

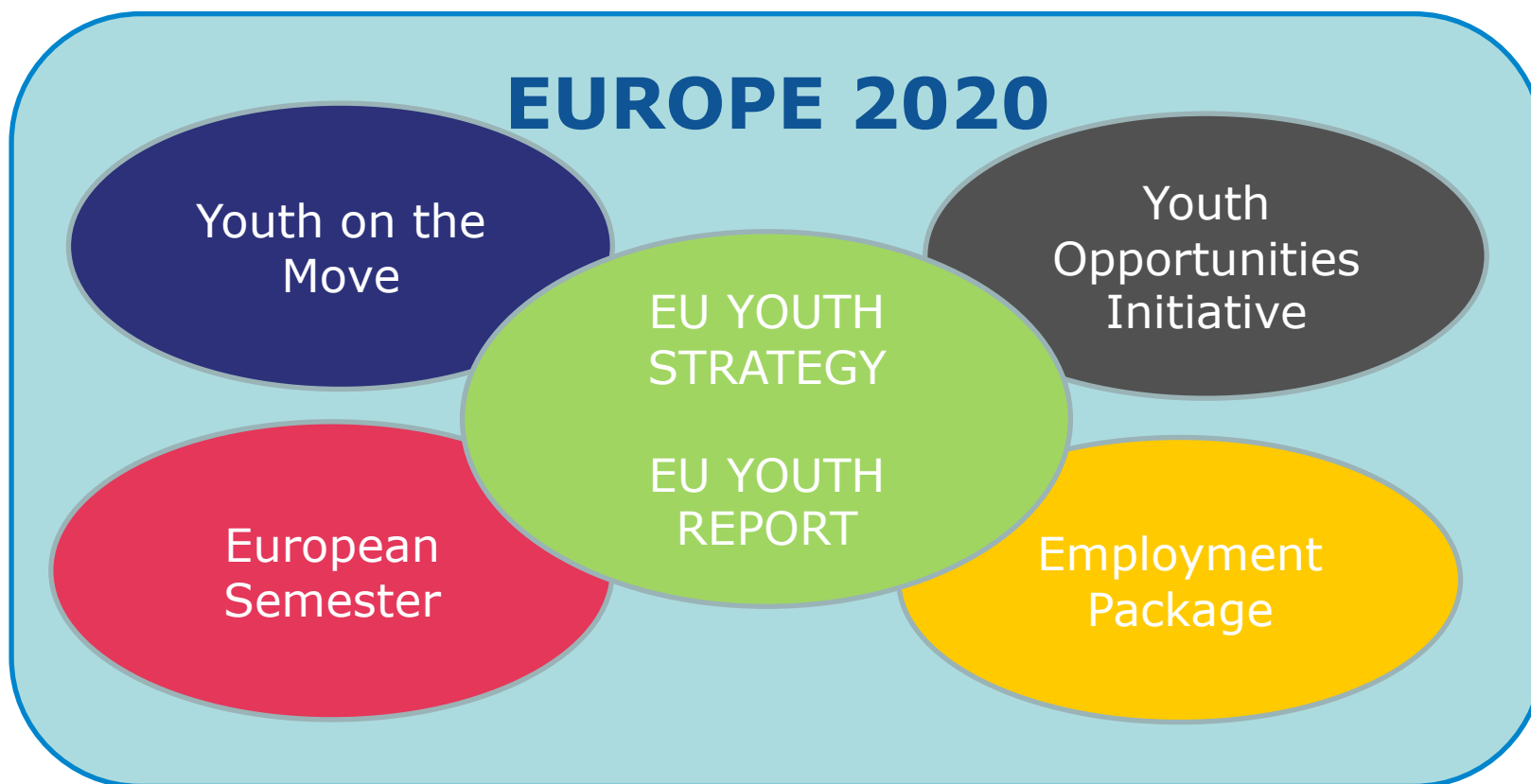


# Youth policy, recognition of youth work and non-formal learning: what is going on at EU level?

**Symposium on youth policy  
cooperation in South East Europe  
Tirana, 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2012**

**Youth**

## YOUTH POLICY IN A WIDER CONTEXT

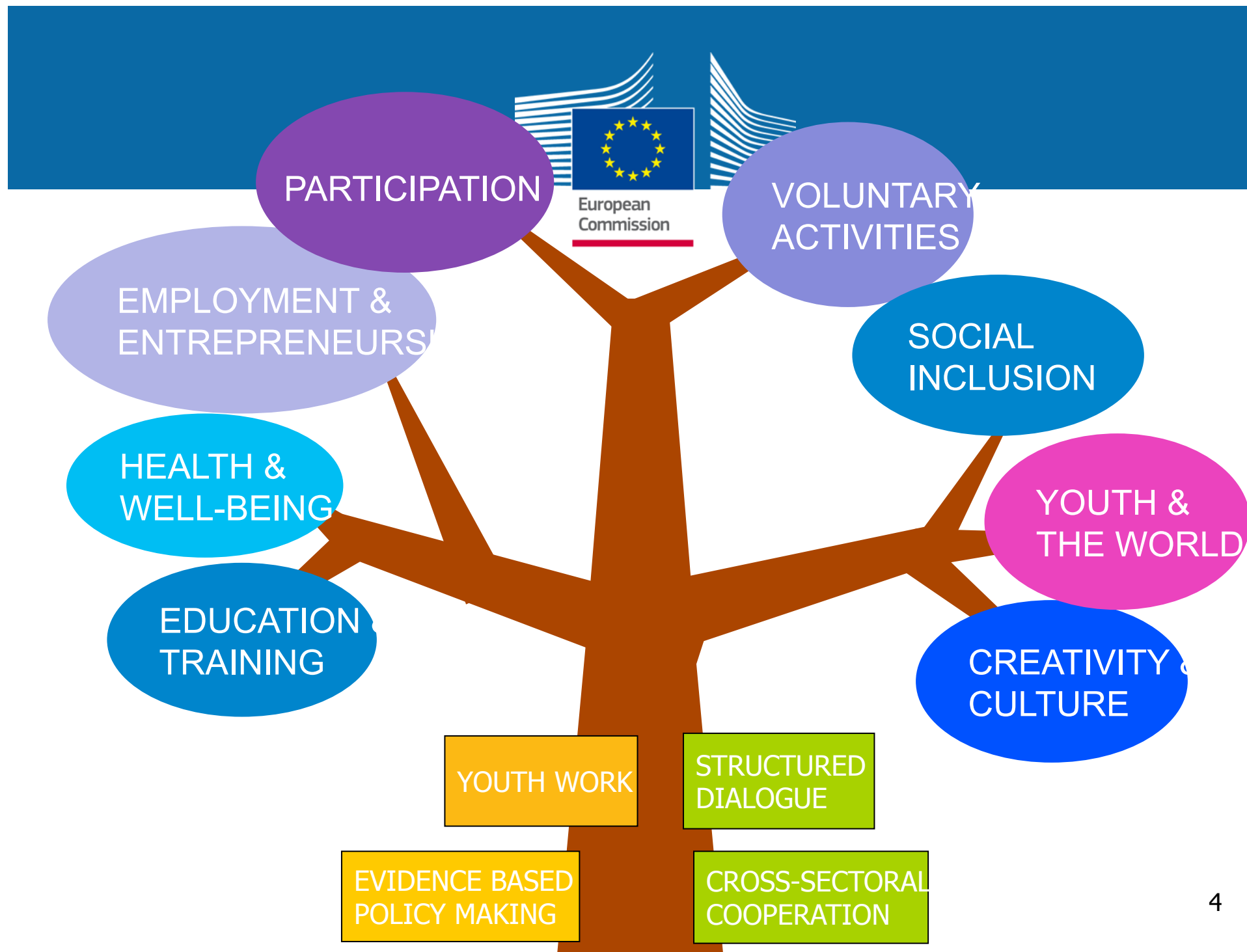




# EU YOUTH STRATEGY (2010-2018)

## Overall objectives:

1. To create **more and equal opportunities** for all young people in **education** and on the **labour market**
2. To promote active **citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity** of all young people





## THE EU YOUTH REPORT 2012

- Places the EU Youth Strategy firmly within EUROPE 2020
- Emphasises the cross-sectoral nature of youth policy
- Documents that the EU Youth Strategy has an important impact and added value
- Shows that the crisis has a heavy impact on youth
- Proposes social inclusion and health & well-being as priorities for the coming three years

## PROPOSING FUTURE PRIORITIES

More focus on challenges facing young people as a result of the crisis:

- Employment and entrepreneurship
- Social inclusion, health and well-being

*instruments*

➡ **Step up focus on participation**

➡ **Build on youth work**



## STATUS ON THE SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EU

- Chapters on demography and 8 'fields of action'
- Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators
- Data covers EU27 + Candidate Countries + EFTA Countries
- [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/20120910\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/20120910_en.htm)



## VALIDATION OF NFIL IN THE EU

- Benefits for the individual (economic, educational, personal)
- Benefits for the society (better skilled population)
- Benefits for the economy





## CURRENT SHORTCOMINGS IN VALIDATION

- Only a limited number of Member States has comprehensive systems for the validation of NFIL (FI, FR, LU, NL, PT)
- Validation opportunities are underused in the majority of Member States (skills remain invisible)
- Lack of coherence and transparency between validation systems of Member States
- Current European tools and instruments have important weaknesses (scope, political status etc)



# RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES (I)

- By 2015: National **systems** for validation of NFIL:
  - Opportunities for citizens to validate their knowledge, skills and competences acquired through NFIL
  - Opportunities to obtain a full or partial qualification on the basis of learning outcomes, no matter how they were acquired (formal, non-formal and informal learning)
- Validation systems should include:
  - Support for **identification** of learning outcomes
  - **Documentation** of learning outcomes
  - **Assessment** of an individual's learning outcomes
  - **Certification** of learning outcomes (e.g. credits or a full qualification)



# RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES (II)

- National systems to respect the following **principles**:
  - Be a coherent and integral part of the **NQF**
  - **Information** on validation opportunities to be widely available
  - Specific targeting of **disadvantaged groups**
  - Individuals in unemployment or unsecure employment: opportunity to undergo an **audit** of their **skills** and **competences**
  - Access to validation to be **affordable**
  - **Guidance** and counselling to be available and affordable
  - Transparent **quality assurance** measures
  - Professional **development of staff** involved in validation
  - For qualifications obtained on the basis of NFIL: **same or equivalent standards** as for qualifications obtained through formal programmes
  - Use of **Europass** framework tools
  - Synergies with **credit systems** (e.g. ECTS, ECVET)



## RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES(III)

- Ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of validation systems
- Incentives to employers, youth organisations and civil society organisations to facilitate the documentation of learning outcomes by using relevant tools
- Incentives to E&T providers to facilitate access to further learning and to award exemptions/credits for NFIL
- Ensure coordination between education, training, employment and youth implementation services and relevant policies



# RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

- Facilitating peer learning and exchange of good practice
- Regular updating the European Guidelines for validation
- Further developing Europass tools on non-formal and informal learning experiences
- Support through the future Education, Training, Youth and Sports programmes and the Structural Funds (ESF)
- Evaluate and report to the Council by 31 July 2017



**THANK YOU!**

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**[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm)**