



PRESS RELEASE

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EU budget proposals: a (un)clear future for youth programmes

Brussels, 30th June 2011 // The European Commission's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) communication yesterday announced the integration of education, training, youth and sport programmes, with a perceived budget increase to 15.2 billion euro for the 2014 – 2020 period. The value of youth organisations in the budget appropriations within a single programme however, still remains unclear.

The European Youth Forum welcomes the MFF's strong focus on investing in the mobility of young people in formal education, volunteering and non-formal and informal learning, especially in times of economic austerity. It remains difficult however, to assess the real value of such proposals, as it is not yet clear what share of the planned increase will fall on youth provisions.

In a recent report, the European Parliament underlined that the *"Youth in Action programme bears low cost per beneficiary and therefore has high efficiency."* This bold statement precisely aligns with Mr Barroso's appeal for every euro spent to be a *"multi-purpose euro"* within the next financial framework. The European Youth Forum and the European Parliament have both previously demanded that an independent Youth in Action programme continues after 2013, which now looks unlikely.

"Youth organisations are an indispensable channel for supporting active citizenship in Europe and for developing young people's skills and competences" stated **Peter Matjašič, President of the European Youth Forum** *"and in this work, they have benefited greatly from the Youth in Action programme, and provided excellent value for money"*.

For the European Youth Forum, participation of young people in the development of Europe goes far beyond working life. This begs the question how the newly merged programme, dubbed 'Education Europe', will support the implementation of article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty, which clearly states the need *"encourage the development of youth exchanges and ... the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe"*.

"A youth programme, regardless of its independence, should encourage the participation of all young people in democratic life in Europe" concludes **Matjašič**. *"It should ensure that educational outcomes are maximised, in order to reach the objectives of Europe 2020's flagship initiatives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth"*.

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Notes to the editors:

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is an independent, democratic, youth-led platform, representing 98 National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations from across Europe. The YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations towards the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

See also the European Youth Forum's [Position Paper on Youth in Action 2.0](#)

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