

3rd Newsletter of the EU4Youth Programme December 2019



THE THIRD NEWSLETTER IS FEATURING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- ☛ Policy updates from the Eastern Partner countries
- ☛ General updates on EU4Youth programme implementation:
 - ☛ Overview of projects funded under Component 1
 - ☛ Key updates from the six projects running under Component 2
 - ☛ New projects under grant schemes starting from January 2020
 - ☛ Youth Engagement Roadmap project started in November 2019
 - ☛ Update on the activities of the Coordination and Support team
- ☛ News from the EaP region
- ☛ Recent events
- ☛ Upcoming events

Policy updates from the Eastern Partner countries

✓ State Youth Agency established in Georgia

From August 2019, the three structures that were responsible for youth policy in Georgia have been merged into a single new body – the State Youth Agency of Georgia, which will operate under the Office of the Prime Minister.

The three structures merged into the State Youth Agency of Georgia are:

- 1. LEPL Children and Youth Development Fund;*
- 2. LEPL Children and Youth National Centre;*
- 3. The Department of Youth under the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.*

The State Youth Agency of Georgia will coordinate youth policy issues among government departments and play a leading role in defining policy priorities. The Agency also aims to develop a number of priority areas, including: greater recognition and popularisation of youth work; municipal youth work - work with civil servants responsible for youth; hobby education as a tool for working with young people; strengthening the role and capacity of the National Youth Council and starting a structured dialogue with youth; and supporting the creation of a more youth-friendly environment for youth entrepreneurship.

✓ Three ministries merge in Ukraine - Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Culture, and Ministry of Information will unite under one big ministry from January 2020

A new governmental structure was introduced in Ukraine in September 2019. As part of the reorganisation, a new ministry will be created, based on the current ministries of Culture, Youth and Sport, and Information Policy. The new Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport will be officially established in January 2020. It will be in charge of youth policy development and implementation.

✓ New official bodies responsible for youth policy in Armenia

At the end of 2018, the Armenian Government dissolved the Youth Events Holding Centre (YEHC) State Non-Commercial Organisation, which was the executive body of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs (MSY) responsible for implementation of the Ministry's youth-related programmes. The functions of the YEHC were delegated to the Youth Policy Department of the MSY. At local level, there is no official structure working with youth policy, and just 10-15 communities (out of 502) have dedicated persons working with youth issues. As a result, civil society organisations are still the main actor supporting young people's development at local level.

In early 2019, a restructuring of the Armenian Government saw the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Sports and Youth merging into the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MESCS). This new ministry is in charge of the development and implementation of National Youth Policy in Armenia, but so far only the State Youth Policy Concept (2015-2025) is in place to guide their work. A draft State Youth Policy Strategy for 2017-2021 was not adopted in 2017/18, and currently, the MESCS is working to develop a new Youth Policy Strategy for 2019-2023. The Council of Europe's Youth Department has provided technical support in this process.

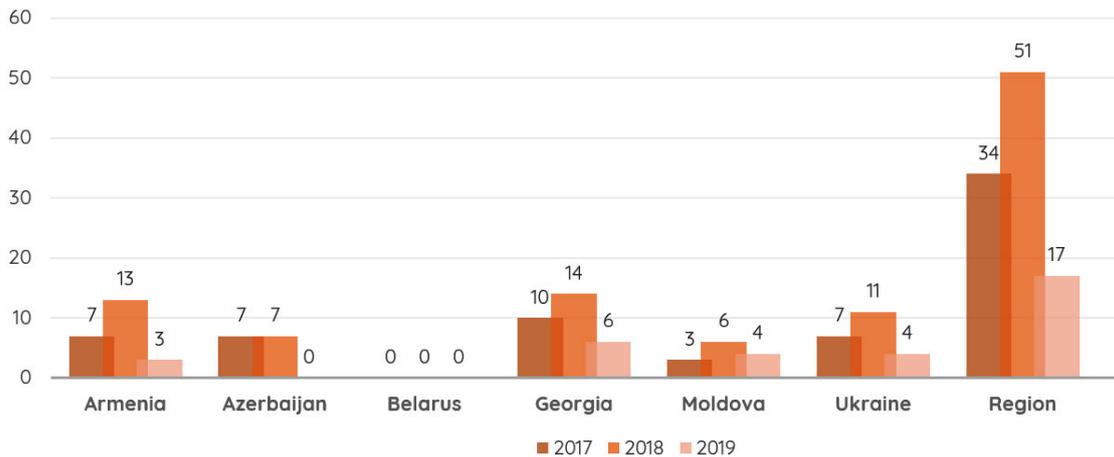
Youth is a high priority for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Armenia. The draft State Employment Strategy for 2019-2023 recognises youth as a priority group, and further discussions will focus on increasing the engagement of young people in state employment programmes. Similarly, youth is prioritised in the 'Work Armenia' strategic programme developed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and presented to the government for adoption in November 2019.

General updates on EU4Youth programme implementation

Overview of the projects funded under Component 1

Component 1 projects are implemented in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Youth Window of the Erasmus+ programme, and are managed by the European Union’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Overview of the all EU4Youth - Component 1 projects funded per country per year

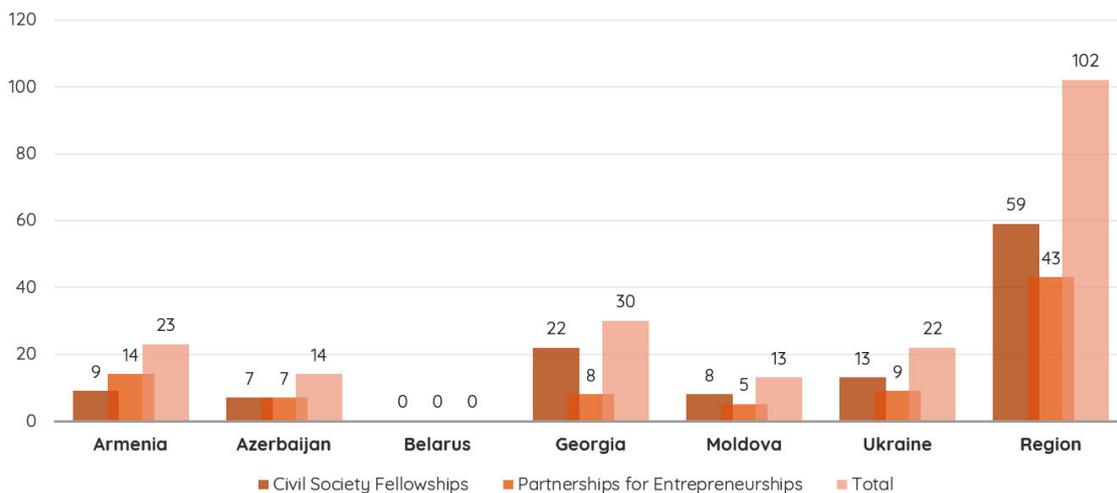


Following three calls for proposals, the EACEA has awarded 102 projects exceeding €11 million of which fall under the sub-action of **Civil Society Fellowships**, and 43 under **Partnership for Entrepreneurships**. The first call took place in 2017 and awarded 34 grants (20 Civil Society Fellowships and 14 projects under the Partnership for Entrepreneurships). After the second round of calls, the EACEA awarded 51 grants worth around €5,85 – 29 of them Civil Society Fellowships and the remaining 22 under Partnership for Entrepreneurships.

The third round of calls for proposals was funded under Phase II of the EU4Youth programme. Seventeen projects were awarded, amounting to almost €2 million, of which 10 fall under the Civil Society Fellowships sub-action, and the remaining 7 under Partnership for Entrepreneurships. Georgian organisations got the most projects awarded (6 projects), followed by organisations from Moldova and Ukraine (4 projects each), and Armenia (3 projects). Organisations from Belarus and Azerbaijan did not get any projects.

The table below provides the information on the total number of projects per sub-action:

Overview of the all EU4Youth - Component 1 projects funded per country per sub-action



Key updates from the six projects running under Component 2

EU4Youth: Fostering potential for greater employability

implemented by Dansk Rode Kors

The EU4Youth project 'Fostering Potential for Greater Employability' organised a meeting with stakeholders in Tbilisi on 4 November to share the findings of a Labour Market Analysis it has conducted in Georgia.

[Read more](#)

On 9-11 October, a training course on life skills and employment was held in Zhdanovichi near Minsk as part of the EU4Youth programme. It was attended by socially vulnerable young people from remote regions of Belarus aged 18 to 31.

[Read more](#)

EU4Youth: Better skills for a better future

implemented by Stichting Save the Children

A conference on challenges and approaches to youth employment was held in the Georgian capital Tbilisi on 30-31 October, organised by Save the Children in Georgia and its partner organisation LEPL 'Youth Agency'.

[Read more](#)

The EU4Youth project 'Better Skills for Better Future' organised an exchange visit to Georgia for employment sector stakeholders from Armenia, between 5 and 7 November.

[Read more](#)

EU4Youth: Employability and Stability in Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine

implemented by SOS Children's Villages Austria

An entrepreneurial skills course for young people has been launched with EU support in Belarus in the framework of the EU4Youth project, "YES! Youth Employability and Stability in Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine".

[Read more](#)

Five Armenian start-ups have won grants under the EU4Youth programme, at the end of a three-month entrepreneurship training that brought together 19 young people from Ijevan.

[Read more](#)

EU4Youth: "School Garden" for Agricultural Entrepreneurship

implemented by Green Cross Belarus

On 7-8 December, representatives from Belarusian and Ukrainian schools gathered for a workshop on "Rural Tourism through the School Garden" at the Ecology and Health Centre in Krukaushchyna village in the Minsk region.

[Read more](#)

Forty representatives of schools from Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova gathered during the autumn holidays for a dialogue forum on 'Rural school, school garden and village in the era of globalization', organised by EU4Youth.

[Read more](#)



EU4Youth: SAY YES - Skills for jobs

implemented by World Vision Deutschland with World Vision Armenia as local coordinator

The 'EU4Youth SAY YES - Skills for Jobs' project has started a series of trainings on entrepreneurship aimed at young people in the project target areas of Alaverdi, Stepanavan, Gavar and Ararat of Armenia.

[Read more](#)

On October 4, the Samtskhe-Javakheti Youth Forum was held in the town of Akhaltsikhe, Georgia, to support the coordinated work, necessary for youth development and effective implementation of youth policy in the region.

[Read more](#)

EU4Youth: Enhancing Youth Education, Employment and Participation in Conflict-affected Areas in Georgia and Ukraine

implemented by the Danish Refugee Council

With the aim of contributing to the debate around Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Georgia and Ukraine, the Danish Refugee Centre has presented its research findings on the 'Good practices of youth employment, labour market, and entrepreneurship based on the experiences of Estonia, Poland and the UK'.

[Read more](#)

A delegation of Ukrainian officials has visited vocational training colleges in Georgia as part of an EU4Youth activity to share information and best practices on successful vocational and education training (VET) programmes in Georgia.

[Read more](#)



New projects under grant schemes to start in January 2020

The four new EU4Youth grant projects will start in January 2020. The new projects will build on the existing EU4Youth grant scheme under Component 2, but will place a greater focus on social entrepreneurship. The total budget available for the new grant scheme is €6 million.

The following new projects have been chosen under Component 2:

EU4Youth - Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine

The project is implemented by Gustav-Stresemann-Institut e.V. (DE) and will run for 30 months.

The project will be implemented in Moldova and Ukraine with the aim of improving the capacity of youth-owned social enterprises to tackle unemployment, reduce outward migration and contribute to social inclusion and cohesion in these regions of the Eastern Partnership.

EU4Youth - Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)

This project will be led by Mercy Corps Europe and last for 30 months to support young people in Armenia and Georgia.

The project will aim to foster the entrepreneurial potential of young people from Georgia and Armenia in the field of social entrepreneurship, notably with a view to contributing to social cohesion, employment, inclusion and the reduction of inequalities.

EU4Youth - Social Innovation Impact - a strategic partnership

The project will be implemented by the 'ALATURI DE VOI' ROMANIA FOUNDATION and will run in Moldova and Ukraine for 34 months.

The main objective of the project is to foster the empowerment of the entrepreneurial potential of young people from Moldova and Ukraine in the field of social entrepreneurship, notably with a view to contributing to social cohesion, employment, inclusion and the reduction of inequalities.

EU4Youth - Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities

The project will be led by the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network Association (GE), and will run for 34 months.

The project will be implemented in Georgia and Armenia with the aim of developing the entrepreneurial potential of young people from the region in the field of social entrepreneurship, aiming to contribute to social cohesion, employment, inclusion and reducing inequalities.

More details on the newly added Component 2 projects will be available in the next edition of the newsletter.

EU4Youth Phase II: Youth Engagement Roadmaps

Component 2 of the second phase of EU4Youth, the Youth Engagement Roadmaps, started in November 2019. This action aims to support Partner countries in developing and implementing more effective, evidence-based policy responses to challenges facing youth, notably in the field of employment, and foster the involvement of young people in policy-making.

As a result of actions under this component, the design of national youth policies will be improved and young people from the Eastern Partnership region will be provided with opportunities to engage with local stakeholders, public experts and EU representatives. The component will contribute to the set-up of youth engagement roadmaps in the Eastern Partnership region, following the recommendations of the June 2017 EaP Youth Forum.

More information on the new project will be available in the next edition of the newsletter.

Short update on the activities of the Coordination and Support team

✓ **Monitoring of the EU4Youth programme**

In preparation for the Steering Committee meeting scheduled for 24 January 2020, the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team is currently preparing the EU4Youth Achievements Report. This report will provide a comprehensive overview of the progress achieved by the six grants under Component 2 during the period 2018-2019. As such, the monitoring team is currently collecting both quantitative and qualitative data through the EU4Youth performance indicators and the progress reports that have been submitted. This twofold analysis will shed light not only on the concrete results achieved, but also the underlying circumstances, challenges and success factors which vary across the six EaP countries.

✓ **Communication and Visibility of the EU4Youth Programme**

The EU4Youth Coordination and Support team continues to work closely with the projects under Component 2 and the EU Neighbours East project team to support the visibility of the programme and its individual projects; to ensure a constant flow of information on project updates, key achievements and events on the **EU4Youth** webpage; and to contribute with content to the EU Neighbours East's campaigns and promote the stories of EU4Youth beneficiaries.

The team has commissioned a first set of beneficiary-focused success stories identified within EU4Youth projects, with the support of a professional journalist in Ukraine. The first stories have been developed by the team in collaboration with the 'EU4Youth: Better skills for a better future' project, and its Stichting Save the Children team in Ukraine. The stories are published on the **EU4Youth** webpage in the '**Stories**' section.

✓ **Workshop (Monitoring & Communication Framework Concept)**

The EU4Youth Coordination and Support team has developed a comprehensive monitoring and communication framework for the EU4Youth Programme. Taking into account the start of the new projects under Component 2 in early 2020, the team will organise a workshop to communicate the core points of the framework to project partners. Considering the new grants will be focused on the topic of social entrepreneurship, the monitoring team will adapt its monitoring framework accordingly, to ensure alignment with all the grantees' log frames and activities. At the same time, it will be important to guide the current and new projects on the core communication and visibility priorities and to ensure synergies and cooperation in this process. In addition, the team aims at strengthening networking across grantees, leading towards a partnership-building process.

The EU4Youth team will therefore hold a capacity development workshop for all EU4Youth Component 2 grant implementers in the first week of February 2020 in Tbilisi (Georgia).

News from the EaP region

Launch of second phase of Skills4Job programme in Georgia

More than 30,000 Georgians have found employment thanks to new tools developed, and thousands have access to improved vocational education as a result of four years of EU-Georgia cooperation to reform the employment and education system in the country.

On 15 November 2019, the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia and the Government of Georgia held an event to highlight the achievements of four years of cooperation under **Skills4Jobs**, and to announce the launch of the second phase of the flagship programme.

Among the core challenges in the employment and education system of Georgia is the mismatch between available skills and labour market needs. With EU support, Georgia has achieved substantial progress, introducing several quality changes in the system.

In the coming years, the European Union will continue to work with Georgia to increase employment in the country. Support will focus on improving the link between education and the labour market to ensure that people with improved skills will find matching jobs.

 [Read more](#)

New European Union programme in Ukraine

A new EU-funded programme, **House of Europe**, has been launched in Ukraine. The programme aims at fostering professional and creative exchange between Ukrainians and their colleagues in EU countries. It focuses on different professional fields: from culture and creative industries to education, health, social entrepreneurship, media, and youth.

The House of Europe encompasses more than 20 separate programmes, enabling participants to take part in conferences, professional events, internships, and networking in the EU, or to enrol in study tours, residencies, trainings, and other forms of support. House of Europe funds cultural co-productions and co-operations between Ukrainian and EU organisations, along with the development of cultural infrastructure and artistic concepts for youth in Ukraine. Finally, the programme offers various youth camps and an intra-Ukrainian university exchange.

On 16 October 2019, the first 11 open calls were launched. There are many more to come in the next three years – the next wave of calls will already follow in January 2020.

 [Read more](#)

Final document with recommendations from the 4th EaP Youth Forum

The 4th Eastern Partnership Youth Forum took place on 17-20 June 2019 in Vilnius and marked the 10th Anniversary of the cooperation between the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries. The event gathered 250 participants representing youth and youth work representatives, and focused around the theme of “Critical thinking through media literacy and active participation”.

Following up from the event, the report of the 4th Eastern Partnership Youth Forum has now been published. The report sets out the core conclusions and deliverables of the forum and presents the workshops conducted during the event, by providing detailed explanation of the issues, discussions, topics and conclusions, as well as core outcomes and recommendations.

 [The report is accessible here](#)

Recent EaP Youth events

Strengthening the potential of youth work in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Tbilisi, Georgia)

The event took place on 27-28 November 2019 in Georgia, and brought together participants from the youth sector. The event reflected on the diverse realities of youth work in Eastern Europe and on how to foster a better matching of its needs and those of young people, with the reality of youth policy. In addition, the event referred to the research on educational pathways of youth workers and on youth work professions and vocations, and will facilitate cooperation on developing offers for the education and training of youth workers.

The event contributed to the background study on the reality of youth work development in Eastern Europe countries with a particular focus on case studies and examples of projects, related to the development of youth work policy, services and infrastructure as well as development of educational offers for youth workers. The study will form the basis for a handbook on youth work development in Eastern Europe to be finalised in 2020.

 [Read more](#)

11th Annual Assembly of the EaP Civil Society Forum (Brussels, Belgium)

The 11th Annual Assembly of the EaP Civil Society Forum – “EaP4EU: Joining forces for a win-win partnership” – took place on 4-6 December 2019 in Brussels.

The Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum is the key high-level event, conducted on an annual basis since 2009. Every year, the Assembly brings together over 200 civil society representatives from the EaP region and the EU, as well as stakeholders and key decision makers.

The 11th Annual Assembly focused on the future partnership between the EU and the EaP after the milestone year 2020, identifying key elements for the next EaP roadmap and focusing on strengthening the win-win partnership between the EU, EaP governments and societies. This event focused on a crucial area for reform in the whole EaP region – good governance and the rule of law – and debated how it can be supported by new technologies and artificial intelligence, looking also at the risks that digitalisation is posing.

 [Read more](#)

Regional Eastern Partnership Conference on ‘Youth Transitions to Work’ (Kyiv, Ukraine)

On 29 November 2019, DG EMPL held a regional Conference in Kyiv on the subject of “Supporting Youth Transitions to Work” with the representatives of the six Eastern Partner countries. The purpose of the event was to initiate a dialogue on employment policies and institutions, and to motivate partner countries to set them higher on their policy agendas.

The event gathered key stakeholders from the EaP countries, including public authorities in charge of employment and of VET policies – ministries, public employment services, VET agencies, social partners, national youth councils and civil society platforms.

As a first regional discussion on employment policies and institutions with the region, the event held challenging but fruitful discussions. Topics discussed fit well EU considerations for the post-2020 Eastern Partnership - maintained priority to youth employment and employability, and increased financial support, including a possible pilot of the Youth Guarantee in the Eastern Neighbour countries. The discussions confirmed the priority given by the Eastern Partners to skills development and reforms of education and VET policies, but also gave many valuable insights on their efforts, constraints and challenges regarding activation approaches.

1st Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on Education ‘Future of Learning and Teaching’ (Brussels, Belgium)

The 1st Eastern Partnership (EaP) Education Ministerial meeting took place in Brussels on 22 November 2019 under the Finnish Presidency of the European Council. The event provided an opportunity for the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Education from the EaP countries to meet their counterparts from the EU Council Presidency trio and representatives of the EU institutions to discuss the Future of Learning and Teaching.

The Ministerial meeting was organised in two parts: first, a discussion on current and future cooperation in the field of education. This was followed by discussion on the impact of socio-economic and technological trends on teaching, challenges linked to digitalisation and adequate teacher training and development.

The discussion was built around the **20 Deliverables for 2020 and Future Cooperation in the Field of Education**, with the necessity to strengthen links between the EU and the EaP countries, notably in the education field, as well as around the topic of the role of Teachers in Preparing Young People for the Future Societies and Working Life.

Upcoming events in the framework of the EU4Youth programme

EaP YOUTH DAYS: 24-26 March 2020 (Brussels, Belgium)

The Eastern Partnership Youth Days will be organised by the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team in the second half of March 2020 in Brussels. A three-day event will aim at celebrating achievements of the EU4Youth programme, whilst kicking off the next round of the EU4Youth programme’s key projects and initiatives and providing opportunities for exchange and networking. The event will gather a wide range of participants, including representatives from the EC, core youth organisations in the EaP region, national Youth Councils from EaP countries, experts on youth policy and other stakeholders.

The EaP Youth days will be built around four main blocks: opening of the event with the core EU4Youth updates; the main conference; thematic workshop on Youth Social Entrepreneurship; and youth Umbrella Structures in Eastern Partner Countries. The event will also include a range of dynamic and interactive methods of communication with the audience in order to ensure a proactive discussion at all levels and to promote a more youth-friendly approach.

More details on the upcoming event will be covered in the next edition of the newsletter.

10th Youth Organisations Forum of Georgia: 20-21 December 2019 (Tbilisi, Georgia)

The upcoming Youth Forum is organised by the Youth Agency and National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia. The Youth Forum is an annual meeting, gathering various stakeholders working on youth development and has been organised since 2007. The aim of the event is to develop constructive dialogue and cooperation mechanisms between organisations, agencies and experts, work on youth policies and promote youth issues. Stakeholders have an opportunity to share their results, challenges and achievements and gain information about youth dimensions in the country. The event is made up of presentations, discussion groups and plenary sessions.

The team of the EU4Youth project ‘Better Skills for Better Future’ will contribute to the event by presenting their project achievements.

Events organised in the framework of EU4Youth Component 2 projects:

Kyiv Region Partnership School: 20 December 2019 (Kyiv, Ukraine)

The event will be organised by Green Cross Ukraine in the framework of the EU4Youth 'School Garden' for Agricultural Entrepreneurship project. The purpose of the event is to meet the representatives of Bila Tserkva city administration (Kyiv region) and head of the local school (Poteyevka village, secondary school). The participants will include Green Cross regional representatives as well as the representatives of the local city council and school administration.

Regional Youth Forums: 20-23 January 2020 (Georgia)

Three regional youth forums will be held in January in the three regions of Georgia, in Zugdidi (20 January), Mtskheta (23 January) and Kutaisi (30 January). The forums will be organised by World Vision Georgia, Zugdidi Municipality and the ANIKA Association in the framework of the EU4Youth 'SAY YES - Skills for jobs' project. The main purpose of the events is to ensure synergies between youth structures in the regions.

International Forum: February 2020 (Minsk, Belarus)

The international experience exchange forum will be organised jointly by the Red Cross representatives (Danish RC, Armenian RCS, Belarusian RCS and Georgian RCS) in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. The event will be aimed at representatives from Georgia, Belarus and Armenia, and will take place in the framework of the EU4Youth 'Fostering potential for greater employability' project.

During the forum, discussions will be organised, where the participants will choose the topics collaboratively, based on interest and relevance to the themes. The participants will include labour/education departments, local authorities, NGOs, international and national organisations and youth representatives from Georgia, Belarus and Armenia.

The event details and the exact date of the forum will be later communicated on the [EU4Youth](#) website.



*Season's Greetings
and
Happy New Year
2020 !*

from the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team