



JUGEND für Europa



**Opening event of the European expert
programme at the 16th DJHT-**

**“Creating a social and fair Europe for
all young people“**

28 March 2017, Düsseldorf

**Renewing Europe through a youth and education
policy agenda!**

**Defending the future of children and young people
across Europe!**

- An impulse for a European agenda -



The next twelve months are the crucial time to deliver a better Europe.

More than anything, we need to invest in our young people.

- _ We will continue to roll out the Youth Guarantee across Europe, improving the skillset of Europeans and reaching out to the regions and young people most in need.
- _ The Commission is proposing today to set up a European Solidarity Corps. I want this European Solidarity Corps up and running by the end of the year. And by 2020, to see the first 100,000 young Europeans taking part.

(President Juncker, State of the Union Address 2016: Towards a better Europe - a Europe that protects, empowers and defends)

Although one country has decided to leave, the EU remains indispensable for the rest of us.

(...) The EU is not perfect but it is the best instrument we have for addressing the new challenges we are facing. We need the EU not only to guarantee peace and democracy but also the security of our people. We need the EU to serve better their needs and wishes to live, study, work, move and prosper freely across our continent....

(Bratislava Declaration, September 2016)

The Bratislava Roadmap

IV. Economic and social development, youth

Objective

- Create a promising economic future for all, safeguard our way of life and provide better opportunities for youth



„Investing in Europe’s Youth“

Follow-up of the State of the Union Bratislava Roadmap agreed by 27 Heads of States

- Renewed effort to support young people in the EU
- Proposed measures related to youth, in different fields (= Youth Policy?)
- Tackling unemployment remains first priority: Youth Guarantee
- Investing in skills, competences and integration in labour market:
New Skills Agenda – Vocational education and training
- Offering cross-border opportunities and participation:
E+, Structured Dialogue, European Solidarity Corps, revised Youth Strategy beyond 2018.

(Communication of the European Commission. Brussels, 7.12.2016 COM(2016) 940 final)

01 March 2017
WHITE PAPER
ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE
Reflections and scenarios for the
EU27 by 2025

Scenario 1: Carrying on

Scenario 2: Nothing but the single market

Scenario 3: Those who want more do more

Scenario 4: Doing less more efficiently

Scenario 5: Doing much more together

Scenario 6: Participation and social cohesion





Position paper by the Child and Youth Welfare Association

The only response to the (renewed) disintegration of Europe is hence a determined revival of the European values of democracy, solidarity, tolerance, diversity, justice and peace as well as a rededication to economic and social cohesion.

A viable policy for Europe must take full and active account of these European values and on this basis, drive ahead with a profound renewal of the European Union to create a social Europe. We need to put more effort than ever into creating positive perspectives for children and young people across Europe.

We are calling for a European youth policy agenda for a social Europe!





A European youth policy agenda for a social Europe!

1. European Youth policy and Youth policy in Europe
2. European Charter for participation of young people in democratic life
3. Initiative for European citizenship education
4. European strategy for volunteering of young people
5. Learning mobility as a right for all young people in Europe
6. A stronger Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme
7. European Agenda for Youth Work in Europe
8. More Europe in Youth Work
9. A (new) narrative of young people on Europe

1st element: European Youth Policy

A European youth policy strategy and agenda

- _ taking action in the specific youth policy spheres, e.g. non-formal learning and education, cross-border mobility, volunteering, participation, citizenship etc.
- _ giving more attention to young people with fewer opportunities and specific needs
- _ fostering development of Youth work in Europe
- _ with a reliable long-term framework, with work plans, concrete actions and measurable outcomes, open to medium-term political developments
- _ with better instruments to support more knowledge and youth research
- _ sufficient financial foundation and dedicated funding programmes, e.g. Erasmus+ Youth in Action.

2nd element: European Charter for participation of young people

1. Encourage Member States to support participation in political life

- _ Create a Culture of Participation
- _ Involving young people in political decision-making and enhancing policy makers' engagement and commitment with young people
- _ Strengthening the role of youth work for political empowerment and developing youth friendly tools for political participation, local and direct democracy

2. Guarantee participation of young people and civil society

- _ Improve the structured dialogue of young people on European youth matters
- _ Systematic civic dialogue with civil society stakeholders in European politics
- _ Support of civil society structures at European level
- _ Governance processes at regional and local level

3rd element: Initiative for European citizenship education

European action plan for citizenship education

- _ as part of a renewed European Youth Strategy
- _ as part of a new Erasmus+ Citizens programme
- _ in non-formal learning, schools, vocational training, higher education, adult education
- _ to promote citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination
 - more European learning / learning in Europe
 - more information and knowledge about Europe
 - more education on European affairs, policies, strategies and intuitions

4th element: European strategy for volunteering

European Solidarity Corps as one element

- A concept based on the European Voluntary Service
- A budget beyond the existing funds
- An inclusive European Solidarity Corps
- An all European Solidarity Corps
- Keeping up the quality of European Solidarity Corps activities
- Necessary improvements and adaptations to the existing EVS implementation
- based on principles of volunteering and learning mobility
- Integration in a wider volunteering strategy as a pillar of the new EU-Youth Strategy



5th element: Learning mobility as a right for all young people

1. Information and guidance on opportunities for learning mobility
2. Motivation to participate in transnational learning mobility activities
3. Preparation of opportunities for learning mobility, with regard to language skills and intercultural awareness
4. Administrative and institutional issues relating to the learning period abroad
5. Portability of grants and loans
6. Quality of learning mobility
7. Recognition of learning outcomes
8. Disadvantaged learners
9. Partnerships and funding
10. Role of multipliers
11. Monitoring progress

6th element: A stronger Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme

- specific Youth chapter with specific youth work and youth policy objectives
- balance between different activity types of mobility with specific relevance
- stronger the link between Youth in Action and youth work / youth policy
- more visibility of Erasmus+ Youth in Action
- differentiation of the different fields - one size does not fit all!
- more user-friendliness, less complexity and shorter procedures
- decentralised implementation
- diverse range of National Agencies
- specific budget line for Youth in Action
- more money for Youth in Action

7th element: A European Agenda for Youth work

- _ More European co-operation to further develop youth work
- _ Legal basis and national strategies for youth work in the Member States
- _ Recognition of non-formal and informal learning
- _ Improving the quality of youth work
- _ Building a knowledge base for youth work in Europe
- _ Sufficient and sustainable system of funding of existing youth work practices
- _ Continue exploring the common ground of youth work
- _ Renewal of Youth work according to the challenges in society
- _ Closer cross-sectorial cooperation of those working with young people
- _ Active involvement of young people from the beginning at all levels

8th element: More Europe in Youth work

Europe stands for values which also youth work advocates for: open, social, peaceful, democratic, liberal, plural, tolerant, constitutional, participative, inclusive, diverse.

Europe is the sum of all European projects, initiatives and networks, including youth work. And it is the result of the European experiences and encounters that (young) Europeans undergo.

Youth work has to empower young people to experience what it means to be European. This requires youth work reflecting its own fields of action, to mainstream Europe in their day-to-day work, to push European projects for young people higher up their agenda. This also requires to actively promote the European character of their work, their community of practice and cross-border networks, to intervene in European policy debates and demand for a democratic, solidary, fair and open Europe.



9th element: A (new) narrative of young people in Europe

There is a European reality and European life experienced by millions of people every day. This day-to-day Europe is hard to imagine without the EU and without an open Europe. This European reality creates a real narrative about Europe, it's the basis and reasoning for a bottom-up Europe.

Until now this narrative isn't broadly recognised. That's why a new Europe needs a different form of public awareness, more space and opportunities, more willingness to listen, more dialogue about Europe. Youth work, youth policy and citizenship education carry the important task to create space and opportunities for a new narrative about Europe.



JUGEND für Europa

„Find a form of European integration, which has the joint strength to protect every individual in any national society and at the same time, while joining people with other languages and political cultures, making everybody become more enriched and more liberated than before.“



(Ulrich Beck: Europe needs a new dream. 2014)



JUGEND
für Europa

Thank you very much for your attention

wicke@jfemail.de
vonhebel@jfemail.de