

Brussels, 9 December 2021  
(OR. en)

14600/21

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2021/0328(COD)**

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**LIMITE**

JEUN 150  
EDUC 405  
SPORT 86  
CULT 115  
EMPL 533  
BUDGET 42  
SOC 713  
GENDER 124  
SAN 720  
ENV 957  
SUSTDEV 174  
CLIMA 423  
CODEC 1580

**NOTE**

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|          |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| From:    | General Secretariat of the Council                                                                                                                                         |
| To:      | Permanent Representatives Committee                                                                                                                                        |
| Subject: | Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Year of Youth 2022<br>- Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement |

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. On 14 October 2021, the Commission submitted to the Council its proposal for a Decision on a European Year of Youth 2022<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> doc. 12873/21.

2. On 21 October 2021, the Council consulted the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee on the Commission proposal. On 6 December, the European Committee of the Regions submitted its Resolution on the proposal.<sup>2</sup>
3. The Youth Working Party started to examine the proposal on 20 October 2021. On 12 November 2021, the Permanent Representatives Committee endorsed a mandate with a view to starting negotiations with the European Parliament.
4. On 22 November 2021, the European Parliament adopted its legislative report and the mandate to enter into inter-institutional negotiations.
5. Tripartite technical meetings took place on 16, 24 and 30 November 2021. On 6 December 2021, a political trilogue took place and a provisional agreement was reached with the European Parliament.
6. On 8 December 2021, the Presidency debriefed the Permanent Representatives Committee on the outcome of the trilogue.
7. Compared to the Commission proposal, the provisionally agreed text specifies in the articles that the European Year of Youth be for young people and be co-created by them as well as needs to ensure that a youth perspective is taken into account at the decision-making processes on all levels. Also added is clarification in the recitals that the minimum operational budget for 2022 should be EUR 8 million, whereas additional financial support should be provided by relevant EU programmes and policies. Additional funding to implement the year beyond 2022 to ensure legacy of the Year may be allocated without prejudice of the powers of the budgetary authority and must be identified within the MFF 2021-2027.
8. The full text is set out in the Annex to this note. An accompanying joint statement from the Parliament and the Council, and a unilateral statement from the Commission with the reference to the mapping exercise outlining the possible contributions by EU programmes and instruments to the implementation of European Year of Youth, form part of the provisional agreement reached at the Trilogue and are set out in the Annex to the Annex.

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<sup>2</sup> doc. 14098/21.

## II. CONCLUSION

9. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
- approve the final compromise text as set out in the annex to this note;
  - authorise the Presidency to send the customary letter to the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Education and Culture confirming approval of the text.

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PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

ON A EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH 2022

(TEXT WITH EEA RELEVANCE)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 165(4) and 166(4) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>3</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions<sup>4</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

1. Article 165(2) TFEU states that Union action shall be aimed at, inter alia, “encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe”.
2. In the Bratislava Roadmap of 16 September 2016<sup>5</sup>, the 27 Heads of State or Government committed to "provide better opportunities for youth", notably through "EU support for Member States in fighting youth unemployment and on enhanced EU programmes dedicated to youth".

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<sup>3</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>4</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>5</sup> [Bratislava Declaration and Roadmap - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

3. In the Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017<sup>6</sup>, the leaders of the 27 Member States and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission pledged to work towards "a Union where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find jobs across the continent".
4. The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 recognises that young people are architects of their own lives, contribute to positive change in society and enrich the EU's ambitions, and that youth policy can contribute to create a space where young people can seize opportunities and relate to European Union values. Previous European Years, such as the European Year of Rail 2021, the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the European Year of Citizens 2013-2014, or the European year of Volunteering 2011 offer valuable experience which should inform future efforts to engage and empower youth in shaping their future and the future of Europe.
5. NextGenerationEU ensures a fast-forwarding of the twin transitions and provides the possibility to collectively emerge stronger from the pandemic and re-opens perspectives full of opportunities for young people, including quality jobs and adapting to social change. The Union aims for youth to be fully on board in the rollout of NextGenerationEU, enhancing their role in the green and digital transition.
6. On 15 September 2021, President von der Leyen announced in her State of the European Union<sup>7</sup>. Address that the European Commission would propose to make 2022 the European Year of Youth. Highlighting the confidence that she draws for Europe's future from the inspiration provided by Europe's young people, President von der Leyen added that "*if we are to shape our Union in their mould, young people must be able to shape Europe's future*". Europe needs the vision, engagement and participation of all young people to build a better future, and Europe needs to give young people opportunities for the future, a future that is greener, more digital and more inclusive. This is why the President proposed "*a year dedicated to empowering those who have dedicated so much to others*".

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<sup>6</sup> [The Rome Declaration \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/1000000/1/declaration-rome-2017.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [soteu\\_2021\\_address\\_en\\_0.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/1000000/1/soteu_2021_address_en_0.pdf)

- 6.a The European Year of Youth should trigger a reflection process on the future of youth and their active participation in building the future of Europe. For this reason, youth policies should be mainstreamed through all relevant Union policies.
7. The active participation of young people in democratic processes is crucial for the present and the future of Europe and its democratic societies. In line with the Council conclusions on fostering democratic awareness and democratic engagement among young people in Europe<sup>8</sup>, the conclusions on strengthening multilevel governance when promoting the participation of young people in decision-making processes, but also with the European Democracy Action Plan<sup>9</sup>, and the Report on the reform of electoral law of the European Union<sup>10</sup>, the European Democracy Action Plan<sup>11</sup>, the European Year of Youth therefore aims to give a boost to the active involvement of young people in Europe's democratic life, including by supporting participation activities for young people from diverse backgrounds in processes such as the Conference on the Future of Europe, promoting civic engagement and volunteering initiatives, thereby raising awareness of European Union values and fundamental rights, as well as European history and culture, bringing together young people and decision-makers at local, regional, national and Union levels and contributing to the process of European integration.

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<sup>8</sup> Conclusions of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on fostering democratic awareness and democratic engagement among young people in Europe (OJ C 415 of 1.12.2020, p.16)

<sup>9</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0790&from=EN>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2015-0286\\_EN.html?redirect](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2015-0286_EN.html?redirect)

<sup>11</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0790&from=EN>

8. The essential role of young people as change makers on the international scene is also recognised and must be supported “to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world”. The European Year of Youth is a concrete contribution to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (‘2030 Agenda’)<sup>12</sup>, which highlights that “children and young women and men are critical agents of change”, and should give a further impetus to the implementation of that Agenda, the road to sustainable development, and the capacity of young people to shape the present and the future, not only of the Union, but also EU partner countries and of our planet as a whole.
9. In line with the Council conclusions from 5 June 2020 on Youth in external action, stressing the contribution of young generations to building stronger, more legitimate, peaceful and democratic societies, the European Year should contribute to strengthen youth participation in EU external action across all policies, create new opportunities for education, learning and exchanges, develop partnerships and dialogue between youth from the EU and partner countries, including Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans and Southern neighbourhood, and capitalising on existing platforms for youth dialogue and partnerships such as the AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub, the EU’s Youth Sounding Board and to increase the role of youth engagement in strategic communication and public diplomacy action.
10. The European Youth Goals, which are an integral part of the EU Youth Strategy, and which have been developed by young people for the benefit of young people under the EU Youth dialogue process, are a testimony to the eagerness of many young Europeans to participate in defining the direction in which the development of the European Union should go.

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<sup>12</sup> [21252030 Agenda for Sustainable Development web.pdf \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/)

11. The European Year of Youth should boost the successful implementation of Principle 1 of the European Pillar of Social Rights<sup>13</sup>, which highlights that "everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning". In this respect, the European Year of Youth should help to make noticeable progress towards achieving the European Education Area, which aims to stimulate young people in their personal, social and professional fulfilment and foster citizenship education by creating a genuine European space of learning removing barriers to the automatic mutual recognition of degrees, qualifications and periods in the Union. The Year should also consider young people's social situation and well-being as well as contribute to the successful implementation of Principle 3 of the European Pillar of Social rights, which highlights "everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services available to the public".
12. The European Year of Youth should support Union's efforts to expanding employment opportunities for youth in the post-pandemic recovery as stated in the European Parliament Resolution on the Youth Guarantee (2020/2764(RSP))<sup>14</sup> which underlines that lockdown measures have caused a sudden disruption to young people's formal and non-formal education as well as informal learning, traineeships, internships and apprenticeships, as well as jobs, affecting their income, earning potential and well-being, including their health, and in particular their mental health. With this Resolution and its Resolution on strong social Europe for Just Transitions, the European Parliament condemned the practice of unpaid internships when not related to the acquisition of educational qualifications as a form of exploitation of young workers and a violation of their rights and called on the Commission to put forward a legal framework for an effective and enforceable ban on such unpaid internships, traineeships and apprenticeships.

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<sup>13</sup> [pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Texts adopted - Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee - Thursday, 8 October 2020 \(europa.eu\)](#)



13. The European Year of Youth should give further impetus to the creation of quality youth employment opportunities under the Youth Employment Support (YES) initiative, including through the Council Recommendation of 30 November 2020 on the reinforced Youth Guarantee<sup>15</sup> and the new ALMA initiative (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) proposed by the Commission to be implemented under the European Social Fund +. ALMA should be a cross-border youth mobility scheme for disadvantaged people not in employment, education or training.
- 13.a The European Year of Youth should contribute to recognition of youth work and to the objectives of the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn process and thus contribute to reconstructing and strengthening youth work structures to make them sustainable and more resilient in all parts of the Union, including cross-border cooperation. The EYY should also promote the validation of competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning including through youth work, while recognising a high value for learning in youth work alongside formal education and a need to strengthen the partnership between youth work and formal education.
14. The European Parliament resolution on the impact of COVID-19 on youth and on sport (2020/2864(RSP))<sup>16</sup> underlines the particularly acute impact the current pandemic has had on young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs) and highlights the need to tackle the problems faced by young people from vulnerable groups; notes that youth unemployment and poverty have risen steadily since the outbreak of the pandemic and urges the Commission and the Member States to take all the necessary measures to counter the disastrous effects on youth employment. The Resolution recalls the role of volunteering in developing life and work skills for young people and considers that the European Solidarity Corps can help young Europeans to broaden their opportunities beyond their local realities.

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<sup>15</sup> [pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Texts adopted - The impact of Covid-19 on youth and on sport - Wednesday, 10 February 2021 \(europa.eu\)](#)

- 14.a The COVID-19 pandemic has a deep social and economic impact on our society as a whole and has led to an unprecedented increase in mental health issues, particularly among young people. Therefore, the European Year of Youth should promote the discussion and development of sustainable solutions, including preventing measures, to help tackle these challenges.
15. The European Year of Youth should support giving effect to the Council Resolution of 1 December 2020 for establishing the European Youth Work Agenda<sup>17</sup> and the Council Conclusions of 22 May 2019 on Young People and the Future of Work<sup>18</sup>, of 10 December 2019 on digital youth work<sup>19</sup> and of 7 December 2017 on smart youth work<sup>20</sup>.
16. Reflecting the importance of tackling climate and nature crises in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement<sup>21</sup> and to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the European Year of Youth should contribute to mainstreaming climate and nature-related actions and to the implementation of the European Green Deal<sup>22</sup> in a fair and inclusive manner, the Horizon Europe missions and the Fit for 55 package<sup>23</sup>, notably by encouraging young people to formulate own initiatives and creative ideas on achieving the relevant targets and with this recognising the creative and innovative potential and abilities of young people.

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<sup>17</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2020.415.01.0001.01.ENG](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2020.415.01.0001.01.ENG)

<sup>18</sup> [pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on Digital Youth Work 2019/C 414/02 - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Council conclusions on smart youth work \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Paris Agreement | Climate Action \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> [A European Green Deal | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [EU's plan for a green transition - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

17. The European Year of Youth should give further impetus to the European Parliament Resolution on Effective measures to ‘green’ Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps (2019/2195(INI))<sup>24</sup> which underlines that Erasmus+, through its support for formal and non-formal education, learning and training and for youth participation activities, is crucial for awareness-raising among Europeans, in particular young generations, to encourage them to have an active and informed position on sustainability and relevant policies and to become engaged and conscious future citizens; highlights, in this respect, the major role played by youth and civil society organisations in sharing best practices and implementing projects raising younger generations’ awareness about sustainability.
- 17.a. The European Year of Youth should build on and seek synergies with European events and initiatives, such as the European Youth Event, the European Youth Week, the European Youth Capital, the European Capital of Culture, the Europe Day, the European Heritage Days as well as the Council of Europe campaign 'Youth for Democracy, Democracy for Youth'.

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<sup>24</sup> [Texts adopted - Effective measures to ‘green’ Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps - Tuesday, 15 September 2020 \(europa.eu\)](#)

18. In her State of the European Union Address, President of the Commission highlighted that “Europe needs all its youth”. In fulfilling its objectives, the European Year should be fully inclusive and actively promoting the participation of young people of diverse backgrounds and with fewer opportunities and from the outermost regions, in line with the Commission’s implementing decision (EU) on the framework of inclusion measures of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes 2021–2027.
- 18.a It is important that the European Year of Youth contribute to increasing the interest and active participation of young people in democratic life and electoral processes, in particular at Union level. According to the European Parliament’s 2019 Post-Election Eurobarometer<sup>25</sup>, during the 2019 European Parliament elections, voter turnout among young people was much higher (42 %) as compared to that during the 2014 European Parliament elections (28 %) and should be further encouraged.
19. The European Year of Youth is firmly anchored in the principles recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the ‘Charter’)<sup>26</sup>. In particular, in its actions and activities, the European Year of Youth seeks to ensure full gender equality and the right to non-discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to promote the Charter's application. The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child<sup>27</sup> and the European Child Guarantee<sup>28</sup> set a new standard for child and teen care and representation and recognise children and young people as active citizens and agents of change.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/2019-european-elections-entered-a-new-dimension>

<sup>26</sup> [text\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> COM(2021) 142 final

<sup>28</sup> Council Recommendation of 14 June 2021 (EU)2021/1004

20. In order to ensure that the European Year of Youth is efficiently and effectively implemented, it should make maximum use of delivery mechanisms already in place. In order to optimise the added value of the European Year and produce an additional positive impact on European youth, synergies and complementarity should be sought, and build upon, in particular, between the European Year and Union programmes including those with international outreach specifically dedicated to young people, those without a transnational or international character, in particular those relating to education and training, sport, culture and the media, youth and their health, including mental health, solidarity, volunteering employment and social inclusion, research and innovation, industry and enterprise, digital policy, agriculture and rural development that have a focus on young farmers, environment and climate, cohesion policy, migration, security and international cooperation and development, and with activities undertaken by the Member States.
21. By creating an environment for promoting those objectives simultaneously at Union, national, regional and local levels, a greater synergy and a better use of resources can be achieved. In that regard, the Commission should provide timely information to and closely cooperate with the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States, the Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee and the bodies and associations active in the field of youth at Union level. In order to ensure that activities developed for the European Year of Youth have a European dimension, Member States are also encouraged to collaborate with each other.
- 21.a The coordination of the European Year of Youth at Union level should allow for co-creation. The Commission should convene meetings, jointly or separately, with stakeholders and representatives of organisations or bodies in the field of youth and national coordinators to assist in co-creating and implementing the European Year at Union level. The EU Youth Coordinator should have a key role in these meetings and in reaching out to the various stakeholders, representatives of organisations or bodies in the field of youth.

22. The European Year of Youth should also focus on actions and activities which present a potential European added value. The notion of European added value is to be understood broadly and to be demonstrated in different ways, such as where actions or activities have a transnational character, particularly with regard to cooperation aimed at achieving a sustainable systemic impact or contribute to young people's European identity, awareness and ownership of European Union common values and fundamental rights, including gender equality and ability to take part in the Union's representative and participative democracy.
- 22a The European Year of Youth should promote the dissemination of good practices, the undertaking of studies and research, the collection of data, statistics and other qualitative or quantitative information on the situation of youth in the Union, including on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, exploiting sources such as the Youth Wiki, the EU Youth report and the Youth Progress Index.
23. At Union level, the necessary financial allocation for the implementation of this Decision should be identified within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. The minimum operational budget for the implementation of this Decision should be EUR 8 million. Additional financial support to the European Year of Youth should be provided by relevant EU programmes and instruments, subject to the availability of funding and in accordance with the applicable rules. The financing of the European Year of Youth should not be detrimental to the financing of projects in current Union programmes and should aim at securing a long lasting legacy beyond 2022. Without prejudice to the powers of the budgetary authority and in accordance with Article 314 TFEU funding for the legacy should be identified within the MFF 2021-2027.

24. Since the objectives of this Decision cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather by reason of the scale and effects of the proposed action be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, as set out in Article 5 TEU. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.
25. In view of the impact of COVID 19 on the youth and consequently the pressing need for this Year's objective to honour, support and engage with young people in a post-pandemic perspective, it is appropriate to provide for an exception to the eight week period referred to in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union, annexed to the Treaty on European Union, to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,
26. Following the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, timely application of this Decision is needed for the purpose of ensuring swift implementation of the European year of Youth. This Decision should enter into force as a matter of urgency on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union and should apply, with retroactive effect, from 1 January 2022.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

### *Article 1*

#### *Subject matter*

The year 2022 shall be designated as the ‘European Year of Youth 2022’ (hereinafter referred to as the ‘European Year’).

### *Article 2*

#### *Objectives*

In line with the objectives of the 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy and the European Youth Goals<sup>29</sup>, which have a cross-sectoral approach aiming at ensuring that the interests and needs of young people are duly taken into account in political action at all levels, the overall objective of the European Year shall be to boost the efforts of the Union, the Member States, regional and local authorities together with civil society actors to empower, honour, support and engage with young people, including those with few opportunities, in a post-pandemic perspective with a view to having a long-term positive impact for young people. In particular, the European Year shall be aimed at:

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<sup>29</sup> As defined by the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and its Annex 3.



1. renewing the positive perspectives for young people, with a particular focus on the negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on them, while highlighting how the green and digital transitions and other Union policies offer opportunities for them and for the society at large, drawing inspiration from the actions, vision and insights of young people to further strengthen and invigorate the common European Union project and listening to young people, taking into account their needs and concerns, and supporting them in developing concrete, inclusive opportunities and deliverables, whilst making an optimal use of Union instruments,
2. empowering and supporting young people, including through youth work<sup>30</sup>, especially young people with fewer opportunities, from disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds or belonging to vulnerable and marginalised groups, as well as from rural, remote, peripheral and less developed areas as well as from outermost regions, to acquire relevant knowledge and competences and thus become active and engaged citizens as well as actors of change, inspired by a European sense of belonging, including additional efforts at building capacity for youth participation and civic engagement among young people and among all stakeholders, who work to represent their interests and involving the contribution of young people from diverse backgrounds in key consultation processes, such as the Conference on the Future of Europe and the EU Youth Dialogue,
3. supporting young people to acquire a better understanding of, and actively promoting the various opportunities available to them from, the public policies at EU, national, regional level and local level in order to support their personal, social, economic and professional development in a green, digital and inclusive world, while aiming at removing the remaining barriers thereto,
4. mainstreaming youth policy across all relevant Union policy fields in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 to encourage that a youth perspective is brought into policy-making at all levels.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.eywc2020.eu/en/agenda/bonn-process/>

***Article 3***  
***Type of measures***

1. The measures to be taken to achieve the objectives set out in Article 2 shall include the following activities at European and, building on existing possibilities, also at, national, regional or local level, and, where relevant, in partner countries, linked to the objectives of the European Year:
  - a) conferences, events, both cultural or otherwise, and policy initiatives targeting young people to promote inclusive and accessible debate on challenges, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, that young people, including those with fewer opportunities and belonging to vulnerable groups, are facing, such as their social situation, access to education and training as well as working conditions , and on the course of action that stakeholders at different levels can take;
  - b) promoting youth participation and enhancing the use of existing and new innovative tools, channels and programmes that enable all young people to reach policy-makers by identifying, collecting and sharing of experiences and good practices and raising awareness among policy-makers of these tools, channels and programmes;
  - c) gathering ideas using participatory methods, in an effort of co-creating and implementing together the European Year;
  - d) information, education and awareness-raising campaigns to convey values such as respect, equality, justice, solidarity, volunteering, sense of belonging and safety, feeling of being heard and respected, to stimulate an active contribution of youth to build a society that is more inclusive, green and digital;

- e) creating spaces and tools for exchanges on turning challenges into opportunities and ideas into actions in an entrepreneurial spirit while fostering creativity, community and cooperation;
  - f) undertaking studies and research on the situation of youth in the Union, paying particular attention to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, producing European harmonised statistics and using them and other relevant EU level data as well as promoting and disseminating these results on European, national or regional level;
  - g) promoting programmes, funding opportunities, projects, actions and networks of relevance to youth, including through social media and online communities;
2. The Commission and the Member States may identify other activities which could contribute to the objectives of the European Year and allow references to the European Year to be used as a label in promoting those activities in so far as they contribute to achieving those objectives. Institutions and bodies of the European Union and Member States may also identify such other activities and suggest them to the Commission.

#### *Article 4*

##### *Coordination at national level*

The organisation of participation in the European Year at national level shall be a responsibility of the Member States. Member States shall appoint national coordinators to that effect. The national coordinators shall ensure the coordination of relevant activities at national level. They shall also ensure the active involvement and engagement of young people and youth civil society organisations, including, if existing, National Youth Councils, and other relevant stakeholders in co-creating, implementing and reviewing the implementation of the activities of the Year at national level.

***Article 5***  
***Coordination at Union level***

1. The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators in order to coordinate the running of the European Year. These meetings shall also serve as opportunities to exchange information regarding the implementation of the European Year at national and Union level. Representatives of the European Parliament may participate as observers and contribute to these meetings.
2. The coordination of the European Year at Union level shall have a transversal approach with a view to creating synergies between the various Union programmes and initiatives of relevance to young people and shall be duly taken account of at national level.
3. The Commission shall convene meetings of stakeholders and representatives of organisations or bodies in the field of youth, including the European Youth Forum and other youth led organisations, to assist in co-creating and implementing the European Year at Union level.

***Article 6***  
***Cooperation at international level***

For the purpose of the European Year, where necessary, the Commission shall cooperate with international partners and competent international organisations, while ensuring the visibility of the Union's participation. The Commission shall in particular ensure the cooperation with the Council of Europe, including through the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership, and establishing strong links with the 'Youth for Democracy, Democracy for Youth' campaign as well as with international youth networks and organisations.

***Article 7***

***Monitoring and evaluation***

By 31 December 2023, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the initiatives, including ideas for further common endeavours in the field of youth in order to create a long lasting legacy of the European year, provided for in this Decision.

***Article 8***

***Entry into force***

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2022.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament*

The President

*For the Council*

The President

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**Joint statement of the European Parliament and of the Council**

The European Parliament and the Council agree that the minimum operational budget for the implementation of the European Year of Youth (2022) shall be set at EUR 8 million. Of that amount, EUR 3 million will come from the annual budget for 2022 of the European Solidarity Corps and EUR 5 million will come from the annual budget for 2022 of the Erasmus+ programme.

Furthermore, the co-legislators are committed to leaving a lasting legacy of the European Year, beyond 2022. Without prejudice to the powers of the budgetary authority, in accordance with Article 314 TFEU, any additional funding beyond 2022 should be identified within the MFF 2021 – 2027.

**Statement of the Commission**

The Commission takes note of the agreement of the co-legislators to introduce a minimum operational budget of EUR 8 million for the implementation of the European Year of Youth (2022), without prejudice to the possibility of complementary contributions from other relevant Union programmes and instruments in addition to this amount of EUR 8 million.

In addition, the Commission will carry out a mapping exercise throughout the Year and will regularly update it outlining the possible and actual contributions by EU programmes and instruments to the implementation of the European Year of Youth and reporting on the activities. The progress in the deployment of contributions by the Union programmes will be regularly presented to the European Parliament and the Council. These contributions should be considered as complementary and above the minimum operational budget of EUR 8 million.

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