

# European Union Youth Conference

2 to 4 September 2018

Vienna, Austria



## Harvesting Summary

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# 1. Programme

**Sunday, 2 September 2018**

- 08:00-11:30**            **Badges and welcome package at *NH Danube City Hotel***  
(from 11:30 accreditation at **Austria Center Vienna (ACV) only**)
- 12:30**                    **Lunch at *Austria Center Vienna***
- 13:30**                    **Opening Ceremony, Programme Part I – Introduction**  
**Formal Welcome**  
Juliane Bogner-Strauss – Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth, Federal Chancellery  
Christian Zoll – President of the Austrian National Youth Council  
**Introduction & framing of the conference**  
Who are we, where are we in the Youth Goals process and what is the plan for the conference?
- 15:05**                    **Coffee break**
- 15:30**                    **Working groups on the Youth Goals**  
In groups of ten people, where each participant takes up a different role, we want to follow the question of who actually owns the Youth Goals.
- 16:45**                    **Break**
- 17:05**                    **Input and small group discussions**  
What is the potential of the Youth Goals?
- 18:00**                    **End of programme part I**  
Free time to prepare for the evening
- 19:00**                    **Shuttles to the dinner location, departing at the hotel**  
**Dinner and Welcome Party**  
at *Wake Up* <http://wakeup.at>

**Monday, 3 September 2018**

- 09:00**                    **Programme Part II – Mapping the Youth Goals**
- In a world café style setting we want to identify the different stakeholders that can contribute to achieving the Youth Goals.
- 11:00**                    **Coffee break**
- 11:30**                    **Harvesting**
- The groups present their findings and then discuss principles of collaboration between the stakeholders.
- 13:00**                    **Lunch**
- 14:30**                    **Programme Part III – EU Youth Dialogue**
- Politicians (Youth Ministers, the Commissioner for Youth, Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the Council of Europe) meet with youth delegates taking part in the EU Youth Conference. Each politician will host a table to discuss the future of the Youth Goals with a small of group youth delegates.
- Guiding questions:**
- How can we make the Youth Goals a reality? How can we make sure the Youth Goals are also picked up by other policy areas? What could be the role of youth organizations and policy makers in promoting the Goals?
- 16:00**                    **Joint family photo followed by coffee break**
- 16:30**                    **Programme Part IV – Debriefing**
- Participants give their feedback on the dialogue with the politicians – what are the main findings/messages?
- Reflection in national and EU groups**
- What do yesterday and today mean for us in the national/EU group? What do we learn from this? What's our potential?
- 18:00**                    **End of programme part IV**
- Free time to prepare for the evening
- 19:00**                    **Shuttles to the dinner location, departing at the hotel**
- Welcome at Weltmuseum** <https://www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/>
- Visit of exhibition (optional)
- Gala Dinner**
- Welcome address by Federal Minister Juliane Bogner-Strauss
- 23:00**                    **Shuttles back to NH Danube City Hotel**
- Shuttles will be provided from 23:00 until 1:00

**Tuesday, 4 September 2018**

**09:00**

**Programme Part V – Planning the Next Steps**

**Reflection**

Participants are asked to reflect on their personal motivation to carry the Youth Goals forward.

**Prototyping lab / open discussion space**

Getting to know different ways of creating material for disseminating information, use the open space for networking and learn about action planning and campaigning.

**11:10**

**Coffee Break**

**11:30**

**Closing Ceremony**

Speech by Alexander Van der Bellen – Federal President of the Republic of Austria

**Market Place**

In a gallery walk style setting we want to raise awareness for the Youth Goals by presenting the content that was produced over the past days to the political guests and the conference participants.

**11:55**

**Panel discussion on the Future of the Youth Goals**

Tibor Navracsics – European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Juliane Bogner-Strauss – Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth, Federal Chancellery

Anna Widegren – European Youth Forum

Martina Tiwald – Austrian National Youth Council

**12:25**

**Handover of Presidency**

Martina Tiwald – Austrian National Youth Council

Patricia Couti – Romanian Youth Council

**12:35**

**Farewell Lunch**

## 2. Day One

### 2.1 Formal Opening Ceremony

Juliane Bogner-Strauss (Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth)  
A selection of statements taken from the speech:

- This conference should not be another place where we politicians only speak to you rather than with you.
- Not the format of this conference is important, it is its objectives. This conference aims at making a real difference! With this conference we hope to change Europe for the better!
- 11 Youth Goals as the output of the consultation, our vision is to reach all Youth Goals – to take these goals seriously and to work towards achieving them.
- Austria is the first country with a voting age 16 on all political levels.
- Structured Dialogue is working well in Austria and is growing.
- We aim at creating a child and youth friendly society.
- Let's together shape the future of Europe!

Christian Zoll (President of the Austrian National Youth Council)  
A selection of statements taken from the speech:

- The next EU Youth Strategy has the potential to deliver a framework to ensure that we don't solely address these issues, but also formulate answers together.
- We need a strong, ambitious, meaningful and also well-funded strategy to guide us through the next years.
- The Structured Dialogue has grown to be a great tool for ensuring that young people are also heard on an EU level. The new EU Youth Dialogue can take youth participation in the EU to the next level, but it will need the effort of all of us.
- The future of the Erasmus+ program will be discussed as well.
- Let's write the future of Europe together!

#### Objectives of the Conference:

The Youth Goals represent the vision of young people for the future of Europe	<b>Why?</b>
We want to strengthen & promote & build ownership for the Youth Goals.	<b>What?</b>
With this conference we will create space for meaningful dialogue & collaboration among diverse stakeholders to reach this aim.	<b>How?</b>



## 2.2 Breakdown and aims of the participants

### Breakdown:

- Traveling time: 1-5 h (40%), 5-10h (32%), less 1h (20%), more than 10h (8%)
- Role: Young people (45%), Policy maker (30%), Youth worker (15%), Other (10%)
- Levels: National (53%), European (43%), Local (2%), Global (2%)
- Conferences: Tallinn+Sofia (35%), non (35%), Sofia (20%), Tallinn (10%)
- Feeling: excitement (70%), neutral (13%), other (12%), concerned (5%)

### Aims of the participants:

#### Implementation:

- Creating concrete measurement (tool box) for implementing the Youth Goals (operationalizing)
- What is the impact of the Youth Goals on all levels?!
- Discussion of the interconnection of the Youth Goals
- Creating measures for the implementation of the Youth Goals – How to handle them?!
- Make the Youth Goals much more popular
- How to implement the Constructive Dialogue on national level?
- Hear how other people are dealing with the Youth Goals and how the Youth Goals are connected to the youth strategy

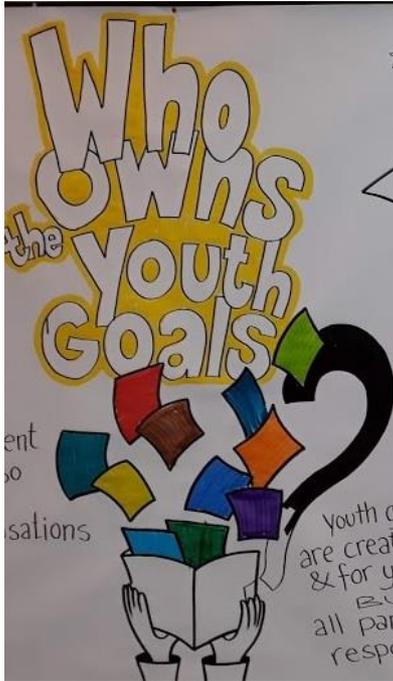
#### General:

- Youth = cross-sectoral, has to be taken into account in different policy areas
- What comes after this cycle?
- Trying to bridge the gap between institutions – youth councils – young people
- Exchange opinions and views about the Youth Goals
- Youth Goals should be a big part of the youth policy
- EP elections – young people getting involved
- Get an overview about what young people expect from government

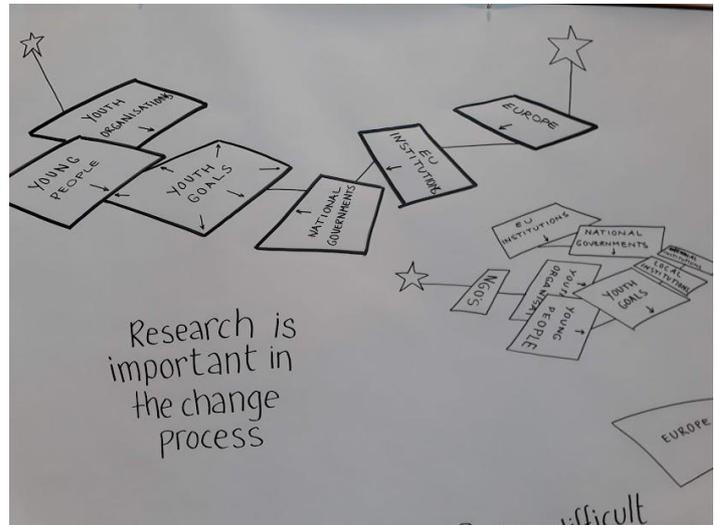
#### Conference:

- Get inspiration from other countries and participants
- Learning to talk with people with different views
- Spread ideas within the conference participants

## 2.3 Constellations & Voices from the participants



“Who owns the Youth Goals?” – Living Map  
“Space and roles”



6 representatives per group:

Youth Goals	EU institutions	Young people
Europe	National Governments	Youth Organisations

**1<sup>st</sup> phase: “what is”**

A broad variety of living maps was created:

some position the EU above everything, some place young people or Youth Goals in the middle, there are young people, Youth Goals and youth organisations embracing each other, Europe far away of everything else etc.

**2<sup>nd</sup> phase: “how should it be”**

some patterns emerge and several maps are structured in circles:

## **EUROPE:**

...surrounding or “embracing” everything

...as an umbrella, “needs to cover” everything, “takes care”

...as “context” of everything

...but also quite distant

*QUESTION:* What do we mean by Europe? It’s more than EU (!), European identity, a place to be, European values?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE:**

...as a basis of Europe, should be part of everything

...biggest potential for change

...stand behind the Youth Goals, 50.000 participated in the process

...but far away from EU institutions and governments

## **YOUTH GOALS:**

...as a box that covers everything else

...as a foundation

... shall be supported, making sure that everything is based on them and the voices of young people

*QUESTION: Who is backing up whom?*

- youth organisations backing up young people
- institutions backing up the Youth Goals

## **NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS:**

...not yet interested enough in Youth Goals

...need to write them in national youth strategies

...closely linked to EU institutions

...should have very close ties to youth

### → Who's missing in the picture?

- Researchers (of SD process)
- Local, regional and national authorities
- NGOs

Depending of what is meant by Europe, maybe society

Depending of what is meant by Youth Organisations, maybe other actors in the youth field

### → Who are actors of change?

- Potential is in this room, us & now, everybody has the responsibility to make the Youth Goals more visible and change the process
- Youth Goals are in the centre and everybody around the table is responsible for them ,“circle of trust”
- EU Institutions and National Governments have to push and support the Youth Goal process

### → Feedback constellation:

- Participants experienced frustration due to feeling limited/ not being able to dig too deep!

## 2.4 Small discussions & voices from the participants

### Questions of the facilitators:

- How do you relate to this second perspective? (Vision of the Youth Goals)
- What do you see (status quo)?
- What's the potential of the Youth Goals?
- What is still unclear?

### Potential:

- National (or even local!) action plans for the member states (tool boxes).
- The Youth Goals are a strong tool to deal with policy-makers.
- Within Youth Strategy – yes or not? - Youth Goals and the strategy should be the same thing.
- Youth organisations should be involved!
- Too idealistic – putting things on paper and in practice are too entirely different things.
- Each goal means something entirely different to each country.



## 3. Day Two

### 3.1 Check-In

**Priorities of the second day:**

- Partnerships
- Building bridges
- Opening doors
- Synergies

*“The Youth Goals are a young vision for Europe!”*

### 3.2 Stakeholder Mapping – World Cafe:

Main points/questions:

- Who is affected by the Youth Goals?
- Whom do we need to achieve the Youth Goals? – There are many stakeholder we need to convince.
- Measurability?
- Youth Goals are showing impressively, that Youth is a cross-sectoral issue.
- Will the ownership of the Youth Goals also be developed by important stakeholders; for example, not-youth-ministries?

Process:

- At the beginning – maybe to less structure, feeling awkward, feeling lost, people taking the lead in the discussion. (Usual process)
- Constructive dialogue; calm and productive talks.
- There is a strong will to work – to produce something during the Youth Conference.
- Very motivated participants, who want to be challenged.
- Mixed/ diverse groups and good working atmosphere.
- Lovely group spirit – asking questions, sharing best-practice, everyone participating.
- Collecting of concrete measures and task for individuals and organisations.
- Many proposals but people are nervous what will be done with them and how will be worked on them – just a kind of preparation for the Youth Dialogue and the Lab tomorrow?
- Discussions lacked concreteness.



### 3.3 EU Youth Dialogue

Politicians hosting a table each:

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country / Institution</b>	<b>Role / Title</b>
Bogner-Strauss	Juliane	Austria	Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth
Kralev	Krasen	Bulgaria	Minister of Youth and Sports
Rothmund	Antje	Council of Europe	Council of Europe
Navracsics	Tibor	European Commission	Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
Saint-Paul	François	France	French Ambassador to Austria
Marks	Caren	Germany	Parliamentary State Secretary, Member of the German Bundestag
Bingelis	Eitvydas	Lithuania	Vice minister of Ministry of Social Security and Labour
Zappone	Katherine	Ireland	Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
Lejiņa	Līga	Latvia	State secretary
Grima	Clifton	Malta	Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations
Helleland	Linda Hofstad	Norway	Minister of Children and Equality
Brandão Rodrigues	Tiago	Portugal	Minister of Education
Bran	Ioana	Romania	Minister
Udovičić	Vanja	Serbia	Minister
Boh	Tomaž	Slovenia	State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
Nilsson	Erik	Sweden	State secretary

### Aim of the session:

To reflect together (youth delegates and representatives of the youth ministries) about the value of the Youth Goals and how to make them a reality in Europe. And how the cooperation between the youth organizations and governments can ensure that this is going to happen.

### Dialogue reflection:

The Youth Dialogue was reflected by the participants as a good format, which should be taking place again. Participants reported open-minded and informal discussions on one level. Some highlighted a relaxed atmosphere, others the careful listening by politicians to the young people taking part in the discussion.

### Postcards:

The groups of youth participants and representatives of the youth ministries wrote post cards with visions & wishes for the Youth Goals. Following statements were written down:

- We are the present. Let's co-operate to shape the future. We recognize the necessity of cooperation between EU & national institutions as well as civil society organisations to carry & implement the Youth Goals by introduction of the EU Youth Goals into European Youth Policy such as the EU youth strategy and national youth strategies. We need to mobilize and engage the community to realize the European Youth Goals.
- Youth Goals – a key to success of Europe's future.
- #Youth Goals are/ should become the clue of youth policies (guiding principles) at EU and national level by annex Youth Goals to EU strategy + role of EU youth coordinator and guiding principles for national youth strategies.
- We need to work together across sectors with meaningful dialogue, to ensure the rights of youth are achieved now and in the future. Youth Goals and youth rights are everyone's responsibility.
- Time is of the essence, we must get the Youth Goals to the European Council by taking a cross-sectoral approach to their implementation.
- This is not the end of the dialog. Now we turn dialog into action.
- We request meaningful and visible participation of young people at all levels! We wish for fruitful National and European action plans! Best regards, the Youth Goals.
- This is the result of young people's participation. We have done our part – now we need to work together, governments and commission on the implementation.
- EU Youth Goals should be named in EU youth strategy, to influence EU policies across DGs, to monitor the influence of the goals and to stimulate national policies, together with youth representatives.
- Adopt and implement the Youth Goals in the spirit of RESPONSIBILITY and SOLIDARITY by all stakeholders, by member states and on EU level – including Youth Goals in EU youth strategy
- For the Youth Goals to succeed: Member states need to identify their own doables and create targeted partnerships. Youth Goals = EU strategic documents.

- The content of the Youth Goals is very important, but we need a strategy to make them work. (e.g. via peer-learning per goal inter-ministerial discussions on national level.)
- Trust needs participation and participation needs trust. #goals4change
- Recipe for successful implementation of Youth Goals: Dialogue, Funding, public recognition of youth participation, political will, information, communication, align goals with EU and national strategies, cross sectorial collaboration
- Youth Goals are not a demand from young people, they are an invitation to cooperate.
- A message to the future trio – we want to commit to a cross-sectoral approach which will open doors to dialogue with other ministers focused on long term progress.

#### General:

- The structure of the future “Youth Dialogue” and how to implement the Youth Goals is still in debate.
- What about young people in European non-EU countries?
- Romanian ideas for the next cycle: Inclusion, young people with special needs, technologies and future of work
- Youth politics should be of concern of all politicians of all resorts
- Mental health is seen as very important
- Facilitators are playing a very significant role in the discussions!





### 3.4 Harvesting the EU Youth Dialogue

#### Questions for reflection:

How was it experienced?  
What new insights did you get?  
What other dialogues do we need to start working on the Youth Goals?  
How can we take the commitments we heard further?



#### Impressions and ideas

- the idea to mainly focus on 2-3 Youth Goals (per year) is brought up frequently, **prioritization**
- **cross-sectorial** implementation of the Youth Goals
- ministries have to break the wall
- newly implemented EU Youth Coordinator (foreseen in the EU youth strategy draft by the commission) could be a link between the relevant actors and ministries in the countries

#### **Youth Goals have to be in EU and national youth strategies**

#### Feedback of the participants

- There has to be **monitoring**
- Dialogue showed that an informal structured dialogue can work and have an outcome. We should continue with this example and develop indicators, measure the results and have a great outcome of the youth goal process.
- Some participants experienced no real commitment from the politicians
- Politicians seemed to be afraid to talk about political topics
- Several ministers just learnt about the Youth Goals today and common ground developed, when a youth minister shares her vision and strategic priorities and finds out that 3 of them are actually Youth Goals → synergies, "moments of connection"
- Youth dialogue with the ministers added a lot of value to the meeting, thanks to the Austrian presidency.

## NEXT STEPS

- National Youth Councils have to make the implementation of the Youth Goals an important part of their work
- It will be important to follow up with the ministers in all Member States
- Strategic plans for the following years (national governments, ministries)
- Next presidencies may also consider to invite politicians for a dialogue between youth and ministers, not only youth (maybe once per year)
- Next trio presidency shall continue working on the implementation of the Youth Goals

## 4. Day Three

### 4.1 Prototyping Lab

#### Aims & Objectives

(1) Offering different ways to create material for dissemination and campaigning for/within the Youth Goals

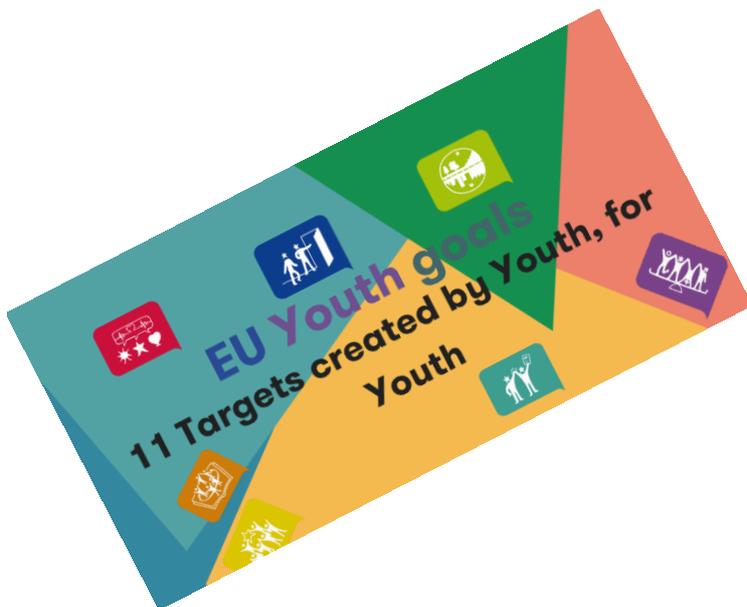
(2) Offering a space to network, establish partnerships and learn about action planning and campaigning

Stations	Activity
<b>Reflection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Objective: participants explore their own/personal focus or what they feel called to and motivated regarding further work with the Youth Goals</li></ul>
<b>Social Media Messaging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brainstorming, developing/writing, posting</li><li>• Social Media content for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc..</li></ul>
<b>Graphic Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• designing campaign materials for the Youth Goals</li></ul>
<b>Video</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• do a short video with your message about the youth goals</li></ul>
<b>Instant Action Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• planning 5 next steps of a specific action to promote the youth goals in your organisation/country</li></ul>
<b>Networking and partnership corner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Getting in touch with other participants to form Youth-Goal-Partnerships and support each other in your advocacy work</li></ul>
<b>Campaign and Advocacy-Boost Corner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-the-spot information about campaigning and strategic advocacy</li><li>• filling-in templates to know what to think about and who to involve in campaigns/advocacy on Youth Goals</li></ul>

<b>Educational tools for Youth Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coming up with an ideas of different educational tools that could be used for different target groups</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Research Corner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participants get information about research</li> <li>• available data and evidence-based conclusion</li> <li>• participants give their input on what needs to be researched</li> </ul>

## Results

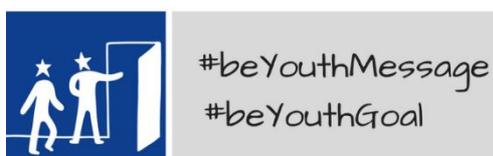
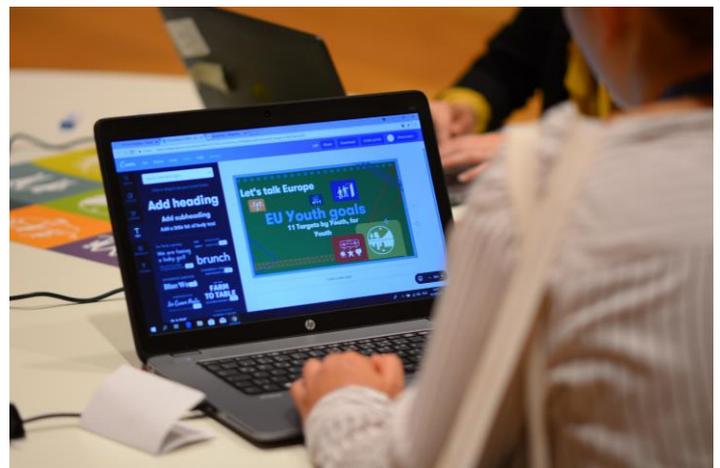
For all results see: <https://padlet.com/youthconfat/prototyping>



This is not the end of the dialogue.  
Now we turn dialogue into ACTION!



Youth goals - a key to success of Europe's future.



## 4.2 Closing Ceremony

Alexander van der Bellen (President of Austria)

A selection of statements taken from the speech:

- You're the first generation in Europe, the first generation who are born in a united Europe, what we call today the European Union
- As citizens of the European Union, we take many achievements as granted, however it would be foolish to assume that it will always stay like this – please be aware of that
- You are the representatives of a generation that grew up in these interesting and changing times. I would like to ask you to make a conscious choice to reject an extremely pessimistic view towards our world today. I ask you to be optimistic and confident. Confident about our common future but also I invite you to think about the long-term effects about your decisions made today. Often in politics this is a point that is not taken seriously.

