

**EU Youth Conference**  
**Concept Note and Programme**  
**12th-15th March 2021 - Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal**

**Framework**

The EU Youth Dialogue (EU-YD) is a European participatory process that aims at fostering youth participation in EU youth policy, in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, by involving in a direct dialogue young people, youth organisations, policy and decision makers, as well as experts and researchers.

The 8th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue runs from 1st July 2020 to 31st December 2021, under the Presidency Trio of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, with the title “Europe for YOU(th), YOU(th) for Europe: Space for Democracy and Participation” and focuses on the European Youth Goal #9 “Space and Participation for all”. This cycle seeks to look for concrete actions and measures on how to implement the targets enclosed in this goal on the local, national and European levels.

In order to achieve this goal, the 8th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue is organized in two stages – the Dialogue Phase (I) and the Implementation Phase (II).

In the Dialogue phase, under the German Presidency, young people from all over Europe were consulted on the measures and actions they believe should be implemented in order to attain the targets of Youth Goal #9. The conclusions of the consultations and the outcomes of the German Presidency will be the basis of the **2nd EU Youth Conference of the 8th Cycle that will take place in Portugal, from 12th to 15th March 2021**. The Conference in Portugal marks the transition between the Dialogue and the Implementation Phases. Delegates will be asked to prioritize and further elaborate on actions and measures that will be included in a Toolbox for the Implementation Phase, that will be *handed over* to the Slovenian EU Youth Conference, expected to happen in autumn 2021.

**Aim**

The main goal of the Portuguese EU Youth Conference will be to provide a roadmap for decision-makers, youth organisations and young people to work at local, national and European levels, during the Implementation Phase of the 8th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, so that at the Slovenian EU Youth Conference an evaluation can be undertaken and recommendations can be made in order to further move the process forward.

### **Guiding Questions**

- 1) What are the main plans, measures and requirements identified for Youth Goal #9 and each of its targets by national working groups and international non-governmental youth organizations?
  
- 2) What concrete measures and political and legislative initiatives can be carried out so that the plans and requirements resulting from the consultation phase can be implemented?
  - a. At local and regional levels;
  - b. At national level;
  - c. At European level.

### **Solve the GAP 48-hour EU Youth Hackathon: a side event**

Considering that the Conference is the transition between the Dialogue Phase and the Implementation Phase, a digital Hackathon takes place as a side event to the EU Youth Conference. Young people from all EU Member States will be challenged to develop a digital tool that fosters youth participation and youth engagement.

This event aims to foster the development of youth-led solutions, in cooperation with the public sector, to tackle roadblocks to youth participation and serve as an example on how to transition from *youth goal* to *youth action*. This process is expected to inspire young people and decision-makers to take action.

### **Outcomes**

The main outcome of the EU Youth Conference in Portugal will be a Toolbox of actions, measures and political requirements to help achieve European Youth Goal #9 and its 7 targets. The Toolbox should support the national working groups and the international non-governmental youth organizations to transition from the Dialogue Phase to the Implementation Phase, using it as input and starting point to the implementation at local, regional, national and European levels. The results of the Conference will be referred to in the Council Conclusions that will be adopted by the Ministers of Youth in May 2021.

The side event of the EU Youth Conference, the Solve the GAP 48-hour EU Youth Hackathon, will result in a digital tool to boost youth participation in Europe, that will be made available through the European Youth Portal.

### **Format and Programme of the Conference**

The Conference will run in a digital format from 12th to 15th of March, and the venue for the organizing team will be established at Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal.

The programme below aims to provide the space and time for delegates to reflect on the conclusions of the qualitative consultations and, to work on actions and measures that should be implemented at local, national and European levels to reach the targets of Youth Goal #9 “Space and Participation for all”.