 to 2018. Although the new EU Youth Strategy 2019 to 2027 has made adjustments to the orientation of the EU Youth Dialogue compared to the previous, Structured Dialogue, process, the term EU Youth Dialogue is used to describe both of these activities in this paper, even when it refers to the previous EU Youth Strategy period in order to avoid confusion.

Soft law

Refers to quasi-legal instruments that are not legally binding, e.g. action programs, guidelines, recommendations and resolutions.

Hard law

Refers to binding legal instruments and laws. In contrast with soft law, hard law gives states and international actors binding responsibilities.

Youth policies

Policy measures that aim to support young people in achieving their full potential.





3. EU Youth Dialogue

The EU Youth Dialogue is an EU-wide participation process which aims to ensure, through consultation and direct exchange between young people and policy-makers, that the views of young people are taken into account in the development of EU youth policy. It is a joint reflection at all levels in the EU member states, involving a range of young people, representatives and policy makers. It is an approach to make policy instruments more participative, accountable and bottom-up.


3.1. Legal Basis

The Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (EU Youth Strategy 2010–2018) aimed at increasing ‘benefits to young people in the European Union, especially in the context of the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy’ (Council of the European Union 2009). The Annex included the “Implementation of the Structured Dialogue” section in which the council proposed guiding principles for the EU Youth Dialogue.

These guiding principles included work-cycles of 18 months with an overall theme, the inclusion of consultation with young people at all levels, the formation of a European Steering Committee (with inclusion of youth workers and youth researchers if needed) and the formation of National Working Groups (NWGs) in all member states. The NWGs should be composed of representatives of a ministry responsible for youth affairs, youth councils, youth organisations, selected youth researchers and youth workers and generally a diverse field of (young) people active in the youth field. The responsibility of the NWGs was to secure the participatory process in the member states.

The aim of the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue – Youth in Europe: What’s next? from 2017-2018 – was to collect input of young people for the novel EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. As a result of the participation of around 50.000 young people, eleven European Youth Goals were developed.





In January 2019 the new legal framework entered into force. It is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027, based on the Council Resolution of 26 November 2018 and widely referred to as the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (Council of the European Union, 2018). One of the components of this current framework is also the EU Youth Dialogue which builds on the predecessor Structured Dialogue programme. In order to better communicate the aims and objectives of the process, the new name, the EU Youth Dialogue was already suggested in the EC communication on a new EU Youth strategy COM (2018) 269. The EC furthermore suggested paying special focus to empowering young people with fewer opportunities in the new EU Youth Dialogue process and to use online participation methods in order to reach more young people in general. The EU Member States also agreed on work-cycles of 18 months with one thematic priority for each of the cycles. Yet another new feature consists of linking the thematic priorities of each cycle closely to the European Youth Goals.

3.2. Implementation



The EU Youth Dialogue has been implemented very differently at the various levels.

At the EU level, the structure of three EU Youth Conferences per cycle have been a recurring element. In between the conferences, various types of consultations with young people across Europe have taken place. At the end of most cycles, an outcome consisted of a policy recommendation document build upon the voices of the young people captured through the abovementioned consultations. This document has subsequently been submitted to the Council of the EU by the representatives of a country holding the Presidency. The recommendations have also been shared with the European Commission (Banjac, 2017).

At the end of the 6th cycle, instead of the recommendations, the EU Youth Goals have been developed and presented to the ministers responsible for youth agendas. On national and regional levels, the implementation resulted in different soft policies and has also influenced hard policies in some cases.

In 2016, the French National Youth Council organised a seminar together with the European Youth Forum which led to a publication of the paper describing impacts of the EU Youth Dialogue processes on national realities across the EU: “What Happens at the European Level... Should Not Stay at the European Level – How the European Structured Dialogue has influenced national youth policies across the EU” (European Youth Forum & CNAJEP, 2016).

As described in the aforementioned publication, selected impacts on policies include:

Introduction of the Youth Check in Ireland, lowering of the voting age to 16 in Malta and discussions on the lowering of the voting age in Spain and Luxembourg, the Youth Guarantee implementation in Cyprus and awareness campaigns in many other European countries.

Furthermore, Gretschel et al. (2014) mention in their study an example of an outcome from the Czech Republic: platforms for e-participation and face-to-face meetings have been established, where recommendations within the national process of the EU Youth Dialogue have been discussed with decision makers. Further national and regional examples will be discussed in more detail in the following chapters.



4. Regionalisation of the EU Youth Dialogue



The EU governance system is best described as multi-level governance, meaning that different levels have different competencies and also underlines the necessity for different institutional levels to work in partnership.

The EU Youth Dialogue is agreed on the European level by representatives of the EC and the EU Member States, yet participation of young people often happens at the most immediate level: the local and regional sphere. Bringing about positive change in youth policy at local, regional, national and European level is specifically mentioned in the objectives of the EU Youth Dialogue (Council of the European Union, 2018/C456/Annex I/2d).

Due to different internal structures of the EU Member States, the definition of regions varies across the EU. When referring to a process of a regionalisation of the EU Youth Dialogue, this therefore generally encompasses all activities that especially focus on any of the subnational levels. The role of subnational levels concerning the EU Youth Strategy and the EU Youth Dialogue is also outlined in the EC Communication on the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027:

“(…) young people are committed to address global challenges, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals. Conversely, youth empowerment starts at the grassroots level and depends on the diverse situation of young people. EU youth cooperation should better connect with policy makers and practitioners at regional and local level and encourage grassroots initiatives by youth.”

COM (2018) 269

Regional and local authorities are moreover named as relevant stakeholders in the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 concluded by the Council of the EU. Hence, to successfully implement the EU Youth Dialogue, the inclusion of the regional levels is of utmost importance. It should be noted that different initiatives and projects, some of them also pan-European in nature, have focused especially on the inclusion of young people on the subnational level already in the Structured Dialogue implemented under the framework of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018. Some NWGs have also invited regional decision-makers to be part of the NWGs or ran projects in cooperation with local or regional governments.





In order to implement the EU Youth Dialogue, a well-established and constant re-connection with the European level is without any doubt irremissible. Sometimes major translation and abstraction efforts are necessary to make the inputs gathered on the regional and local levels relevant for the pan-European process. Yet, many suggestions and reflections that come up in the EU Youth Dialogue are best followed-up at the most proximate environment of young people. Therefore, partnerships and specific activities that bring young people and subnational decision-makers together are meaningful for the overall Youth Dialogue process as well as for the individual young people and local processes. The follow-up can be much more concrete and timely, which is relevant in order to actually encourage participation in a sustainable way and bring about positive change (Council of the European Union, 2018/C456/Annex I/2a,d).

4.1. Analysis of the Regional Implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue

In order to get more insights into the current regional implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue, an online survey was designed to reach out to the members of the NWGs to share their experiences. In total, 18 NWGs took part in the survey. Analyses of the collected data show that the EU Youth Dialogue is implemented in very different ways in each country. It has been relatively difficult to identify common patterns in the regional implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue. The national consultation phase including the implementation of the consultations with the young people is the main focus and a common component in almost all countries, while the follow-up phase is the most problematic part of the process in many countries. Often, dialogue events including young people and decision makers are organised at regional and local levels as part of the consultation. Another approach is collaboration with formal education institutions, such as schools and universities. In some countries, special trainings for young people are conducted focusing on strengthening skills in advocacy area in order to implement the results of the EU Youth Dialogue in their region. Concrete tasks distributed at the regional level included mainly the application and participation in the consultation. Success factors identified include in particular an ongoing communication with young people, which is also very resource intensive. Regarding the Youth Goals, the responses show that they are a very good means of communication and are regularly used by most countries to communicate about the EU Youth Dialogue.





The following is a detailed analysis of the survey:

14 NWGs stated that they have had specific activities for the regional and local implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue.

Elements and concrete activities of the regional and local implementation included:

- Promotional activities and sharing information about the process at subnational level.
- Debates and meetings between young people and subnational political decision makers.
- Workshops within formal educational institutions.
- Guest lectures by youth representatives in schools.
- Training programmes for youth leaders and young people.
- Youth Ambassador programmes.
- Co-operation with municipalities and with local youth councils.
- Focus groups and face-to-face consultations.

13 out of 18 NWGs stated they had a cohesive programme in which young people had concrete tasks. Concrete tasks included:

- Promote survey.
- Host or facilitate a workshop/lecture.
- Organise/host events in local communities (including decision makers).
- Visit schools.
- Spread information.

Success factors for the regional/local implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue included:

- Continuous Communication: a specific person working on the regionalisation of the Youth Dialogue in the Youth Dialogue coordination unit.
- Individual contact person at regional levels for young people.
- Rely on existing local structures.
- Direct connection with young people – being there at the grass root level.
- Multiplier effect: empower young people to hold workshops and train them.
- Non-formal education methods.
- Social media appearance.





Challenges to keep young people engaged included:

- A specific challenge that has been identified several times in the survey was that the European process has regularly lacked in providing continuous information and it was often unclear what will happen with results of the consultation and what will happen on the Youth Conferences. This made continuous communication to involved youth and decision-makers difficult.
- Timing has been a challenge as well. For example, when the consultation phase is in the summer months, it is very difficult to reach young people, especially schools students.
- Reaching marginalised young people requires special efforts and therefore also much more resources, since offers have to be low-threshold. Moreover, the multi-faceted problems that young people often bring needs specific attention in the planning, implementation and follow-up of participation activities.
- Limited resources for the implementation of activities and projects of the EU Youth Dialogue have been identified as a general limitation and challenge several times.

Ideas on how young people could be involved in the national, regional and local implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue included:

- Improved inclusion of local youth councils. Inquiring about their needs and opportunities to include EU Youth Dialogue at local level. In the 7th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, the Youth Goal #6 and its sub-objectives have opened up many possibilities.
- In general, the empowerment of local and regional actors in the field of youth, for example communal entities and their respective commissions for youth, youth centres and associations/organisations.
- Creating open calls for volunteers.
- Local events, workshops, street face to face activities.
- Attend and provide input during dialogue sessions - co-organise the event - (co-) facilitate the event.
- Offer specific training for young people in the EU Youth Dialogue.



The survey also asked whether the Youth Goals have a role in national, regional and local implementation. Almost all countries use the Youth Goals regularly for their communication about the EU Youth Dialogue. In most countries, the Youth Goals are a permanent reference point and have been presented to (local) decision makers. Some countries even try to build concrete projects around the Youth Goals. The national youth plan was mentioned more often in the responses. In these, the Youth Goals have either already been laid down or are expected to appear in them.





5. Case Studies

5.1. Germany

In Germany, the EU Youth Dialogue on a national level is coordinated by the German Federal Youth Council. The implementation of the Youth Dialogue in Germany on the national level is accompanied and shaped by the NWG.

In order for the Youth Dialogue to reach and to offer the opportunity to participate to as many young people as possible, the NWG consists of representatives of various youth welfare and youth (social) work structures and sectors.

Furthermore, the composition of the NWG reflects the aim of the Youth Dialogue to be accessible as a participation instrument at all levels. The NWG is made up of both state and civil society actors at local, state and federal level.

The composition of the NWG, in which the state level is prominently represented, contributes to the regional implementation of the Youth Dialogue in Germany. With the Conference of Youth Ministers of the federal states, the youth ministers of all 16 regional Youth Councils are informed about and shaping the Youth Dialogue through the NWG. On the civil society side, the regional Youth Councils ensure that the Youth Dialogue is known and supported by youth organisations and associations on the regional and local level. The Youth Dialogue is anchored locally, in particular through the representations of the city youth welfare offices and the representation of an organisation that carries out a local project within the framework of the Youth Dialogue.

In Germany, regional and nationwide Youth Dialogue events form part of the EU Youth Dialogue process. Young people meet political decision-makers and get the chance to talk about topics regarding the Youth Dialogue as well as topics that are important to them. Young people's views, demands and living situations are in the centre of those dialogues. In this way, decision-makers can take young people's demands and concerns into account when making political decisions. The Youth Dialogue events are characterised by methodologies that ensure a dialogue on equal terms. The events "JuPiD- Jugend und Politik im Dialog" (Youth and politics in dialogue) are a well-tested format already used in the predecessor process of the Youth Dialogue, the Structured Dialogue, where consultation results were collected every two years, both given to national, regional and local political decision-makers and taken to the EU



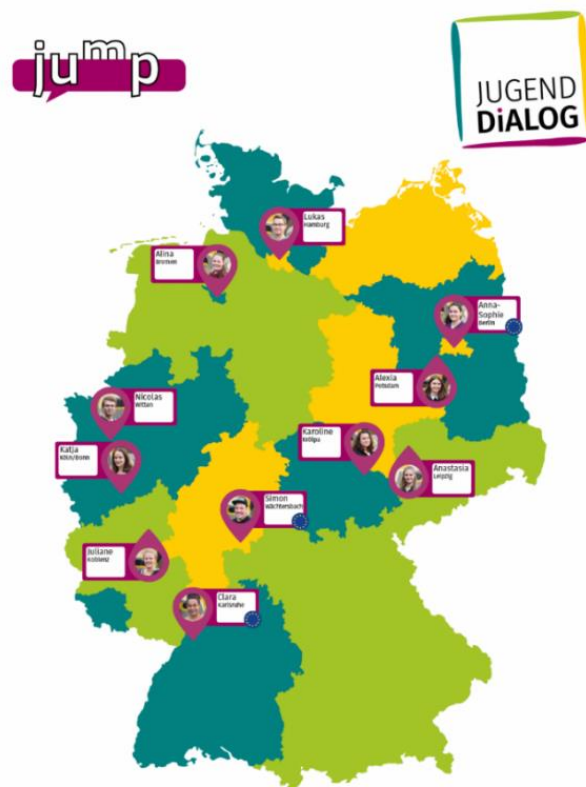


Youth Conferences. Another Youth Dialogue format are the regional dialogue events bringing together young people with local, regional and national policy-makers. At these regional dialogue events, the topics of the Youth Dialogue cycles are in the centre of the discussions. The methodologies used at the regional Youth Dialogue events focus on the sustainability of youth participation and the follow-up and implementation phase.

Jump – the young multipliers program

The Jump-team is a team of young multipliers who implement the Youth Dialogue in Germany on a regional level. The Jump-members all live in different regions of Germany. They are in contact with young people, for example at events, in clubs, centres, associations, youth councils, organisations, schools or universities. Jump-members talk to young people about the Youth Dialogue and topics that are considered important to them. Jump-multipliers meet other young people in workshops, events, focus groups etc. They organise workshops and events, talk to young people, give impulses or just listen to them. Most importantly, the Jump-team collects demands and concerns of young people and passes them on to the coordinating body of the EU Youth Dialogue on a national level, the German Federal Youth Council. In this way, voices of young people can be heard everywhere in Germany and fed into the Youth Dialogue process. From there on, the collected results can be taken to the EU Youth Conferences and to dialog events in Germany, where they can be discussed with political decision-makers and thus influence political decision making processes.

EU Youth Dialogue Projects are carried out within the framework of the funding of the key action 3 Erasmus+ program. The results of dialogue projects, which take place in various forms, can be passed on to the national Youth Dialogue coordination body, the German Federal Youth Council. Thus, consultation results from different regions in Germany are collected in a structured way.



5.2. Cyprus



The EU Youth Dialogue in Cyprus is coordinated by the NWG that consists of:

- Cyprus Youth Council (chair)
- Erasmus+ National Agency
- Ministry for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports
- Youth Board of Cyprus
- A representative from the Youth Ambassadors' Team

In 2012, the team of the Youth Ambassadors was created in the frame of the Structured Dialogue, with the goal to spread the rationale and purpose of the process among young people in Cyprus, and to further involve different actors on regional and local level of the EU Youth Dialogue. The motivation for the participation in the team was the following: direct contact with politicians, opportunities for international exchange with other dialogue ambassadors in the EU and at the EU Youth Conference, insights into democratic processes and the further development of personal competences.

The procedure for the creation of the team of the Youth Ambassadors was firstly discussed within the NWG. In order to give the chance to as many young people as possible to apply for the Youth Ambassadors team, an open-call was launched. Questions included age and the profile of the applicant, their motivation for participating in the team, their background etc. After the application procedure, the shortlisted candidates that fit the profile of the youth ambassador, were then interviewed in order to further discuss their motivation for becoming part of the team. Diversity was a factor, taking in account gender balance as well as for example geographical representation of the island of Cyprus.

The team of the Youth Ambassadors consisted of 15 young people from all over Cyprus, all of them with different backgrounds, for example youth workers, lawyers, teachers, workers. This ensured access to peer groups of young people coming from different backgrounds. The team was divided into 3 groups - each group is responsible for different aspects in the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue.

One group was the consultation team, responsible for monitoring and organising the consultation period along with the responsible EU Youth Dialogue officer from Cyprus Youth



Council. It is important to note here, that all of the ambassadors are participating and are running consultations during that period, but the work of this team was keeping track of the process. The second group is the promotional team, responsible for gaining public attention for the process, by writing articles, creating promotional material etc. The third group is the evaluation team. They were responsible for gathering all results from the consultation and support the evaluation of the consultation period.

The Youth Ambassadors continued with the new EU Youth Dialogue. The entire team of Youth Ambassadors is monitored by the Cyprus Youth Council, who is also coordinating the NWG for the EU Youth Dialogue in Cyprus.

The team of the Youth Ambassadors is working throughout each cycle. With the beginning of a new cycle, team members can be re-selected, and a call for new members to join the team is also published. To guarantee continuity, at least five members of the previous team remain in the team to transfer experience and know how.

Throughout the cycle, different meetings are organised. In a “Welcoming Meeting” the Youth Ambassadors get information about the EU Youth Dialogue and their role in the process. Also meetings are organised before the EU Youth Conferences in order to prepare the delegation for the conference. The most important meetings are the ones for the consultation period. During these meetings the youth ambassadors are introduced to the theme of the cycle and then plan their schedule for the consultation phase. Finally, follow-up meetings and a closing cycle meeting are organized in order to close the 18-month cycle as a team.

Some distinct features that the Youth Ambassadors Team has are the following:

- The team is using their own logo, which is used consistently whenever the team is organising an event, a consultation, a meeting etc.
- They are divided into groups with specific responsibilities and a plan for each cycle.
- Coming from different backgrounds gives them the opportunity to have meetings and consultations with young people from different backgrounds.
- They have their own toolbox that includes all the necessary information materials about the EU Youth Dialogue and promotional material.



5.3. Austria



In the 5th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, Austria started with a dialogue ambassador programme. This was continued and further developed in the 6th cycle. The purpose was a better involvement of the regional and local level within the EU Youth Dialogue. Prior to this, the EU Youth Dialogue Coordination office, responsible for the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue in Austria, sought the support of the federal provinces. The aim was to establish contact persons in the provinces, so-called dialogue coordinators, who would coordinate and support the dialogue ambassadors in the respective province. These were public administration officials of the youth departments of the federal provinces.

The programme for young people was developed together with experienced trainers in the youth sector. Concrete offers to the young people were: direct contact with politicians, opportunities for international exchange with other dialogue ambassadors in the EU and at the EU Youth Conference, insights into democratic processes and the further development of personal competences. The young people were nominated by the federal youth provinces and therefore had different backgrounds and levels of experience.

The tasks which the dialogue ambassadors had were still rather undefined in the first 18 months, but in the second run of the programme they were specified in more detail. Concrete tasks included:

- implementation of a local dialogue;
- dissemination of the consultation;
- participation in a networking meeting.

In the EU Youth Dialogue Coordination office there was one part-time staff member responsible for monitoring the programme and also for direct contact with young people. The cycles were kicked-off with one national networking meeting for all dialogue ambassadors, which was held in cooperation with the hosting federal province. Throughout the actual cycles, few face-to-face meetings took place. The activities of the dialogue ambassador programme were financed through the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme (KA3 projects), which made the funding inflexible and unsustainable.





The experience showed that the program was accepted with different levels of engagement in different provinces. This is due to diverse structures and priorities of the provinces. Moreover, the program required a high level of activity from the EU Youth Dialogue Coordination office. Especially keeping young people engaged, who join the process with differing expectations and motivations, proved to be challenging. Also keeping regular contact with public servants from the provinces that have different responsibilities over the course of the cycle was complex. The meeting of the dialogue coordinators from the federal provinces also took place in a different setting than that of the NWG. Moreover, the translation efforts of providing timely and relevant information to the federal provinces and subsequently the young people involved was challenging. Especially the changing governance in the European Steering Committee and with that, varying understandings of the process made it difficult to communicate and inform partners coherently.

Overall, the project succeeded in involving a group of youth long-term in the EU Youth Dialogue and uses their networks. A core aim was to involve the federal provinces directly in the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue. This resulted into very different levels of commitment and engagement, of the young people involved as well as the federal provinces.



5.4. Portugal¹



The EU Youth Dialogue in Portugal is coordinated by the National Youth Council from the very beginning. Each year there is a core working group that steers the process. This working group consists of representatives of:

- Portuguese National Youth Council;
- National Agency for Youth;
- The Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports;
- The Institute for Youth and Sports;
- Youth directorates of Azores and Madeira;
- Selected group of experts within or without the field of youth policy depending on the focus of the EU Youth Dialogue cycle (currently the DYPALL network).

The regional implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue has changed over the cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue in recent years, but it has been established that the municipalities of the regions in particular are directly involved.

In the last cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, one municipality in each of the 25 regions of Portugal was selected by a random system and contacted directly. The EU Youth Dialogue and the process have been introduced to the community representatives and they have been asked to host a session. The other municipalities of the regions were encouraged to send two young people to the sessions. The results of the sessions were used for the National Report and were also made available to politicians from the regions.

In the current cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, the aim was to enable several municipalities in the regions to host sessions at the same time. For this purpose, a guide was produced to clarify possible questions of the municipalities already in the first contact, such as what the EU Youth Dialogue is and what is necessary for a dialogue session. Basically, the requirement is only a space that also allows methods of non-formal learning. The municipalities were offered various models for the sessions.

Depending on the format, the sessions lasted from half a day to a full working day.

¹ Information on the regional implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue in Portugal has been provided by Helderise Rendall Évora who is the responsible policy officer in the Portuguese National Youth Council for the Youth Dialogue. The following is a summary from a Skype interview with Helderise, which took place on 15.11.2019.





These sessions were often held in a world-cafe setting and political decision-makers from the region were also invited to participate in the direct exchange with the young people. The events were facilitated by trainers from the Pool of Trainers of the National Youth Council. All trainers go through a training of trainers and are committed to facilitate these sessions for the course of two years.

A limitation can be identified in the follow-up phase. Although the sessions are well-documented, it is usually difficult to involve the local decision makers in the follow-up process. The only guaranteed follow-up is that the reports are included in the national report to the European Steering Committee, which can be vague and often unsatisfying feedback for the young people involved in the events at municipal level.

However, the direct and concrete involvement of municipalities in the EU Youth Dialogue has helped to raise their awareness for the process and also made it possible to reach new groups of youth.



RESULTADOS ESPERADOS

- Maior conhecimento das expectativas e percepções dos jovens relativamente ao tema do ciclo;
- Consolidar os mecanismos de participação dos jovens;
- Fortalecer as redes e plataformas de diálogo e cooperação entre os jovens, as organizações da sociedade civil e os decisores políticos;
- Contribuir para uma maior articulação entre as políticas locais, nacionais e europeias.

Como funciona

- 1 ciclo
- 3 fases de seis meses cada, correspondendo ao Trio de Presidências da União Europeia (UE)
- 3 Conferências Europeias de juventude, uma em cada país do Trio de Presidências da UE
- 18 meses
- 1 tema

FASE 1

Define-se uma prioridade temática

1ª Conferência Europeia de Juventude para identificar os desafios no âmbito do tema

FASE 2

Consultas junto dos jovens em todos os Estados-Membros da UE

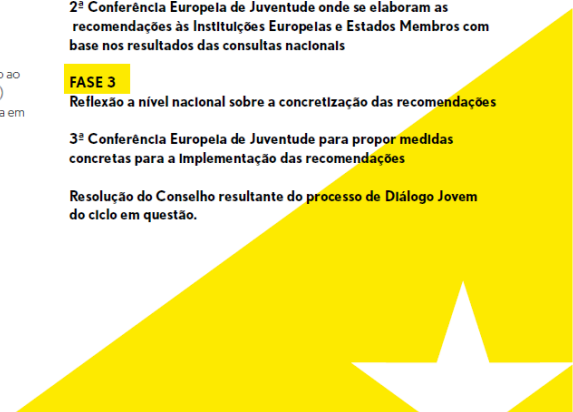
2ª Conferência Europeia de Juventude onde se elaboram as recomendações às Instituições Europeias e Estados Membros com base nos resultados das consultas nacionais

FASE 3

Reflexão a nível nacional sobre a concretização das recomendações

3ª Conferência Europeia de Juventude para propor medidas concretas para a implementação das recomendações

Resolução do Conselho resultante do processo de Diálogo Jovem do ciclo em questão.



6. Conclusions and success factors



In summary, it can be stated that the EU Youth Dialogue is implemented very differently in all EU Member States in terms of quantity and norm in regional and local areas. The implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue at regional and local level requires additional financial and human resources which are not available in many countries. Nevertheless, it has been shown that the possibilities of the EU Youth Dialogue at local and regional level are very diverse and, in particular, the direct exchange of political decision-makers and young people on a priority topic can be very beneficial for all participants.

Several key elements could be identified as success factors for the local and regional implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue. These are, however, not exclusive to the subnational implementation, but are in most cases crucial for the entire process.

Communication

Communication from the European Steering Committee to the NWGs needs to be consistent, in order to ensure enough information can be provided to young people and decision-makers involved in the process and keep them motivated throughout the cycle.

The Youth Goals have proved to be a good tool to communicate common demands in a continuous and visually appealing and cohesive way.

Translation

The chosen thematic priorities of the cycle need to be translated able to the realities of different governance levels to ensure that young people engaged at the local or regional level can relate and that it is also relevant for subnational decision-makers.


Timing

Timing is relevant for a successful consultation phase in the cycle – especially summer months proved to be difficult to reach out to young people.

Transparency

In order to ensure youth participation in the EU Youth Dialogue is sustainable and meaningful it is important to have transparency about the process. It needs to be clear, what young people engaging in the process are finally contributing to, for example a potential Council





conclusion, a report, etc. An 18-month cycle can be a long time for young people and not all stay engaged throughout the process but might just take part in specific events or activities. Therefore, clarity and transparency about the envisaged outcome needs to be public at the beginning of each cycle.

On-site

For the subnational implementation it is important to be on-site and create direct contact. Using existing structures, such as local youth councils or cooperating with regional public youth departments can be beneficial.

Cohesive implementation

To be successful and build on previous learnings and networks, the EU Youth Dialogue implementation needs continuity. Unfortunately, limited resources for the implementation of activities and projects of the EU Youth Dialogue have been identified as a general limitation and challenge several times.

In conclusion, it can be said that there are certainly still opportunities for synergies between the countries to exchange information on regional and local implementation.



7. Sources

Banjac, M. (2017). Youth, risk and the Structured Dialogue: governing young EU citizens. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 20(4), 471-486.

Council of the European Union. (2009). "Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010–2018)." OJ, C 311, 19 December, 1–11.

Council of the European Union (2018). Resolution on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027. (2018/ C456/01)

European Commission (2018). Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy. COM(2018) 269

European Youth Forum & CNAJEP. (2016). What Happens at the European Level... Should Not Stay at the European Level – How the European Structured Dialogue has influenced national youth policies across the EU. Retrieved from <https://euagenda.eu/publications/what-happens-at-european-level-should-not-stay-at-european-level>

Gretschel, A., Levamo, T. M., Kiilakoski, T., Laine, S., Mäntylä, N., Pleyers, G., & Raisio, H. (2014). Youth Participation Good Practices in Different Forms of Regional and Local Democracy. Suomen nuorisotutkimusseura & nuorisotutkimusverkosto. Haettu, 20, 2017.

