

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT



# EYP STRATEGY

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**2021-2025**

# INTRODUCTION:

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**The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is the leading non-governmental organisation for civic education of young people in Europe.**

Since 1987, we have inspired and empowered hundreds of thousands of young people to become open-minded, tolerant and active citizens. Today, the EYP has national chapters in over three dozen countries, and it reaches over 25,000 young people each year. It is run and developed further by thousands of committed volunteers.



**In a voluntary organisation, long-term thinking must often make way for tackling short-term challenges.** Over the past decade, we have intensified our efforts to critically examine our organisation and steer it in a more conscious way. Creating the strategy has been to learn from past experiences, enhance our understanding of the network, and identify potential for future change. Our systemic approach came all the way from a low scale Development Strategy 2013-2015, to a more elaborate International Strategy 2016-2020, keeping international and national efforts as rather distinct concepts. This EYP Strategy 2021-2025 we now want to be a symbol of joining forces to continue great work and develop further!

**It has been our effort to align vision, mission and values when taking a structured goal- and result-oriented approach.** This offers guidance on how to pursue and enhance our activities and at the same time allow for flexibility in their implementation.

**Whilst we believe the network as a whole shares certain issues, diverse solutions are possible if we all aim for a common direction.**

The strategy is built on making the network future-proof and relevant, covering areas of both immense potential and pressing importance. It serves a two-fold internal and external focus by:

- Building a strong network that keeps learning and cares about its members, volunteers, and participants;
- Acknowledging our societal role as an organisation which aims at equipping young people in a way that they are capable of further exploring and defining their own role as active citizens in society and thereby create impact on their communities and beyond.

To steer the activities with our vision in mind and our mission at hand, we have decided to structure our areas of work amongst six pillars with respective objectives subordinated to them. They come with key results that define how

those objectives shall be reached in a set timeframe and therefore serve as measurable benchmarks for our efforts. Key results stay flexible throughout the strategy cycle and will be revisited annually to make sure they still reflect the course of our organisation. A number of initiatives, concrete ideas that are taken care of by different actors, contribute to the key results. These commitments will be deeply rooted in the everyday work.

**The strategy doesn't belong to any one actor, but concerns each National Committee, international body, volunteer, member and alumni.** All stakeholders are asked to identify those parts that are relevant and possible to them. Hence, the responsibility for the success is a shared one. By working together in this spirit, and bringing the strategy to life, we will be able to move the network forward and truly reach, inspire and empower the young people of Europe.



# OVERVIEW

Here you can see the overall impact flow of the EYP Strategy 2021-2025. Together, members, National Committees, and international bodies in our network will create and implement actions, varying in scale (e.g. tools, events or policies) and target level (local, regional, national, network). These measures build the foundation of the strategy and can be stretched over six months or more. They contribute to Key Results, targets of one or more years which will enable us to measure our successes. Key Results and Initiatives will be published separately. You will find the Objectives, Mission, Values and Vision in this document.

**WE DO...**

## Initiatives



**...CONTRIBUTING TO...**

## Key Results



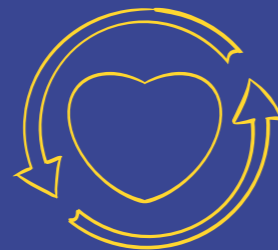
**...AIMING AT...**

## Objectives



**...FULLFILING...**

## Values



**...FOLLOWING...**

## Mission



**...IN ORDER TO REACH...**

## Vision



## MISSION

**Our mission is to inspire and empower a young generation of informed, open-minded, responsible, and active citizens that shape society and drive impact.**

## VISION

**Our vision is a democratic, peaceful, sustainable, and open society where every young person is informed and empowered to play an active role in the shaping of their own lives and society at large.**

\*The following six values are as voted at the Board of National Committees Meeting 2021-02

# VALUES

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## INDEPENDENCE

The EYP is a network that is independent and not affiliated with any political institutions or parties. Its activities and their content are decided independently and without interference from outside parties (such as donors).



## NON-PARTISANSHIP

The EYP is a network that should not take sides in political disputes or align itself with views held by specific actors, while it is important to note that such a 'political neutrality' does not define a 'nonpolitical' character as the we play a role in European civil society which we primarily impact through those we reach as an organisation. In our activities, political issues are discussed based on individuals' own opinions. Those involved in our activities can belong to political parties and participate in their respective activities, but these affiliations must not impact the network.



## DEMOCRACY

The EYP is a network that is run in an open, participatory, consultative, and consensus-based manner. All decision-making entities are elected democratically, and members are actively involved in the functioning, running and decision-making of our organisation.



## COMMUNITY

The EYP is a network that is composed of individuals seeking to drive impact and shape our organisation and society at large. We believe in the power of volunteering and take pride in the achievements. Individuals as well as the entities of the organisation are expected to work together for the best of the entire network. We exist, function and succeed because of this cooperative spirit. We seek to harness the strengths of individuals across a wide spectrum and to support each other in our weaknesses in order to form a big whole. For us, leadership is not about the few but the many, with everybody doing their share in shaping and reaching common goals. We value diversity and differences in opinion, and offer a space for everyone to share their views and engage with those of others.



## INCLUSION

The EYP is a network that celebrates diversity, strives to be a welcoming environment for all young Europeans, and provides equal opportunities to all its participants. Our events feature lively but respectful dialogues and serve as grounds for different opinions to be heard. We do not tolerate any type of discrimination, such as that based on gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, beliefs, nationality, socio-economic status and/or ability.



## INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

The EYP is a network that includes many different cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds. Engaging with our diversity and recognising commonalities and differences, we create connections and cultivate mutual respect. For it to succeed, intercultural understanding is required at all levels of the network. The cultural element of our activities is tremendously important, highlighting the variety of cultures present in our organisation and completing the educational experience we offer by providing our participants with opportunities to work with other young people of different national and cultural backgrounds.

# PILLARS



**A NETWORK THAT WORKS  
AS A CATALYST FOR  
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP.**



**A NETWORK THAT  
FOSTERS A PEACEFUL  
EUROPEAN SOCIETY.**



**A NETWORK THAT  
OPERATES WITHIN A  
SUSTAINABLE  
STRUCTURE FOR  
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT.**



**A NETWORK THAT  
SUPPORTS ITS  
VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR  
PERSONAL GROWTH.**



**A NETWORK THAT  
PUSHES FOR INCLUSION  
AND ACCESSIBILITY.**



**A NETWORK THAT  
OFFERS A RICH VARIETY  
OF METHODS, TOOLS,  
AND FORMATS.**

## A NETWORK THAT WORKS AS A CATALYST FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

- We want a network that is profiled as a well-known player in the field of active citizenship education.
- We want a network that raises awareness and provides meaningful answers to societal issues through a planned thematic approach.
- We want a network that creates platforms for dialogue between young people and societal stakeholders.
- We want a network that channels young people's perspectives into decision-making fora and platforms.
- We want a network that contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## A NETWORK THAT FOSTERS A PEACEFUL EUROPEAN SOCIETY.

- We want a network that strives for cooperation on projects between members, volunteers, and National Committees.
- We want a network that has National Committees committed to working and developing together.
- We want a network that expands across its current borders and whose model successfully works inside and outside of Europe.
- We want a network that contributes to local projects and helps to build a more welcoming society on all levels.

## A NETWORK THAT OPERATES WITHIN A SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURE FOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT.

- We want a network that enables ownership for our National Committees whilst still staying accountable to one another.
- We want a network that has a transparent and stable financial structure.
- We want a network that provides a streamlined set-up for capacity building.
- We want a network that challenges itself to operate more environmentally friendly.
- We want a network that has future-proof governance and office structures at its disposal.

## A NETWORK THAT SUPPORTS ITS VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR PERSONAL GROWTH.

- We want a network that provides all our members with a range of educational opportunities to equip them with skills, reflecting their needs.
- We want a network that offers meaningful work to our volunteers taking into account their different backgrounds and experiences.
- We want a network that relates to our members and volunteers by recognising their work and contribution.
- We want a network that puts welfare, safety and dignity at the centre of its development and management.

## A NETWORK THAT PUSHES FOR INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY.

- We want a network that is accessible to young people with disabilities.
- We want a network that actively works on including young people from all socio-economic backgrounds, genders, ethnicities, and locations.
- We want a network that embraces and nurtures its multiculturalism, multilingualism and diversity, whilst utilising its potentials and benefits.
- We want a network that engages more participants and diversifies its current ways to join the organisation.

## A NETWORK THAT OFFERS A RICH VARIETY OF METHODS, TOOLS, AND FORMATS.

- We want a network that champions and regularly evaluates its use of a wide variety of methods, tools and formats.
- We want a network that ensures ownership to our members, volunteers and National Committees in the delivery of purposeful formats.



### **A NETWORK THAT WORKS AS A CATALYST FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP.**

The EYP should provide volunteers, members, and participants with tangible tools to engage in society, societal structures and processes, and use our vast network of people to facilitate projects and connect young people to act in their local communities. They shall familiarise themselves with societal topics, learn about the institutions and frameworks in which decisions are made, discuss current issues in a constructive format, and craft meaningful solutions. To achieve this, we must focus both on what we do during our activities, but also their effects and what can be done after their end. Ensuring that EYP is a catalyst for active citizenship also means that we connect ourselves and the young people inside our network with the outside world and the processes impacting their lives.

### **A NETWORK THAT FOSTERS A PEACEFUL EUROPEAN SOCIETY.**

The EYP showcases the importance of youth involvement in building a brighter future. It is a meaningful contributor in making young Europeans peace-oriented, understanding, and open-minded individuals. Our network builds bridges between young people from different backgrounds, and we contribute to making Europe a continent of peace. Our aim is to diversify the ways in which the EYP develops and works internally, as well as the way it reveals itself to the outside world. Our new approach is to make EYP more focused on its local impact and widening our scope of activities to build stronger foundations for the generations to come.

### **A NETWORK THAT OPERATES WITHIN A SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURE FOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT.**

To operate and progress as a network, we need to ensure a focus on qualitative growth rather than a purely quantitative approach. The well-functioning and resilience of our National Committees, the international structures, the International Office as well as the network as a whole must therefore be put into the centre of our efforts to achieve long-term and structural funding, successful and planned collaboration on strategic development, a well-balanced ratio of ownership and accountability amongst the stakeholders in our network, as well as a robust, digital and sustainable operational set-up of our work.





### **A NETWORK THAT SUPPORTS ITS VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR PERSONAL GROWTH.**

Volunteering and personal growth are vital parts of the strategic development of our network, as they represent the core working principles of the EYP. Volunteering on the one hand showcases the spirit of the organisation and on the other hand helps its enlargement in human resources, better administrative management, and the growth of individual members. Within the context of volunteering it is crucial to further work on the personal growth of people by creating opportunities, offering hands-on expertise as well as a room for needs-based development.

### **A NETWORK THAT PUSHES FOR INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY.**

Our network has always striven to be a platform for inclusion and to provide equal opportunities to young people across the continent. We have marked considerable progress in this sector and the EYP should build on these efforts to improve its infrastructure and further include young people with disabilities. In order to maintain our momentum of outreach, inclusion and diversity, we should ensure that our efforts are not only upheld but magnified, reaching and including more people and using diversity as a learning tool for success.

### **A NETWORK THAT OFFERS A RICH VARIETY OF METHODS, TOOLS, AND FORMATS.**

Championing a wide variety of formats and methodologies will not only contribute to the objective to push EYP as a well-known organisation in the field of active citizenship education, but will also enable us as a network to provide necessary and important experiences to all young Europeans and to constantly create, innovate and adapt. If we want to have a network of changemakers, it is vital that our volunteers have the ownership and power to create an impact both inside and outside the network, with the appropriate tools to answer the important socio-political questions of our time.