

## **6th Cycle of the EU Structured Dialogue with Young People**

**July 2017 - December 2018**

### **Consultation on topic and process**

#### **CONTEXT**

The future of Europe is dependent on the involvement of young people and the meaningful inclusion of their perspective into the development of the European Union. Taking into account the challenges that young people face today, we should also note the opportunities that both this generation and upcoming generations have. New technologies, and access to broad knowledge, talent and practice across Europe can contribute to a better future for young people and the EU. This momentum is ideal to use key resources, such as the EU Youth Strategy, which aims to develop new opportunities and address current challenges for young people within the context of the European project. In addition, its further development could be a platform to provide new knowledge and innovative practices, as well as support for and empowerment of young people across Europe through different policies, programmes and other initiatives.

#### **CONTENT**

With the current Youth Strategy coming to an end in 2018, there is a unique opportunity to rethink and further improve how the EU is working on and with young people. The VI Cycle of Structured Dialogue has the momentum to examine what do young people expect from the EU to allow them to live prosperous, sustainable and successful lives. Progressing towards the adoption of a new EU Youth Strategy at the end of 2018, the VI Cycle could gain a broad overview and participation of young people on what they expect from the EU and its cross-sectoral youth policies today and over the next decade. This can include feedback from a wide range and high number of young people on different areas EU youth policy should focus on, as well as more detailed discussions on how the strategy could work most efficiently, responding to young people's needs, rights and aspirations. From the consultation phase, young people and decision makers could discuss and decide ideas or recommendations using young people's opinions as the basis, while taking into account EU competences and feasibility. This ensures that the final recommendations will concretely impact future EU policy. The outcomes of the VI cycle would feed directly: 1) into the draft of the EU Youth Strategy of the Commission and 2) into the final document adopted by the Council. This would be the first time in the history of the Structured Dialogue that immediate and tangible outcomes would be apparent.

#### **PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

The 6th Cycle of the Structured Dialogue is an 18 month process composed of three 6-month long Presidencies (Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria) and three European Youth Conferences (EUYC): 1<sup>st</sup> EUYC in Tallinn (October 2017); 2<sup>nd</sup> EUYC in Sofia (April 2018) and 3<sup>rd</sup> EUYC in Vienna (October 2018).

The whole process is kicked off with a pre-consultation with NWGs and INGYOs on topic and process of the cycle (see questions at the bottom of this text), taking place 13-23 February 2017.

Later on, the NWGs and INGYOs are invited to organise a consultation process with young people in their countries. These results, together with further ideas developed during the three EUYCs, will be fed into the European Commission's draft proposal on the new EU Youth Strategy (to be published before summer 2018), followed by the debates on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. The proposed time-line foresees the adoption of the next EU Youth Strategy by the Council of the EU Youth Ministers in November 2018 with the perspective that it will be effective by January 2019 onwards.

**QUESTIONS FOR NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND INGYOs:**

1. What would the outcome of the 6th cycle need to be, to be relevant for your national context?
2. How do you think we can best engage a high number and a broad range of young people with this proposal?
3. What would be your ideas, suggestions or keywords for a title?
4. There have been a lot of suggestions on how to improve the Structured Dialogue. What would you recommend as the one crucial change for Cycle VI?
5. Any other remarks?