



European Youth Week

EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK

27 April – 10 May 2015

The seventh edition of European Youth Week (EYW2015) will be celebrated across Europe during the two week period from 27 April to 10 May 2015. EYW2015 will consist of a broad range of events and activities organised in all 33 countries participating in the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, with the coordination and organisation of events entrusted to the Erasmus+ National Agencies for youth.

The theme of the EYW2015 is *Unlocking young people's potential as a key to participation, in working life and in society* with a focus on the key issue of embracing diversity through youth participation. This emphasises the importance of empowering young people to engage and be active in all aspects of society, as a way to promote a thriving democracy and to foster young people's inclusion, including in work.

Highlighting Erasmus+ programme's activities in the youth field is a focal point of the EYW2015. The event also offers an opportunity to showcase the successful implementation of the former Youth in Action programme.

In Brussels, Commissioner Navracsics will host a High-Level Debate on 6th May, which will focus on the themes of EYW2015. The event will conclude with a ceremony to present awards to three outstanding projects supported by the Youth in Action and Erasmus+ programmes.

An exhibition showcasing all of the projects shortlisted for the awards will be mounted by the European Commission on the Esplanade of the European Parliament on 6 May, as part of the "YO!Fest" organised by the European Youth Forum.

In addition, EYW2015 will see the launch of *Ideas Labs*, a new concept to give young people space to express their fresh and inspiring ideas on youth empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship, as well as global development issues. Young people have already been participating in national Ideas Labs around Europe, and the new ideas they generated will be published on the European Youth Portal at the start of EYW2015. Their peers across Europe will then be able to vote on these ideas, after which they will be sent on to decision-makers to consider and give their feedback. Representatives from each of the national Ideas Labs will also come to Brussels on 5th May to participate in a central Ideas Lab seminar, and then present to the High-Level Debate the following day.

The European Commission will also host a conference in Brussels linked to the EU's on-going Structured Dialogue with young people and youth organisations. This conference will gather representatives of all the National Working Groups, who manage the participatory process in the EU's 28 Member States, to share best practices and make recommendations on how to reach young people from all parts of society.

Young people wishing to get involved in the regional or national events organised during the EYW2015 can visit the website www.youthweek.eu, which gives an overview of the activities organised throughout Europe. Further information may also be provided by the National Agencies of the Erasmus+ programme.

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