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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth <i>- Information from the Presidency on the state of play</i>

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the upcoming Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 17-18 May 2021.

AOB Youth – Background Note**Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Youth**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected Youth in an unforeseeable manner. Young people were not only the first to face its impacts, but also some of the most affected, with the closure of schools disrupting the education and training of young people. This negative impact extends to youth mobility, youth programmes and activities, access to social services, youth employment, overall well-being and youth participation in decision-making processes.

Governments and youth organisations need to constantly adapt to this new reality, in line with the evolution of the pandemic within each country. While digitalisation has played a pivotal role in this regard, it should be seen as complementary to the work carried out.

Since the outbreak of the crisis, Member States have exchanged information about the state of play and measures taken at national level.

After more than a year, the Portuguese Presidency cannot overlook the impact of such a crisis. We recognise the importance of promoting information sharing and best practices regarding this topic. Therefore, building on what we have learned since the pandemic broke out, the Portuguese Presidency has set up an online platform for data collection and information sharing on the impact of COVID-19 on the Youth sector.
