



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.06.2022  
C(2022) 4089 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Year of Youth 2022 {COM(2021) 634 final}. It appreciates that the Camera Deputaților decided to analyse the proposal and welcomes the acknowledgement that action at all levels is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Year of Youth.*

*Europe needs the vision, engagement, and participation of young people to build a better future that is greener, more inclusive and digital. With the European Year of Youth, the European Union is striving to give young people more and better opportunities for the future.*

*The COVID-19 pandemic has had and still has an unprecedented – and uneven – impact on the education, employment and mental health of young people. The pandemic has led to disruption of their education and transition to employment, and many young people have experienced feelings of isolation and depression.*

*The Commission very much appreciates the attention with which the Camera Deputaților is looking at the potential of Erasmus+ to become more global. The European Year of Youth promotes the visibility of the new Erasmus+ programme and its reinforced international dimension. The Year is an opportunity to find synergies with international youth networks and partners, while ensuring the visibility of the European Union's youth programmes.*

*Therefore, international contact points in national agencies can play a key role in highlighting the opportunities of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Erasmus+ actions are already having an international dimension. For example, the first virtual exchanges with the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighbourhood will start in 2022. They are a great opportunity to promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development between young people from the EU, third countries associated to Erasmus+ and third countries in these regions.*

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*The Global Erasmus+ Alumni Mentoring Scheme initiative, launched in the framework of the European Year, will capitalise on the global potential of the Erasmus+ programme. The initiative calls on the various networks of young people – from EU and beyond – who have received international mobility scholarships through Erasmus+, to raise awareness of the programme among their peers, offering first hand testimonies and advice. These networks also support projects at grassroots level to enhance young people’s networking potential and skills, focusing on the hard-to reach and on those living in remote areas in the European Union and the rest of the world.*

*The European Union’s youth engagement with our international partners is also supported by dedicated external financial instruments such as Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe. The Youth Action Plan, to be adopted in the third quarter of 2022, will provide a core focus for the external dimension of the European Year of Youth.*

*Supporting Europe’s youth by promoting a healthy and active lifestyle at a young age is also among the main objectives of the European Year of Youth. The Commission will launch the ‘HealthyLifeStyle4All Youth Ideas Labs’ at the next European Union Sport Forum to encourage young people to explore new ideas and to come up with innovative proposals to entice all generations to change lifestyles and promote inclusive approaches, in particular in the context of the pandemic recovery. The ‘Youth Ideas Labs’ will gather students, researchers, athletes, experts, and other interested young people from the fields contributing to and/or promoting healthy lifestyles and well-being.*

*Complementing the priority objective of inclusion, the Commission aims at identifying the opportunities and social conditions of young people in rural areas, youth participation, access to information and ways to encourage their engagement in European Union youth policy implementation. A dedicated study will be conducted, starting in 2022, looking into ways to further engage with young people from rural areas as well as increasing their access to opportunities.*

*The Commission encourages national coordinators for the European Year of Youth and stakeholders to engage with young people in rural areas. Thus, it welcomes the proposal of Romania’s national coordinator to organise the activation campaign ‘Youth on the move – Rural Caravan’.*

*The economic crisis provoked by the pandemic and the lockdowns have hit the young people in particular. As a result, young peoples’ unemployment rates in the European Union have increased. The European Year of Youth is therefore strongly connected to expanding employment opportunities for youth and promoting youth entrepreneurship in the post-pandemic recovery, including via vocational education and training and a Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy as part of the Social Economy Action Plan.*

*Regarding the launch of transnational actions that will have a visible and immediate impact on young people, we would like to mention ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve), one of the flagship initiatives under the Year. ALMA was announced by President Ursula von der Leyen during the State of the Union speech in September 2021. It is an active inclusion initiative benefiting the most disadvantaged young people aged 18-30 not in*

*employment, education or training. ALMA aims to provide tailor-made coaching and counselling, including a supervised stay in a hosting public or private structure for a period of 2 to 6 months in another Member State. The objective of ALMA is two-fold: (a) to improve the skills, knowledge and experience of these young people so that they can find their way to the job market and in society once they are back in their home country, and (b) to give them the opportunity to create new connections across Europe.*

*Listening to young people is at the heart of the European Year of Youth. The European Year of Youth 2022 provides reinforced opportunities for dialogue with young people through two initiatives: the 'Family of Policy Dialogues: Commissioners in conversation with youth' and a brand-new 3D digital 'Voice your Vision' Voices Platform: an interactive platform in which young Europeans can record a personal and unique message.*

*The policy dialogues bring young people and decision makers together to discuss specific policy topics and make sure that young people's views are both heard and taken into account in EU policy making. Over the course of 2022, each of the Commissioners meets young people to discuss a topic linked to their respective portfolios. The young people, from across Europe and beyond, are invited to Brussels for discussions which often relate to the preparation of concrete legislation, thus allowing the views of the young people to be taken on-board.*

*Both Executive Vice-Presidents Vestager and Timmermans have participated in this exercise and discussed with young people the competition policy and sustainability, respectively. The feedback from the young participants for both these policy dialogues has been highly positive and anticipation is growing for the ones still to take place.*

*The 'Voice your Vision' is an innovative digital 3D platform allowing young Europeans, from all backgrounds and corners of the continent, to voice their own vision of the future – ranging from issues such as employment, peace and security, to climate change, education, and mental health. It delivers a youth appropriate digital approach. Young people can record their voices, expressing their views and opinions on the policy areas under the European Year of Youth. It enables everyone to listen to any voice, in any language, on any device at any moment.*

*The current framework for European cooperation in education and training is set out in the September 2020 Communication on achieving the European Education Area by 2025<sup>1</sup>, the February 2021 Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030)<sup>2</sup>, and the November 2021 European Parliament resolution on the European Education Area: a shared holistic approach<sup>3</sup>. In this context, the Commission supports Member States' education and training reform efforts and facilitates mutual learning and co-creation with all Member States, international organisations and stakeholders. For this purpose, dedicated Working Groups under the 2021-2025 European Education Area*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2020) 625 final.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 66, 26.2.2021, p. 1–21.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0452\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0452_EN.html).

*strategic framework bring together experts from EU Member States' authorities and other participating countries (candidate countries and European Economic Area EFTA countries), European stakeholder organisations, as well as international organisations and EU agencies. Other key bodies under the European Education Area strategic framework include the High Level Group on Education and Training, and its recently established Coordination Board, and the meetings of the Directors-General for school education, higher education and vocational education and training. By the end of 2022, the Commission will present a European Education Area progress report on first experiences with implementation towards the achievement of the Area.*

*The success of the European Year of Youth 2022 largely depends on the mobilisation, involvement and active contribution of young people and youth stakeholders at European, national, regional and local levels, as well as strong involvement of Member States through their appointed national coordinators. Making 2022 an impactful, inclusive, forward-looking and ambitious year requires excellent cooperation, at European Union level, but also between the European, national, regional and local levels. The Commission hereby thanks Romania for having appointed a national coordinator for the Year from the new Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities.*

*The Commission will issue an evaluation report on the Year at the end of 2023 to assess all activities and provide ideas for future initiatives.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Camera Deputaţilor in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel  
Member of the Commission*