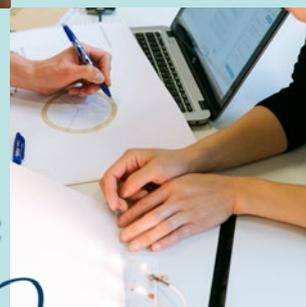
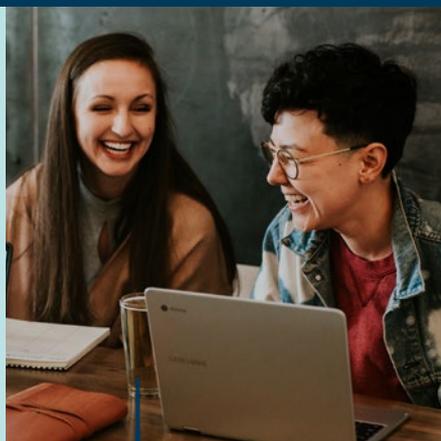


EU YOUTH STRATEGY AT LOCAL LEVEL – Handbook



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PREFACE

This handbook, EU Youth Strategy at Local Level, aims to strengthen local actors in their strategic work to increase young people's participation, specifically in EU affairs. In the handbook, we present how Sweden's and the EU's youth policies are interconnected and how local actors can take support from European and national strategic documents, such as the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027 and Sweden's Youth Policy Communication. The handbook also shows how different tools can be used to work in an evidence-based fashion and from a rights-based youth perspective, and to make use of the opportunities provided by the EU youth programmes.

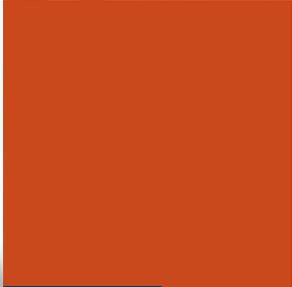
The handbook is primarily intended for staff and professionals in civil society and the public sector tasked with working on issues that affect young people in various ways. One objective is for you to be able to use this handbook in practice with a view to creating the conditions for clear mandates regarding youth issues and a clear structure for how work should be carried out and planned. In the section "Shaping your local work plan", you can use the blank fields to describe how you will move forward with your work.

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) is a national public authority that works to achieve the goals of youth and civil society policy by developing, collecting and disseminating knowledge. One of MUCF's specific missions is to raise awareness and increase participation in EU issues among young people. This handbook is part of that work. We hope it will be a useful tool for including EU issues in local youth activities.

Lena Nyberg

Director-general

Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society



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WHY IS THIS HANDBOOK NEEDED?

A cross-sectoral approach

Much of the work to achieve Sweden's youth policy goals is done by you at local level - in the municipalities, in civil society, in associations, in collaboration and through projects. Because youth and EU affairs is cross-sectoral area, involving several different areas such as education, culture, recreation, labour market and health, it can be difficult to form a comprehensive picture of such work. This handbook therefore aims to provide a structure for needs analysis, prioritisation, monitoring and feedback with room for young people's participation throughout the process.

The handbook is based on the goals of Sweden's youth policy, with a focus on young people's participation in EU affairs and the EU Youth Strategy. The handbook also builds on the challenges and success factors regarding the work of municipalities for young people's influence which emerged in MUCF's report "*Focus 19: Ungas möjligheter till inflytande på lokal nivå*" (exploring young people's influence opportunities at local level). The handbook also builds on a previously published handbook by MUCF, *För och med unga (For and with youth)*.



MUNICIPALITIES' WORK FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT – OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES¹

- Difficult to reach out to young people and involve them in activities
- Some groups of young people are difficult to reach
- Lack of interest and knowledge about municipal activities
- Weak feedback
- Difficulties in meeting empowerment expectations



MUNICIPALITIES' WORK FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT – SUCCESS FACTORS²

- Clearly identified responsibilities
- Mandate to work on the issue
- Engagement and interest in the issue
- Continuity and perseverance
- Implementation of lessons learned from projects in regular activities
- Employing young adults in activities
- A critical approach to one's own activities
- Showing confidence and letting young people manage activities
- Open forums for a more diverse group

¹ MUCF (2019). Ungas möjligheter till inflytande på lokal nivå Fokus 19. Växjö: Agency for Youth and Civil Society.

² MUCF (2019). Ungas möjligheter till inflytande på lokal nivå Fokus 19. Växjö: Agency for Youth and Civil Society.

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Who will use this handbook?

The handbook can be used by those who plan to start, have just started or wish to develop ongoing work regarding a strategic work plan to set goals and measures in the youth area. You yourselves may choose which parts of the handbook you wish to use, but a tip is to start with the type of work you are already doing.

The handbook is primarily intended for those who actively work with youth issues but, for the work to have the right conditions and be sustainable, it needs to be both politically anchored and anchored in the management hierarchy.³

” *If the political and service staff leadership take an active role by asking for results and prioritising the work, employees are usually also in a position to implement the work and achieve results. Anchoring also enables decision-makers and managers enough time to start planning and creating the right organisational conditions as well as allocating resources.*⁴



³ MUCF (2016). Inget att vänta på. Handbok för våldsförebyggande arbete med barn och unga. Stockholm: Agency for Youth and Civil Society

⁴ MUCF (2017). För och med unga. Stockholm: Agency for Youth and Civil Society p.18

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Support from national and European strategies and policy documents

There are a range of national, European and international strategies and policy documents that local youth work can draw on for support. Basing its strategic work at local level on documents that have already been developed can be a way of both saving time and creating security, as much of the work has already been done and anchored at European or national level.

In the handbook we present mainly three policy documents

- The EU Youth Strategy
- Sweden's Youth Policy Communication and
- The European charter on local youth work

The EU Youth Strategy consists of a framework of different goals, principles, priorities, key areas and measures for youth policy cooperation for all relevant stakeholders - including local actors. This handbook is based on the Youth Strategy's main areas of **engagement, connection and empowerment**, which entail providing opportunities for young people to get involved both in everyday life and in democratic life, promoting mobility through EU programmes such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps and recognising public recreation activities as an important arena and force in society, through which youth empowerment is strengthened.

The handbook shows how you can develop a local work plan using both European and national tools such as **the EU Youth Programme, the EU Youth Dialogue, the Lupp** and a **rights-based youth perspective**. In the section "Shape your local work plan", you can use the blank fields to describe how you plan to work on the challenges in your youth area.

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS

AGENDA 2030 + UN CORE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

EUROPEAN DOCUMENTS

ABOUT TIME!
A REFERENCE MANUAL FOR YOUTH POLICY FROM A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA 2020

THE EU YOUTH STRATEGY (2019 – 2027)

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S YOUTH STRATEGY 2030

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S RECOMMENDATION ON YOUTH WORK 2017

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER ON LOCAL YOUTH WORK

NATIONAL DOCUMENTS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

REGIONAL DOCUMENTS

THE REGION'S VISION

QUALITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

MUNICIPALITY/CITY DOCUMENT FOR THE ACTIVITY

MUNICIPALITY'S PLAN FOR THE ACTIVITY

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Sweden's youth policy

The overall goal of Sweden's youth policy is that all young people should have good living conditions, the power to shape their lives, and influence on the development of society⁵. This means that young people should have influence not only on issues that affect them directly, but also on other more general societal issues, and development and decision-making processes.

Sweden's youth policy is based partly on a rights perspective, that young people have the right to be able to influence their everyday lives and the development of society. Youth policy is also based on the idea that young people are educated in democratic governance and pave the way for the survival of democracy. A third aspect is that young people are a resource in society. Decisions will be better if young people's knowledge and experiences are considered before decisions are made. Another aspect is public health. Empowerment of young people is strongly associated with self-esteem and self-confidence, and feeling involved increases their sense of belonging⁶.

MUCF

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) is the government's administrative authority for youth and civil society policy and has a cross-sectoral responsibility. This means that MUCF produces and disseminates knowledge about young people's circumstances and the state of civil society. MUCF also allocates government grants that enable small and large organisations to carry out their activities. In addition, MUCF is a National Agency for Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps.

► [On the MUCF website, you can access a number of reports, grants, and tools for working to increase youth participation.](#)

Talking EU

Different decisions concerning young people are taken at different levels. Decisions are taken at local level in the municipality or region, at national level in the Parliament or by the government, and at EU level by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

One of MUCF's specific missions is to raise awareness and increase participation in EU affairs among young people. The background to this mission is the generally low level of knowledge about the EU, as well as perceptions of relatively greater difficulty influencing EU issues in particular⁷. This entails a high risk for a lack of democracy, since many of the decisions that affect our daily lives are taken at EU level, and to achieve the Swedish youth policy goal, young people must have the opportunity to influence EU affairs as well.

⁵ Regeringens proposition 2013/14:191, p.1

⁶ MUCF (2019). Ungas möjligheter till inflytande på lokal nivå Fokus 19. Växjö: Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällsfrågor

⁷ SOU 2016:10 Betänkande av Utredningen om delaktighet i EU. EU på hemmaplan. Stockholm: Wolters Kluwers

EXEMPEL:

- The Single-Use Plastics Directive - On 21 May 2019, the EU decided to completely ban plastic plates, cutlery, straws and many other single-use products as of 2021.⁸
- EU digital Covid certificate - From 1 July 2021, any citizen or resident of the EU can obtain a digital Covid certificate issued and verified throughout the EU.⁹

To increase knowledge and participation in EU affairs among young people, MUCF has developed the toolkit "Talking EU" which includes methods, presentation material and an online training course. This handbook is also part of the mission.

- ▶ The EU information that most interests young people is how the EU affects citizens and their daily lives. This interested 84% of respondents to a survey conducted by MUCF in 2019¹⁰.

⁸ Council of the European Union. Press. Press release 21 May 2019. Council adopts ban on single-use plastics: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/sv/press/press-releases/2019/05/21/counciladopts-ban-on-single-use-plastics/>

⁹ Covid-19: Travel and covid certificates - 1177 Vårdguiden and EU digital covid certificates | European Commission (europa.eu)

¹⁰ MUCF (2019). Kunskap och engagemang i EU En rapport om organisationers kunskap om EU och ungas engagemang i EU- och demokratifrågor Växjö: Agency for Youth and Civil Society Affairs.

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EU Youth Strategy

As a member of the European Union, Sweden collaborates in the youth field at EU level. The EU does not have the authority to legislate in the youth field, but, since 2002, the EU member states have agreed to collaborate on youth policy together with other policy areas focusing on young people, such as education and employment. As part of this collaboration the EU has developed the EU youth strategy.

The EU Youth Strategy covers the period 2019–2027 and aims to address current and future challenges faced by young people across Europe. .



In youth policy, the Council of Ministers may adopt recommendations following a proposal from the European Commission. The EU Youth Strategy is based on a resolution of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, which was drafted following a proposal for a new youth strategy from the European Commission.¹¹ A resolution is not legally binding but it is a document that expresses political commitments or positions agreed upon by the Member States.



EU youth policy collaboration shall contribute to promoting young people's participation in democratic life, in accordance with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (EU Constitution) - Article 165 - Paragraph 2:
Union action shall be aimed at: - encouraging the development of youth exchanges and of exchanges of socio-educational instructors, and encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe¹²

¹¹ EUR-Lex - C:2018:456:FULL - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

¹² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SV/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12016E/TXT&from=SV>

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In the coming years, the strategy has the following goals:

- Enable young people to be architects of their own lives, support their personal development and growth to autonomy, build their resilience and equip them with life skills to cope with a changing world,
- Encourage and equip young people with the necessary resources to become active citizens, agents of solidarity and positive change inspired by EU values and a European identity,
- Improve policy decisions with regard to their impact on young people across all sectors, notably employment, education, health and social inclusion,
- Contribute to the eradication of youth poverty and all forms of discrimination and promote social inclusion of young people.¹³

Based on the EU Youth Strategy, each member state is encouraged to develop national action plans linked to the EU Youth Strategy and to identify their priority youth issues.

Sweden's youth policy priorities are set out in the Youth Policy Communication. The Youth Policy Communication's action programme sets out how these priority areas will be worked on in the years 2021 - 2024.



¹³ EUR-Lex - C:2018:456:FULL - SV - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)



Europe cannot afford wasted talent, social exclusion or disengagement among its youth. Young people should not only be architects of their own lives, but also contribute to positive change in society. For young people to reap the full benefits of EU measures, these need to reflect their aspirations, creativity and talents, and respond to their needs. In turn, young people enrich the EU's ambitions: according to the EU Youth Report, this generation is the best educated ever and especially skilled in using Information and Communication Technologies and social media.¹⁴

¹⁴ [EUR-Lex - C:2018:456:FULL - SV - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

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The Youth Policy Communication

In March 2021, the Swedish government decided on The Youth Policy Communication, which was then submitted to the Swedish Parliament. In The Youth Policy Communication, the government reports on Sweden's progress towards the youth policy goal. The Youth Policy Communication also contains an action programme of measures to contribute to further development¹⁵.

The Youth Policy Communication states that, despite positive developments in several areas, there are challenges to be addressed. For example, young people living in areas with socio-economic challenges are particularly vulnerable, and generally grow up in poorer conditions with fewer chances for success than young people living in other areas. Interest in politics among young people is at historically high levels and young people feel they have the opportunity to influence political decisions. At the same time, socio-economically vulnerable groups have less opportunity to influence and feel they are listened to less in comparison to other young people¹⁶.

In order to promote progress towards the goal, The Youth Policy Communication prioritises the following areas:

- increase mental health among young people,
- increase social inclusion of young people and their labour market presence,
- ensure all young people have meaningful recreation opportunities, and
- all young people should be involved in building society.

“*The majority of young people are in favour of EU membership, although most do not feel that they have the power to influence decisions at EU level¹⁷.*”

¹⁵ Ungdomspolitisk skrivelse Skr. (The Youth Policy Communication) 2020/21:105

¹⁶ Ungdomspolitisk skrivelse Skr. (The Youth Policy Communication) 2020/21:105, p.9

¹⁷ Ungdomspolitisk skrivelse Skr. (The Youth Policy Communication) 2020/21:105, p.138

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EU youth goals

The EU's 11 youth goals provide a vision for how to improve conditions for young people in EU Member States. The EU's youth goals are to be found at the back of this handbook



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The EU Member States agreed on a number of guiding principles for the implementation of the Youth Strategy.

Equality and non-discrimination – As young people may be at risk of multiple forms of discrimination, including age discrimination, this is an important principle.

Inclusion – Young people are not a homogeneous group and it is therefore important to promote activities and policies that are inclusive of all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities and/or whose voices may be overlooked.

Participation – All policies and activities concerning young people should uphold their right to participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies affecting them.

Global, European, national, regional and local dimension – In terms of implementation, links between the different levels, global, European, national, regional and local, are important to ensure that EU youth policy has a lasting impact.

A dual approach – The lives of young people are shaped by policies rooted in manifold policy areas and on different levels of implementation. It is therefore important to work in an efficient, targeted and coordinated manner across different sectors. The EU Youth Strategy is a dual approach that calls for cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels of decision-making.



As part of MUCF's work to support youth work and open youth work, the agency has produced various support materials intended for managers and recreation activity leaders. One such support document is "Öppna fritidsverksamheten: om tillgänglighet och inkludering". There we have gathered knowledge and tools that can be used for active accessibility work in public recreation activities. [Öppna fritidsverksamheten. Öppna fritidsverksamheten - om tillgänglighet och inkludering | MUCF](#)

Instruments / Tools

For implementing the EU Youth Strategy there are various instruments / tools and here we give examples of some of them that can also be used at local level.

Evidence-based decision-making – Youth policies should reflect young people’s real needs and situations, which requires continuous research, knowledge development and contacts with young people and youth organisations. Available tools include Youth Wiki and opportunities for competence development within Erasmus+ or other networks.



In Sweden, local knowledge about young people can be collected through the youth survey Lupp (local follow-up of youth policy) provided by MUCF. Municipalities or regions can carry out local follow-up and, when young people fill in the survey, municipalities, regions and districts can learn young people’s views about influence and democracy, the school situation, work opportunities, their own health and security, their leisure time, and the future of their municipality, region or district. Around 100 municipalities in Sweden make regular use of Lupp to obtain key figures for their governance. The Lupp youth survey can be used to:

- acquire knowledge about young people
- facilitate or initiate cooperation between public administrations and activities
- provide evidence in decision-making processes concerning young people
- improve young people’s living conditions locally

Participatory governance – highlight the importance of young people’s participation in the different implementation phases of the EU Youth Strategy. Later in the handbook, you can read more about the [rights-based youth perspective tool](#).

EU funds and programmes – can be used to achieve the goals of the EU Youth Strategy. In the youth field, for example, are the [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes](#).



MUCF distributes, among other benefits, EU grants to Swedish activities that want to implement projects for and with young people - abroad or at home. Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps are the EU’s main tools for implementing the common European youth policy. The programmes offer flexible opportunities for small and large organisations to implement projects that promote inclusion, democratic participation, sustainability and digitalisation. Inclusion, democratic participation, sustainability and digitalisation are priorities of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The programmes will also contribute to the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

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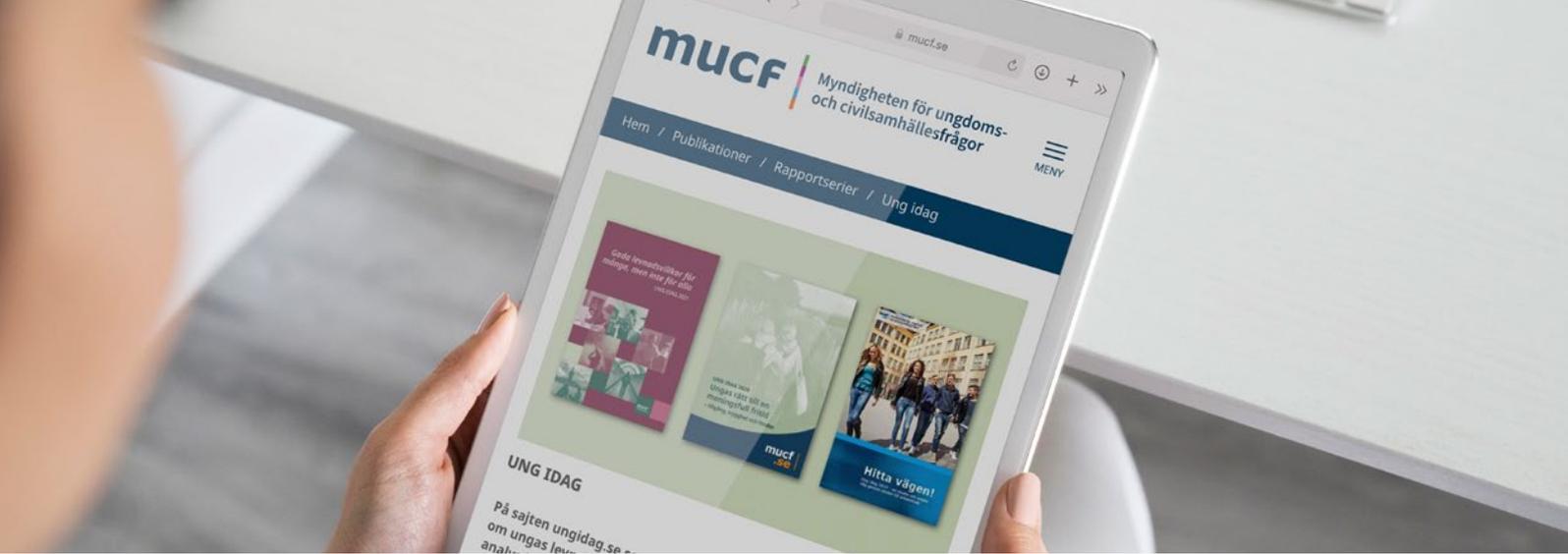
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Information – To ensure awareness of and participation in the development of collaboration between EU countries in the youth field, based on the EU Youth Strategy, it is important to provide information in an accessible language. Information about young people's rights and opportunities is also important. The European Youth Portal gathers information on various opportunities in the EU.

Activities planning for youth issues – In order to ensure transparency in the implementation of the priorities of the Youth Strategy, EU Member States can share which priorities they mainly intend to work on in national workplans. In the following section you can form your own local work plan.

Reporting and follow up – To facilitate progress in policy coordination, progress made should be regularly followed up to enable all actors to share and learn from successful practices and concepts. The Commission will report on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy every three years and the Council of Ministers will carry out a mid-term review of the EU Youth Strategy. At EU level, an expert group led by the Commission has identified key indicators for following up the Youth Strategy and a database (Eurostat) is available with the latest statistics. Fill in your indicators in the section "Monitoring the Work Plan" later in the handbook.

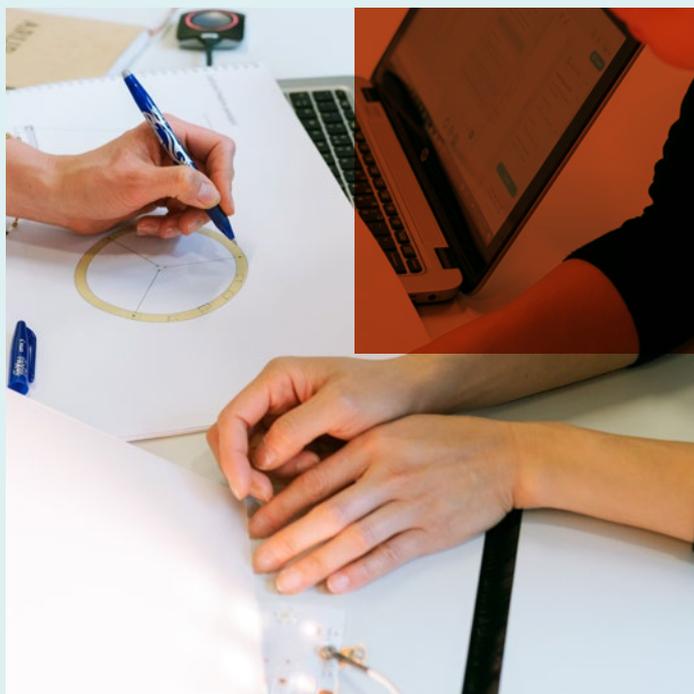
 The page [Ung idag](#) provides up-to-date statistics on young people in Sweden.

The EU Youth Dialogue is a consultation process that gathers the views of young people across the EU. Their comments become recommendations for member countries. The EU Youth Dialogue includes several different stages over a period of 18 months, with two youth representatives from each country participating in three youth conferences. In the framework of the EU Youth Dialogue, municipalities and organisations can organise local democracy workshops to include more young people and collect evidence for youth representatives to be as broadly representative as possible. Read here for more information. The EU's 11 youth goals, which are included in the EU Youth Strategy, are a result of the 2018 EU Youth Dialogue.

Youth Coordinator – At EU level, an EU Youth Coordinator has the mission to coordinate youth issues.

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The EU Youth Strategy calls on member states and the European Commission to implement various measures to address the challenges facing young people across Europe today. The measures are based on the three main areas of the Youth Strategy: **engagement, connection, and empowerment**. Under each main area, you can read examples of European and national-level measures indicated by the strategy. There are also examples of efforts from the action programme of Sweden's Youth Policy Communication.

With the support of the strategy and various tools, you can start forming your own work plan to **engage, connect and empower young people** according to their needs in your municipality, region or organisation.

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LOCAL ORGANISATIONAL

Engage

Engage is about providing pathways for young people to engage in their daily lives but also in democratic life. This is vital for a functioning democracy and for society at large. The EU Youth Strategy aims towards a meaningful civic, economic, social, cultural and political participation of young people. This means that young people must have a say in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies that concern them.

Examples of measures at the national and European levels

The Strategy encourages Member States to take a variety of measures to achieve the purpose of the EU Youth Strategy. Here are three examples of these measures

- Actively engage young people, youth organisations and other organisers of youth work in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies affecting the lives of young people on the local, regional, national and European level.
- Support the establishment and development of youth representations at local, regional and national level, recognising young people's right to participate and self-organise, the recognition of representative youth structures and their inclusion in the work of local, regional, national and European authorities.
- Support and convey the EU Youth Dialogue in order to include diverse voices of young people in decision-making processes on all levels and foster the development of citizenship competences, through citizenship education and learning strategies

Priorities of Sweden's youth policy

- All young people should be involved in building society
- Increase social inclusion of young people and their labour market presence
- Ensure all young people have meaningful recreation opportunities
- Increase mental health among young people

Actions to promote young people's influence on the development of society

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society has been tasked with developing and disseminating models for how municipalities can promote participation and strengthen participation in democracy.

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The main challenges in the core area of engagement:

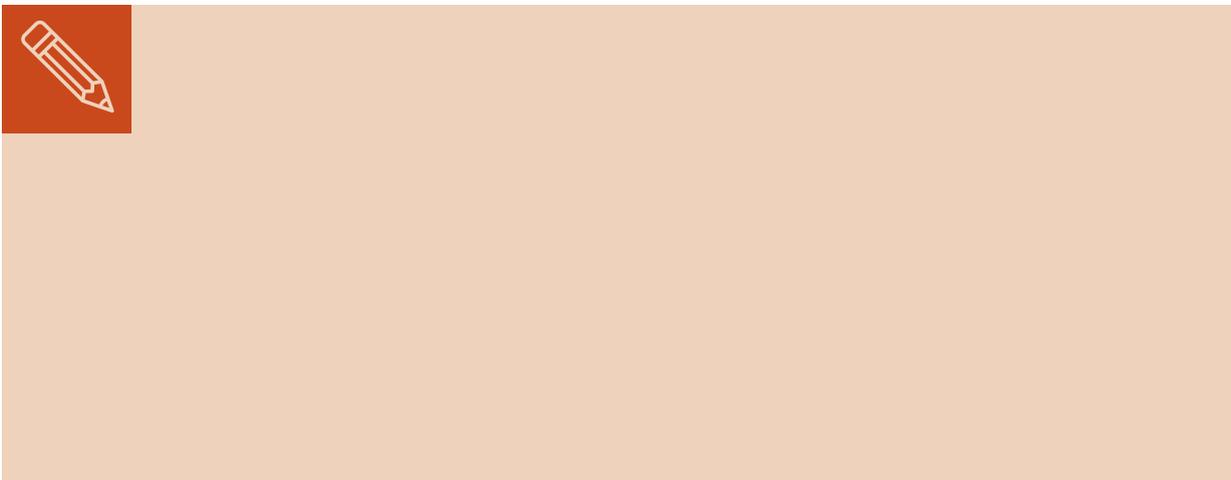
Here you can fill in the challenges that you consider priorities within your municipality or organisation based on, for example, surveys like Lupp or other studies. The examples in the box can be overwritten.



This is how the challenges will be tackled:

Instruction box: Lupp can also serve here as a tool to provide input on what young people in the municipality think and feel. The examples in the box can be overwritten.

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Connect

Connect means promoting contacts, relationships and exchanges of experience between young people, including through EU youth programmes such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The EU Youth Strategy aims to make opportunities to participate in European exchanges and cooperation available for all young people. By participating, they can develop and strengthen personal, social and civic competencies, develop critical thinking and creativity, enhance employability and become active European citizens. Youth exchanges and projects within Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps are sources for intercultural learning and empowerment especially for young people with fewer opportunities. The EU Youth Programmes also provides opportunities for youth workers and organisations to increase their expertise on youth and strengthen cooperation in the youth field.



MUCF's 2020 study shows that 65% of those who have participated in an Erasmus+ or European Solidarity Corps project feel they have a better picture of their future education; that 92% of project leaders have a better understanding of non-formal education and learning; and that 76% of project participants have increased their ability to think logically and draw conclusions¹⁸

Examples of measures at the national and European levels

The Strategy encourages Member States to take a variety of measures to achieve the purpose of the EU Youth Strategy. Here are three examples of these measures:

- Enable access for all young people, as well as for youth workers, to cross-border mobility opportunities, including volunteering in the civil society sector, by eliminating obstacles and implementing support measures with special attention to young people with fewer opportunities.
- Actively engage youth and youth organisations in the design, implementation and evaluation of relevant EU programmes.
- Share experiences and further work on effective systems for the validation and recognition of skills and competencies gained through non-formal learning.

¹⁸ [Svensk studie om Erasmus+ Ung och Aktiv 2015-2020 | MUCF](#)

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Priorities of Sweden's youth policy

- All young people should be involved in building society
- Increase social inclusion of young people and their labour market presence
- Ensure all young people have meaningful recreation opportunities
- Increase mental health among young people

Actions to reduce the number of young people neither working nor studying

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society has been tasked with supporting local organisational and operational development to create the conditions for early and coordinated support for young people who are neither working nor studying.



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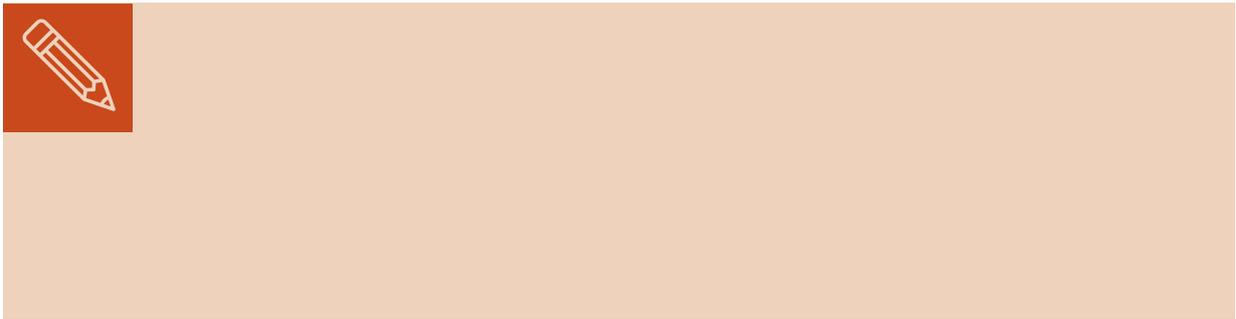
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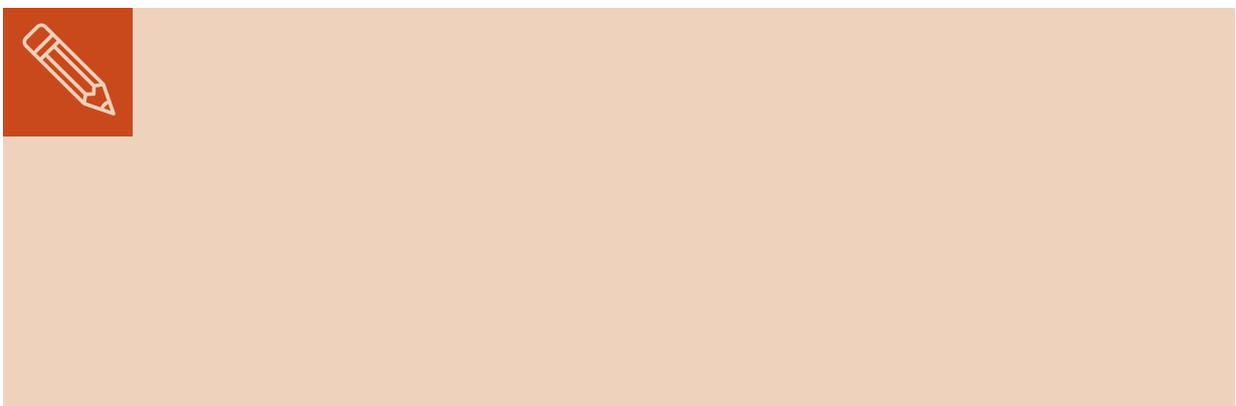
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Empower

Empower is about empowering young people by recognising non-formal and informal learning in youth work and open youth work. All forms of youth activities act as a catalyst for empowerment and provide a safe environment where young people can gain confidence and acquire knowledge informally. Youth activities equip youth with key personal, professional and entrepreneurial competences and skills such as teamwork, leadership, intercultural competences, project management, problem solving and critical thinking. In some cases, such activities are the bridge into education, training or work, thus preventing exclusion. The EU Youth Strategy therefore aims to give greater recognition to non-formal and informal learning in youth activities so that these benefits can be reaped, especially for those with little formal qualifications, as a way to improve employability.



Non-formal learning refers to learning that takes place outside formal curricula. The focus in non-formal learning is on participation and the individual participants. Non-formal learning is often led by an instructor or tutor who sets learning objectives. Learning takes place on a voluntary basis and is thus closely linked to young people's needs, aspirations and interests.¹⁹ **Informal learning** involves learning activities that are not planned in advance and where there is no instructor or supervisor present.

¹⁹Erasmus+ programme guide <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/erasmusplus-programme-guide>

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The European charter on local youth work

Key target documents have been developed within the EU and the Council of Europe to reflect the collective European understanding of what is needed to ensure quality in youth work and open youth work. Much has been achieved so far in the development of youth work, but new needs and challenges are still being identified. To better promote and recognise youth work, a strategic framework, the European Agenda for Youth Work, has been developed. This is to strengthen and further develop youth work and its politics in Europe.

Within the framework of the EU collaboration, Europe Goes Local, about 27 countries have produced a "European Charter on Local Youth Work". This document will serve as a standard by making visible the development of activities at the local level. The document provides support to start a local development process and to ensure the quality of local youth work. In the context of this work, a tool box has also been developed.

Examples of measures at the national and European levels

The Strategy encourages Member States to take a variety of measures to achieve the purpose of the EU Youth Strategy. Here are three examples of these measures:

- Support quality youth work development on local, regional, national and European level, including policy development in the field, training for youth workers, the establishment of legal frameworks and sufficient allocation of resources.
- Support youth work activities on all levels, including grassroots, and recognise youth organisations as providers of competences development and social inclusion through youth work and non-formal education activities.
- Create and further develop easily accessible youth contact points that deliver a wide range of services and/or provide information, including financial guidance, guidance and support on career development, health and relationships and educational, training, cultural and employment opportunities.

Priorities within Sweden's youth policy

- All young people should be involved in building society
- Increase social inclusion of young people and their labour market presence
- Ensure all young people have meaningful recreation opportunities
- Increase mental health among young people

Actions to promote young people's sport, leisure and recreation, and cultural participation

The government has given the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society Affairs the mission of developing an online training course for leaders of leisure and recreation activities.

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Reporting and follow up are key instruments in the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.

Fill in the indicators that you have chosen to follow up the work plan. Examples of indicators are available from ungidag, the database (Eurostat) and Lupp. The examples below can be overwritten.



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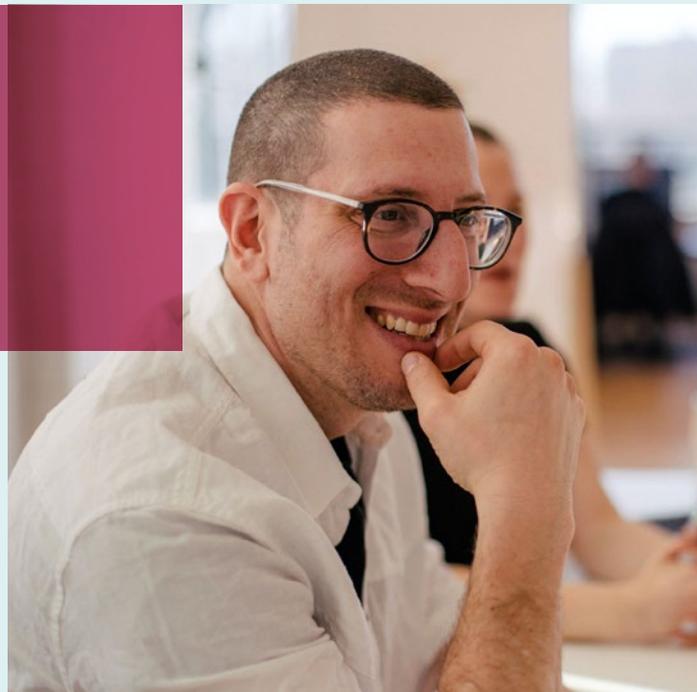
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Youth participation is an important principle in the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. MUCF has developed the Rights-Based Youth Perspective tool to support municipalities in their work with youth participation. The tool consists of six components that a municipality needs to work on in order to succeed in incorporating a youth perspective into its activities and to better comply with young people's democratic and human rights. Use the tool to ensure a youth perspective in the development of your local work plan!

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RÄTTIGHETSBASERAT
UNGDOMSPERSPEKTIV



Active management

The municipality needs procedures to operate, support and follow up all elements of a rights-based youth perspective. To ensure quality and that the work reaches the whole organisation, it is useful to use regular management and follow-up systems. Unfortunately, it is common that young people's perspectives are not taken seriously or are simply forgotten. Achieving results requires municipalities to prioritise the work by allocating financial and human resources.



Knowledge about young people

Decisions about young people should be based on knowledge about young people and on young people's rights. It is important to have procedures in place to ensure that research and statistics on young people are updated, used and disseminated in your municipality. Municipalities also need procedures for gathering knowledge about the young people in or affected by your particular activities – for example, by conducting surveys and focus groups with young people



Youth competence

Basic knowledge about young people's living conditions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and national youth policy should be available throughout the municipality. In addition, deeper, more specific skills are needed in certain situations and roles. This may involve being able to conduct dialogues with young people, meeting young people in vulnerable situations or conducting child and youth impact assessments.



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Public authority-driven participation

In issues affecting young people, the municipality must take initiatives to involve young people. There are many different methods of participation. Whatever the method, there must be a clear purpose, a plan for feedback on the results and the process needs to be meaningful to the young people involved. The municipality's competence and genuine willingness to really find out what the target group thinks is crucial to success.



Youth-driven participation

Young people in general find it more difficult than others to make their voices heard in society. The municipality therefore needs to create structures and conditions for individual young people as well as youth organisations to make suggestions, ask questions, get help or lodge complaints.

Information about the opportunities available needs to be available to all young people and feedback procedures need to be clear.



Views of young people

A positive attitude towards young people is a prerequisite for strengthening their place in society and for implementing a rights-based youth perspective.

Every young person has his or her own human rights, which society must fulfil. Young people should not be seen as a problem to be solved - but each young person is an individual with their own views, opportunities and potential.



²⁰ EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027 (2018/C 456/01), p. 1

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Rights-based Youth Perspective quick test – answer yes or no to the questions:

1. The municipality sees young people as resources. Their opinions and needs are taken into account.

Yes No

2. The municipality manages and follows up its work with the youth perspective through policy documents and audits.

Yes No

3. The municipality regularly follows up and maps young people's experiences and living conditions.

Yes No

4. There are structures in place for young people to approach the municipality to pursue their own issues or to ask questions.

Yes No

5. There are procedures and methods for applying youth perspectives on the municipality's activities.

Yes No

6. In dialogue with young people, the municipality has the expertise to ensure that communication, dialogue format and feedback are adapted to make young people willing, able and confident to contribute their views.

Yes No

7. There is basic knowledge among all in the municipality about young people's living conditions and young people's right to participation.

Yes No

8. The municipality supports youth organisation efforts.

Yes No



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Agenda 2030 consists of 17 global sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations to eradicate poverty and hunger, realise human rights for all, achieve gender equality and protect the planet and its natural resources. The local level obviously plays an important role in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, and one way to achieve this is to integrate the Agenda 2030 into strategies such as this work plan and make visible which goals or dimensions are being actively worked on through these actions.



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Feedback is important to create transparency, trust and understanding in the participation process. It is also an important part of the Rights-Based Youth Perspective. Explore how young people themselves want to receive feedback if you do not already have a functioning structure.

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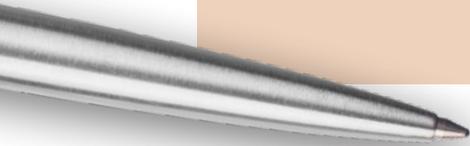
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Here you can specify in greater detail how and when you plan to feed back the results of your work:



A large, empty light-orange rectangular area intended for writing or drawing, representing a workspace for specifying feedback plans.



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This section aims to provide an overview of the process of developing a local work plan, to create a clear division of responsibilities and to facilitate the follow-up of the work plan.

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In the steps below, you have the opportunity to create an overview of the different steps required to develop a local work plan. Start where it suits your organisation and complete each step to create an overview of the process. The steps are based on MUCF's collaboration model – for public authorities and civil society.

Step

1. Circumstances

Start investigating existing conditions and circumstances.

Resources? Knowledge? If your municipality carries out the youth survey Lupp, or other local youth surveys, what do the results of the survey tell you about the situation of young people in your municipality?

2. Identify and involve

The next step is to identify challenges, problems and needs

Who is the target group? How should the target group be involved?

How should continuous contact with the target group be ensured for a good result?

3. Plan and adjust

Continue to create a shared image of the work

Who will do what? What methods and measures should be used?

When should the different steps be completed? How should the result be measured? What indicators should be used? What instruments and tools should be used?

Fill in the schedule below

4. Actions - Implement and polish

Start implementing the work plan. It is possible to reformulate, develop and change if you notice that something is not working. It is important to continuously evaluate. Are the guiding principles followed?

5. Follow up on implemented actions using selected indicators

Measure the results of the implemented actions

Evaluate and adapt plan and methods as needed

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6. Feedback

Describe what results you have seen and what the next steps are

ACTIVITIES	START DATE	END DATE	STATUS
<i>Step 1: Circumstances</i>			
<i>Step 2: Identify and involve</i>			
<i>Step 3: Plan and adjust</i>			



ACTIVITIES	START DATE	END DATE	STATUS
<i>Step 4: Measures</i>			
<i>Phase 5: Follow up</i>			
<i>Step 6: Feedback</i>			

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Included in the EU Youth Strategy are the EU's 11 youth goals. EU countries collaborate in the youth field to achieve these goals. The youth goals were set by young people themselves in the 2017–2018 EU Youth Dialogue process.



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1. Connect young people and the EU

Foster the sense of youth belonging to the European project and build a bridge between the EU and young people to regain trust and increase participation.

An increasing number of young people lack trust in the EU, encounter difficulties in understanding its principles, values, and functioning. Democratic deficits in EU processes have also been identified as one of the reasons for rising Euroscepticism among young people.



2. Gender equality

Ensure gender equality and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas of a young person's life.

Gender-based discrimination still affects many young people, especially young women. We must ensure that young people of all genders, including non-binary and LGBTQ+ people, have equal opportunities and access to rights.



3. Inclusive societies

Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society.

One third of young people in Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Many do not have access to their social rights. Many continue to face multiple forms of discrimination, or experience prejudice and hate crimes. New migratory phenomena have brought several social and inclusion challenges. It is therefore essential to work towards fulfilling the rights of all young people in Europe, including the most marginalised and excluded.



4. Information and constructive dialogue

Ensure young people have better access to reliable information, support their ability to evaluate information critically and engage in participatory and constructive dialogue.

Young people experience difficulties to verify the accuracy and reliability of information. They need to be more adequately equipped to navigate the media landscape and to participate in constructive dialogue.



5. Mental health and wellbeing

Achieve better mental wellbeing and end stigmatisation of mental health issues, thus promoting social inclusion of all young people.

A significant and increasing number of young people across Europe are expressing their concern at the prevalence of mental health issues such as high stress, anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses amongst their peers. Young people talk about the enormous social pressure they face today and express the need for better measures for young people's mental health.



6. Move rural youth forward

Create conditions which enable young people to fulfil their potential in rural areas.

Despite the EU-wide commitment to rural development and given the fact that by 2015 almost one third of the EU population were living in rural areas, prevailing differences exist between living in urban and in rural areas. Therefore, it is important to ensure equality for young people in urban and rural settings.

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7. Quality employment for all

Guarantee an accessible labour market with opportunities that lead to quality jobs for all young people.

Young people are suffering from high youth unemployment, precarious and exploitative working conditions as well as discrimination in the labour market and the workplace. Young people are prevented from being fully integrated into the labour market because they lack information about and suitable skills for future employment. Therefore, measures need to be taken in order to ensure quality jobs for all.



8. Quality learning

Integrate and improve different forms of learning, equipping young people for the challenges of an ever-changing life in the 21st century.

Education remains a key for active citizenship, inclusive society and employability. That is why we need to enlarge our vision about education, focusing more on transferable skills, student-centred learning and non-formal education to achieve a truly equal and universal access to quality learning.



9. Space and participation for all

Strengthen the democratic participation and autonomy of young people and develop specific spaces for young people in all areas of society.

Young people are underrepresented in decision-making processes which affect them although their engagement is crucial to democracy. They need access to physical spaces in their communities to support their personal, cultural and political development.



10. Sustainable green Europe

Achieve a society where all young people are educated about and active for the environment and have the capacity to make a difference in their everyday lives.

Nowadays we consume in a way that our environment can't handle. Society needs to act against climate change and the growing environmental threats. But our society cannot solve a problem that it is not willing to acknowledge. That is why everyone, including young people, has to start taking responsibility for their actions, and impact on the life of future generations. Becoming sustainable is not a choice, it is an obligation.



11. Youth organisations and European programmes

Ensure equal access for all young people to youth organisations and European youth programmes, building a society based on European values and identity.

Youth organisations and European youth programmes involve millions of young people to support their active citizenship and to develop their life skills. However, youth organisations and European youth programmes remain underfunded and lack recognition and accessibility.

SWEDISH AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

MUCF is a government agency where the living conditions of young people and the conditions of civil society are always in focus. We distribute government grants that give large and small organizations the opportunity to conduct business. Our international collaborations give young people the chance to volunteer, study or practice in another European country.

Through knowledge and support, we benefit Sweden's young people and Swedish civil society.