

EUROPEAN YOUTH CARDS AS A TOOL FOR INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

European Youth Card Association (EYCA) is an association of 41 member organisations in 38 countries across Europe, which develop and distribute youth cards to almost 5.1 million cardholders.

European Youth Cards are a tool for youth mobility and active citizenship. As part of a commitment to active citizenship for young people, EYCA member organisations increasingly support national and local governments, National Youth Councils and others to engage young people in democratic participation.

Structured Dialogue is one specific approach of engaging young people, which facilitates discussions between young people and policy makers at the European level.

Structured Dialogue is an initiative of the European Union organised in partnership with the EU Member States and the European Youth Forum.



How does Structured Dialogue work?

The Structured Dialogue process is connected to the Presidency of the Council of the EU. It is implemented in 18-months cycles divided into three half-year consultation exercises.

Young people in each country of European Union answer the same set of questions and the process is

managed in each country by a National Working Group (NWG) whose members include:

- Representatives of Ministries for Youth Affairs
- National Youth Councils
- Local and regional youth councils
- Youth organisations
- People active in youth work

- Youth researchers
- Individual young people

Joint conclusions of the EU Youth Conference of the Irish and Lithuanian Presidency:

http://europa.eu/youth/content/structured-dialogue-cycle-iii-social-inclusion_en

National consultation results are compiled into a report, which informs the debate at the EU Youth Conference held within each Presidency that brings together young people and policy makers from across the EU. The final outcomes are turned into a European resolution.



STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

JANUARY 2013 – JUNE 2014

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF ALL

YOUNG PEOPLE



Social inclusion of all young people in Europe is the Structured Dialogue theme chosen by the current **Trio Presidency** – Ireland, Lithuania, Greece (January 2013- June 2014).

The first phase of consultations under **Irish Presidency** (January 2013 – June 2013) established the overview of social inclusion and focused on **the contribution of quality youth work to social inclusion**.

Building on the results of the first phase, **Lithuanian Presidency** (July 2013 – December 2013) focused on possible solutions for **social inclusion of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)**.

The third phase under **Greek Presidency** (January 2014 – June 2014) will conclude by focusing on the role of **youth entrepreneurship to help create more social inclusion**.

Policy Actions for the Social Inclusion of all young people

EYCA's member organisation in Greece, the General Secretariat of Youth (GSY), is actively involved in preparing the discussions in the youth field for their EU Presidency.

Anastasios Chondrigiannis from the GSY explains "This third phase of the Structured Dialogue aims to collect specific suggestions and innovative ideas for enhancing the social inclusion of young people. Greece is emphasizing **youth entrepreneurship** as a means to achieving young people's autonomy and to contribute to their social inclusion".



The EU Presidency EU Youth Conference on 10-12 March 2014 will be held in the European Youth Capital 2014, Thessaloniki. Discussion will focus on identifying concrete actions to:

1. Tailor education to individual learners and provide them with equal learning opportunities
2. Prevent discrimination against young people in the labour market
3. Create more jobs for young people and ensure the quality of jobs created
4. Improve opportunities for quality internships, apprenticeships and training available for all young people
5. Develop young people's entrepreneurial skills through formal and non-formal learning
6. Improve access to finance for setting up a business
7. Promote youth entrepreneurship that has a positive social effect on the community and values country's cultural richness and creativity

National Working Groups will submit reports to the European Steering Committee and national governments by February 11, 2014.

Video: The Structured Dialogue process explained step-by-step
<http://vimeo.com/69176445>



HOW CAN EUROPEAN YOUTH CARDS AND EYCA MEMBER ORGANISATIONS CONTRIBUTE?

European Youth Cardholders are very often the very young people that policy-makers want to hear from: the ones who are not necessarily already connected to youth structures, which influence policy. Using the communication channels already in use to reach cardholders, EYCA member organisations can provide information about Structured Dialogue to large numbers of young people.

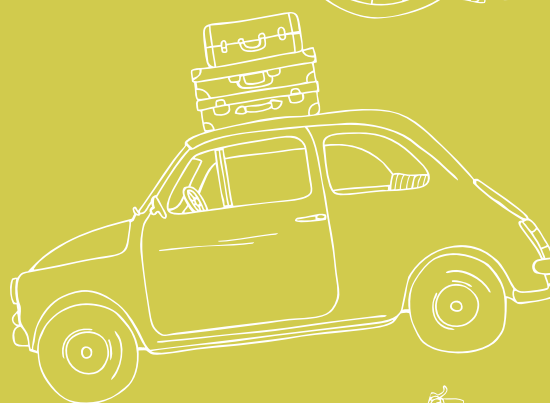
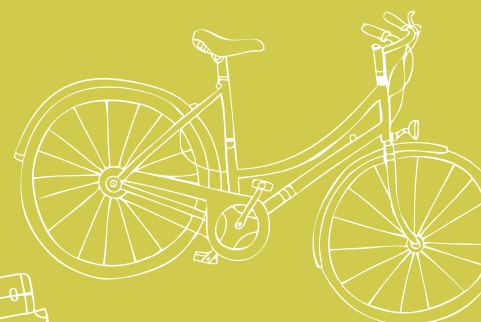
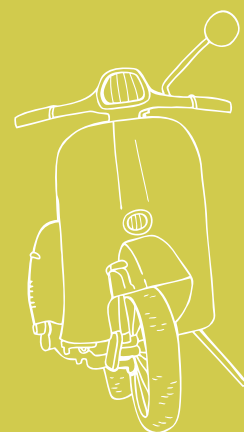
Some EYCA member organisations have gone much further with Structured Dialogue and have proactively reached out to involve young people in the process.

European Youth Card organisations can add value to the Structured Dialogue process by:

- Translating the questionnaires into national languages
- Helping to present the questions to young people in a more youth-friendly way
- Motivating young people to participate in the consultation by offering prizes from European Youth Card discount partners
- Organising events, seminars and workshops connected to the Structured Dialogue themes

- Helping National Working Groups to reach non-organised youth
- Raising the visibility of the process, follow-up and implementation
- Creating initiatives to respond to young people's needs identified in the Structured Dialogue process e.g. offering discounted access to learning opportunities, non-formal education, mobility experiences and volunteering or quality internships

A first step is to make contact with the National Working Group to highlight the potential role European Youth Cards can play. Contact details for all National Working Groups are on the website of the European Youth Forum in the members section <http://www.youthforum.org/about/member-organisations/>





HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT EYCA MEMBER ORGANISATIONS HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED ON STRUCTURED DIALOGUE



European Youth
Card Austria

Austria

Jugendkarte GmbH is part of the Bundesnetzwerk Österreichische Jugendinfos, which is the umbrella organization of Austrian Youth Information Centres. During the Lithuanian Presidency, responses were collected from 420 young people all over Austria. The questionnaire was published on the Austrian Youth Portal and promoted by various stakeholders in the youth field.

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Finland

The Finnish National Youth Council, Allianssi, translated the questions and sent a simplified questionnaire to all European Youth Cardholders.

For the first time in the consultations open questions were asked instead of multiple choices. Allianssi collected 700 responses which are now being used to inform their work with young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) in Finland.

For more information contact
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www.allianssi.fi



Europejska Karta
Młodzieżowa
EURO26

Poland

The Polish Youth Projects Association PSPM (Polskie Stowarzyszenie Projektów Młodzieżowych) is a member of the National Youth Council and has been actively promoting Structured Dialogue since the beginning of the process, receiving great response-rates to the questions. PSPM communicates the questionnaire in their social media networks, website and newsletter. During the second round of consultations 532 young people responded.

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Malta

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is EYCA member organisation in Malta. Together with the National Youth Council Aġenzija Żgħażaġh organises the Structured Dialogue consultation process. All European Youth Cardholders are automatically included in the consultation. During the Lithuanian Presidency 300 young people replied to the questions on the inclusion of young people not in education, training or employment.

For more information contact
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WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Consider how European Youth Card and EYCA member organisations could help to engage more young people to have their opinion heard and to shape EU youth policy.

**VISIT EUROPEAN YOUTH
PORTAL** [http://europa.eu/youth/
structured-dialogue_en](http://europa.eu/youth/structured-dialogue_en)