What will the new EU Youth Strategy bring?

The Commission proposes a new framework for cooperation on youth over the period 2019-2027, to bring the EU closer to young people and to help address issues of concern to them. Building on the achievements of the current EU Youth Strategy, it will focus on three areas of action:

**ENGAGE:**
Encourage young people’s participation in civic and democratic life

**CONNECT:**
Connect young people across the EU and beyond to promote volunteering, opportunities to learn abroad, solidarity and intercultural understanding

**EMPOWER:**
Support youth empowerment through boosting innovation in, as well as the quality and recognition of youth work

We need to ensure we hear young people’s voices from every corner of our Union. I want to build on what we have achieved with the current EU Youth Strategy and further strengthen the link between the EU and young people through inclusive and digital means of dialogue. I also want us to better focus our priorities and actions, and better connect young people across Europe and beyond.

*Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, Why Europe Matters – Youth Speak Up, Brussels, 21 March 2018*

More than half of Europe’s young people (53%) are involved in organised activities, with participation in a sports club (29%), a youth or leisure-time club (20%), or a cultural organisation (15%) being the most common.

In March 2018, 3.5 million young people (aged 15 – 24) were unemployed in the EU.
Building blocks of the Strategy

◆ A new **EU Youth Coordinator**, based in the Commission, as a contact and visible reference point for young people

◆ A renewed **EU Youth Dialogue** to better take youth concerns into account and ensure wider outreach, including through online campaigns and consultations

◆ Greater **outreach to disadvantaged** young people and to the grassroots level, through youth organisations, youth work and innovative online approaches

◆ An **agenda to improve youth work** for example through practical toolkits and capacity-building activities funded by Erasmus+

◆ Renewed **governance** with greater focus and flexibility to adapt European priorities to the national context

The most mentioned priority topics that young people want the EU to focus on are:

- **Education and skills (53%)**
- **Protection of the environment and the fight against climate change (50%)**
- **Employment (42%)**
- The management of migration and integration of refugees (40%)

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Eurobarometer survey 455, January 2018

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31% of young people say they have been involved in organised voluntary activities in the last twelve months.

A majority of young people (64%) say they have **voted** in at least one political election over the last three years: local level (44%), national level (43%), regional level (31%).