

Winter 2020

EPLM NEWSLETTER

This newsletter provides updates from practice, research and policy on the topic of learning mobility in the youth field in Europe.



The EPLM Platform- changes coming in 2021

Both Steering Group meetings were held online this year, with nearly 30 representatives from networks, institutions and programmes at each of the meetings, coming together to share updates, connect and learn from each other.

After nearly 8 years in the same format, the Platform felt the need to rethink how EPLM is functioning at the moment, given the changes due to pandemic, and how it could further improve its work in the future. The Steering Group of the EPLM started discussions on a renewed EPLM Framework, with specific priorities and future Areas of Work, and a proposed adjustment to its decision-making processes.

More on this in early 2021!

THE EPLM IS...

The EPLM has a mission to engage in the improvement, knowledge, visibility and recognition of learning mobility in the youth field.

The European Platform for Learning Mobility in the youth field (EPLM) is an open participatory space for exchange and cooperation between practitioners, researchers and policy makers. By 'practitioners' the Platform means programme staff, trainers and consultants, youth workers and other multipliers in the youth field and in youth work.

The EPLM is coordinated by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership.

[Find out more about EPLM here](#)



[@eplm.eu](#)



[EPLM website](#)



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The Impact of COVID-19

The lock-down and border closure due to COVID-19 significantly impacted youth work and especially mobility projects in Europe, and globally. The impact of the pandemic is still to be analysed and understood in the future.

Research Carried Out

Several research projects have already been carried out to assess the impact of this change on youth organisations, young people and international youth work:

Global Survey - European Youth Forum

Joining efforts with the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, International Labour Organization, United Nations Human Rights Office, UN Major Group on Children and Youth, and AIESEC to run a global survey. The survey ran from 21 April to 21 May 2020, covered 112 countries and received over 12,000 responses of people aged 18-34. The final report [Impact on jobs, rights, mental well-being](#) gives us an overview of how the pandemic influenced young people's lives.

RAY Survey - impact on the youth field

The RAY network (Research-based Analysis of Youth in Action Programme) carried out [research](#) to document and analyse the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe, including the European youth programmes, and the response of youth work across Europe to the pandemic and its effects, with a resulting [policy brief](#). A second larger multi-lingual [survey](#) is being done over this winter, with monthly snapshots of outcomes to illustrate the youth work sector and the impact of coronavirus.

EKCYP survey - 24 countries

EU-Council of Europe youth partnership carried out a survey with correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP). Responses from 24 countries are summarised in a [briefing report](#).

Erasmus Student Network - April 2020

Erasmus Student Network carried out research very early in the year, and released a [report](#) in April 2020 on the immediate impact of pandemic on student exchanges.

National focus

In many countries there were national research approaches, including questionnaires, fora, online interviews etc. For example in Germany IJAB had a [national forum](#) on the effect of COVID-19 on international youth work.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Responses to COVID-19

Recommendations, ideas and examples of practice were shared by networks, as responses to the pandemic. Here's a small selection:

After Covid-19, what's next for Europe?

In June 2020, Eurodesk carried out an internal survey on the impact of COVID-19 on youth information services across Europe. The results are shared in [this opinion piece](#) by Audrey Frith, Director of Eurodesk, along with reflections on the importance of youth information in tackling the crisis.

Blueprint to recovery - European Youth Forum

European Youth Forum released a [publication](#) with policy recommendations as a response to the crisis with a blueprint to recovery.

Youth policy and youth work responses

The European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) shared [examples of good practice](#) of youth policy and youth work responses to the crisis.

"We the young generation, might not be the most hit by the COVID-19 health crisis, but its consequences will form our disadvantage for decades to come, if no measures are taken."

Blueprint to Recovery,
European Youth Forum

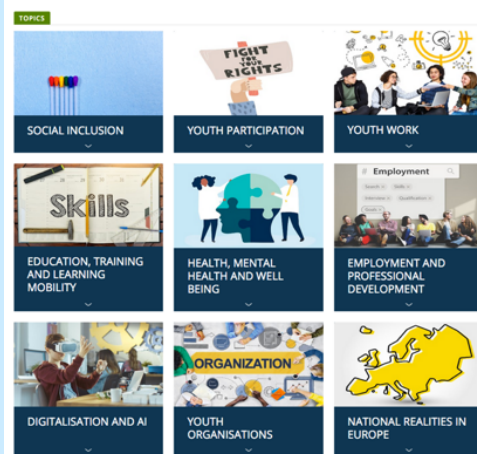
Coordinating the youth research on COVID-19

The EU-Council of Europe youth partnership is coordinating a research group to conduct a desk research and analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on individual level in the context of youth learning mobility by the end of the year.

Related to the topic, a [COVID-19 Knowledge HUB](#) has been established by the youth partnership, to highlight research and knowledge-gathering initiatives throughout the youth field. It has the latest updates and analysis, and evidence organised by priority topics. This includes more national [examples of research](#) approaches on the effect of COVID-19.

COVID-19 impact on the youth sector

The purpose of this HUB is to bring together the findings, analyses and impacts that Covid-19 has had on young people. This platform is a changing and evolving tool, in which you can also participate by sending your inputs or contacting us.



CONNECTING THE TRIANGLE – SOME EXAMPLES OF EVENTS FROM EPLM STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

Connecting the triangle - Practice, Policy and Research

Some examples of events from the Steering Group members that show the interdependence and interconnection of practice, policy and research in the youth field

Youth Knowledge Forum, October 2020

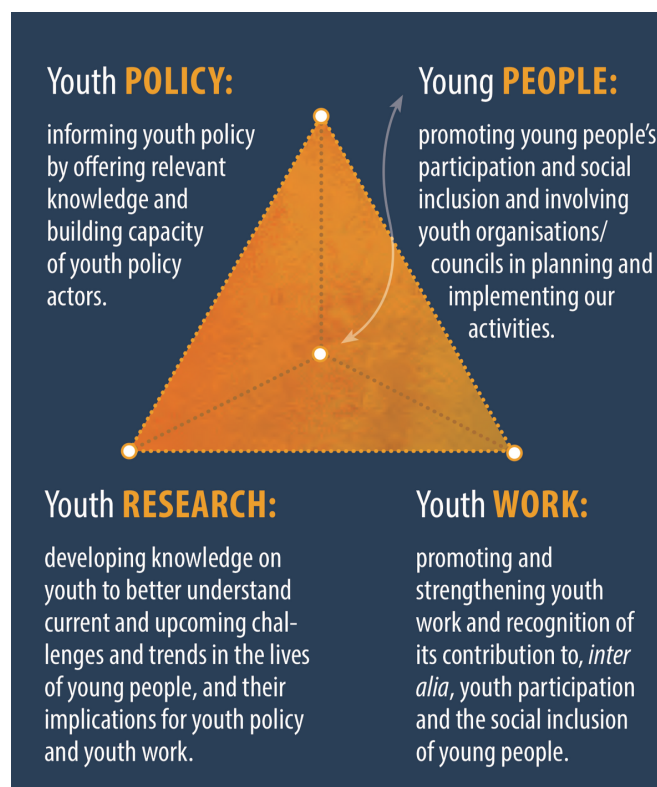
Researchers, practitioners and policy-makers from the local, national, and European levels [met over two days](#) to discuss the role of knowledge, research and evidence in youth work practice and youth policy-making. The participants took part in the presentations and discussions on mapping knowledge networks across Europe, discussed how research can be translated to policy-makers and youth work practice, how practitioners and policy makers can involve researchers in their activities, and what new research methods have become more prominent due to the COVID-19 crisis, including online ethnographies and use of AI in youth research. The Youth Knowledge Forum was also an occasion to launch the Knowledge Hub on COVID-19 impact on the youth sector.

Value-based Education in Learning Mobility - new T-kit coming!

A cooperation project between the youth partnership and SALTO Solidarity Corps includes background reading, theories and practical activities and methods for facilitators of value-based education in Europe. It should be [published](#) by early 2021.

Europe Talks Solidarity

A series of research articles [are being published](#) at the end of 2020 by SALTO Solidarity Corps, looking at how solidarity is reflected and understood by research and practice.



Evidence-based policy in Erasmus+ Impact assessment

The fourth seminar of the Polish National Agency (FRSE), this time focusing on impact assessment covered four main themes:

- Erasmus+ impact on the higher education sector
- Learning mobility and its implications for the labour market
- Youth projects and learning mobility projects and their influence on initial and primary education institutions
- Transnational mobility research in times of Covid-19

The short report will be found on the [FRSE page](#). All the presentations and papers will be collated into a larger publication, which will be ready in 2021.

Three priority areas for European Programmes

There are three main upcoming priorities for European programmes, also known as the cross-cutting priorities. These relate to the three fields of digital, sustainability/going green and inclusion.

Youth Work and digitalisation

[Digitalyouthwork.eu](https://digitalyouthwork.eu)

This was a KA2 project that produced several interesting outputs:

- [Tips for online youth](#) work when youth centres are closed (also available in German).
- European Guidelines for digital youth work
- Collection of 36 examples of projects using a digital approach, written in their native language.

At home around the world

IJAB has a streaming video project, called at [home around the world](#), which gives 30 minutes glimpses into people's virtual youth work practices in different countries

The Trainers Guild and going online

A [collection](#) of stories, reflections and ideas for making online training a reality. They asked their members what they were doing since mid-March to create and facilitate online learning, training and support opportunities for youth leaders, youth workers and youth work organisations. In the series of blog posts IYWT members share experiences with reflections, challenges, success and questions.

How to deal with the priorities practically?

The European Youth Forum is creating proposals, together with member organisations, regarding how to highlight these in practical terms, from 2021 onwards. The Council of the European Union have [conclusions](#) on digital youth work, and there is an [EU publication on it](#).



Developing digital youth work : policy recommendations, training needs and good...

Set up under the European Union Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018, the...

op.europa.eu

Youth mobility in the digital era

www.jugendfuereuropa.de/veranstaltungen/MOVE-IT

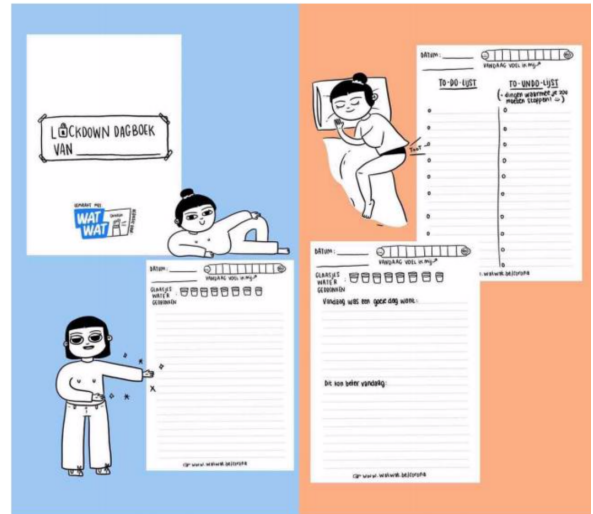
Learning Mobility and digitalisation

MOVE IT! The German NA for Erasmus+ hosted a [conference](#) (26 May to 17 June 2020) focusing on youth mobility in the digital era. Using BarCamp method, Live Q&As and online digital sessions, the aim was to inspire and update participants on latest trends and give them a platform for exchange of ideas. There were inputs from several good practice projects, discussions with policy makers, and graphic visuals showing the outcomes.

- Many ideas, examples and suggestions can be found on the [open feedback box](#):
- And a [reading list](#) – for going further.

Online approach to youth information - ERYICA report

Inside the [ERYICA Good Practice Booklet 2020](#) there are examples of youth information practices from all over Europe, many of which are about the online approach to youth information adopted due to the Covid situation.



Launch of YInfoPEERs (ERYICA)

Training young people to become [ambassadors](#) for young people's right to information, including training manuals, a MOOC and an online campaign. The focus is on the peer-to-peer approach in youth information and the advocacy for the right to information. Special emphasis will be given to eLearning practices, as Covid has reduced mobility and changed (probably forever) the world of learning mobility.

Eurodesk update

For 30 years now, Eurodesk has been providing Europe's younger generations with up-to-date and accurate information both digitally (through the European Youth Portal) and physically (via its network of 1,100 information points in 36 countries). They have published their 2019 annual report, which includes information on events with/for young people, supporting youth policy development, training information workers and awarding outstanding youth work.

'Time to Move' campaign, October 2020

This is an annual [Eurodesk campaign](#) which includes online and offline events. This year the campaign has been adapted to correspond with the uncertainties in the youth mobility field. The Eurodesk keeps informing young people about the possibilities in 27 languages and 36 countries in Europe.



THREE PRIORITY AREAS FOR EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES SUSTAINABILITY & THE GREEN AGENDA

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One of the cross-cutting priorities of European Programmes

Access to information to empower young people

Eurodesk / ERYICA have produced a [publication and posters](#) related to: Greening youth work information services.

The right to information supports young people's capacity to make informed choices, to develop autonomy, to think critically, and to take an active role in society. While young people all over the world are fighting for climate justice, equality, democracy and the right to have a future, it's important that they have access to information to empower themselves and to engage in these big issues. Climate activism is a responsibility. Initiatives like the Greening Youth Information Services publication are important because they can empower young people to take the future into their own hands and stand up for their rights.

Ecomaps

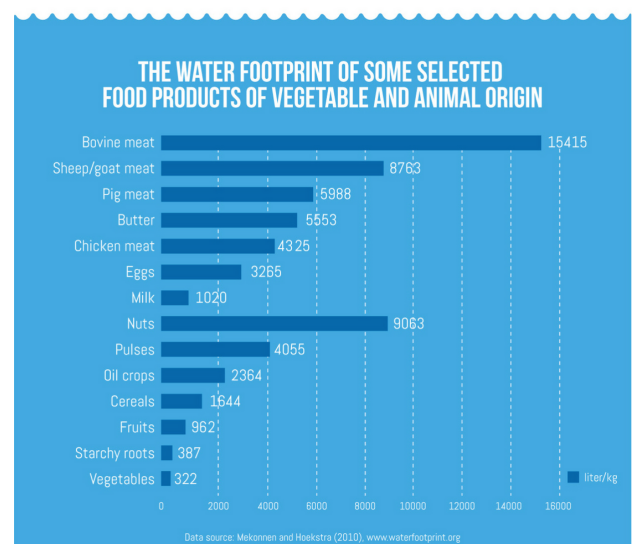
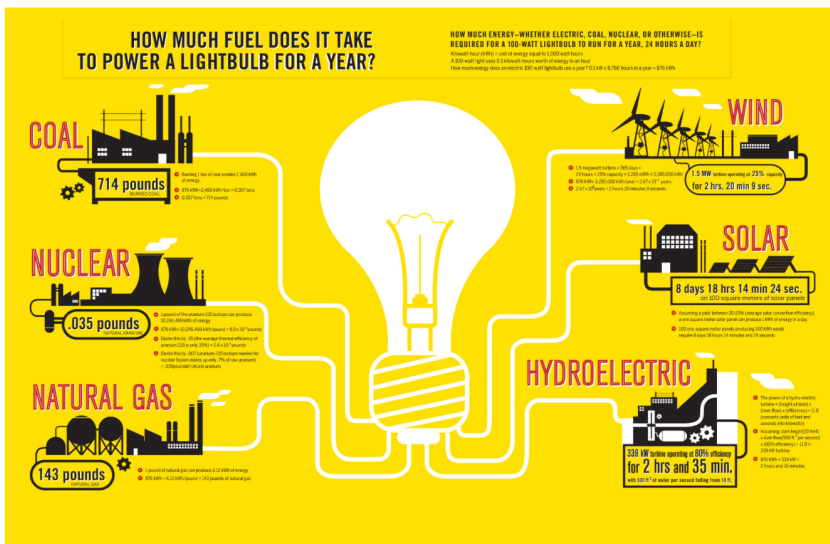
<http://ecomaps.eu/en/>

Discover the most sustainable places in your surroundings, find infographics with facts and data as well as other resources and materials related to sustainability.

YEE (Youth and Environment Europe)

<https://yeenet.eu/>

YEE is a platform of 52 youth organisations from 30 countries that are active in environmental protection/education. They coordinate campaigns (such as the [#EarthDayChallenge](#)), share information, ideas and experience, and support projects at local, national and international level. YEENET has the goal to mitigate climate and biodiversity crisis by raising awareness and building capacity among youth on the climate crisis, enhancing international cooperation and knowledge-sharing among our members and strengthening the participation of youth in environmental and climate decision-making processes.



INCLUSION

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One of the cross-cutting priorities of European Programmes

German Access study

Why do young people participate in international youth exchange -and why not? What kinds of young people were interested, which young people were aware of such programmes, what factors influence all this and what kind of obstacles are there? The study done on national level in Germany has included cooperation between research and practice organisations.

In summer 2020, the organisation Transfer e.V. published a [summary of the "Access Study" in English](#), including feedback from the project's advisory board. A French version is currently under development and will be published soon.



Eurodesk honours the best in inclusive and participative youth information

[Eurodesk Awards 2020 Project](#) Catalogue. What are the creative ways youth workers reach out to young people today? How do youth workers make sure their projects are inclusive? What makes a project empowering? Every year the Eurodesk Awards are awarded to recognise outstanding youth information activities focused on learning mobility and participation. In 2020, the Eurodesk Awards initiative received 50 projects from 15 countries. The jury selected 3 projects as winners, while one exceptional initiative was awarded with the Eurodesk Network Prize.

INCLUSION

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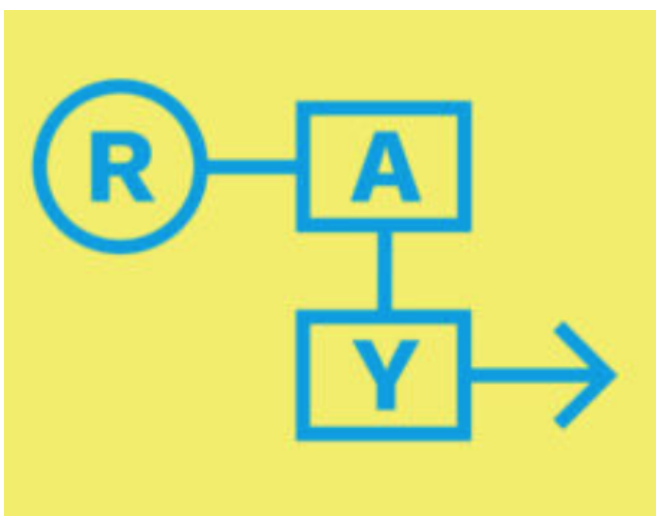
Inclusion and the European Solidarity Corps

This is an [educational document](#) aimed at youth workers, youth leaders, European institutions and all others who work with young people facing socio-economic obstacles. This booklet describes how European Solidarity Corps volunteering projects can be used to benefit these young people. It also demonstrates how combining the 'personal pathway' approach with the methodology of practical tasks directly responds to these young people's specific learning needs. Providing an in-depth look at the educational value of practical tasks, the booklet shows how these tasks serve to develop an individual's social AND practical skills.



RAY (Research-based Analysis for Youth in Action Erasmus+) Inclusion report

This [study](#) was published in September 2020, and explores how social inequalities affect the learning outcomes of young people who participated in Erasmus+ Youth in Action projects. Participants that had experienced unemployment during the year prior to the project (employment inequality), and those who had not travelled abroad before (mobility inequality) had significant result differences reported in their learning outcomes. Learning outcomes of participants are also strongly affected by the specific features of their project.



QUALITY

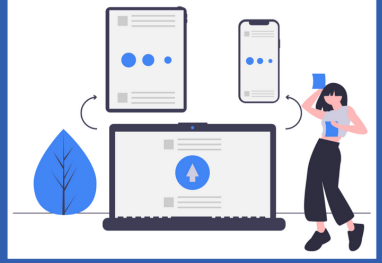


Quality Mobility App

The [QualityMobility.app](https://qualitymobility.app) is now available in English, Dutch, Czech, Latvian, Estonian, Russian, Finnish. It is still coming in the following languages: French, German, Swedish, Slovak (and maybe Arabic by SALTO EuroMed). Thanks to all translating National Agencies of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps!

What is cool in the Q! App?

- it's a web-app
- no need to download & update
- accessible on any internet-connected device
- a glossary explaining terms
- free of charge
- easy project management tool
- practical resources from & for the field
- multilingual interface & resources
- news to keep you updated
- polls to share your opinion



Promote and explain the Q! App - New tutorials

SALTO Inclusion & Diversity and JINT (National Agency in Belgium – Flemish speaking) developed a series of tutorials, leaflets and a powerpoint to promote and explain the Q! App. You can find them at www.qualitymobility.app/tutorials/

Quality Handbook

The Turkish National Agency translated the Quality Handbook for use on national/regional/local level.





COMMUNITY IMPACT

Connecting research and practice

Following the desk mapping of resources for societal impact of learning mobility in 2019, a research group has now been formed from the Pool of European Youth Researchers to start working on mapping and developing indicators of community impact. The first mapping should be done by the end of 2020, with the work on developing and testing indicators to continue during 2021.

A practical guide to community impact

A Practical Guide to community impact in the European Solidarity Corps is currently in development, and expected by the end of this year, available on the SALTO Solidarity Corps [webpage](#).



WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

3rd European Youth Work Convention (7-10 Dec 2020, digital event)

Following the previous two Youth Work Conventions (2010 and 2015), this [platform](#) is bringing together practice, policy and research related to youth work in Europe. It brought together national youth councils, National Agencies for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps and stakeholders from 50 countries. It aimed to look at the current challenges and needs of youth work in Europe, enhance the visibility of youth work and its value, facilitate discussions and help participants acquire new insights and transfer knowledge, as well as promote common ground and joint action. One other main objective of the Convention is to support the shaping of content and implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda in the coming years.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

European Youth Work Agenda

The Youth Work Convention kicked off the implementation of the [European Youth Work Agenda](#) – a strategic framework built with a collaborative and co-ordinated approach of stakeholders at different levels and areas of youth work. This was first called-for in the final declaration of the 2015 Second European Youth Work Convention. The Bonn Process will look at embedding this framework into existing processes and instruments.

At a glance

This graphic illustrates the indicative themes within each of the eight thematic strands. The illustration serves – as much as the whole paper – to inspire consideration and thought, and is not exhaustive.



European Youth Work Academy (planned for November 2021).

The next [European Youth Work Academy](#) will be looking at how youth workers respond to current trends and developments and analysing the importance of innovative approaches. A call for researchers has already been published, to compile existing findings on the topic of innovation in youth work, as well as research based on a sample of youth workers from different countries in Europe. This pre-research will serve as a basis for the Youth Work Academy proper.



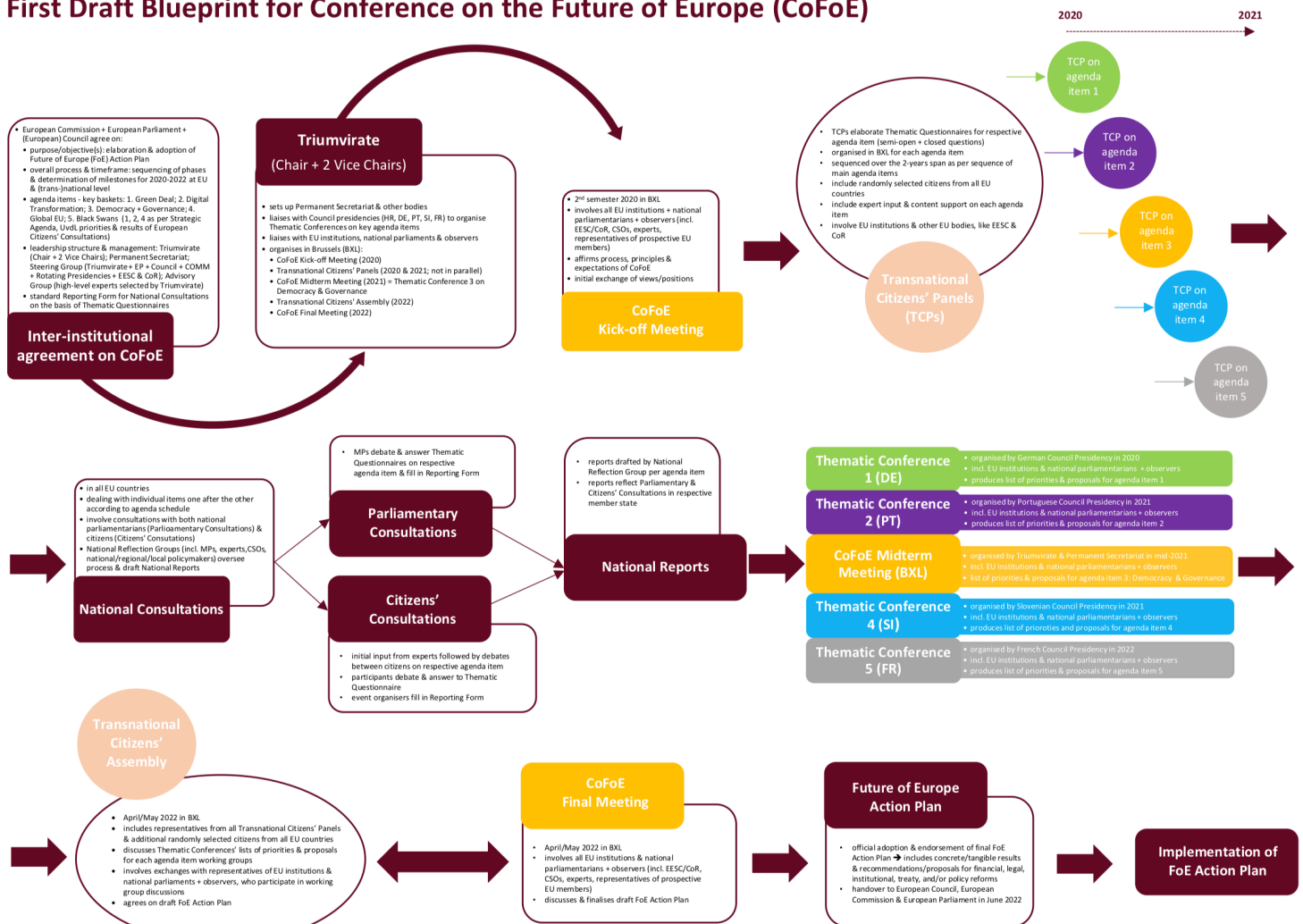
WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

Conference Future Europe

Between Spring 2021 and Spring 2022, large [consultation with citizens in Europe](#) will take place. Young people's involvement in the consultation is very much encouraged, also in the Transnational citizens panels and national consultations. The European Commission, European Parliament and European Council have all endorsed the need for this large-scale conference: Announcements from 3 institutions can be found below:

- [COM's contribution.](#)
- [European Parliament](#)
- [European Council](#)

First Draft Blueprint for Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE)



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