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On EU indicators in the field of youth

1 INTRODUCTION

Through the EU Youth Strategy¹, the Council invited the Commission to "*set up a working group to discuss, in consultation with relevant policy areas, existing data on the situation of young people and the possible need for the development of indicators in fields where they do not exist, or where no youth perspective is apparent. The results of this work and proposals for potential new indicators should be submitted for consideration by the Council no later than December 2010*".

Accordingly, the Commission established an ad-hoc expert group on youth indicators in January 2010. The group has had two meetings (January and April 2010) as well as extensive contact by email. It has been comprised of 60 experts from 25 Member States plus Norway² coming from public administrations, research institutions and statistical agencies as well as from different youth stakeholder groups³ and the Commission.

The EU Youth Strategy does not operate with an official definition for the specific period in life when a person is considered to be "young". This definition varies from one Member State to another and the age to consider differs with time and socio-economic development. As an instrument for implementing the EU Youth Strategy, the 'Youth in Action' programme targets young people between 13 and 30⁴. The dashboard of indicators operates with three 5-year categories where possible, covering the age-range 15-30. For some indicators it is more suitable to target a more limited age range (for example early leavers from education and training), to target the child population (at risk of poverty or social exclusion) or, on the other hand, a limited sample size may necessitate using other age categories. All indicators will further be broken down by gender and, where relevant, by educational attainment. The dashboard will be updated and revised on an annual basis.

This document is based on the work of the above expert group on EU indicators on youth, led by the European Commission. Unlike the general guidance provided by the Europe 2020 headline indicators, its results are supposed to support the more specific EU policy processes dealing directly or indirectly with youth: the dashboard identifies key indicators for the EU Youth Strategy that are central to achieving a thorough understanding of the general living and working situation of young people. It is, therefore, fully complementary to the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy of the European Union⁵ and its flagship initiative 'Youth on the Move'⁶ which deals more specifically with youth employment and mobility issues. Given that two of the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy have a bearing on youth, these two headline targets are also integrated into the dashboard.

¹ The EU Youth Strategy was endorsed by the Council through the Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018). This followed the release of the Commission Communication "[An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering](#)", COM(2009) 200 final, 27 April 2009.

² Norway and Iceland were invited as EFTA EEA countries.

³ The European Youth Forum, 4 National Youth Councils and the AER Youth Network.

⁴ According to Article 6 (2) of Decision 1719/2006, the Youth in Action programme "*is intended for young people aged between 15 and 28, although certain actions are open to young people aged as young as 13 up to the age of 30*".

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020>

⁶ [Commission Communication on Youth on the Move](#), 15 September 2010, COM(2010) 477 final. The Communication emphasises that its objectives should be achieved through cooperation between the Commission and the Member States in the context of existing arrangements, including the EU Youth Strategy.

To ensure that these policy indicators can continue to reflect the changing reality for young people in the EU, and upon request of the Member States, the Commission will continue to work with the expert group on an annual basis to review the dashboard and propose revisions. This work will not imply a financial or administrative burden for the Member States. Data for existing indicators will be collected through existing sources, such as Eurostat. For possible new indicators outlined in this document, the Commission will consider conducting Flash Eurobarometers in regular intervals to generate new data, for example every 4 years.

2 WHY ARE INDICATORS IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH NEEDED?

The EU Youth Strategy greatly emphasises an evidence-based approach to youth policy. Having indicators in all the eight 'fields of action' in the strategy will better enable an examination as to whether the overall objectives are being met.

A dashboard of youth indicators will also enable non-experts in the youth field to get a quick yet comprehensive overview of the situation of young people in the EU. In this way it will increase the visibility and recognition of the youth policy field and highlight its particular characteristic as a cross-sectoral policy domain.

The dashboard includes indicators for all the fields of action in the EU Youth Strategy. In some of these policy domains, the indicators identified are those that have already been adopted by relevant Council formations or working groups in other EU policy fields, although they may not necessarily have had a clear youth dimension. In other fields of action, however, indicators do not yet exist. For these areas, the expert group has drafted appropriate indicators in line with the request made by the Council.

3 CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

For introductory data on youth, the group considered it appropriate to include four contextual indicators.

One indicator relates to the proportion of young people within the entire population. This is considered as basic information for anyone who wishes to get an overview of youth in the EU. Taking into account the strong links between child and youth policy, an indicator on the proportion of children within the entire population is also included.

Data on the average age at which young people leave the parental household will give a better overview of young people's autonomy. The reasons why some young people stay longer with their parents in some countries than in others include several cultural factors, and are therefore useful as a contextual indicator, rather than linked to a specific policy field.

Indicator	Definition and comment
(1) Child population	<u>Definition:</u> The total number of young people in the age-group 0-14 living in a member state of the European Union on January 1. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat demographic data.
(2) Youth population	<u>Definition:</u> The total number of young people in the age-groups 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29 living in a member state of the European Union on January 1. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat demographic data.
(3) The ratio of young people in the total population	<u>Definition:</u> Young people (age-groups 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29) as a share

	of the total population living in a member state of the European Union. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat demographic data.
(4) Mean age of young people leaving the parental household	<u>Definition:</u> Mean age of young people leaving home. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat, EU LFS

4 POLICY DOMAINS WITH EXISTING INDICATORS

The expert group on youth indicators has considered a number of existing indicators in the fields of education & training, employment & entrepreneurship, health & well-being and social inclusion. These are all closely linked to respective policy frameworks, and are developed by groups of experts and endorsed by the Member States and the Commission through political processes. For these indicators, data is already available for all Member States. The youth indicators expert group has identified 4-5 indicators in each of these fields, considered to be most useful for gaining a better picture of the situation of young people. Most of the indicators are based on data from Eurostat⁷.

4.1 Education & Training

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, is that: *"Equal access for young people to high quality education and training at all levels and opportunities for lifelong learning should be supported. As a complement to formal education, non-formal learning for young people should be promoted and recognised, and better links between formal education and non-formal learning developed. Young people's transition between education and training and the labour market should be facilitated and supported, and early school leaving reduced."*

Five indicators have been identified in this field. The first three are key indicators from the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2020") with corresponding benchmarks, agreed to by the EU Member States and the European Commission in 2009⁸. Indicators 1 and 3 are also headline targets for the Europe 2020 strategy.

The share of young people aged 20-24 who have completed at least upper secondary school (VET included) is also considered an essential indicator in this domain, since it provides an overview of the youth population able to enter the labour market, further vocational education or training or higher education with a diploma⁹.

Given the importance of enhancing employability through education and training, as well as accompanying measures for promoting learning mobility, the Council invited the Commission to propose possible European benchmarks in both these areas¹⁰. The expert group on youth

⁷ The primary Eurostat sources for these indicators are the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). In the education & training field, some indicators also rely on data from OECD and UNESCO which, together with Eurostat, have developed the UOE data collection.

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc28_en.htm

⁹ This indicator was included in the ET2010 work programme, with a benchmark of 85 % of young people having completed upper secondary education by 2010. This benchmark was not reached - by 2010 the percentage of young people having completed upper secondary was 78 %.

¹⁰ Council conclusions of 12 May 2009 on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ('ET 2020') (2009/C 119/02)

indicators will stay updated on this work and see if indicators in these fields can be included in the youth dashboard in the future. Transition from education to employment is another area where the expert group will consider future indicators.

Indicator		Definition and comment
(1) Early leavers from education and training		<p><u>Definition:</u> % of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and who is no longer in education or training.</p> <p><u>EU target:</u> Less than 10 % by 2020.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Eurostat, EU LFS.</p>
(2) Low achievers	Reading	<p><u>Definition:</u> Share of 15-year olds who get a score of 1 or below (on a scale from 1 to 5) in PISA tests.</p> <p><u>EU target:</u> less than 15 % by 2020.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> OECD – PISA</p>
	Mathematics	
	Science	
(3) Tertiary education attainment		<p><u>Definition:</u> Share of population aged 30-34 with tertiary education attainment.</p> <p><u>EU target:</u> By 2020, at least 40%.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Eurostat, EU LFS.</p>
(4) Young people (20-24) having completed at least upper secondary education		<p><u>Definition:</u> Percentage of the population 20-24 having completed at least upper secondary education (ISCED level 3c long).</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Eurostat, EU LFS.</p>

4.2 Employment & Entrepreneurship

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, is that: *"Young people's integration into the labour market, either as employees or as entrepreneurs, should be supported. The transition from education and training, or from unemployment or inactivity, to employment should be facilitated and supported. Opportunities to reconcile working life with family life should be improved. In the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy a youth perspective needs to be ensured, and work carried out in line with the overall objectives of the European Youth Pact needs to be continued."*

The financial and economic crisis has led to high unemployment rates among young people (aged 15-24). In the worst hit countries, youth unemployment is around 40 % and across the EU, one out of five young people in this age category who are in the labour market do not find a job. This is more than double the unemployment rate for the total working population. The long-term risk of this is that of a 'lost generation', with large numbers of young people entering into long-term unemployment without future prospects of getting a stable and permanent job. Bringing down the youth unemployment rate is therefore a key concern of both European Commission and Member State strategies and a natural indicator for a dashboard targeting young people.

A large proportion of young people aged 15-24 is still in education, however, and the unemployment rate is only calculated on the basis of the active population. This means that two countries with a difference in the share of young people in education will display different youth unemployment rates if they have equal numbers of unemployed youth. To

balance out this difference, it is useful to complement with the indicator 'youth unemployment ratio', which shows the share of unemployed youth as compared to the total youth population.

There are also two indicators on youth entrepreneurship identified by the expert group on youth indicators: one measuring the share of self-employed young people in the two upper age-categories of young people and the other on entrepreneurial attitudes among youth¹¹.

Young people's employment on a temporary contract can be considered a stepping-stone for gaining access to the labour market, but it can also be a barrier to reaching full and long-term access to employment. Therefore, this indicator is also considered appropriate for inclusion in the youth indicators dashboard¹².

Indicator		Definition and comment
(1) Youth unemployment	Youth unemployment rate	<u>Definition:</u> Share of unemployed among active population (employed and unemployed) aged 15-24. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat EU LFS.
	Long-term youth unemployment rate	<u>Definition:</u> Share of unemployed youth 15-24 without a job for the last 12 months or more among all unemployed in this age-group. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat EU LFS
(2) Youth unemployment ratio		<u>Definition:</u> Share of unemployed among the total population (employed, unemployed and inactive), aged 15-24. <u>Comment:</u> This balances out differences in MS activity rates, which influences unemployment rate. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat, EU LFS.
(3) Self-employed youth		<u>Definition:</u> Percentage of self-employed among all employed aged 20-24 and 25-29. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat EU LFS.
(4) Young people who would like to set up their own business		<u>Source:</u> Upcoming Flash Eurobarometer on Youth, to be carried out in spring 2011. <u>Definition:</u> The share of young people age 15-30 answering YES to the question "Would you like to set up your own business in the future?".
(5) Young employees with a temporary contract		<u>Definition:</u> The share of young employees (age 20-29) who are on a contract of limited duration. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat, EU LFS. <u>Comment:</u> Age class 20-29 is chosen since younger youth often have a temporary contract because they are in apprenticeships.

4.3 Health & Well-being

¹¹ The European Commission is currently in the process of developing additional indicators in the field of youth entrepreneurship, in line with the 'Youth on the Move' flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy.

¹² The Employment Committee has further broken down this indicator by 'voluntary' and 'involuntary'. Sample-size will need to be checked to see if this can be done for the age group of young people.

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy is that: *"The health and well-being of young people should be supported, with a focus on the promotion of mental and sexual health, sport, physical activity and healthy life styles, as well as the prevention and treatment of injury, eating disorders, addictions and substance abuse."*

Five out of the six indicators set out for health and well-being are established indicators appearing on the ECHI (European Community Health Indicators) shortlist¹³. In addition, a new indicator is put forward on the consumption of alcohol among 16-year olds, with data provided by ESPAD¹⁴.

This is a wide policy domain, and it has been necessary to limit the number of indicators. Focus has been given to three lifestyle-related indicators (smoking, obesity and use of alcohol).

In addition, two indicators have been considered suitable for assessing the mental health and well-being of the wider population of young people, and are therefore considered appropriate by the youth indicators group to be added to the dashboard. The first indicator presents the suicide rate for young people. The second measures the share of young people who declare that they have had psychological distress in the last four weeks.

Finally, one indicator addresses self-reported injuries related to road- and traffic accidents. The EU IDB¹⁵ estimates that road traffic related injuries account for 10% of all hospital treated injuries, a total of 4.3 million victims annually. Traffic accidents are a main cause of death among young people and a leading cause for disabilities which, at worst, can affect a young person's whole lifespan. Therefore, injuries resulting from traffic accidents play an important role for the wellbeing of young people. While datasets for this indicator will be available in the first few months of 2011 for EU Member States who participated in the latest wave of the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), complete datasets for all EU Member States will not be available until the next EHIS wave will be conducted in 2014.

Indicator	Definition and comment
(1) Regular smokers	<u>Definition:</u> Share of daily cigarette smokers in the population aged 15-24. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat, European Health Interview Surveys (EHIS) 1996-2003. Upcoming data will come from latest wave 2007-2009. ECHIM #44
(2) Obesity	<u>Definition:</u> Young people 18-24 with a Body Mass Index of 30 or above. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat, (EHIS). Every 5 years, last wave 2007-2009. ECHIM #42
(3) Alcohol use past 30 days	<u>Target group:</u> Students turning age 16 during year of ESPAD data-collection. <u>Definition:</u> Share of target group who answered affirmatively to a question asking if they had had any alcoholic beverage to drink in the last 30 days. <u>Source:</u> ESPAD survey data. No data for ES + LU.
(4) Cause of death of young people - suicide	<u>Definition:</u> Deaths caused by suicide per 100 000 inhabitants aged 15-24.

¹³ www.healthindicators.eu. The indicators are developed by an expert group (ECHIM) in close cooperation with EC health indicator projects, DG Eurostat, DG SANCO, WHO and OECD.

¹⁴ European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs, www.espad.org.

¹⁵ The European Union Injury Database.

	<u>Source:</u> Eurostat, Causes of death DB. ECHIM #13.
(5) Psychological distress	<u>Definition:</u> Young people (15-24) having had psychological distress during the past four weeks. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat (EHIS). ECHIM #38.
(6) Injuries: road traffic: self-reported incidences	<u>Definition:</u> Proportion of individuals aged 15-24 reporting to have had a road traffic accident, which resulted in injury for which medical treatment was sought during the past 12 months. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat, EHIS. ECHIM #30(a)

4.4 Social Inclusion

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, is that: *"The social exclusion and poverty of young people and the transmission of such problems between generations should be prevented and mutual solidarity between society and young people strengthened. Equal opportunities for all should be promoted and all forms of discrimination combated."*

One of the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy adopted by the June 2010 European Council is "to promote social inclusion in particular through the reduction of poverty". This target is defined in the first indicator, 'at risk of poverty or exclusion'. This target is further clarified in three indicators which reflect the multiple facets of poverty and exclusion across Europe: at-risk-of-poverty, severe material deprivation and households with very low work intensity. These indicators are therefore listed as the first indicators on social inclusion in the dashboard of youth indicators.

Regarding the 'risk of poverty rate', the age category that is applied in the dashboard is that of children under the age of 18. The reason why young people in the age-group 18-24 are not selected for this indicator is that it is based on household income¹⁶. In some EU Member States, a high share of young people aged 18-24 set up their own household and become autonomous at a younger age than in many other countries, often while they are students or low salary earners. This means that countries with high levels of youth autonomy will also show up with higher levels of 'at risk of poverty' for this age category, while young people in these countries may still be relatively better off than their peers in other countries who live at the home of their parents for a longer time. Further discussion will take place in order to include an indicator which accurately reflects the 'risk of poverty' rate for young people aged 18-24.

The expert group on youth indicators considers it appropriate to add the 'self-reported unmet need for medical care' (context indicator in the monitoring framework for Europe 2020) as a supplementary indicator for the social inclusion of young people. Although this indicator is based on young people's perception of existing barriers to access to the health care system (too expensive, too long waiting lists, etc), it is considered valuable in measuring a behaviour that affects their actual use of health care. It should, however, be analysed together with data

¹⁶ The indicator is defined as the share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers).

on care utilisation, defined as the number of visits to a doctor (GP or specialist) during the last 12 months¹⁷.

Young people aged 15-24 who are neither in employment, education nor training (NEETs) have a much higher risk of remaining unemployed, of experiencing poverty and/or of being socially excluded in the future than other groups in society. It is therefore a high priority for the EU to reduce the number of NEETs. In April 2010, the Employment Committee and its Indicators Group (DG EMPL) agreed on a definition and methodology for a NEET indicator to be used in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy. This indicator is displayed in the youth dashboard.

Indicator		Definition and comment
(1) At risk of poverty or exclusion rate	For children (<18) For young people (18-24)	<u>Definition:</u> Share of children or young people who are at risk of poverty and/or severely materially deprived and/or living in a household with very low work intensity (see further definitions below). <u>Source:</u> Eurostat SILC
	Gap between children (<18) and total population Gap between young people (18-24) and total population	<u>Definition:</u> The gap between children or young people and total population (in percentage points) who are at risk of poverty and/or severely materially deprived and/or living in a household with very low work intensity. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat SILC.
(2) At-risk-of-poverty rate	for children (<18)	<u>Definition:</u> The share of children (under age 18) living in families with an equivalised disposable income below 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). <u>Source:</u> Eurostat SILC
	Gap between children (<18) and total population	<u>Definition:</u> The gap between children and total population (in percentage points) regarding living in families with an equivalised disposable income below 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). <u>Source:</u> Eurostat SILC.
(3) Severe Material deprivation rate	For children (<18) For young people (18-24)	<u>Definition:</u> percentage of the population that cannot afford at least four of the following nine items: 1) to pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills; 2) to keep their home adequately warm; 3) to face unexpected expenses; 4) to eat meat or proteins regularly; 5) to go on holiday; or cannot afford to buy a: 6) TV 7) Refrigerator, 8) Car, 9) Telephone. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat SILC.
	Gap between children (<18) and total population Gap between young people (18-24) and total population	
(4) Living in households with very low work intensity	For children (<18) For young people (18-24)	<u>Definition:</u> People living in households with very low work intensity are people aged 0-59 living in households where adults worked less than 20 % of their total work potential during the past year. <u>Source:</u> Eurostat SILC.
	Gap between children (<18) and total population Gap between young people (18-24) and total population	
(5) Self-reported unmet need for medical care	for young people (18-24)	<u>Definition:</u> Self-reporting unmet need for medical care for the following 3 reasons: financial barriers + too far to travel + waiting times.
	Gap between young people	

¹⁷ This has been emphasised by the sub- group on indicators of the Social Protection Committee.

	and total population (in percentage points)	Source: Eurostat SILC.
(6)	Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)	Definition: Young people (age group (15-24) not in employment, nor in any education or training. Source: Eurostat EU LFS

5 POLICY DOMAINS WITH NEW INDICATORS

For some fields of action, there are not yet any indicators agreed at EU level. This regards culture & creativity, youth participation, voluntary activities and youth & the world. These are all areas which concern young people's participation and involvement in society. Comprehensive datasets which would allow for the development of such indicators at EU level do not exist. Developing reliable Eurostat datasets on different aspects of youth participation (by adding survey questions to EU-SILC, for example) would take time.

The expert group on youth indicators stressed that it is important to gain a better picture on the situation of young people in these areas. A Eurobarometer survey can provide valuable cross-country comparable information that can form the basis of indicators in these fields. The Commission services will therefore conduct a Eurobarometer in spring 2011, targeting young people aged 15-30¹⁸. This survey could be followed up by asking the same questions to the same age target group at regular time-intervals. In parallel, the expert group, which also involves Eurostat, will continue a dialogue on the development of statistical indicators on youth in the future.

A few indicators were also identified using existing datasets from other sources. An essential element here is that all indicators in these fields rely on existing datasets or on data that will be collected through the upcoming Eurobarometer on youth.

5.1 Culture & Creativity

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, is that: *"Young people's creativity and capacity for innovation should be supported through better quality access to and participation in culture and cultural expressions from an early age, thereby promoting personal development, enhanced learning capabilities, intercultural skills, understanding and respect for cultural diversity and the development of new and flexible skills for future job opportunities."*

In this field, experts identified three indicators using data from the upcoming Flash Eurobarometer on youth in addition to one indicator using Eurostat data.

The first two indicators are based on questions that were asked in Eurobarometer 67.1 (2007) on cultural participation (for all age groups) and presented in the Eurostat booklet "cultural statistics 2007". Since the sample-size for the youth age group (15-30) was too small to present reliable data at national level in the 2007 survey, the expert group on youth indicators discussed introducing similar questions in the new Flash Eurobarometer.

¹⁸ This will be a Eurobarometer on youth, conducted by the Gallup Organisation and contracted by DG EAC through a Framework Contract between DG COMM and Gallup. It will be a Flash Eurobarometer conducting interviews by phone. Results will be published in May 2011 during European Youth Week. Where feasible, survey results will be presented for the age groups 15-19, 20-24 and 25-30.

Young people's wider involvement in associative life¹⁹, including sports, is considered to fall under the domain of culture. One indicator is therefore set out in this area that specifically targets young people's participation in leisure-time activities through sports, youth clubs, youth associations or cultural organisations.

Young people's ability to speak foreign languages is also an important dimension of culture and is identified as an indicator. An ability to communicate in other languages than one's own mother tongue raises the potential for intercultural understanding and cultural diversity. In view of the importance of learning two foreign languages from an early age, the Commission was invited by the Council in May 2009 to submit to the Council a proposal for a possible benchmark in this area before the end of 2012²⁰.

Indicator	Definition and comment
(1) Performing/taking part in amateur artistic activities	<p>Definition: Share of young people (15-30) who declare that they have participated in any of the following amateur artistic activities at least once in the last 12 months: Playing a musical instrument, singing, acting, dancing, writing poetry, photography, film-making.</p> <p>Source: Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth</p>
(2) Participation in cultural activities	<p>Definition: Share of young people (aged 15-30) reporting that they have participated in any of the following cultural activities in the last 12 months: Visited historical monuments (palaces, castles, churches, gardens, etc.), museums or galleries, been to the cinema or a concert, a theatre, a dance performance or an opera</p> <p>Source: Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth</p>
(3) Participation in sports clubs, leisure time or youth clubs/associations or cultural organisations	<p>Definition: Share of young people (aged 15-30) reporting that they have participated in activities of a sports club, leisure time or youth club, any kind of youth association or cultural organisation in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Source: Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth</p>
(4) Learning at least two foreign languages	<p>Definition: Young people in upper secondary education (ISCED level 3 general programmes, excluding vocational and pre-vocational education) learning two or more foreign languages.</p> <p>Source: Eurostat data collection on language learning in schools</p>

5.2 Youth Participation

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, is that: *"Young people's participation in representative democracy and civil society at all levels and in society at large should be supported."*

The significance of this policy domain is characterised by its inclusion into Article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty²¹, which stresses that Union action shall be aimed at *"encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe"*.

¹⁹ 'Associative life' refers to participation in non-governmental organisations and pro-active engagement in civil society.

²⁰ Council conclusions of 12 May 2009 on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ('ET 2020') (2009/C 119/02)

²¹ Treaty of the European Union and Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:SOM:EN:HTML>.

Five indicators are identified in this domain, two of which will be based on data from the upcoming youth Eurobarometer, two on Eurostat and one on data from the European Parliament.

The first indicator aims at measuring young people's engagement in politics and participation in political initiatives aimed at improving something in their own local community. It should be noted that the indicator measures involvement in activities rather than formal membership in a party or organisation, assuming that this will better measure the active commitment of young people.

Promoting non-formal education and learning opportunities for young people is a central component of the EU Youth Strategy and a core area of youth policy. Yet, it is a multi-faceted and difficult area to measure and for which to develop indicators. The indicator that is identified for the dashboard is on self-reported participation in activities of a political organisation or party or in a local organisation and focuses on young people's local engagement in political organisation.

The next two indicators focus on involvement in political elections. While the first of these measures the participation of young people in elections, the second measures the extent to which young people are actually elected into positions of political power and influence by identifying the number of young politicians aged 18-30 that were elected into the European Parliament in the 2009 elections.

Recognising the growing role of the Internet for the participation of young people in society, it is essential to include indicators in this field in the dashboard. The Commission and the Member States have agreed on a number of indicators in this field²², but data is not yet available for all. Two of these indicators, for which data is already available or will be available in 2011, have been considered for the youth indicators dashboard.

One targets young people's use of the Internet to interact with public authorities ('e-government'). This indicator captures both the interaction with authorities and the use of new technologies and is thus included. The other measures young people's proactive participation on the Internet through accessing or posting opinions on websites (e.g. blogs, social networks, etc) for discussing civic and political issues (at least once in the last three months prior to the survey²³). The expert group recognises the shortcomings of this last indicator in that it only measures whether a person has done the activity during the last three months and does not give any information on frequency. The value of social networking for participation lies in particular in the instant and real-time opportunities it offers for young people to engage in society. This is an area where more research is needed, as well as further work on developing indicators. For this reason, the Commission is conducting a study on youth participation in democratic life, which will also include the use of Internet and other new technologies, with results expected to be released in spring 2012. The expert group on youth indicators will explore the possibility of further developing indicators on youth participation and ICT in cooperation with the Digital Agenda High Level Group.

²² i2010 High Level Group: Benchmarking Digital Europe 2011-2015, A Conceptual Framework. Released by the European Commission (DG Information Society and Media). http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/benchmarking/index_en.htm

²³ Eurostat, Survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Promoting non-formal education and learning opportunities for young people is a central component of the EU Youth Strategy. Notwithstanding the need for indicators to measure development and impact in this area, it is a multi-faceted and difficult field to measure. This is because non-formal learning in the youth field usually is defined as organised and sustained educational activities that fall outside the formal education system and are provided by non-governmental organisations and youth groups, institutions and youth centres as well as by professional youth workers and public services. Adding to the complexity is a strong cultural factor, since what is considered valuable non-formal learning differs between Member States. Despite these challenges, however, there is a need to invest in the development of indicators on non-formal learning, both for the youth field and for the total population. This is an area which the expert group on youth indicators will explore more in the future²⁴.

Indicator	Definition and comment
(1) Young people's participation in political or community/environmentally-oriented NGOs	<p><u>Definition:</u> Self-reported participation in activities of a political organisation or political party or a local organisation aimed at improving their local community and/or local environment in the last 12 months. Age 15-30.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth</p>
(2) Participation of young people in local, regional, national or European parliamentary elections	<p><u>Definition:</u> Percentage of young people aged 18-30 who declare that they participated in local, regional, national or European parliamentary elections in the last three years.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth</p>
(3) Young people 18-30 who got elected into the European Parliament	<p><u>Definition:</u> The number of young Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) elected into the European Parliament in the last elections (2009).</p> <p><u>Source:</u> The European Parliament</p>
(4) Young people who use internet for interaction with public authorities	<p><u>Definition:</u> Percentage of individuals aged 16-24 who have used the Internet in the last 12 months for interaction with public authorities (i.e. having used the Internet for one or more of the following activities: obtaining information from public authorities web sites, downloading official forms, sending filled in forms).</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Eurostat,,Survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals.</p>
(5) Young people using internet for accessing or posting opinions on websites (e.g. blogs, social networks, etc) for discussing civic and political issues (in the last three months)	<p><u>Definition:</u> Percentage of individuals aged 16-24 declaring that they have used Internet for accessing or posting opinions on websites (e.g. blogs, social networks, etc) for discussing civic and political issues (in the last three months).</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Eurostat, Survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals.</p>

5.3 Voluntary Activities

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, is that: *"Young people's voluntary activities should be supported and better recognised for their value as an important form of non-formal learning. Obstacles to voluntary activities should be removed and the cross-border mobility of young people promoted."*

²⁴ It should be noted that some work in defining this concept has already been done, since an ad-hoc module on lifelong learning (which included non-formal learning) was carried out under the EU-LFS in 2003. Non-formal education (for the age-group >25) was also included in the 2006 Adult Education Survey conducted by Eurostat.

There is no statistical data available in the EU enabling a cross-country comparison on young people's participation in volunteering or on the recognition of volunteering. The indicators identified by the expert group on youth indicators therefore all rely on using data from the upcoming Eurobarometer on youth to be conducted in the first few months of 2011.

The first three indicators focus on young people's participation in volunteering activities. While the first indicator aims at identifying participation in all forms of volunteering (e.g. also targeting any unpaid volunteer activities in support of developing countries), the second indicator aims at measuring local engagement by focusing on volunteering which directly benefits the person's local community. The third indicator on participation in volunteering activities focuses on volunteering mobility, i.e. young people who participate in a volunteering project abroad or have stayed abroad for the purpose of volunteering²⁵.

The final indicator in this field regards the recognition of volunteering, and measures the extent to which young people, who have taken part in voluntary activities, feel that their involvement in volunteering has received any kind of formal recognition.

Indicator	Definition and comment
(1) Young people's engagement in voluntary activities	<u>Definition:</u> Self-reported involvement in organised voluntary activities in the last 12 months. Age 15-30. <u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth
(2) Share of young people making a voluntary contribution to their local community	<u>Definition:</u> Share of young people (age 15-30) declaring that they have taken part in any voluntary action aimed at changing something in their local community during the last 12 months. <u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth
(3) Share of young people who have stayed abroad for the purpose of volunteering	<u>Definition:</u> Share of young people (age 15-30) declaring that they have stayed abroad for the purpose of volunteering. <u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth.
(4) Formal recognition for taking part in voluntary activities	<u>Definition:</u> Share of young people (age 15-30) that declare having taken part in voluntary activities who have received a certificate, a diploma or other kind of formal recognition for their participation. <u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth

5.4 Youth & the World

The aim of this field of action, as formulated in the EU Youth Strategy, is that: *"Young people's participation in and contribution to global processes of policy-making, implementation and follow-up (concerning issues such as climate change, the UN Millennium Development Goals, human rights, etc.) and young people's cooperation with regions outside of Europe should be supported."*

Two indicators have been identified as useful in this domain, which will both rely on data from the upcoming youth Eurobarometer. The expert group recognises that it would be preferable to have a higher number of indicators in this field, but points out that this is an area in which there is currently no statistical data available. Gathering comparable data for these

²⁵ The indicator on mobility of young volunteers is linked to the Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers, passed by the Council on December 5, 2008.

two indicators by means of a Eurobarometer will be valuable as a first step, but more effort is needed in order to develop comparable statistical datasets for this policy domain.

The first indicator aims at measuring young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change, development aid or human rights in the last year.

The second indicator aims at measuring to what extent young people in the EU Member States interact with other young people from countries outside of Europe. Through this indicator, we will receive data on the numbers of young people who have participated in activities – inside or outside the formal education system – which have included young people from non-European countries.

Indicator	Definition and comment
(1) Young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights	<p><u>Definition:</u> Self-reported participation in activities of an organisation active in the domain of global climate change/global warming, development aid or promoting human rights in the last 12 months. Age 15-30.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth</p>
(2) Involvement of young people in activities or projects during the past year which have involved youth from other continents	<p><u>Definition:</u> Self-reported participation in activities or projects during the past year which have involved youth from other continents. Age 15-30.</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Upcoming DG EAC Flash Eurobarometer on youth</p>