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European Youth Centre

APPENDICES
to the CMJ meeting report

APPENDIX 8**Item 8.1: Summary report of the discussions on the implementation of Agenda 2020
(Results of the three working groups)**

A list of some key highlights and achievements (standards, activities, publications) of Agenda 2020 was set out in document CMJ(2017)16. It should be noted that this list, which was prepared by the Secretariat, is not exhaustive. It aimed simply to prepare the debate of the Joint Council.

The members of the Joint Council worked in **three working groups**, which focused on the thematic priorities of Agenda 2020:

- 1st working group: **Human rights and democracy**;
- 2nd working group: **Living together in diverse societies**;
- 3rd working group: **Social inclusion of young people**.

Within each of the three thematic priorities and based on the list of some key highlights of Agenda 2020 (see document CMJ(2017)16), each working groups tried to identify:

- any possible challenges and difficulties faced when implementing Agenda 2020;
- any issues that should still be addressed within the framework of Agenda 2020;
- any lessons learnt that should be taken into account when developing the future "Youth Agenda 2030".

The results of the discussions within each of the groups are recorded below.

Working Group 1: “Human rights and democracy”

Facilitator: Christel De Lange (CCJ) ; **Rapporteur:** Ardo Rohtla (CDEJ)

1/ Challenges and difficulties faced when implementing this priority of Agenda 2020

Many new topics that arose since the adoption of the document (populism, radicalisation, refugees...).

Young people are split between support and resistance to democracy and human rights values. Are young people becoming more authoritarian – or sensitive to authoritarian attitudes? This seems to suggest lack of consistency in the practice of EDC/HRE with young people.

Member states are very regarding the adherence and practice of democracy and human rights – especially on democracy, there are no common standards and approaches.

The challenge of the policy gap: it all looks fine on paper, less so in practice.

There has been no reporting from member states on impact in member states – could a “light reporting” be linked with EKCYP?

Is complementarity to the EU youth policy a need, especially if it is not reciprocal?

The document does not associate child and youth policies (which is a practice/reality in some member states).

2/ Any lessons learnt that should be taken into account when developing the future “Youth agenda 2030”

Agenda 2020 was not always consistently used as a reference document for the definition of the priorities and programme. It should be available at/from all sections of the restricted Internet site.

All priorities are still relevant – and can accommodate new issues and challenges. But the document could be shorter and then serve as a reference to national authorities when developing youth policies. It should affirm the key values and approaches of the Council of Europe in relation to youth policy.

It is very important to have the document adopted by the Committee of Ministers as a basis and source of legitimisation for programme and budget planning.

Is such a long-term document useful and needed? The biennial priorities are more useful.

It would be important for the document to also foresee cross-sectorial cooperation in the Council of Europe; this should also be visible when reporting about its implementation/evaluation.

Would it be possible to consider light reporting by member states every 3 years?

3/ Specific remarks and proposals

Ensuring young people’s full enjoyment of human rights and human dignity and encouraging their commitment in this regard

- The framework of competences for a democratic culture should be enhanced
- It should be the focus of our work, as human rights are in crisis
- Human rights education and education for democratic citizenship must remain a top priority
- More attention to the rights to freedom of expression and exercise of active citizenship
- Include/address minority rights more explicitly
- To be better mapped/reflectd in the June conference on EDC/HRE
- Attention/dissemination of the CM recommendation on Access to Rights (and reporting on its implementation) is needed
- More attention should be paid to media literacy

Promoting young people's active participation in democratic processes and structures

- To be linked also with the CRC and child participation
- Active participation should be linked to freedom of expression and freedom of association
- More on supporting youth engagement with the public sector
- More on access to digital environment.

Promoting equal opportunities for the participation of all young people in all aspects of their everyday lives

- More on the implementation of rights of minorities from a youth perspective
- Scope of equal opportunities and access to rights should be broadened
- Supporting young people in transition, especially those with fewer opportunities, such as refugees/migrants

*Implementing effectively gender equality and preventing all forms of gender-based violence**Promoting awareness education and action amongst young people on environment and sustainable development*

- Prepare implementation strategies for the incorporation of SDGs in educational activities, especially the SDGs that relate closer to youth issues
- It would be good to prioritise it more in the Council of Europe
- Sustainable development should be mainstreamed across all activities

Facilitating the access of all young people to information and counseling services

- Focus on access to information and counseling services has been missing

Working Group 2: "Living together in diverse societies"

Facilitator: Alice Barbieri (CCJ) ; **Rapporteur:** Eleftheria Christoforou (CDEJ)

1/ Challenges and difficulties faced when implementing this priority of Agenda 2020

The absence of indicators in document CMJ(2017)16 does not help when assessing/measuring the outcomes.

Impossible to assess the multiplying effect (sustainable results) of one-off activities outside of the participants' group, for example for the Peace Camp.

No reference to impact in document CMJ(2017)16

The programme seems to be too target oriented: we have to work with minorities but with mixed groups.

Balanced interventions: minorities and society in general

Do we need so many activities?

What should the focus be? Umbrella Campaign or flagship programme?

Did the biennium programmes support the Agenda 2020?

Difference between long-term planning and tangible biennium priorities

Difficulty to envisage what the EU will do. EU youth strategy?

Do we need an Agenda 2030? Should it be called Agenda 2030 (cf. UN Agenda 2030)?

Agenda 2030 must be very broad as we cannot predict what will happen (example: the refugee crisis was not predictable in 2009).

2/ Issues that should still be addressed within the framework of Agenda 2020

Lots of seminars, meetings and activities but no final evaluation.

There is no consolidated approach to the youth programme, nor direction for a policy document, and this does not encourage the use of the results on a wider spectrum notably political.

Consolidate the impact of the activities (political/multipliers' levels)

How do our materials reach out to the stakeholders?

How can we change mindsets?

Resolutions/recommendations seem to be strong instruments but they are not necessarily as strong as they appear to be (not binding texts)?

Information on how to implement the resolutions/recommendations in the national context

3/ Any lessons learnt that should be taken into account when developing the future “Youth agenda 2030”

How do the biennium priorities fit into the Agenda 2020 frame? Link agenda and priorities

Not enough awareness notably for the CCJ members

Need for the biennium evaluation to re-frame Agenda 2020 when necessary and to take into account global challenges

Need for more visibility of the youth programme: set up a flagship programme

Limit the/ no overlap with (avoid duplication/be complementary) the EU Agenda: the CoE Agenda should be based on the CoE's values and knowledge.

Working group 3: “Social inclusion of young people”

Facilitator: Charlotte Klinting (CCJ); **Rapporteur:** Charlotte Hansen (CDEJ)

This working group was split in 3 sub-working groups, which each discussed the challenges, issues still to be addressed and lessons learnt for the 3rd priority of Agenda 2020 (“Social inclusion of young people”).

These 3 sub-working groups then shared their findings with each other.

Their main findings and conclusions are summarised below.

1/ Challenges and difficulties faced when implementing this priority of Agenda 2020

- Increasing gap between the institutions (or youth workers) and excluded young people. How to detect excluded young people? (need for more research on factors leading to young people's exclusion). How to better train youth workers?

- Too many priorities: need to focus more.
- Visibility and dissemination of on-going projects and seminars.
- Tools to reach out to young people need to be updated and more adequate.

2/ Issues that should still be addressed within the framework of Agenda 2020

- Make sure that the results, experience and materials of ENTER! are further disseminated and used at national level.

3/ Any lessons learnt that should be taken into account when developing the future “Youth agenda 2030”

- Social inclusion will remain a priority and should be included in any future strategy.
- The ENTER! programme should continue in the new strategy.
- An integrated/cross-sectorial approach (combining research for needs assessment, training/education, as well as policy-making – with the ENTER! Recommendation) should be preserved.
- It would be important to make a future “Youth Agenda 2030” more visible outside the Youth Department (statutory bodies could play a role in this). Need for more co-operation with other key stakeholders (for instance, national youth councils, other steering committees such as the CDPPE).
- More focus should be put on marginalized young people, for instance in rural areas.
- Unemployment / the need for decent employment should be addressed in the future strategy.
- More focus could be put on “softer” activities (for instance, sports).
- Funds should be used in an even more effective way.