

Motion

Supporting the Inclusion of INGYOs in the EU Youth Dialogue

signed by: European Educational Exchanges – Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU), National Youth Council of Slovenia (MSS), The National Youth Council of Latvia (LJP)

co-signed by: Youth for Exchange and Understanding International (YEU), National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS), European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL), European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), Cyprus Youth Council (CYC), National Youth Council of Malta (KNZ), Croatian Youth Network (MMH), Erasmus Student Network (ESN), Spanish Youth Council (CJE), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), All Together in Dignity Fourth World (ATD – Fourth World), World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ)

Introduction

International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs) are a crucial part of the European Union Youth Dialogue (EUYD). Together with the National Youth Councils (NYCs) they have been contributing to the largest decision-making mechanism in the European Union since the first cycle, feeding into the processes offered by the EUYD through their longstanding history and expertise on youth work and engagement.

INGYOs represent different fields of youth work, with member organizations reaching young people globally. This can be in the field of education, political activism, intercultural understanding, rural affairs, and climate policies among many other topics.

INGYOs have a wide membership base that includes different national and regional youth organizations, often united around a thematic core, which means they can reach and represent young people across different cultures, regions, and socio-economic backgrounds. This global perspective enables them to advocate effectively on issues that transcend national borders and develop unique expertise around their focus themes.

Many INGYOs base their activities on non-formal education, providing young people with skills and knowledge that complement national formal education systems, and they actively engage in political dialogue, pushing for policies that reflect the needs and interests of young people.

INGYOs have been involved in the EU Youth Dialogue since its inception, with the European Steering Group selecting around 10 participating INGYOs based on varying criteria for each cycle. After being selected, these INGYOs contribute to their respective EUYD cycles by organizing dialogue events and participating in EU Youth Conferences, where they offer a pan-European perspective and provide expert input. Requirement for participation of INGYOs was to be selected and invited by the European Steering Group, in comparison to NYCs being directly included in the process.

The role of INGYOs

The role of INGYOs in the EUYD is multifold and combines many different strands of expertise and focus areas.

While NYCs represent the national interests of young people in the EUYD, INGYOs can represent a European angle to the discussions, as their member organisations are spread out over Europe and most INGYOs are European umbrella organisations. That way, they can build on the information from NYCs and add valuable additional expertise to the discussions, focussing on the Pan-European perspective. While some of their member organisations are part of NYCs and INGYOs, many others would not be represented if not for the INGYOs. Transnational representation presents a key pillar of what the EUYD stands for. As it intends to highlight the viewpoints of young people all across Europe, it is counteractive to focus merely on national perspectives to the debates but instead calls for actors that can represent a European angle - which is clearly the role of INGYOs.

On top of this, INGYOs play a crucial role in reaching out to marginalised youth, leveraging their networks to ensure that the voices of all young people are heard in the EUYD process. This inclusive approach has significantly enriched the EUYD process.

In many cases, INGYOs are Brussels-based and thus work directly with key European stakeholders such as the European Commission or the European Parliament. Due to their already existing network and access to decision-makers, INGYOs can reinforce the push for the implementation of the recommendations of the EUYD as well as other crucial policy initiatives.

INGYOs often represent young people through democratically elected representatives who have been chosen by their peers, lending further legitimacy and accountability to their involvement. This democratic basis aligns with the EUYD's principles of inclusive and participatory youth engagement, highlighting that INGYOs are not just conduits of specialised knowledge, but also embody grassroots democratic processes.

While INGYOs offer the aforementioned advantages and their contributions remain essential, their

presence at EU Youth Dialogue conferences has noticeably diminished in recent years. For example, the number of INGYOs invited has decreased from 15 organisations to 10 during the most recent cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue. Moreover, there are indications that, moving forward, only representatives from National Youth Councils may be invited, which would significantly impact the outcomes of these conferences and, by extension, the entire cycle of the European Union Youth Dialogue.

This development raises concerns about the inclusivity and effectiveness of the dialogue process, as the absence of INGYOs could limit the diversity of perspectives and expertise in youth-related decision-making.

Recommendations:

Therefore, we, as the European Youth Forum, commit to advocate for the rights of INGYOs to be participants in all stages of the EUYD process and to work with institutional partners to highlight the added value INGYOs bring to these dialogues and call for:

- The European Commission and Member States to recognise the unique contributions of INGYOs to the EUYD process and to ensure that their representation remains an integral part of future EUYD cycles.
- Ensuring a meaningful contribution from INGYOs in the EUYD across the whole process - including participation in the EU Youth Conferences, expert statements and the ultimate implementation.
- The EUYD to prioritise a more diverse selection of INGYOs to ensure better representation of marginalised communities and foster more inclusive youth policy outcomes.
- Organisers of EU Youth Conferences to commit to a baseline number of at least 10 INGYOs present at each EUYC, safeguarding against reductions in participation that may compromise the diversity and transnational perspectives within the discussions.
- Budget allocations and logistical arrangements from the European Commission that explicitly

support the participation of INGYOs, advocating for direct funding streams for participating INGYOs, recognizing that their involvement is essential to fulfilling the EUYD's goal of connecting the EU with youth on a broad, inclusive scale.

- A transparent selection process of INGYOs for the EUYD, which includes young people in the procedure.
- The establishment of a structured framework within the EUYD to define and secure the roles of both INGYOs and NYCs, ensuring that both national and Pan-European perspectives are adequately represented in all EUYD activities. This framework should be reflected in both the updated Council Resolution on the Governance of EU Youth Dialogue and the next EU Youth Strategy 2028-36.



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