

e-Youth Opinion

Special edition: Youth Policy in Europe

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THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PACT

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Making it a Pact with Impact!

The decision of the Spring Council to adopt the European Youth Pact (hereafter referred to as the Pact) represented yet another milestone in the elaboration of youth policy at EU level. A decade ago, the role of the EU in the Youth field was largely confined to the implementation of the Youth Programme. While the Youth Programme has made an enormous contribution to youth work, active citizenship and intercultural learning, it could never fill the policy vacuum. Since then, we have seen the publication of the EU White Paper on Youth, where the EU Commission and Member States for the first time attempted to establish clear policy goals and directions. One of the criticisms of the White Paper was that while the need to work in a horizontal manner on youth issues such as education, employment, and social inclusion, were highlighted in it, nowhere in the document was it identified how this would be done. Therefore, we welcome the incorporation of measures and actions as part of the Pact in the fields of employment, education and work/life balance into the revised Lisbon Strategy process at Member State and EU level. This gives us an opportunity to place the views and needs of young people centre stage in the policy arena, as never before.

However the Pact has a number of limitations and does raise some concerns. These could be divided up between matters of content and context. In relation to content, the lack of concrete and tangible targets agreed at EU level is worrying. There is a saying "if you aim at nothing, you will hit it"; this is a scenario we must avoid at all costs, engaging in a mere paper chasing process, with no outcomes or positive results. The other disappointing aspect of the Pact is the lack of reference to and support for non formal education, participation and active citizenship. This relates to our concerns about the context in which the Pact was developed. There is too much focus in the document about how and why young people can contribute to making Europe the most dynamic and competitive economy in the world. While we all want Europe to be economically successful, our primary concern is to see that the needs and aspirations of young people are addressed. We must also insist that the role of the Pact should be about how best the EU and the Member States develop and implement policies that support young people to reach their potential, not just in the labour force, which is important, but in their life as a whole.



Click on the logo to go to the Youth Forum website

The European Youth Forum is an international organisation composed of more than 90 national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations. It endeavours to serve the interests of young people from all over Europe, promoting their active participation in the construction of a common Europe. It is the only democratic youth structure in Europe representing youth organisations in its work with international institutions - mainly the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. It serves to channel the flow of information and opinions between young people and decision-makers.

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While remaining aware and mindful of these deficiencies, we should grasp the opportunities presented by the Pact and the revised Lisbon Strategy process to put youth issues on the agenda at both national and EU level. As part of the revised Lisbon Strategy, each Member State will have to present a Lisbon Reform Programme to the Commission in October. These programmes will have to include the measures the Governments plan to undertake to implement the Pact. We have consistently stated that there can be “No Pact for Youth, Without Youth” and the European Council supported this appeal when adopting the Pact. Therefore all Member States must consult with young people, youth organisations and National Youth Councils when developing their Lisbon Reform Programmes. Where youth organisations and National Youth Councils have not been contacted or consulted to date, we would strongly encourage them to contact the relevant Government Ministries. Each Member State has appointed a Mr/Mrs Lisbon, so these individuals should also be approached. The development of the National Lisbon Reform programme provides youth organisations and National Youth Councils with the chance to lobby for and promote policies and actions in the interests of young people. As outlined earlier, the Pact as agreed at EU level is general in nature. This allows youth organisations at national level to present more detailed proposals on issues such as employment, education and the reconciliation of work and family life as they relate to the young people they represent. The Member States will have to report on an annual basis in relation to progress on implementing the Pact as part of the Lisbon Strategy. Therefore it would be useful for National Youth Councils to propose in the longer term that discussions on the Pact elements of the Lisbon Programme should take place within formal structures. These could either be existing national youth policy structures or new structures so as to facilitate better communication and co-operation between Governments and National Youth Councils.

At EU level, the European Youth Forum will continue to work with the Commission, other EU Institutions and others such as the social partners to advance the elements in the Revised Lisbon Strategy relating to the Pact. Over the coming weeks we will be finalising our response to the Commission Communication on European policies concerning Youth published during the summer. The next major event will be the “Etat Generaux” in December, which we anticipate will facilitate young people and youth organisations to further input into the elaboration and direction of the Revised Lisbon Strategy. We look forward to the active participation of member organisations in the activity, drawing especially on the experience of those involved in similar processes at national level. In the longer term, we will be looking to the first Annual Lisbon Progress Report since the adoption of the Pact, which will be presented to the 2006 Spring European Council for signs of progress. We will want to see real targets being set and indications given that resources and energy are being applied at national and EU level to achieve them.

In relation to EU Youth Policy, it’s a case of “A lot done, more to do”. We undoubtedly have made progress, if painfully slow at times. The Pact provides the youth movement with a great opportunity to move onto the next level, to put youth issues on the agenda of and engage with not only youth ministries but also education ministries and employment ministries and others whose policies and actions impact on the lives of young people. We also need to make sure at EU and National level that we rise to the challenge, so that when we reach the decision making table we have something credible and meaningful to contribute. It will create extra work for all of us, but it is an opportunity we should not miss. For too long, young people and their organisations have been but mere extras in many policy making arenas. As a result of the Pact, we have been given a lead role in shaping and making youth policies, let’s make the most of it!

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Bringing the European Youth Pact to life

In response to the adoption of the European Youth Pact and the proposal for integrated guidelines, the European Youth Forum adopted a position paper at the Council of Members of 22–23 April. This position paper focussed on the further elaboration and implementation of the Pact within the Lisbon Strategy. The position paper broadly consists of two parts, the first one outlining the main challenges that should be addressed in the elaboration of the European Youth Pact, the second focussing on how the Pact should be implemented in the member states and at EU level.

The first part of the position paper, on the further elaboration of the Pact, listed the most important issues for young people, and added proposals for concrete objectives to each. It did not only propose issues to tackle or concrete targets for action within the areas explicitly covered by the Pact (employment, social integration; education training and mobility; reconciliation of working life and family life) but offered a broader approach, including related issues such as youth autonomy (especially mobility and housing) and intergenerational dialogue. The paper in particular stressed the importance of participation and active citizenship for reaching the objectives of the Pact, since the level of engagement in community life is closely associated with success in education and the labour market. The paper called for the following ambitions to be included in the elaboration of the European Youth Pact:

- Reduce early school leaving by 50% in the period 2006–2010.
- Invest at least 2% of the annual education budget in non-formal education by 2010
- Reduce youth unemployment in the EU from 18% to 9% in the period 2006–2010.
- Increase the amount of young entrepreneurs
- Improve the working conditions of young

people

- Reduce the number of young people living in poverty by 50% in the period 2006–2010 and develop dedicated programmes targeted at the most vulnerable young people
- Foster dialogue between young people and elderly people and to develop new forms of solidarity
- Encourage and empower participative youth organisations
- Increase the number of students studying abroad
- Ensure that all young people are encouraged speak at least two foreign languages
- Develop specific action plans on housing and accommodation for young people

But of course, no matter what will eventually be produced on paper, in the end it will come down to continued follow-up and implementation in the member states and at European level. First of all, the integrated guidelines will need to be translated into ambitious national and EU reform programmes for 2005–2008 that include concrete targets and establish instruments aimed at achieving real results for young people. National governments and the European Commission should not lose sight of the European Youth Pact and show commitment



to its objectives in the further development of the Lisbon Strategy. The position paper includes the following recommendations to both member states and the European institutions:

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Member states

- Develop national reform programmes with clear, ambitious and tangible goals, in consultation with all stakeholders, including youth councils and youth organisations
- Extend the scope of the European Youth Pact to include or link it to an active citizenship and participation agenda, as well as to the autonomy of young people in housing and mobility.
- Convene special meetings with stakeholders, including youth organisations, to explore and discuss proposals for inclusion in their national reform programmes
- Establish structures or mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national reform programmes, involving all stakeholders, such as relevant government ministries, youth organisations, national youth councils, social partners and other NGOs.
- All stakeholders, whether or not through the above-mentioned mechanisms, should be able to contribute to the national implementation reports, submitted by the member states to the Commission each year.

EU level

- Establish a coordination structure involving the relevant Directorates-General, the European Parliament, the Council, the social partners and the European Youth Forum to oversee the follow-up of the European Youth Pact
- Organise an EU seminar once a year to discuss progress in the implementation of the European Youth Pact, involving all stakeholders, the European Commission and European Parliament, member state governments, the EESC, social partners, other NGOs and the European Youth Forum
- Consistently include the European Youth Pact in future Commission proposals and communications on the Lisbon Strategy
- Include a chapter outlining measures and actions in the framework of the European Youth Pact in the “Lisbon Community Programme 2005–2008”

These action lines, if implemented, should ensure a sustained and effective follow-up to the Pact, with the involvement of young people and youth organisations at all levels, so that the Lisbon Strategy can be meaningful for young people and successful in the long term.

[Click here to go to:
The position paper on the European Youth Pact](#)

WHITE PAPER ON YOUTH

The OMC process: From Agenda to Action

2005 has marked an important year for youth policy in Europe. It has been the first time in EU history that the Heads of State and Government of the 25 member states specifically addressed youth policy in the European Council - the highest decision making body of the Union. In April the European Council, as a part of its conclusions, adopted the European Youth Pact in the framework of the relaunched Lisbon process (link to the article on the Youth Pact page ---). To the Youth Forum and youth organisations, the Youth Pact is a natural continuance of the 2001 White Paper on Youth.

At the same time, the White Paper process itself has been the target of growing frustration and disappointment from the side of youth organisations.

In 2001, after a series of consultations and the adoption of the European Commission White Paper on Youth, we were glad to see that the roles of young citizens and youth organisations were finally recognised at European Union level. In addition, the need to create an EU youth policy was affirmed by the college of European commissioners.

2002 saw the launch of the EU Open Method of Coordination in the Youth field. Even though the Union itself did not have competence in the youth field, member states identified the need for youth policy cooperation. This co-operation saw member states unanimously commit themselves in setting out and implementing common objectives in the youth field through the Open Method of Coordination.

However, the youth policy targets or Common Objectives agreed by the governments have not been characterised by their ambition or their implementation on their impact. Many of those involved in the process have been raising the questions as to whether the process has actually been effective in changing anything.

Sentiment towards the White Paper process could be summed in saying that, after the great aspirations at the time of adoption, the reality of the implementation process has left many youth organisations frustrated on the lack of ambition and impact of the policy decisions from both the member states and European Institutions. This is due to the lack of both measurable indicators and political will from member states in creating tangible and added value results for the development of youth policy in Europe.

While the European Youth Forum fully recognises the shortcomings of the White Paper process and has been critical towards both the European Commission and member states, we also recognise the importance of the process for raising the profile of youth policy on the agenda of the European Union. Without the Open Method of Coordination the ministers responsible for youth would not have met regularly to debate and decide youth policy issues, not only through ad hoc ministerial conferences, but continuously as part of the official decision making cycle of the Union. The documents adopted through the White Paper process also set the framework for the development of all youth policy at the European Union level and also serve as reference documentation for many different initiatives in the EU, member states as well as other international organisations. The cooperation between the EU and the Council of Europe is a good example of this.

Evaluating the White Paper process - a way forward

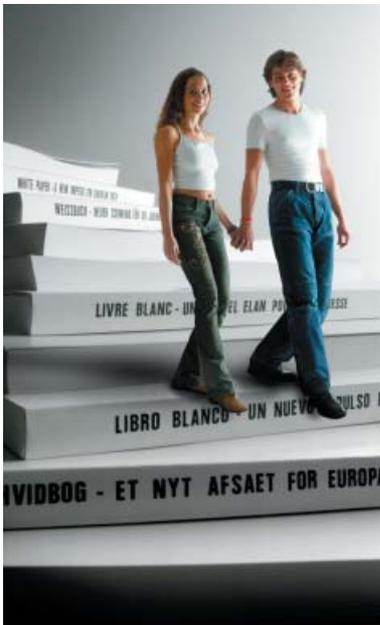
This year will mark an important landmark for the White Paper process as the OMC of the Youth field will face a midterm evaluation. The European Youth Forum and our MOs have been critical of the implementation of the Common Objectives on both European and national levels. The member states are expected to report their work to the European Commission by the end of this year. Afterwards the reports will form the basis of evaluation of the process. YFJ has decided to compile its own Shadow report, based on contributions from national shadow reports from its Member Organisations. Through this shadow report we will be able to show the Commission and Member States the reality and the impact of the OMC and demand stronger tools for policy development in the future (see the article pageXX).

While being critical towards the process we, as the representatives of youth organisations, need to play a constructive role in shaping the future of youth policy cooperation in the EU. We know the realities, aspirations and challenges from the grass-roots level to the international one. In order to transform the commitments of decision makers from the youth policy agenda into reality we need to lead the debate with bold ideas, show member states the shortcomings of the OMC and communicate our knowledge in the most efficient way. The European Youth Forum is inviting all youth organisations to join this action. We have the vision, we can make it happen!

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Shadow evaluation - pushing youth policy forward

Creation of a 'Shadow Report'



the European Union will have to evaluate the implementation of the two common objectives of the Open Method of Coordination, participation and information. The European Commission will compile these evaluations and release its report at the beginning of 2006. The European Youth Forum invites all member organisations to contribute to the production of a 'Shadow Report' on the implementation of the White Paper. In order to produce the 'Shadow Report', the European Youth Forum and its Member Organisations need to commit themselves to undertake joint work to push youth policy forward.

The mid-term evaluation of the White Paper process will provide youth organisations with an important chance to retake the initiative in the development of youth policy in Europe. At the end of 2005, the Member States of

It is crucial for youth organisations to provide information on what is happening on the ground in each Member State. We can expect "positive" reports from ministries but not in-depth reports showing the real impact and implantation of the OMC. The European Youth Forum's 'Shadow Report' needs to show the reality in each Member State. It has to emphasize the fact that much work still needs to be done before we can determine whether it is possible to have a European youth policy that makes a difference to youth organisations and young people in Europe.

The European Commission has invited Member States to fully involve youth organisations in the preparation of member states' national reports on how they have implemented the OMC Common objectives. The European Youth Forum suggests that these reports should be based on contributions from youth organisations and all other relevant stakeholders. They should be compiled in solid co-operation between youth organisations and national ministries responsible for youth.

National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations: Time for Action

National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations should provide spaces for their members to debate their experiences on using the White Paper results in youth policy

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development and use the conclusions of these debates when preparing their evaluations. While the contributions from International Youth NGOs are important to evaluate the implementation of the OMC Common Objectives at European level; it is crucial that National Youth Councils commit themselves to producing their national evaluations, as the whole OMC process is, to a large extent, a national one.

In addition, we need to show the reality of implementation at the Member State level to decision-makers. National Youth Councils should contact ministries in their countries and propose such actions. The national evaluations of the OMC implementation will provide a dual opportunity to voice the concerns of youth organisations and document the best practices of where real progress has been taking place.

The national preparations for the European Youth Week/Etats Generaux should be used to debate the national implementation of the White Paper and the Youth Pact. These debates should be of high quality and involve all stakeholders in the processes: youth organisations, youth researchers, public sector, relevant ministries and decision makers.

The European Youth Forum role

In general, The European Youth Forum will support all member organisations involved in the evaluation by providing guidelines and information, organising Information and

Networking Days and, if needed, provide political support by participating in different events organised by its Member Organisations.

More precisely, the European Youth Forum will provide guidelines for the elaboration of the national shadow reports, stressing the key points for youth organisations and young people, such as how to promote the involvement of young people in participatory structures, the obstacles in their way to participatio, and the access of young people to information addressing their concerns and their involvement in its elaboration. These guidelines will be sent to the National Youth Councils and presented and discussed during the next Information and Networking Days on the White Paper follow-up which will be held in Brussels, 24 and 25 September.

The European Youth Forum will also produce an evaluation of the implementation of OMC that will concentrate on the implementation of Common Objectives at the European level. This evaluation will be based on the contributions of Member Organisations and the expertise of the EU Affairs Commission. The European Youth Forum Shadow Report on the implementation of the White Paper will be published in the beginning of 2006. The Shadow Report will be a key tool for our advocacy work for an effective, cross-sector youth policy in Europe that will be based on the knowledge of youth organisations and the reality of European young people.

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The current status of the Youth Programme

The birth of the new Youth in Action Programme

After the relative success of the first Youth Programme, a new and similar programme is in the making. With the aim to improve the quality of the different actions lines and to enable more young people to access the activities financed through the programme, a proposal for a new Youth in Action Programme for the years 2007 - 2013 is currently discussed.

The aim of the programme is to promote active citizenship, to develop solidarity amongst young people, to support youth activities and to promote European cooperation in youth policies. Based on the evaluation of the previous programme, five new action lines have been developed: Youth for Europe, European Voluntary Service, Youth for the World, Youth support systems and support for policy cooperation.

In the framework of Youth for Europe, support for young people's initiatives and participatory democracy projects will accompany the traditional youth exchanges. The EVS will continue to exist, will most likely be extended to more participants and a broader focus will be put on the group EVS. The Youth for the world is a new development, which with the European Commission tried to respond to the demands to involve more non EU and also non neighbouring countries into the programme. The fourth budget line includes the financial support to youth organisations active on the European level and the European Youth Forum as well as networking, training and information activities. The last budget line is the vaguest so far. It will include meetings of young people and of those responsible for youth policy, promote a better understanding of the field of youth and cooperation with international organisations. The details for the implementation and direction of the different actions will be defined in the users guide (see the last article at page 10).

At the moment, the decision making process is in the

middle of the second reading. The European Commission has presented their proposal for the programme already last year, after being in contact with the European Youth Forum and other consultations. A few weeks ago the European Parliament has reacted with their position on this proposal, in form of the Lissy Gröner Report. In the latter, most of the amendments of the European Youth Forum have been taken into account. However the biggest obstacle for a Youth Programme in the interest of the European Youth Forum and its member organisations is still to overcome: On 12th September the Youth Working Party will decide on their position on the programme and therefore finalise the first reading on this piece of legislation. In the second reading, which will again be done by the Parliament and the Youth Working Party, rather smaller changes are to be expected. For that reason the outcome of this month meeting of the Youth Working Party is so important for the future of the programme.

From the point of view of the European Youth Forum there are still some essential changes to be done in the programme. One important issue is the finances invested into the programme. Whereas the European Commission proposed 900 Million €, the European Youth Forum continues to ask for 1,2 Billion Euro. This amount seems to us as quite reasonable, since the programme is extended to new countries and new areas. The European Parliament seems to agree on this, as they have asked in the Gröner report for an extension of the budget for the programme to 1,126 Billion Euro. Unfortunately there are several member states that currently do not even seem to be willing to spend the 900 million on the Programme that the Commission proposed. Furthermore, the risk that some member states will question the funding of the European Youth Forum and international youth organisations remains. Since the question of the finances is very controversial and since the financial perspective for the EU for the years 2007 - 2013 has not been agreed on by the heads of governments, the decision on the finances will most likely be postponed. However, it is still important to

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already lobby directly the national youth ministries, which come together in the Youth Working Party.

Based on the information from different governments, there are several other issues in which we would like the position of the Youth Working Party to change. It seems that there is no broad willingness to include the possibilities to organise seminars in the first action line. The European Youth Forum has asked for this change concerning the original document, since seminars are an essential tool for many youth organisations. Whereas the Parliaments report has taken this proposal into consideration, it is not sure that the Youth Working Party will agree with this. For the outcome of the first reading it will be important that the text makes clear that not only activities for, but mainly by young people will be financed. Especially following the negative experiences with the increasing obstacles to youth mobility, especially when it comes to Visa, the final text will have to include a strong commitment for the actors involved to reduce the financial and administrative obstacles for young people participating in the activities. Although there was a longer discussion on whether and how to involve voluntary civic services into the programme, it is likely to

happen that for now there will be no concrete proposal on this issue.

The fact that the financial perspective for the European Union is not very likely to be accepted soon, also concerns the Youth Programme. At the moment it seems that the new Youth in Action Programme will not be able to start at the first of January 2007, as previously planned. However, this does not mean that there will be no Youth Programme for the transition period. In line with our information, we believe that the new Programme cannot be implemented in 2007 so the current Youth Programme will be prolonged. Nevertheless, much remains to be done. In the next weeks we will put pressure on the Youth Working Party to take the opinion of young people into consideration when preparing their proposal for the programme. For this work we also need the help of the national youth councils and the international youth organisations. Afterwards we will concentrate again on the European Parliament and the European Commission to still implement the same changes to the problem in the second reading. We will keep updating on the steps of the process, and working in collaboration with our member organisations for the drafting and implementation of the new programme.

No improved youth programme without consent of the 25 EU governments

About the need to lobby for the new Youth in Action Programme

The decision about financing future activities of youth organisations is right now in the hands of the 25 European governments. Acknowledging that the YOUTH Programme is an essential tool for financing and supporting activities of youth organisations all over Europe, the Commission has proposed a new programme - Youth in Action - for the years 2007 - 2013. The decision of whether this programme will exist, what it will look like and in particular, how much money will be spent on it will be taken by two institutions: the European Parliament (EP) and the Youth Working Party (in which the youth ministries of the Member States are represented).

If the decision depended on the European Parliament, the programme would look very similar to what young people, represented through the European Youth Forum, would like. For a long time, there has been good cooperation with EP rapporteur Lissy Gröner and the EP's proposal, after its first reading, is quite acceptable. Unfortunately,

the same is not true for all the national ministries. To some of them there seems to be no necessity for a qualitative and well financed YOUTH programme. Not only the financial framework, as suggested by the European Parliament (1,126 Billion Euro), but also other demands which are important for young people run the risk of being blocked by several member states. Since the decision on the YOUTH Programme will have to be taken in unanimity, every member state has the power to veto proposals and water down the current proposal. Therefore, the European Youth Forum sees an urgent need to contact and put pressure on all governments, and in particular on the national members of the youth working party, to take into consideration the needs and demands of young people.

In so doing, member organisations will be of great help. Many of the national youth councils work with their youth ministries and their representatives in the youth working

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party on a regular basis. They have developed good contacts with them, know how to speak to the responsible people and are the most influential actor on your government from the field of youth. For us in the European Youth Forum, it is highly relevant that member organisations get in touch with the responsible officials, explain the high importance of the Youth Programme for their work and outline demands that young people have developed in the past years concerning the programme

European and international youth organisations can also be of great help in this process. Over the years, many of them have developed contacts with officials on the national or the European level, who take part in the deliberations and decisions on the new programme. Contacting them and putting forward concrete demands in regard to the ways in which the programme could be reformed is a major step forward. Politicians and officials working in the field of youth

have a great interest in making this programme as beneficial for young people as possible. Should international youth NGOs, as regular organisers of youth programme activities, explain to them that the programme is extremely necessary and that it needs to be properly financed and structured, they are most likely to listen.

Lobbying in the European Union is always a complicated process. The European Youth Forum, as a European actor, is the one best able to reach the actors in Europe, which are in this case mainly the European Parliament and the European Commission. All our member organisations can do an excellent job in convincing national governments that youth work and youth activities are important and need to be properly supported. We really hope for their cooperation. The hundreds of thousands of young people participating in the next generation of the youth programme will thank

**To read more details about the demands and proposals of the YFJ, please read:
Position Paper on the Youth In Action Programme
Rotterdam Youth Event Declaration**

Youth in Action: input needed for the draft of the user's guide

All member organisations that once applied to the YOUTH programme had to deal with the YOUTH Programme "bible", the user's guide! It was not always very easy to find their way through and to understand the meaning of the guidelines! The next user's guide could be different, thanks to YFJ member organisations' contributions.

The user's guide for 'Youth in Action' (EU youth programme for 2007-2013), now called the programme's guide, in the initial phases of the drafting process. The European Youth Forum has been invited to be part in the drafting team, the consultative group preparing the new programmes guide. It is a great opportunity for the European Youth Forum and its member organisations to give their feedback on their experience of the former Youth programme. This consultative group is the place to raise the issues of interpretation of the rules, obstacles and good practices. With the contribution of our members, the work to be done during this drafting phase and the implementation of the Youth in Action programme can be easier and quicker.

In fact, the programme guide is the basis of the work of national agencies related to 'Youth in Action' and a

document which can justify their approval or disapproval of projects. Therefore, the more feedback we provide and the more concrete it is, the more the 'Youth in Action' programme will be accessible to Youth NGOs and oriented to their needs.

The draft is planned to be ready for the autumn 2006. From now until this date, the consultative group will meet several times. The group has already met three times. The work of the consultative group is structured on an action by action basis. For now, the work has been focused on the general introduction - the objectives and the priorities of the Youth in Action programme, the Action 1 (youth exchanges, youth seminars, etc) and the Action 2 (individual and collective EVS). It is still a draft, additional comments are still welcomed and will be tabled. The group will continue to work on the different actions (see the box at the next page on the expected calendar).

An important fact to know concerning the work of the consultative group is that the programme guide may change due to the changes which appear in the legal basis (see the article about the Youth in Action programme at page 8).

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The consultative group is composed of twelve national agencies, chosen by the European Commission:

Norway, UK, Ireland, France, Flemish Belgium, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Poland, Hungary, Finland, Germany and Romania.

Some organisations are also asked to attend one meeting to give a feedback on their experience and their expertise.

Calendar:

Action 1: 26 May

Working group on the collective EVS (Action 2): 13 June

General introduction and Action 2: 24-25 August

Action 1 : 13 October

Action 4 : 17 November

Action 2 : 01 December

Action 3: Spring 2006

Action 5: Summer 2006

The e-Youth Opinion is the electronic newsletter of the European Youth Forum. It is made thanks to the effort of the following contributors:

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