



**Conference for the main actors in
Structured Dialogue**

4-6 May 2015

Brussels

Final Joint Recommendations

Joint Recommendations, European Youth Week 2015

Workshop 1 – ENHANCED INCLUSION, OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY OF STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

1. In order to increase the outreach to young people from a variety of backgrounds, especially disadvantaged young people, National Working Groups and international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYO) should support and promote alternative youth-friendly channels for participation in Structured Dialogue, including face-to-face meetings, a bottom-up approach and allowing for different ways of expression.
2. National Working Groups (NWG) and national youth councils (NYC) are encouraged to widen the outreach of the Structured Dialogue process by establishing partnerships with other stakeholders, including local and regional authorities, youth workers and non-governmental organisations (NGO). In order to strengthen these partnerships, NWGs and NYCs could introduce “youth friendly labels” or awards for communities which promote Structured Dialogue as an essential part of youth participation in decision-making.
3. In order to increase the visibility and outreach of Structured Dialogue, a communication strategy should be developed. All NWGs and INGYO should gather, facilitated by the European Steering Committee (ESC), discuss and launch a Europe wide process to develop a communication strategy and common branding which can be used at both European and national level and complement the already existing brandings of each country.

Workshop 2 – STRUCTURES OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

4. In order to increase outreach and ensure the inclusion and involvement of diverse groups of young people, the Council is called upon to recognise INGYO as actors in the process. Established youth information networks should support the work of NWGs and INGYO in reaching out to more young people.
5. The incoming Trio presidencies should engage in consultation on the overall priority among NWGs and INGYO and the European Commission, with enough time before the start of the cycle, ensuring that the priorities of the EU Youth Report, the Trio national preferences and the youth consultation are all taken into account when proposing the overall priority of the Structured Dialogue, in order to ensure a relevant, transparent and efficient cycle.
6. The main stakeholders in the NWGs (NYCs, National Agencies and national authorities) should reinforce their engagement by formalising a joint action plan (including regular meetings and activities in all the Structured Dialogue phases). This agreement should contain shared and clear roles, responsibilities and timelines in order to ensure full commitment and ownership of the process from all stakeholders.

Workshop 3 – FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING OF STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

7. Monitoring is an essential step to further develop Structured Dialogue and assess its impact on the lives of young Europeans. The monitoring tool needs to define the role of the different stakeholders and should monitor:
- Which of the EU Youth Conference (EUYC) Joint Recommendations were integrated in the Council Conclusions
 - The impact of Council Conclusions on the implementation of national and European youth policies
 - Concrete steps undertaken to support policy development.

At European level, the next Trio presidencies should keep the good practice of transparently communicating which EUYC Joint Recommendations were integrated in the Council Conclusions.

Moreover, the European Steering Committee should monitor the implementation of the Council Conclusions based on the Joint Recommendations of the Structured Dialogue through:

- The "Map Out to NWGs and INGyOs", involving questions about national and European implementation. The Map Out is sent once every cycle.
- The EU Youth Report, in order to monitor the implementation of the relevant Council Conclusions of the two previous cycles. A specific part of this report should highlight the national implementation of the relevant Council Conclusions. The results will be communicated by the European Commission to the European Steering Committee.
- The European Commission provides an update every three years to the European Steering Committee on what it has implemented at European level.

The European Steering committee should also look into possibilities to produce a youth friendly report every three years on the impact of the Structured Dialogue.

At national level, each NWG and other relevant stakeholders need to have a common understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to monitoring.

Each NWG should plan and implement monitoring activities to demonstrate the steps that have been taken to influence the policies. This monitoring plan should be flexible and reflect national realities and priorities. This information would form the basis of a national report on monitoring to feed into the Map Out and the EU Youth Report, as well as disseminate the results at national level. The monitoring plan could be supported at national level by an independent expert or institution. These monitoring activities should be carried out within the already existing Erasmus + grants for Structured Dialogue.

Workshop 4 – IMPACT OF STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

8. The European Steering Committee (ESC) is invited to make the role of EUYCs within the renewed architecture of the Structured Dialogue clearer and transparent to all relevant stakeholders. The ESC is also invited to adapt the content and the methodology of the EUYCs (also between the phases) according to their role, bearing in mind the agreed format of the outcomes.
9. It is recommended that each incoming Trio Presidency, once the overall priority is defined, identifies and involves all relevant stakeholders at EU level (e.g. other Council formations, European Parliament committees and other Commission Directorate Generals), in the implementation of the cycle (content of EUYC, consultations...) and its conclusions, with a view to ensuring tangible political impact.
10. It is recommended that NWGs should involve, in a timely manner, representatives of relevant government sectors and other stakeholders in all stages of the Structured Dialogue process, in order to create joint national implementation plans, ensuring that relevant outcomes of the Structured Dialogue are strongly reflected at national level.