



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT BOARD

Brussels, 26 FEB. 2009  
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## Opinion

**Title**                      **Impact Assessment on: Communication on an EU cooperation framework for a new strategy for Youth: Investing and Empowering**

**(draft version of 2 February 2009)**

**Lead DG**                      **EAC**

### **1) Impact Assessment Board Opinion**

#### **(A) Context**

A framework for European co-operation in the field of youth (Cooperation Framework) was established in June 2002 by way of an open method of coordination (OMC) focusing on active citizenship of young people, and complemented in 2005 by the European Youth Pact – an instrument dedicated to social and vocational integration of young people within the Lisbon strategy. The current Cooperation Framework has three pillars (1) the OMC dedicated to active citizenship of young people, (2) the European Youth Pact, and (3) the mainstreaming activities. The current cycle of the youth OMC is coming to an end by 2009. However, a number of important policy documents have highlighted the need for a renewed youth strategy and the legal entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty would add a new youth dimension to the EU action. Therefore a policy renewal is planned and this impact assessment will accompany the Communication on an EU Cooperation Framework for a New Strategy for Youth: Investing and Empowering.

#### **(B) Positive aspects**

The report is well structured and written in clear language. In addition, the report discusses in a proportionate and systematic way the strengths and weaknesses of each of the options and identifies concretely the possible sources for synergies and trade-offs among them.

#### **(C) Main recommendations for improvements**

*The recommendations below are listed in order of descending importance. Some more technical comments will be transmitted directly to the author DG.*

**General recommendation: While the report is generally of adequate quality and proportionate to the issues it deals with, it can be further improved in some areas. The report should discuss how the context of the youth policy has evolved and**

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**should use demographic and social statistics to demonstrate the scale of the problem and how it is likely to evolve. The analytical approach of the report should focus more on the review of the current Cooperation Framework rather than on the overall goals of EU youth policy. Drawing more on the evaluation results of the current framework the report should develop operational objectives in terms of expected outcomes of the review exercise. Finally the report should provide specific indicators to monitor the progress of the renewed Cooperation Framework.**

**In its written exchange with the Board DG EAC has broadly accepted these recommendations.**

**(1) Develop further the problem definition and the baseline.** The report should analyse how the social and economic environment has evolved since the Cooperation Framework was introduced in 2002 and should explain how the corresponding EU policy priorities have been accordingly adapted. This should include a description of the tools and instruments under the existing OMC and the other two pillars of the Cooperation Framework. The report should also use available statistics to demonstrate the scale and dynamics of the issues (e.g. high number of early school leavers, difficulties accessing the job market and child poverty).

**(2) Focus more on the review exercise of the current Cooperation Framework rather than on the overall goals of the EU youth policy.** Based on the evaluation results of the current framework (including the views of Member States/main stakeholders) the report should a) identify areas where the EU policy has been most successful/ unsuccessful (and analyse why), b) discuss further the limits of the current OMC instruments regarding its efficiency and capacity to deliver. On that basis the report should then develop the operational objectives expressing in concrete terms the expected policy outcomes. When describing the different policy options, the report should explain more concretely what the proposed actions (such as "developed cooperation mechanisms", "clusters between Member States") will mean in practice, so that the variations in the OMC tools would be more evident.

**(3) Propose core indicators for monitoring the progress towards meeting the policy objectives.** The report should explain concretely which existing indicators and benchmarks (e.g. early school leaving, poverty, employment) from the other policy areas, such as Education and Social OMCs and Lisbon Strategy, will be used for monitoring purposes and should also explain how it would define the progress indicators for the other Youth OMC areas (e.g. youth participation, volunteering).

**(D) Procedure and presentation**

The report should explicitly mention that there is no impact on the EU budget. The report should present in a separate Annex the public consultation details, including a summary of the different views expressed and how the report has taken them into account. The report should mention that the on-line consultation 'Strategic choices' for young Europeans' was a public consultation and adhered to the Commission's minimum standards.

## 2) IAB scrutiny process

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External expertise used	No
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