

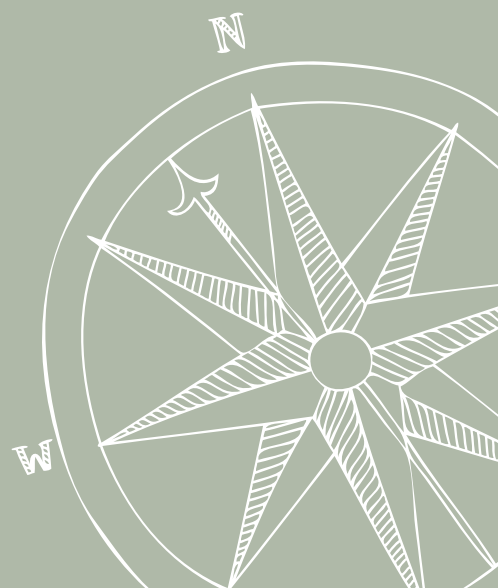
EUROPEAN YOUTH CARDS AS A TOOL FOR INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

The European Youth Card Association (EYCA) has 40 member organisations in 38 countries. All are committed to promoting youth mobility and active citizenship for young people.

One of the ways EYCA member organisations have promoted active citizenship to young people is by helping young people contribute to Structured Dialogue. Use this leaflet to consider how your youth card could get involved in Structured Dialogue.

Structured Dialogue is an initiative of the European Commission – it is an instrument to ensure that the opinion of young people is taken into account in the formation of youth policy in the EU.

Young people in each European country answer the same set of questions and the answers are then compiled into national reports and a European resolution. National Youth Councils and National Agencies are responsible for distributing the current questionnaire to the target audience. The European Youth Forum plays an important role as the main umbrella organisation representing young people in Europe.





STRUCTURED DIALOGUE – YOUNG PEOPLE INFLUENCING POLICY

The Structured Dialogue is connected to the Presidency of the Council of the EU. It is implemented in 18-months cycles that have an overarching theme and a thematic priority for each round of consultation.

During the current [Trio Presidency](#) of Ireland, Lithuania and Greece, the general theme covered will be **social inclusion**.

» The first phase under the Irish Presidency (January 2013 – June 2013) will establish an overview of

social inclusion and youth in the Member States, and notably **the contribution of quality youth work to social inclusion**.

» Building on the results of the first phase, the second round under the Lithuanian Presidency (July 2013 – December 2013) will address possible actions for social inclusion and more specifically **how to include young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in society**.

» The third phase under the Greek Presidency (January 2014 – June 2014) will conclude the recommendations on social inclusion, by focusing on **the role of youth entrepreneurship in promoting social inclusion of young people**.

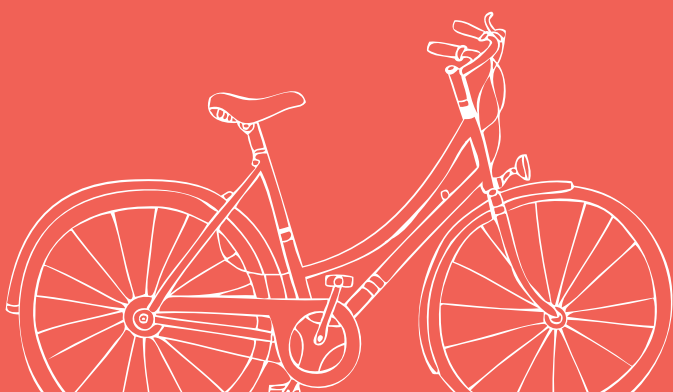
HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

If you would like to send the questionnaire to your cardholders and contribute to the Structured Dialogue in your country, get in touch with your National Youth Council. You will find their contact details on the website of the European Youth Forum in the members section.

Each National Working Group submits a National Report with the results of the consultations to the European Steering Committee (ESC). [The National Working Groups](#) (NWGs) are composed of:

- Representatives of Ministries for Youth Affairs
- **National Youth Councils**, which have a leading role in most of these groups.
- Local and regional Youth Councils
- Youth organisations
- People active in youth work
- Diverse young people
- Youth researchers

[The European Youth Forum](#), acting as the Secretariat of the ESC, compiles the National Reports, which constitutes the main background document for discussions at the EU Youth Conference.



FIRST ROUND OF STRUCTURED

DIALOGUE 2013

TRIO PRESIDENCY

IRELAND-LITHUANIA-GREECE

YOUTH AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Irish Presidency is focusing on the challenges for the social inclusion of young people and looks into how quality youth work can enhance the social inclusion of all young people, considering that it contributes to the realisation of young people's potential and their active participation in the society.

The Presidency's EU Youth event on March 11 – 13, 2013 will discuss the following questions:

1. What does social inclusion mean to you and young people in your country?
2. What are the main challenges in your country in including young people in society?
3. Which groups of young people are at greater risk of social exclusion in your country, and do you think that there are stages in young people's lives when they may be more vulnerable to social exclusion?
4. What positive steps have been taken in your country to promote social inclusion of young people?
5. What do young people get from being involved in youth work and related initiatives for young people?
 - In their development and well-being
 - In the skills and experiences they need
 - In being included in society

6. What good practices of youth work do you know of/ are used in your organisation / region / country to improve young people's social inclusion?

7. How can the quality of youth work and related initiatives for young people be improved to ensure the development, well-being and social inclusion of all young people?

8. Which quality standards are in place or could be developed to support youth work and related initiatives in promoting social inclusion of young people and improving the impact in their lives?

The deadline for sending in filled out report forms by National Working Groups is February 18, 2013.





EUROPEAN YOUTH CARD

ORGANISATIONS AND STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

The Structured Dialogue theme during the previous Trio Presidency of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus (July 2011 – December 2012) was **youth participation in democratic life in Europe**. Several EYCA member organisations contributed significantly to the Structured Dialogue exercise in their countries:

Czech Republic

Besides consulting young people on questions that are put forward by the presidency country of the EU, the Czech Council for Children and Youth (CRDM) also runs national discussion rounds. The topics of these are decided by young people themselves – there is an [online poll](#), where they can choose whether they would like to debate: politicians and their (in)competence; extremism and racism in today's society; or corruption.

A new feature of the Structured Dialogue in the Czech Republic is the possibility for young people to apply for funding and run their own local discussion on the topics of SD and on the future national youth strategy for 2014-2020.

In November 2012, CRDM hosted an **international seminar entitled "Participate in the Structured Dialogue"** that brought together young people aged 16-26 who were trained in working with their peers on youth policy questions, promoting youth projects and designing marketing material.

For more information contact Mirek Jungwirth at miroslav.jungwirth@crdm.cz

Finland

[Allianssi](#) supported the Structured Dialogue of the Cyprus presidency. Questions were translated and simplified and a questionnaire was sent to all European Youth Card holders. 1723 responses were received, analysed by Allianssi and included in [the Finnish report](#).

For more information contact Jarkko Lehtikoinen at jarkko.lehtikoinen@alli.fi

Poland

The Polish Youth Project Association (PYPA) is member of the National Youth Council and has contributed with the largest number of responses to the SD questions. PYPA promoted the simplified questionnaire to cardholders in their newsletter, on their website and Facebook group. Young people were encouraged to answer the questions also during face-to-face meetings in schools. In the first round, Polish cardholders contributed with 1000 responses; in the second round, PYPA had the best result in Europe by receiving 3100 replies; in round three, the response rate was down to 200 due to the complexity of the topic.

For more information contact Kasia Ziemann at kasia.ziemann@euro26.org.pl

Austria

Also [Bundesnetzwerks Österreichische Jugendinfos](#), the Austrian member organisation, has taken on the challenge to ask young people about the integration of migrants and the co-existence of people with different background (Cypriot presidency) and

is also doing so about social participation (Irish Presidency). Young people can win "goodie bags" for their input. The full questionnaire, which has been re-structured into multiple-choice questions, can be downloaded in German from the [youth portal](#).

For more information contact Markus Albrecht at markus.albrecht@jugendinfo.at

Sweden

Following up to a successful seminar on youth policy in Gothenburg in October 2012, [Mecenat](#) will cooperate with the Ministry for Education and other stakeholders in the field to promote Structured Dialogue to young people in Sweden.

For more information contact Tomas Hansson at tomas.hansson@mecenat.se

Other EYCA member organisations promoting the SD: European Youth Card Lithuania, Centre Information Jeunes Luxembourg, and the Youth Board of Cyprus.

