



Brussels, 27 April 2009

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

Subject: New EU Youth strategy "Youth – Investing and Empowering"

1.1. WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

The current crisis has worsened the economic situation for many young people. While today's young generation enjoys greater opportunities than before, they also face difficult challenges. A new EU youth strategy is needed today to help confront these challenges and open up new opportunities for all youth.

1.2. WHAT EXACTLY WOULD CHANGE?

The Commission proposes to employ a **cross-sectoral approach to address youth related issues**. Together with the Member States it will take **actions** in the fields of **education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship, inclusion, health and sport, participation, volunteering and youth global engagement**. The new strategy emphasises the **important role of youth work** in tackling challenges such as school failure, youth unemployment and social exclusion, as well as better using leisure time and improving skills.

The EU aims at **reinforcing cooperation between Member States** on youth related issues, by making it more flexible and effective. It invites all Member States to organise a permanent and regular dialogue with young people. Furthermore the Commission is encouraging a **more research- and evidence-based youth policy**. The first step is the launch of the "EU Youth Report", which includes specific data and detailed analysis.

1.3. WHO WOULD BENEFIT AND HOW?

All young people in EU should benefit from the new youth strategy. The document sets the following goals:

- to create more opportunities for youth in education and employment (further development of non-formal education, easier transition from education to work, investment in the skills required for labour markets, development of creativity and entrepreneurship),

- to improve access and full participation of young people in society (promotion of healthy living and sports, civic participation, prevention of social exclusion and poverty) and
- to foster solidarity between youth and society (further development of youth volunteering, mobilisation of youth in global policy-making).

Finally youth work will be supported and further professionalised.

1.4. WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

The EU has a 'birds-eye' view of the situation of young people in Europe. Many youth issues (e.g. housing, transport) are local but similar from one country to another or are cross-border by nature (e.g. environmental challenges). The EU can help Member States to exchange good practices, provide better knowledge of youth issues, and bring young Europeans and their organisations together to debate and formulate policies on issues affecting them.

1.5. WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

The new framework will start at the beginning of 2010 and last until 2018.

Data for search engines	
Title tag (± 70 characters with spaces)	New EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering - citizens' summary
Description (± 150 characters)	Commission Communication proposing a new EU youth strategy which promotes a cross-sectoral approach to address important youth-related issues and will guide EU youth policy in the coming decade.
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