



# EASTERN PARTNERSHIP YOUTH FORUM:

## shaping the joint vision for EU-EaP cooperation

The **Eastern Partnership Youth Forum** has established a dedicated platform enabling **young people** from the Eastern partner countries to participate in **dialogue on youth-related policies** and to propose recommendations for better **youth engagement and empowerment**.

2021 marked the fifth edition of the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum, organised to further develop and strengthen **cooperation** between **Eastern partner countries** and **EU** in the field of youth.

### The main recommendations from the Eastern Partnership Youth Fora 2013 - 2021

2013

#### 1st YOUTH FORUM:

“Recognition of youth work and non-formal learning”  
(Lithuania, 2013)



#### Employment & entrepreneurship

Enhance the employability of young people by strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation between the youth employment sector and the labour market.

All stakeholders

Youth work and non-formal education enable young people to develop competences important for their civic engagement and employability - continued investment in Youth in Action Programme is crucial for the EaP region.

Youth organisations



#### Participation & leadership

Invest in supporting the professionalisation and recognition of youth work and youth workers and their linkages to other parts of civil society.

All stakeholders

Enable young people to better engage with and shape youth policy. Political strategies need to be responsive to young people's aspirations, needs and challenges.

Governments



#### Education, training & mobility

Youth work needs to be sensitive to local and regional cultural realities. Better preparedness of cross-border youth activities and information needs to be ensured.

All stakeholders

Improve the self-assessment and recognition tools (e.g. Youthpass) in youth work and non-formal education and link them to higher education and private sector.



Read the full Forum 2013 Report

# 2015

## 2nd YOUTH FORUM:

“Young people’s employability”  
(Latvia, 2015)

### Employment & entrepreneurship

Governments

Set up and implement a system of incentives for the private sector to hire and train young people.

All stakeholders

Better cooperation to identify skills and needs of the labour market, and provide career guidance.

Foster youth entrepreneurship through seed funding, risk capital, co-working spaces or mentoring programmes.



### Participation & leadership

EU

Re-open a programme dedicated to young people in Eastern Partnership countries.

Governments

Decision-makers should involve youth in policy making, especially related to NEETs and Youth Guarantee measures, and policy implementation, involving those young people with less access to opportunities.



### Education, training & mobility

Governments

Facilitate synergies between the formal and non-formal education sectors. Include the private sector and non-formal education providers in the design of formal education curricula.



[Read the full Forum 2015 Report](#)

# 2017

## 3rd YOUTH FORUM:

“Participation and active citizenship of young people and their involvement in decision-making process”  
(Poland, 2017)

### Employment & entrepreneurship

EU

Establish an international youth social entrepreneurship investment fund to provide long-term support for innovative and financially sustainable social impact.

Governments

Establish social entrepreneurship support programmes for youth, and incorporate social entrepreneurship into national youth policies.



### Participation & leadership

Governments and EU

Engage youth organisations active in education and youth work in review of the existing national education curricula.

EU

Establish inclusive and evidence-based youth policy development and decision-making structures, co-managed by governments and youth organisations.

Open the European Solidarity Corps to Eastern Partnership youth and youth organisations. Use the experience of the European Voluntary Service and include all possible support measures.



### Education, training & mobility

EU

Develop and financially support a community of volunteers through an alumni platform in order to use their experience to create impact through activities at local, national and international levels.



[Read the full Forum 2017 Report](#)

2019

## 4th YOUTH FORUM:

“Critical thinking through media literacy and active participation”  
(Lithuania, 2019)



### Employment & entrepreneurship

EU

Further open up programmes focusing on social entrepreneurship to participants from all EaP countries.

Develop adequate legal frameworks and policies related to social entrepreneurship in EaP countries.

Governments

### Participation & leadership

Governments, EU

Ensure youth participation and involvement of youth organisations in policy-making at all levels. Establish a common platform for cooperation to ensure the dialogue between youth representatives and policy makers.

Protect the right to participation and provide adequate resources for capacity-building of youth and other civil society organisations in contributing to policy-making.



### Education, training & mobility

EU

Further progress towards visa liberalisation for the citizens of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the conclusion of the negotiations on the Visa Facilitation between the EU and the Republic of Belarus.

Governments

Include media literacy in funding programme priorities for EaP countries. Support in adapting legal frameworks and introducing enforcement mechanisms to define, regulate and protect individuals against sextortion and other cyber-crimes.



[Read the full Forum 2019 Report](#)



2021

## 5th YOUTH FORUM:

“Youth participation in democratic processes”  
(Online, 2021)

### Participation & leadership

All stakeholders

The participation of young people in democratic processes is fundamental. Design of a dialogue with young people should include clear communication, follow-up and accountability. Digital tools should be used carefully to not exclude any sub-groups of youth.

All participation spaces and opportunities need to become more inclusive (quotas for young people from underrepresented groups of youth, improved capacities to work with inclusion groups, accessible means of communication, etc.).

Governments, EU

Continuous capacity building should be provided to youth councils and other youth representation bodies for effective advocacy, independent financing, improved internal transparency, and competences to engage youth in a wider range of policies.



Governments, EU

### Education, training & mobility

Active citizenship education is an essential component of youth engagement and should be strengthened in the region. Formal and non-formal education should prepare a young person to understand, use opportunities and build necessary competencies for meaningful participation.



[Read the full Forum 2021 Report](#)