

# THE EU4YOUTH PROGRAMME

The flagship regional EU4Youth programme aims to **foster the employability and active participation of young people** in the Eastern partner countries. It was launched in 2017 and is led by the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

The programme seeks to increase investment in young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability, and to encourage their active participation in both democratic life and the labour market. The initiative focuses particularly on disadvantaged youth, with specific attention given to gender equality and women empowerment.



[euforyouth.eu](https://euforyouth.eu)

EU4Youth is structured around **three key pillars**:



## EDUCATION & EMPLOYABILITY

Developing work-ready skills, capacity building to create more education and employment opportunities, formal and non-formal education and other career development support.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYMENT

Increasing entrepreneurial skills and investing in initiatives to promote (social) entrepreneurship education, including in green and digital innovation. Promoting more quality jobs, especially for disadvantaged youth and developing targeted youth employment measures.



## ENGAGEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

Enhancing participation in society through increasing youth awareness about policy developments, supporting a more structured youth dialogue and improvements in policy design on youth matters geared towards strengthening young people's civic participation.



## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### Small Grants:

In 2017 and 2018 the European Commission's DG EAC / EACEA funded 102 small projects in the region involving over 600 organisations from 37 countries. The projects focus on capacity building for youth organisations and youth workers. (€ 11 million)

### Large Grants

From 2018 to 2023, EU4Youth has provided grants to 19 large regional projects over Phase I - III, focusing on increasing employability, (social) entrepreneurship and youth participation. (€ 20.5 million) In addition, 2 grant projects have been signed to support societal and economic resilience in Ukraine. (€ 2 million)

### Scholarships to the College of Europe (Natolin Campus - Poland) - CPMA 2021-2025

Increases the knowledge and understanding of EaP youth of European politics and governance and fosters multi-cultural learning through scholarships for the College of Europe. It supports cross-cultural postgraduate studies for an estimated 75 young people from the Eastern partner countries. (€ 2.10 million)

### EU4YOUTH PHASE III

#### Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship - CPMA 2021-2025

Co-financed by Lithuania through a delegation agreement with this EU Member State's agency CPMA as part of EU4Youth phase III. One component covers activities for capacity building and networking among public employment services and other stakeholders to address youth employment issues, promoting youth involvement and facilitating knowledge transfer and exchange with the EU experience on the Youth Guarantee (Component 2: €5.02 million). The project also supports the nine large grants that started in 2023 and coordinates the College of Europe scholarships.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



### EU4Youth Coordination & Support - EY 2018-2023

Ensures coordination among EU4Youth projects and contracts, supports the monitoring, communication and visibility of the large grants and the EU4Youth initiative, including the annual EU4Youth days. The team is in charge of the EU4Youth Alumni Network, and provides sectoral expertise for better alignment with policies and initiatives. (€ 4.8 million)

This project will continue under a new contract between 2023-2026 with a renewed focus on youth policy support and engagement at all levels, as well as strengthened outreach, partnerships and measurable results. (€ 2.5 million)

### Youth Engagement Roadmaps - GOPA 2019-2023

Promoted and facilitated multi-stakeholder discussions on youth participation, youth employment partnerships and youth social entrepreneurship through Policy Labs and thematic roundtables. The team strengthened capacity building efforts on youth engagement and provided thematic reviews and research. (€ 2.2 million)

### EU4YOUTH PHASE IV

#### Youth Engagement and Empowerment - GIZ 2023-2025

Started in April 2023 through a new EU Member State contribution agreement. Implemented by GIZ, with co-financing from Germany, it aims to contribute to increasing the influence that young people in the EaP region have in determining policy outcomes, through:

- Increased capacity of youth organisations and public institutions to jointly implement more participatory and structured policy dialogue;
- Improved quality and outreach of youth work for mobilising and engaging more young people from remote/less advantaged areas. (€ 5 million)