



## EVALUATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION EXTERNAL ACTION

THEMATIC EVALUATION

# EVALUATION OF EU SUPPORT TO YOUTH IN THE ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD REGIONS

VOLUME II – MAIN ANNEXES

July 2024

EVIDENCE  
MATTERS

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and Enlargement  
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# Evaluation of EU support to Youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions (2014-2022)

## Volume II – Main Annexes

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3. Evolution of EU support
4. Main findings: Design and delivery of EU support
5. Main findings: Effects of EU support in sectors of focus
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7. Conclusions
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## List of acronyms and abbreviations

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG NEAR	Directorate General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
EC	European Commission
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
Erasmus	European Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students
EU	European Union
EU MS	European Union Member State
EUD	European Union Delegation
HQ	Headquarter
IL	Intervention Logic
INGO	International non-governmental organisations
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RoL	Rule of law
RYCO	Regional Youth Cooperation Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
VET	Vocational Education and Training
YAP	Youth Action Plan

# 1 Terms of Reference

## EVALUATION OF EU SUPPORT TO YOUTH IN THE ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD REGIONS

### TERMS OF REFERENCE – PART A

#### Reference EVA-2020-14530

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# 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## 1.1 Overall background

Across DG NEAR regions, young people are facing multiple challenges , *inter alia* weak education systems, difficult transitions from school to work, high unemployment and inactivity rates (high NEET – not in education, employment or training rates), hardship in accessing financing, low engagement and participation in decision making processes, difficult access to social and health services. These challenges contribute to putting most DG NEAR countries at risk of brain drain, as young people are tempted to look for better education, social, labour market conditions abroad. To empower youth and support the full participation of young people in economic and political life, DG NEAR have increasingly emphasized the importance of youth in its programming documents (Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes, Economic and Investment Plans, regional and bilateral programmes, sector reform budget support contracts) over the past years and in its policy dialogue (Economic Reform Programmes in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Union for the Mediterranean in the South Neighbourhood, EU4Youth platform in the Eap, etc.).

### 1.1.1 Western Balkans

According to Eurostat, the youth represents 21.27% of the total population (3,611,109) of the six economies of the Western Balkans. Young people in the Western Balkans face many challenges, such as high unemployment, corruption, or education systems that do not respond to labour market demands. The youth unemployment rate in the WB6 remains twice as high as in the European Union (EU). The number of young people not in employment, education or training, so called NEETs, represent 22% of the youth aged 15 to 24, while the EU-27 average is at 10%. A lack of decent jobs means high levels of emigration and ‘brain drain’ of highly qualified young people. The emigration of skilled young people is one of the most important challenges faced by the Western Balkans.

In the meantime, efforts are still needed to make their voice heard –especially in the post-COVID-19 period and with the multiple challenges they are confronted in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis and from the environmental perspective. The Regional Cooperation Council’s (RCC) 2021 Balkan Barometer shows that 70% of young people in the Western Balkans are the most enthusiastic supporters of the accession of their country to the EU. Some 92% of respondents agree that public administration should strengthen its mechanisms to involve youth in decision-making.

All the EU funding ultimately contributes to making the region more attractive for young people and works to create an environment where young people see a future in the region. Under the **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II for the period 2014 – 2020**, we are supporting several actions pursuing this goal.

First, to reinforce cooperation, inclusion and exchanges across the region, we support the efforts of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) to promote reconciliation and cooperation among young people, through structured exchanges (0,5 million EUR, 03/2019 – 12/2021). With our most recent support (4.5 million EUR, 12/2020 – 11/2023), RYCO together with GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) launched a flagship project on School Exchanges in the region.

We also support engagement between policy makers and young people. The Western Balkan Youth Lab project (1.5 million EUR, 01/2020 – 12/2022) is instrumental in mobilising and connecting youth and policy makers. The current Youth Labs on Youth Unemployment and Mental Health – two topical issues- make possible for the young people involved to dialogue with policy makers and produce common recommendations. Furthermore, many of our civil society interventions (financed through the Civil Society Facility) contribute to supporting the participation of young people. The second phase of the Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans (ReLOAD2) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme UNDP has a strong youth component (3.35 million EUR, 01/2021 – 12/2024). The project aims to stimulate and



support youth participation in decision-making, civic education, volunteering, and other local solidarity initiatives for community development.

In terms of skills, access to the job market and entrepreneurship, the Guarantee Facility for Youth Employment established under the Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF), with an EU financing of EUR 10 million, provides guarantees or counter-guarantees to financial intermediaries that will use it to support young entrepreneurs or companies hiring or training young people in the Western Balkans. The action Balkans Youth: Linking Education, Abilities and Partnership Potential in Regional Employment Practice (BY LEAP) of Junior Achievement Serbia, contributes to promoting youth entrepreneurship by supporting student company models and regional networking. The action My Career from Zero to Hero implemented by the NGO Centar za omladinski rad (1 million EUR, 03/2020 – 07/2023) provides support to grass root CSOs, to reinforce their capacities and develop innovative youth employability models focused on digital skills.

Erasmus+ is another important leg of the EU support. We have significantly increased the funding for the Western Balkan partners in the last programming period (from around 300 million EUR for five partners to 374 million EUR for four partners: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and Montenegro), opening also vocational education and training strand, virtual mobilities, and sport.

With the **Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans**, the Commission has adopted in October 2020 a substantial investment package of €9 billion of funding under the current Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The EIP aims to support green and digital transitions, spur the long-term recovery of the region and as such will be crucial for young generations, delivering growth and job creation in forthcoming years. One of the key flagships of the Plan is the Western Balkans Youth Guarantee. It is an activation policy, which aims to ensure that all young people receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a certain period after becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

One year later, on 6 October 2021, a dedicated "**Innovation Agenda for the Western Balkans**" (Agenda for the Western Balkans on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport) was launched with the aim to promote scientific excellence as well as reform of the region's education systems, create further opportunities for youth, and help prevent brain drain.

Eventually, the EU continues supporting reforms on fundamentals, in particular rule of law reforms, which are essential in guaranteeing the long-term trust of young people in the institutions and the economy.

### 1.1.2 Turkey

Turkey has a young population, with 48,3%<sup>2</sup> under the age 30 and 24,4% between 15-29 years old. As a response to increasing youth unemployment and NEETs (not in employment, education or training) rate in Turkey, Turkey launched the **National Youth Employment Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2023)** in 2021.

The strategy and action plan is built around **three main pillars**:

- 1. Reinforcing the link between education and employment**
- 2. Increasing employment of young people who are neither in employment nor in education/training (NEETs)**
- 3. Preparing for future jobs**

Also the 4 million refugees in Turkey are a very young population. Due to the high percentage of children and youth out of school since 2011, unemployment of youth and employment under precarious conditions is particularly high.

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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

<sup>2</sup> EACEA Youth Wiki Turkey, accessed at <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/turkey/overview> on 16.06.2022

The EU finances support to youth employment and education under the Instrument for Pre-accession assistance, the Civil Society Facility, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Trust Fund for the Response to the Syria Crisis (Madad) and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. Focus is youth employment and quality vocational education and training, retention in secondary school, inclusion and human rights aspects, social rights of refugee youth, and social cohesion.

Under IPA II period (2014-2020), the EU support focuses on increasing employability in line with the skills needed for future of work. It also aims at improving the content and quality of vocational and technical education by developing knowledge, skills and competences in line with the Quality Assurance Framework and through the establishment of centres of excellence for vocational education and training. Another important area supported is the strengthening of national vocational qualifications system and enhancing the implementation of the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

The 2021 IPA annual action plan foresees support to improve youth employment specifically in the field of industry 4.0 and digitalization. The action aims to strengthen Turkey's institutions at municipal level involved in VET to develop the talents and skills on technological change, innovation and economic change not only for young people in education but also for young people in NEETs (not in Education, Employment or Training). In 2022, additional support to develop more effective preventive and responsive programmes targeting NEETs is envisaged as well as support to improving foreign language education in order to support active participation of young people in labour market.

The EU support under EDIHR places a priority on youth in the context of minority and cultural rights and refugee rights. In addition, there is a focus on the political participation of youth. In addition, there are several grant schemes that finance civil society's work for youth. Under the EU support to refugees in Turkey, the EU is supporting university scholarships and Vocational Education and Training (VET) as well as apprenticeship programmes to improve the employment prospects for the Syrian refugees and host community youth. This comes in addition to its large programmes in support of the Ministry of Education for providing education to refugee children and youth. A specific challenge is youth retention in school beyond primary school age and the large number of children and youth out of school.

### 1.1.3 Neighbourhood East

The six countries in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region are diverse in size, political systems, demography and social and economic terms, but they share some **common challenges**. They have been undergoing **socio-economic transformation** towards the market economy, with significant differences in terms of economic development between the countries and within them, with capital regions and big cities being the most developed.

Young people in the region are facing a number of common challenges. Although not always reflected in high unemployment rates, since the beginning of the transition to a market economy, the **youth situation in labour market has worsened and youth transition to work<sup>3</sup> has lengthened and become more uncertain**. A particularly worrying challenge in the field of youth employment is the growing number of **young people who are not in education, employment or training** (NEETs). The numbers reached, for example, 28.5% of 15-24 years old in Armenia, 24.8% in Georgia and 20.2% in the Republic of Moldova in 2018<sup>4</sup>, with young women being the most affected. The situation of inactivity of young people adversely affects their skills and their employability. Despite improved educational attainment of the younger generations, **skills mismatch<sup>5</sup>** and shortages have become a persistent problem in the region. EaP countries continue to face challenges in creating **quality jobs with decent conditions and wages**. Lack of domestic

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<sup>3</sup> ILO defines 'transition to work' as the passage of a young person (aged 15–29) from the end of schooling (or entry to first economic activity) to the first stable or satisfactory job. Stable employment is defined in terms of the employment (written or oral) contract and the duration of the contract (greater than 12 months) (ILO, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> ETF Key Indicators on Education, Skills and Employment 2019, pg. 29

<sup>5</sup> Skills mismatch means that there is a gap between the needs of the labour market and the professional qualifications of the work force, resulting in the lack of adequately skilled employees and/or a workforce misfit to the local or national market.

and foreign direct investment, restrictive or inefficient business environment, as well as political instability and uncertainty all contribute to the **weak job creation**. In this context, **young people** are more likely than adults to accept jobs that are low paid and offer limited employment stability, social protection and opportunities for career progression.

Youth employment, employability and skills development are priorities of national governments' youth policies in all EaP countries. All countries have specific policies in place, targeted strategies and programmes up to 2020/2025, and state structures responsible for youth affairs. Countries have put in efforts to build modern education and training policy frameworks, paying attention to quality improvements. What seems to be lacking is an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to youth policy formulation and implementation that takes into consideration the complex nature of youth. While young people's education and employment is high on the political agenda, **school to work transition** is not yet sufficiently addressed, and budgetary resources are **prioritising higher and general education over Vocational Education and Training (VET)**. The **substantial dropouts from education** and **skills mismatches** call for further action. Finally, not all young people have the same chances, and there is clear evidence that those from smaller rural localities, minorities, internally displaced persons or those affected by any other form of vulnerability, are more likely to face poverty, have less learning and work opportunities and need a special support adapted to the needs of **disadvantaged youth**<sup>6 7</sup>. To sum up, notwithstanding the comprehensive strategic and policy frameworks, there is a **gap between policy intentions and realities** on the ground in all EaP countries. Existing **policies** need further elaboration and more stringent implementation to address the main challenges for school to work transition and youth unemployment. Moreover, weak **coordination** of education, employment and youth and policies weakens positive effects already achieved.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Partnership Youth Forum** (February 2015), called to step up action on fostering young people's employability and employment, education, volunteering and cross-sectoral youth cooperation. The participants further **invited the European Commission to dedicate a programme to young people in Eastern Partnership countries**. The EU Summit held in Riga on 21-22 May 2015 identified economic growth and employability, particularly for youth, as one of the top priorities for action. This was also confirmed in the **Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy**<sup>8</sup> (ENP Review) which established fostering **youth employment** and employability as one of its key objectives. The Review considers this issue crucial to **stabilise** neighbouring countries and to support their **economic development**. Investing in youth allows not only to increase the pool of talented young people, but also to cooperate with young men and women from EaP and other countries on core aims of the EaP, such as **democracy and good governance**. It will foster young people's intercultural dialogue and strengthen the **links** between the youth field, the **civil society** and the **labour market**.

The **5<sup>th</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit** of November 2017<sup>9</sup> endorsed a new **Youth and Education Package** (2017-2020, worth EUR 340 million) as one of the key **EaP 20 Deliverables for 2020**, aiming to create the conditions for youth to study, work, participate in society and fulfil their potential. The 2019 EaP 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary High Level Conference also emphasised the need to focus on supporting and empowering the young generation, equally the 2015, 2017 and 2019 **EaP Youth Fora**. The July 2020 **EaP Youth Engagement Summit** brought around 450 active youth

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<sup>6</sup> ETF 2019, Policies supporting youth transition to work in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, [https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-04/Youth%20transition%20EaP\\_0.pdf](https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-04/Youth%20transition%20EaP_0.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Disadvantaged Youth: All those young people experiencing personal difficulties/obstacles, limiting/preventing them from taking part in transnational projects. The obstacles/difficulties may be: mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities; education difficulties (learning difficulties, early-school-leavers, etc.); economic obstacles (low standards of living, low income, etc.); cultural differences (immigrants/refugees/their descendants, national/ethnic minorities, etc.); chronic health problems; social obstacles (discrimination due to gender, age, etc.); limited social skills, anti-social or risky behaviours, precarious situations, (ex-)offenders, (ex-) drug or alcohol abusers, young and/or single parents, orphans; geographical obstacles (people from remote rural areas, small islands or peripheral regions). Reference: Erasmus+ Programme Guide

<sup>8</sup> Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy - Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, JOIN(2015)50, 18.11.2015. [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/151118\\_joint-communication\\_review-of-the-enp\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/151118_joint-communication_review-of-the-enp_en.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31758/final-statement-st14821en17.pdf>.

leaders and youth workers together for a dialogue with EU and EaP policy makers on ongoing EU - EaP cooperation and on the future support to youth under the New Deal for Youth.<sup>10</sup>

In response to these calls, EU4Y was established to take into account and build on earlier measures implemented to support youth cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries and explore all synergies with the on-going actions, in particular those under the **Erasmus + Programme** (2014 – 2020), or the previous **Eastern Partnership Youth Window** (EPYW, 2012-2013) under the **Youth in Action Programme** (2007-2013).

The objective of the EU4Youth programme is to foster the **employability** and the **active participation** of young people in society and economy, by developing **skills** needed in the labour market and by supporting them in becoming **leaders** and **entrepreneurs**, by facilitating transition and the search for new professional opportunities.

#### 1.1.4 Neighbourhood South

The Arab Spring in the Southern Neighbourhood (which began in Tunisia in 2011 before spreading to other countries) raised high hopes for democratisation and freedom of expression, and for youth to be a driver of change. Many have described the “Arab Spring” as a youth rebellion driven by grievances about unemployment and oppressive political regimes.

Of the 367 million people living in the region, more than half are under 25 years of age. Almost 30 per cent of the population of these countries are between 15 and 30 years old, and this ratio is likely to remain so for at least the next two decades. Indeed, in 2021 almost half of the population in the southern Mediterranean, precisely 46.8% is under 24, with the majority of this percentage (31% of the population) below the age of 15, which makes it one of the youngest regions in the world, after Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia<sup>11</sup>.

A decade after the Arab Spring, young men and women in the region still face considerable obstacles in becoming a driving force for social and economic development in their countries. According to the ILO, youth is facing higher unemployment levels than young people in any other region in the world, which is exacerbated by very low labour force participation rates among youth. Furthermore, this issue has been chronic in the region for at least the last three decades, such as symptoms of deeply rooted problems in the labour market.

Many initiatives have been put in place to address these issues including the promotion of youth employment and skills development. However, despite their dissatisfaction, young people lack the tools to voice their fears and concerns.

Investing in youth has always been and will continue to be a priority for the Commission. Youth empowerment is one of the pillar of the Joint Communication for a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood countries. In addition, young people play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs by 2030. Over a third of the 169 SDG targets highlight the role of young people for their achievement. The program **Young Mediterranean Voices**, implemented by the Anna Lindh Foundation, has contributed to the development of critical thinking among young people through debate, training and leadership by establishing debate hubs in universities schools and youth organizations in the MENA region. Furthermore, the two programs **Shabab** and **Youthroom** (implemented by Deutsche Welle and CFI respectively) support a better integration of youth voices within the local media landscape.

In addition, the project **Thaqafa Dayeer Maydoor (All-Around Culture)** is a 4-year EU-funded regional programme that fosters a cultural ecosystem as an enabling environment for the social and economic inclusion of young people. The project aim to strengthen a vital cultural ecosystem as an

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<sup>10</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news\\_corner/news/eastern-partnership-youth-engagement-summit-unique-virtual-event-discusses-new-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/eastern-partnership-youth-engagement-summit-unique-virtual-event-discusses-new-deal_en).

<sup>11</sup> Euromesco, Youth unemployment in the south of the Mediterranean: a chronic challenge to development and stability; Hussein Suleiman: European Institute of the Mediterranean

enabling environment for political, social and economic inclusion of young people across the Southern Neighborhood.

Finally, the programme **Euromed Young Researchers Lab**, aims to empower young professionals, researchers and high level students, especially young female specialized in Euro-Mediterranean relations. It creates a unique opportunity for youth to discuss specific issues of Euro-Mediterranean relations and exchange ideas about how a new generation of researchers can contribute to policy debates with relevant stakeholders, including policy makers.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the related exceptional measures will negatively affect the economy and employment, and are likely to have a severe impact on young people, especially youth from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as young women and girls. As such, the program **Supporting Youth Employment in the Mediterranean** has continued to provide support to national authorities as concerns the implementation and evaluation of relevant technical and vocational education and training policies, strategies and programs, in order to increase youth employment and entrepreneurship in the region.

Over the next decade, the Commission will keep funding actions to empower youth and facilitate youth participation in EU programs for the Southern shore of the Mediterranean. The intention is to endorse the mainstreaming of youth in national policies, help partner countries improving access and quality of education, providing economic opportunities for youth and preparing young generations to manage and lead future societies.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EVALUATION ASSIGNMENT

### 2.1 Rationale and objectives of the evaluation

The European Commission promotes the systematic and timely evaluation of its programmes, activities, instruments, legislation and non-spending activities, in order to demonstrate accountability and to promote lesson learning to improve policy and practice.

This evaluation is part of the Directorate-general for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) multiannual strategic evaluation Work Programme 2020-2024.

In line with the EU policy on evaluation, this evaluation seeks to be a stock-taking lesson-learning and forward-looking exercise.

The **general objective** of this evaluation is to provide the relevant Commission services and other key stakeholders with an independent assessment and evidence on the contribution of the EU external action support in the policy area of Youth to the achievement of EU policy objectives in the Neighbourhood and Enlargement regions.

The **specific objectives** for this evaluation are:

- To provide an assessment in both qualitative and quantitative terms on the relevance, conditions of implementation and performance of EU external action support to Youth, particularly its efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability and impact.
- To assess the EU cooperation potential and the EU added value.
- To identify lessons learnt (both positive and negative), best practices and recommendations in particular as regards:
  - ✓ the efficiency and effectiveness of EU external action support to Youth;

- ✓ the explanatory factors that facilitate or hamper the contribution of EU external action support to Youth.
- ✓ Policy development, policy dialogue and related coherence and/or focus on operational aspects in the field of Youth.

The results of the evaluation will feed the ground for: (i) Strategic policy orientation on supporting youth (ii) defining synergy effects with the EU's political and reform objectives (iii) as well as for the overall programming, monitoring, reporting and implementation of EU financial assistance.

The main intended **users** of the results of this evaluation include the European Commission (including EUDs), the European External Action Service (EEAS), and EU Member States. The evaluation may also be of interest to civil society organisations and the general public.

The **stakeholders**, specific services and organisations with a stake in the evaluation and with what will be done with the results, to be associated in the evaluation process include (non-exhaustive list):

- EU stakeholders: Commission services (SG, DG NEAR, DG CNCT, EAC, EMPL, DG GROW, JRC, RTD); the EACEA, the ETF; EEAS and FPI; and EU Member States (incl. Embassies in partner regions). EU Delegations/Office in partner countries in the neighbourhood south and east regions as well as in the enlargement region, other EU institutions;
- National authorities in partner countries responsible for the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of EU external action support (incl. National IPA Coordinators (NIPACs)), and other national stakeholders (including local authorities as relevant)
- Youth organisations and similar structures at European level and in partner countries (e.g. European Youth Forum, EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership, SALTO Resource Centres, national youth councils and other representative youth structures in the partner countries as well as other civil society organisations as relevant;
- International stakeholders: relevant international organisations, relevant civil society organisations and networks, research institutions.

## 2.2 Requested services

This evaluation is based on the Better Regulation in the EU<sup>12</sup> package. Nevertheless, as this is not a 'major' evaluation in the sense of the Better Regulation guidelines, it will not involve the development of an open public consultation and it will not be followed by a Staff Working Document.

### 2.2.1 Scope of the evaluation

#### 2.2.1.1 Temporal scope

The temporal scope is 2014-2021.

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<sup>12</sup> The Better Regulation Package was approved by the European Commission on 19.05.2015 (SWD (2015) 111) and updated on 7.7.2017 (SWD (2017) 350). Please see also: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox_en).

The assessment will cover the entire period 2014-2021, including interventions financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA I, IPA II and IPA III), EIDHR, Erasmus+, Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey that were implemented during this timeframe.

Case studies should nevertheless focus primarily on the interventions and activities implemented under IPA II and ENI, EIDHR, Erasmus+ and under the Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

#### 2.2.1.2 Geographical scope

The evaluation shall focus on cross-regional and bilateral (country-level) interventions in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans regions and Turkey.

The evaluation is expected to reach out to all countries having benefited in the evaluation period from one or several youth interventions.

#### 2.2.1.3 Thematic scope

The evaluation will cover the following thematic priorities:

- Youth engagement:
  - Participation in policy making<sup>13 14</sup>;
  - youth work.
- Youth economic integration:
  - youth employment and employability
  - youth entrepreneurship (including access to finance and quality of jobs)<sup>15 16 17</sup>;
  - Digital skills (including skills for green and digital transition);
  - Formal learning (including school retention)
  - Non-formal and informal learning (including skills)<sup>18</sup>.
- Youth social inclusion (including women, disadvantaged youth, youth from minorities and refugees youth);
  - youth mobility and related <sup>19</sup>;

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<sup>13</sup> Sofia Declaration, 17 May 2018

<sup>14</sup> Eastern Neighbourhood: Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 (18/3/2020) – Together for resilient, fair and inclusive societies,

<sup>15</sup> A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans COM(2018) 65 final

<sup>16</sup> Sofia Declaration, 17 May 2018

<sup>17</sup> Eastern Neighbourhood: Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 (18/3/2020) – Investing in people; Eastern Partnership - 20 Deliverables for 2020 Focusing on key priorities and tangible results (9/6/2017). Priority 18, Youth

<sup>18</sup> Eastern Neighbourhood: Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 (18/3/2020) – Investing in people; Eastern Partnership - 20 Deliverables for 2020 Focusing on key priorities and tangible results (9/6/2017). Priority 18, Youth

- culture<sup>20 21</sup>;
  - school retention<sup>22</sup>;
  - health (including sexual, reproductive and mental health) <sup>23</sup>;
- Peace and security – regional cooperation and reconciliation <sup>24 25</sup>.

## 2.2.2 Evaluation questions and key evaluation criteria<sup>26</sup>

In line with the Better Regulation guidelines on evaluations introduced by the Commission in 2015 and revised in 2017 and 2021, and with DG NEAR Guidelines on linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation<sup>27</sup>, the main evaluation criteria in this specific evaluation are: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. In addition, the evaluation will assess one EU specific evaluation criterion, which is the EU added value.

### 2.2.2.1 Evaluation questions

The eight evaluation questions (EQs) below serve firstly as a way of articulating the key requirements of the evaluation, secondly to articulate the key strategic issues at stake, and thirdly as a mean of ensuring that the relevant objectives of EU external action support to Youth are covered.

In order to achieve the objectives of this study, the evaluation will provide evidence-based answers to each of the EQs below. In the intermediary and final reports, the contractor will provide substantiated answers (preliminary in the case of the intermediary report) to each of the EQs headings and judgement criteria (JC).

The evaluation team, in consultation with the Evaluation manager, will propose for each EQ heading JCs with their associated indicators and relevant data collection sources and tools. The set of EQs provided below is to be considered as draft final, but limited and well justified changes could be discussed with the evaluation team during the inception phase.

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<sup>19</sup> Eastern Neighbourhood: Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 (18/3/2020) – Investing in people; Eastern Partnership - 20 Deliverables for 2020 Focusing on key priorities and tangible results (9/6/2017). Priority 18, Youth

<sup>20</sup> A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans COM(2018) 65 final

<sup>21</sup> Certain thematic priorities (culture, health, peace and security) are targeted via specific regional programmes in the Eastern Neighbourhood. Of course, youth are also beneficiaries of these initiatives.

<sup>22</sup> Eastern Partnership - 20 Deliverables for 2020 Focusing on key priorities and tangible results (9/6/2017). Youth and Education Package

<sup>23</sup> Certain thematic priorities (culture, health, peace and security) are targeted via specific regional programmes in the Eastern Neighbourhood. Of course, youth are also beneficiaries of these initiatives.

<sup>24</sup> A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans COM(2018) 65 final

<sup>25</sup> Certain thematic priorities (culture, health, peace and security) are targeted via specific regional programmes in the Eastern Neighbourhood. Of course, youth are also beneficiaries of these initiatives.

<sup>26</sup> The definition of the 6 DAC + 1 EU evaluation criteria is contained for reference in the Annex VII.

<sup>27</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/financial\\_assistance/phare/evaluation/2016/20160831-dg-near-guidelines-on-linking-planning-programming-vol-1-v-0.4.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/financial_assistance/phare/evaluation/2016/20160831-dg-near-guidelines-on-linking-planning-programming-vol-1-v-0.4.pdf)



TABLE 1 : RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DAC AND EU EVALUATION CRITERIA AND THE EQs

	EQ 1	EQ 2	EQ 3	EQ 4	EQ 5	EQ 6	EQ 7
	CONDUCTIVE FOR RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING	SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE EU DELIVERY METHODS, FUNDING CHANNELS AND INSTRUMENTS	PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	EU ADDED VALUE	YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COHESION	PEACE AND SECURITY
Relevance	√√√		√√	√√	√√	√√	√√
Coherence	√√	√√√	√√√				
Efficiency		√√		√	√	√	√
Effectiveness		√√	√√	√√√	√√√	√√√	√√√
Impact				√	√	√	√
Sustainability				√√√	√√√	√√√	√√√
EU value added				√√√			

### Transversal EQs

EQ 1	To what extent have the EU external policy framework and strategies been, and are at present being, <b>conductive</b> for a responsive programming and implementation of EU external action in the Youth area in the enlargement and Neighbourhood regions?
EQ 2	To what extent have the various aid delivery methods, funding channels and instruments, and their combinations as employed by the EU external action, ensured <b>synergies</b> in view of promoting responsive, cost-effective and timely interventions?
EQ 3	To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area, ensured, and is at present ensuring, <b>partnership</b> (through effective engagement, co-ordination and complementarity) with other key stakeholders at local, regional and national level (incl. international organisations, governmental partners and civil society)?
EQ 4	To what extent has the EU external action support in the Youth area been, and is at present, used to design and implement activities so as to maximize the <b>EU added value</b> ?

### Thematic EQs

EQ 5	To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to increased <b>youth engagement</b> , including enhanced quality and inclusiveness in relevant policy processes?
	This question should cover participation in policy-making and youth work.
EQ 6	To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to achieving increased <b>economic integration</b> ?
	This question should cover youth employment, employability and entrepreneurship (including access to finance), digital skills, non-formal and informal learning (including skills), as well as how the EU support contributed to make the education and training systems relevant for the labour market needs, including the new digital and green skills.
EQ 7	To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to strengthening school retention and <b>social inclusion and cohesion</b> (including disadvantaged youth <sup>28</sup> , youth from

<sup>28</sup> Disadvantaged Youth: All those young people experiencing personal difficulties/obstacles, limiting/preventing them from taking part in transnational projects. The obstacles/difficulties may be: mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities; education difficulties (learning difficulties, early-school-leavers, etc.); economic obstacles (low standards of living, low income, etc.); cultural differences (immigrants/refugees/their descendants, national/ethnic minorities, etc.); chronic health problems; social obstacles (discrimination due to gender, age, etc.); limited social skills, anti-social or risky behaviours, precarious situations, (ex-)offenders, (ex-) drug or alcohol abusers, young and/or single parents, orphans. Reference: Erasmus+ Programme Guide

	<b>minorities and refugees' youth) thus contributing redressing inequalities and improving gender balance in partner countries?</b>
	This question should cover youth mobility and related, culture, school retention, health (including sexual, reproductive and mental health), in particular on i) the processes developed to make young people active actors/producers and consumers of cultural activities, and ii) processes developed to recognise non-formal and informal learning.
<b>EQ 8</b>	<b>To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to strengthening peace and security in the Neighbourhood and enlargement regions?</b>

#### 2.2.2.2 Questions to be considered in relation to lessons learnt

The following questions will need to be addressed by the Evaluation team while undertaking the evaluation exercise to provide an answer in the final report:

- What lessons learned can be drawn from the EU external action support interventions (policy dialogue and financial assistance (projects and programmes)) to better support the establishment and development of policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks in the field of youth, in candidates and potential candidates to EU accession and partner countries?
- What lessons learned can be drawn from the EU external action support interventions (policy dialogue and financial assistance (projects and programmes)) in terms of cooperation with relevant EU Member States agencies, International Organisations, and other donors and civil society organisations?
- What were the factors that facilitated or hampered the contribution of EU external action support to progress on Youth in candidates and potential candidates to EU accession and partner countries? What are the context specific factors to the observed changes / developments / trends? Have different regional/national frameworks affected the efficiency and effectiveness of support to transformative change, and to partner country ownership, including youth meaningful and influential participation in policy- and decision-making and governance processes?
- To what extent by working and supporting various Ministries dealing with Youth in the various countries, the EU has contributed to the reinforcement of the whole institutional arena (including financing decisions related to youth)

#### 2.2.3 Evaluation tools and techniques

The structuring stage aims to define the design and the methodology of the evaluation. The methodology will clearly specify the working methods and the techniques to be used (e.g. data collection, case studies, triangulation methods, etc.).

Among the main methodological techniques, the following key elements can be already mentioned:

- A. The intervention logic (IL) and the expected effects diagram. The IL displays the logical sequence of the hierarchy of objectives and expected effects.
- B. Evaluation Questions (Headings, Judgment criteria, indicators and data collection sources and tools). A draft set of evaluation questions headings is presented here above.

The evaluation team will, in consultation with the Commission evaluation manager (and by extension with the ISG), finalise and complete (with Judgment criteria, with indicators for each JC and relevant data collection sources and tools) the proposed set of EQs during the inception phase. For each indicator, the evaluation team will identify the specific source of information to be considered.

The information gathered and analysed for each indicator will need to be presented in an annex of the interim and final reports.

### C. Data collection tools.

Several tools will be used for collecting, structuring, processing and/or analysing data throughout the evaluation process:

- **Inventory** of Commission external action support spending interventions. The inventory will include both targeted and non-targeted Youth interventions (where available information confirms that Youth was mainstreamed).
- **Literature review.** The team will scrutinise all relevant key documentation on the: EU policy and strategy documents towards partner regions (Enlargement Strategies, European Neighbourhood Policy, etc.); EU and Enlargement candidates and partner countries policy and strategy documents (Enlargement: Association Agreements and Accession Partnerships; Partner countries: Association Agreements, Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, etc.); Enlargement and partner countries official documents (i.e. Youth related strategies, etc.); EU support interventions related documents; Previous evaluations, studies, etc. This list will be further detailed once a set of case studies is defined (see below).
- **Interviews.** Both structured and unstructured. A round of interviews will be carried out via phone/email/face-to-face/video-conference discussions with relevant stakeholders:
  - at Commission HQs: senior management, relevant staff in charge of youth support in DG NEAR (Western Balkans and Turkey, Neighbourhood South and East).
  - at EEAS,
  - in EU Member States (Embassies in partner regions), and
  - in a selected number of candidate and/or potential candidates to EU accession and partner countries (governmental and non-governmental stakeholders (including direct beneficiaries, i.e. youth and youth organisations), EU Delegations/Offices, EU Member States Embassies, other donors, etc.). These countries will be selected during the inception phase.

The selection of key informants and interlocutors will be based on the specific added value they can bring to help answer the various EQs. Interviews will be carried out during the inception, interim and field phases. Focus groups can also be envisaged, using participatory methods.

The contracting authority expects the evaluation team to build in sufficient time to look through documents and to have discussions throughout the evaluation process, particularly during the inception and interim phases.

- **Case study.** Several case studies are expected to be conducted in a balanced fashion to provide detailed qualitative information on important issues in light of the EQs. The budget calculation is based on seven case studies. The exact number will be decided in the inception phase by the ISG on the basis of a proposal made by the contractor.

The sample of measures examined should be drawn up in order to address each evaluation question, and should allow the evaluators to draw general conclusions.

It is worth noting that it is not expected from the evaluation team to undertake an in-depth assessment of the selected interventions. The interventions will be simply considered as a mean to inform relevant indicators that will then offer the basis to respond to the judgement criteria and main evaluation questions. EU external action support interventions consideration is expected to provide a view of the actual results generated (outputs), directly influenced (outcomes) and indirectly influenced (impacts) by EU external action support.

The selection of the case studies will be done using a sample approach to be agreed by the ISG.

Some criteria to be considered could be:

- Sector specific considerations;
  - Typology of actions: youth targeted interventions and interventions where youth is mainstreamed
  - Typology of tools, mechanisms, etc., including countries where the cooperation between Commission services and EU Member States can show different cases and cooperation mechanisms;
  - Broader learning potentials;
  - Geographical coverage;
  - Income development level;
  - The political and economic context (stable, fragile, post conflict, etc.);
  - Interventions' state of advancement;
  - Importance of interventions in terms of budget;
  - Availability of information.
- **Survey.** One or more online surveys, to be designed in line with the evaluation questions, are expected to be launched to inform the evaluation. This being partly a remote evaluation, their role in the evaluation will be key. Their nature will be defined in agreement with the ISG, but it is expected that: i) a first round of surveys around the case studies is launched at the beginning of the data collection and analysis phase so as to feed the preliminary answers to the evaluation questions and the identification of hypotheses to be tested and information gaps to be filled-in, and ii) a second round of surveys is launched and addressed to the entire EU Youth external action community of practice so as to test the hypotheses identified in the intermediary report.

It is expected that key stakeholders that have a direct or more indirect role in EU Youth related interventions are targeted by the surveys.

Key stakeholders to be considered are: EU/EEAS HQs and Delegations' officials; governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, respective EU Member States Embassies, other donors and international partners, civil society organisations.

- **Quantitative analysis**, mostly in relation to EU external action support spending interventions on Youth.

#### 2.2.4 Phases, activities, and required deliverables

The overall guidance to be used is available on the web page of DG NEAR<sup>29</sup>.

The basic approach to the assignment consists of *three main phases*, each one ending with the approval of a specific deliverable in the form of a report. As mentioned under 2.4, the ISG will support the Commission Evaluation manager in assessing the quality of the draft deliverables in order to achieve their finalisation. The reports will be revised in light of feedback from the ISG.

The three phases can be synthesized as follows:

##### A. Inception phase.

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<sup>29</sup> See: DG NEAR Guidelines on linking planning/programming, Monitoring and evaluation (refer to: [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/financial\\_assistance/phare/evaluation/2016/20160831-dg-near-guidelines-on-linking-planning-programming-vol-1-v0.4.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/financial_assistance/phare/evaluation/2016/20160831-dg-near-guidelines-on-linking-planning-programming-vol-1-v0.4.pdf))

This phase aims at structuring the evaluation.

Clarifying the issues of the evaluation is the first aim of this phase. Indeed, the inception phase will start with a kick-off meeting. The meeting has the purpose to arrive at a clear-shared understanding of what is required by the ISG.

Further to a first documentary review to be performed by the evaluation team, the Commission evaluation manager will interact with the evaluation team in order for the latter to finalise the evaluation design: i) elaboration of the intervention logic, and ii) finalisation of the evaluation questions (definition of judgment criteria, indicators, identifying the data collection tools and sources).

The analysis of EU Youth interventions mapping and the methodological proposal for the following phases (data collection tools and analysis), are part of this phase.

Based on these previous analyses, the evaluation team will propose a set of case studies (to be justified by sound selection criteria inspired by those included under 2.2.3) to be examined in detail during the data collection and analysis phase.

A dedicated strategy for the consultation with the main 'beneficiaries', the youth themselves, including in-depths qualitative techniques, but not limited to a survey or focus group discussions.

The limitations faced or to be faced during the evaluation exercise will need to be discussed and mitigation measures defined.

Finally, the work plan for the overall evaluation process, that will need to be in line with the timing proposed in the present ToR, will also be presented and agreed in this phase.

If necessary, during the Inception Phase suggestions of modifications to the composition of the evaluation team might take place by both parties.

The deliverable of this phase is an inception report.

Sufficient time should be built in between the end of the Inception Phase and the start of the Data collection and analysis Phase for the feedback and approval process.

## **B. Intermediary phase:**

### *1. Data collection and analysis phase.*

During this phase, deskwork and discussions with relevant stakeholders take place in order to collect and analyse data and coming up with preliminary answers to the evaluation questions and hypotheses that will guide the finalisation of the data collection and analysis phase, including if COVID-19 conditions allow, field missions, and will guide the synthesis work. Information gaps for a sound answer to the evaluation questions will also be identified. A brief presentation of data collection and analyses done during this phase, challenges and limitations potentially faced will also be discussed. Limited and well justified changes to the evaluation questions (judgment criteria and indicators) can also be proposed, if deemed necessary, during this phase (and presented in the intermediary report). On the same line, discussing potential amendments to the selection of case studies (if relevant) identified during the inception phase can be envisaged. The extent of these potential amendments must be of a reasonable nature.

This phase is expected to involve discussions with and potentially the administration of online surveys to:

- o EU officials in HQs and EU Delegations involved in programming, implementation and oversight of EU support to Youth;
- o Beneficiaries: governmental and non-governmental actors;
- o Implementing partners.

The deliverable of this phase is an intermediary report. Sufficient time should be built in for the feedback and approval process of the intermediary report.

## 2. *Validation phase*

The validation phase is expected to be mostly implemented via field activities and via surveys to the entire EU Youth support community of practice. This phase will help in validating/rejecting preliminary answers to the evaluation questions and bring additional information and direct evidence.

Once the intermediary report is approved, further deskwork, field work, discussions and the administration and analysis of the surveys to the entire EU Youth support community of practice aiming to validate/reject preliminary answers to the evaluation questions and bring additional information and direct evidence will be done.

This phase will involve discussions with:

- Beneficiaries stakeholders: government and main beneficiary institutions, etc.; CSOs in-country with experience and knowledge of EU external action support (incl. youth organisations);
- EU staff involved in programming, implementation and oversight of EU external action support at EU Delegation/office levels;
- EU Member States: respective MS Embassies in partner countries;
- Other donors – international NGOs, bi-laterals and multi-laterals in country.

The evaluation team will assess whether there is need for further research and interviews to prepare the synthesis report, and in particular, the overall assessment, the conclusions and recommendation chapter, which are part of this phase as well.

Prior to completion of each country visit the Evaluation Team shall prepare a debriefing of the field mission for the EU Delegation/office in order to validate the data and the information gathered.

The budget calculation considers an average of 4 days of data collection in country (excluding travels) per country, with up to 6 countries. The countries to be visited will be decided in the interim phase by the ISG based on a proposal made by the contractor.

At the end of this testing stage, the evaluation team shall present to the ISG the final and consolidated findings, as well as the preliminary conclusions, in the form of a detailed PPT in a remote debriefing.

### **C. Synthesis and reporting phase.**

This phase entails the synthesis analysis to finalise the answers to the evaluation questions, and prepare the synthesis report that includes the overall assessment, lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation.

Recommendations should be clear, well structured, operational and realistic in the sense of providing clear, feasible and relevant input for decision-making and should clearly indicate the measures to be undertaken. Presentation of good practices and success stories stemming from different countries and the use of different instruments should be highlighted.

Recommendations for action will be addressed to the Commission. Where appropriate, the evaluator should specify the role of any other actor, including beneficiary institutions, in implementing the recommendations.

The synthesis report will clearly acknowledge where changes in the desired direction are known to be already taking place.

The table below summarises these phases:

Phases	Activities	Deliverables (& meetings) <sup>30</sup>
<b>INCEPTION: STRUCTURING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Background analysis</li> <li>▪ Interviews with EU HQs, EEAS</li> <li>▪ Reconstruction of EU support to Youth intervention logic</li> <li>▪ Finalisation of the EQs</li> <li>▪ Analysis of mapping of Youth interventions</li> <li>▪ Methodological design to answer to the EQs, incl. case studies proposal and data collection &amp; definition of analysis methods</li> <li>▪ Report writing (&amp; quality control)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inception Report<sup>31</sup> incl.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Final <i>intended / planned</i> Intervention Logic</li> <li>✓ Evaluation Questions (EQs), with judgment criteria &amp; indicators</li> <li>✓ Data analysis and collection methods, incl. case studies proposal</li> <li>✓ Youth interventions mapping and analysis</li> <li>✓ Work plan</li> <li>✓ Consultation strategy<sup>32</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Slide presentation</li> <li>3. Meeting(s) with ISG (in Brussels or hybrid)</li> </ol>
	<b>INTERMEDIARY: DATA COLLECTION &amp; ANALYSIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In-depth document analysis (focused on the Evaluation Questions)</li> <li>▪ Interviews</li> <li>▪ In-field validation workshops with the key-stakeholders, including as possible representation of youth.</li> <li>▪ Identification of information gaps and of hypotheses to be tested</li> <li>▪ Report writing (&amp; quality control)</li> <li>▪ Surveys elaboration, administration and analyses</li> </ul>
<b>SYNTHESIS DISSEMINATION</b> &		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expressing findings (focus on the EQs and identifying lessons learnt and best practices, if any)</li> <li>▪ Overall assessment, Conclusions and</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup> The evaluation team must provide the list of all entities met, documents reviewed, data collected and databases built. The list of persons interviewed will not be published.

<sup>31</sup> The Inception Report should not exceed 30 pages, but if required this number can be reasonably increased following consultation with the EC Evaluation manager. Additional material may be placed in annexes, as necessary. The EC Evaluation manager will provide the template.

<sup>32</sup> Even though an open public consultation (as foreseen by the Better Regulation) will not be organised for the present evaluation, it is expected that the evaluation team presents its strategy for stakeholders' consultation during the evaluation exercise.

<sup>33</sup> The Intermediary report should not exceed 40 pages, but if required this number can be reasonably increased following consultation with the EC Evaluation managers. Additional material may be placed in annexes, as necessary. The Commission Evaluation manager will provide the template.

<sup>34</sup> The case studies notes should not exceed 10 pages, but if required this number can be reasonably increased following consultation with the EC Evaluation manager. Commission Evaluation manager will provide the template

<sup>35</sup> The Final Report should not exceed 60 pages, but if required this number can be reasonably increased. Additional material may be placed in annexes, as necessary. The Commission Evaluation manager will provide the template.

<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Synthesis report writing (&amp; quality control)</li> <li>▪ Dissemination event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Findings, incl. lessons learnt and best practices, if any</li> <li>✓ Overall assessment, conclusions and recommendations</li> <li>✓ Main annexes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Answers to the JCs</li> <li>▪ Evaluation matrix with information gathered and analysed by indicator</li> <li>▪ Case study notes</li> <li>▪ Surveys responses analysis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Executive summary<sup>36</sup></li> <li>3. Slide presentation</li> <li>4. Two factsheets<sup>37</sup></li> <li>5. Meeting(s) with ISG</li> <li>6. Final presentation event</li> <li>7. Dissemination event minutes</li> </ol>

Once the evaluation is finalised, Commission services will be in charge of further dissemination and of the follow-up.

<p><b>DISSEMINATION AND FOLLOW UP</b> <i>(by the EC)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Action plan writing</li> <li>▪ Others to be defined if relevant</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Follow-up action plan</li> </ol>
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The kick-off meeting with the ISSG, as well as the dissemination event, should be organised in Brussels in a hybrid way in order to allow the widest possible of stakeholders and partners to participate. The other meetings can be organised remotely.

All meetings with the ISG will be attended at least by Evaluation Team Leader, the Quality Support Expert and the project manager. For all meetings with the ISG, the framework contractor shall submit to the EU Evaluation Manager a PowerPoint presentation one week in advance. The contractor will prepare draft meeting minutes to be revised, distributed and approved by the Evaluation Manager in consultation with the ISG participants at the latest, one week after the meeting.

### 2.2.5 Assumptions and envisaged limitations

It is assumed that services within the Commission, the EEAS and EU Member States and the beneficiaries accept the evaluation as an integral part of a learning and accountability function and are committed to provide the necessary information, and will subsequently act on the recommendations and relevant follow-up actions.

The following are additional relevant assumptions for this evaluation:

- Monitoring data is available and provide sufficient and adequate information;
- Data should be sex and age-disaggregated whenever relevant for any given point in question, plus additional disaggregation, such as ethnic groups, as relevant.

<sup>36</sup> The Executive summary should not exceed four pages, but if required this number can be reasonably increased. The Commission Evaluation manager will provide the template.

<sup>37</sup> The factsheets should not exceed three pages, but if required this number can be reasonably increased. The Commission Evaluation manager will provide an example.



- Access to requested documentation and information on the interventions is ensured by the Commission, national authorities and the intervention implementing partners, when they differ;
- The staff of EU Delegations and implementing partners are regularly informed on objectives and methods of this evaluation, in order to ensure their full cooperation.

In the event that one or several of the above assumptions prove to be untrue, the evaluation team records and immediately informs the Contracting Authority. Limitations cannot be listed exhaustively.

The evaluators also record and report any additional limitation to the evaluation, including due to insufficient collaboration from key stakeholders.

### 2.3 Specific Contract Technical offer

The Framework Contractors will submit their specific Contract Technical Offer by using the standard template in Annex I (technical offer; up to 20 pages, excluding annexes). The list of experts and corresponding CVs (of up to 5 pages), which must follow the template provided in Annex B-II-4 of the global terms of reference of the framework contract, will also need to be part of the technical offer. **Offers that do not respect the page limits of up to 20 pages for the technical offer and up to 5 pages for each CV will not be taken into consideration for the award of the contract<sup>38</sup>.**

The Statement of Exclusivity and Availability, and the Declarations of confidentiality, which must follow the templates provided in Annex B-II-5 and in Annex 1, respectively, will need to be included for all members of the team.

The offer is expected to demonstrate:

- The team's understanding of the ToR in their own words (i.e. their understanding of what is to be evaluated, and their understanding of the subject areas as relevant to this ToR).

The offer is expected to present:

- the understanding of the EU external action support to Youth and its underlying theory of change.
- the development of EQ 5 on how the EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to increased youth engagement with relevant JCs and indicators and data collection tools and methods.

Previous experience of the contractor, technical expertise of the proposed team and information available on Commission services websites suffice as sources.

- The relevance of the team composition and competencies to the work to be undertaken.

The offer will clearly state the category of each team member and which tasks the proposed team members are responsible for and how their qualifications relate to the tasks. The team coordination and members' complementarity will be clearly described.

The team members must be independent from the youth related interventions that will be covered under this assignment. Should a conflict of interest be identified in the course of

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<sup>38</sup> The font size for the technical offer cannot be smaller than Times New Roman 11 or Arial 10, and that of CVs cannot be smaller than Times New Roman font size 10 or Arial font size 9.

the evaluation, it will be notified immediately to the Contracting Authority in accordance with article 9 General Conditions FWC EVA 2020.

During the process of evaluation of offers, the contracting authority reserves the right to interview by phone one or several members of the evaluation teams proposed.

- How the team proposes to undertake the evaluation: the evaluation design and challenges, data collection tools and methods of analysis, how the tasks will be organised.

The methods proposed shall both be quantitative and qualitative.

The offer is expected to present the methodology for the elaboration of the inventory of EU youth-related interventions (spending programmes).

The evaluation work will be carried out in presence to the extent possible and, if necessary, remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of the people involved should guide the Framework Contractor's methodological choices. A full range of remote tools and techniques and other approaches should be proposed and detailed in the offer – including a thorough assessment of the advantages and limitations (and mitigation measures) to be adopted for effective and robust final results. Field missions shall nevertheless be organised to the extent possible during the data collection and analysis phase if the conditions allow.

As far as possible, the methodology will build on the existing monitoring data, documents and evaluations, which will be made available to the framework contractor, but shall provide for the collection of additional data and evidence in a systematic manner.

A selection of relevant sources of evidence for the preparation of the offer is listed in Annex IV. The Framework Contractors shall identify in their offers other relevant sources and tools they intend to use for each of the activities mentioned in the previous chapter.

The methodological proposal for the awarded contract will be discussed with the Commission during the kick-off meeting.

- The offer is expected to present details on the number of working days per team member (incl. the programme manager) and per phase of the evaluation.
- The level of quality control (in relation to both process and content) which will apply, at which points in the process, and who will undertake them'.

All these aspects will be considered when scoring the received offers against the award criteria for this tender.

Where the evaluation methodology or context raises specific ethical considerations, the Framework Contractor will explain in their offer how the evaluation will adhere to international best practice and standards of ethical conduct in evaluation. In particular, the offer should explain how issues around gender, power dynamics, issues pertaining to privacy and confidentiality of the people involved will be noted.

When designing their offer, Framework Contractors are also reminded of the need to comply with the provisions of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (as per Article 42 of the General Conditions of the Framework Contract).

## 2.4 Management and steering of the evaluation

### 2.4.1 By the Contracting Authority

The evaluation is managed by the Coordination of financing instruments – performance, results and evaluation Unit of DG NEAR.

The progress of the evaluation will be followed by an Interservice Steering Group consisting of members of EU Services (SG, DG NEAR, DG CNCT, EAC, EMPL, DG GROW, JRC, RTD, the EACEA, the ETF, the EEAS and FPI)

The main functions of the Interservice Steering Group are:

- **Steering the evaluation exercise in all key phases** to comply with quality standards. As mentioned in different parts of the ToR, the role of the ISG will be key in the finalisation of the evaluation framework.
  - o The Commission evaluation manager (NEAR A4) steers the ISG and is supported in its function by ISG members.
- **Providing input and information** to the evaluation team. Mobilise the institutional, thematic, and methodological knowledge available in the various DGs of the Commission and in the EEAS that are interested in the evaluation. Ensure that the evaluation team has access to and has consulted all relevant information sources and documents.
- **Providing quality control** on the different draft deliverables. The Commission evaluation manager, as lead of the ISG, consolidates the comments to be sent to the evaluation team and endorses the deliverables.
- **Ensuring a proper follow-up** action plan after completion of the evaluation.

The communication between the Interservice Steering Group and the Evaluation Team is always channelled through the Evaluation Manager.

### 2.4.2 By the Contractor

The contractor will oversee the quality of the process, of the evaluation design, of the team and deliverables. In particular:

- Before the work actually starts, the contractor provides guidance to the evaluation team to ensure that the evaluation team has a clear understanding of the tasks, of the evaluation process, the content and implications of the different steps. Depending on the specific needs, the guidance should focus on:
  - Scope of the work
  - Complex evaluation methodology used by DG NEAR and DG INTPA evaluation services
  - Data collection and analysis
  - Presentation of findings
  - How to define and inform the indicators
  - How to answer to the judgement criteria
  - How to answer to the evaluation questions
- Support the team leader in its role, mainly from a team's management perspective. In this regard, the contractor makes sure that for each evaluation phase specific tasks and deliverables for each team member are clear.
- Provide a continuous backstopping and quality control of the evaluation teams' outputs (from evaluation design to deliverables). The quality control ensures that the draft reports comply with the above requirements and meet adequate quality standards before sending

them to the ISG for comments. The quality control ensures that findings reported are duly substantiated. For the draft final report, the quality control ensures consistency and coherence between findings, conclusions and recommendations. The contractor will be supported in this particular field by the Quality Control expert and the Programme manager.

### **3 LOGISTICS AND TIMING**

The overall duration includes all the tasks necessary to fulfil the requirements for deliverables presented in Part B at the end of these Terms of Reference, including the review of draft versions of the reports by the evaluation manager and their revision by the contractor.

The expected total duration of the evaluation (including the dissemination phase) is 12 months, with a start date of implementation expected in the second half of November 2022.

The Framework Contractor is responsible for all logistics required to deliver the evaluation.

For all matters relating to logistics and timing, please refer to **Part B of the Terms of Reference**.

### **4 REQUIREMENTS**

The evaluation work will be carried out in presence to the extent possible and, if necessary, remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Field missions shall nevertheless be organised if the conditions allow.

The e-surveys to be prepared will have a key importance in data collection and sufficient resources need to be planned for their elaboration, administration and analysis.

Up to ten working days will need to be included in the financial offer to benefit from the services of one or more communication expert(s) (medium level) to be employed in the final reporting phase. Not being part of the evaluation team requested under Part B §6 Expertise, no CV(s) is/are requested in the tendering process.

The revised draft final report will be presented at a half-day dissemination event in Brussels, using a slide presentation. The purpose of the seminar is to present the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation to the national authorities, the Delegation and other stakeholders (EU Member States, representatives of civil society organisations, other donors etc.). Further dissemination activities may be requested. The contractor is encouraged to suggest innovative ways of disseminating the findings of the evaluation.

In addition, the budget proposal should include costs related to translation into French of the executive summary.

**All the costs other than costs for key experts of the evaluation team will be reflected in a dedicated budget provision under the “Other costs” of the framework contractor’s financial offer.**

**For all other matters relating to requirements, please refer to Part B of the Terms of Reference.**

## 5 REPORTS AND OTHER DELIVERABLES

**Please refer to Part B at the end of these Terms of Reference.**

The final report should deliver the elements covered by these Terms of Reference, and must be written such that readers, who are not working in this area, can easily understand.

It (excluding its Appendices) must be no longer than 60 pages format A4 and presented to respect professional quality standards of graphic design, in line with Commission requirements. It should be written in a clear “journalistic” manner and avoid technical jargon to ensure full readability by a broader audience of non-experts. It must include infographics, charts, maps and other visuals, as appropriate, to make it more readable and engaging.

The reports must be written in Arial or Times New Roman 11, single spacing. Inception, Intermediary and draft Final reports will be delivered only electronically. The Final report will also be delivered in hard copies.

The contractor must deliver the Final Report and all publishable deliverables in full compliance with the European Commission’s corporate visual identity, by applying the rules on graphics set out in its Visual Identity Manual, including its logo. The rules, the manual and further information are available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual\\_identity/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/index_en.htm)

The contractor must apply the rules set out in the manual for the graphic design of both the cover page and the internal pages of the report. The professional font (EC Square Sans Pro) to be used for the study will be made available to the contractor free of charge on acceptance of the terms and conditions for its use after contract signature. No template will be provided to bidders while preparing their bids.

The Final report will be presented at a dissemination event. The purpose of the event is to present the evaluation work to key relevant stakeholders, such as Commission staff, the EEAS and EU Member States, representatives of partner countries, implementing organisations, civil society organisations, other donors, etc.

Such dissemination event should be hybrid, organised by the contractors (including the venue and the platform), in particular:

- For the **event**, **50** hard copies of communication materials (factsheets) have to be produced in English.
- The contractor shall prepare the **minutes** of the event. These minutes and the updated slide presentation will be included as an annex of the final report.
- The organisation of the event (logistics such as room rental, catering for coffee breaks etc.) is part of this specific contract for the present evaluation and should be presented as part of the technical and financial offers. The offer should be based on 50 participants. As part of the preparation of the event the contractor will prepare visibility and communications inputs (in English and French) to be used by the Commission through social media to publicise the event and the findings of the evaluation. To do this the contractor shall prepare 10 tweets to be used before the event and 10 tweets after the event.

The final report must be submitted together with:

- A publishable *Executive Summary*, aimed at the middle and senior management and serving as a stand-alone document. It must be written in a reader-friendly and journalistic style;
- Up to two *factsheets*, one of them to be focused around the main best practices and lessons learnt identified;
- A *slide presentation* that summarises, in a highly visual manner using minimal text, the study findings and recommendations.

The contracting authority will publish all of these deliverables on the Commission's central website.

## **6 QUALITY STANDARDS**

The quality of the draft versions of the reports and of the executive and illustrated summaries will be carefully assessed around the following criteria: clarity, soundness of methodological design, reliability of data and robustness of evidence, validity of findings, validity of conclusions, usefulness of recommendations and appropriateness of lessons learnt and best practices analyses. The assessment will be done in the form of specific comments to be included in the different deliverables.

Performance will be assessed by the EC evaluation manager during the whole evaluation exercise (and if needed adjustments will be required, in agreement with the framework contractor) based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Quality of the analysis
- ✓ Relations with the Client
- ✓ Precision and clarity of the writing
- ✓ Methodological skills
- ✓ Communication skills and interview capacity
- ✓ Flexibility and availability
- ✓ Respect of deadlines.

## **7 PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

Any formal communication regarding contractual aspects of this specific contract will be addressed to [NEAR-EVAL-MONITORING@ec.europa.eu](mailto:NEAR-EVAL-MONITORING@ec.europa.eu) and [Ivica.LEKIC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Ivica.LEKIC@ec.europa.eu).

Communication on operational aspects of the specific contract will follow the channels indicated by the evaluation manager.

## **8 ANNEXES**

### **ANNEX I – TEMPLATE FOR THE TECHNICAL OFFER (ORGANISATION & METHODOLOGY)**

See separate Annex I attached with the Request for Service.

The list and CVs of the key experts for this evaluation must follow the template of Annex B-II-4 of the global terms of reference of the framework contract.

### **ANNEX II – EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE TECHNICAL OFFER (EVALUATION GRID)**

See separate Annex II attached with the Request for Service.

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## **ANNEX III – STRUCTURE OF THE REPORTS**

### **1 Inception Report**

The Inception Report will be drafted according to the ToR requirements and will include at least

- Final version of the reconstructed Intervention Logic (s), to be validated by the Commission
- Final version of the Evaluation Questions (EQs), with judgment criteria & indicators
- Final version of the methodology, to be validated by the Commission: Data analysis and collection methods (incl. a first selection of case studies and method to be applied, when relevant)
- The finalized inventory of EU activities (projects, programmes, non-spending activities) covered by the intervention evaluated
- Revised work plan to be approved by the Commission
- Consultation strategy, including limitations, risks and mitigation measures

### **2 Final Report (combination of the evaluative report and recommendation report)**

The Final Report (max. 60 pages without annexes), will include

- A short description of the purpose and objectives of the evaluation
- An executive summary of the evaluation
- A description of the methodology used for the study, as well as an explanation of the limitations due to the methodology, availability of data, contextual factors or any other relevant variable.
- A description of the tasks carried out, including the different analyses applied
- A detailed presentation of the main findings (answers to Evaluation questions), of the conclusions (analysis of the findings) of the evaluation in the form of a storytelling narrative, with due reference to the analysis underlying the replies and to the parts of the report and its annexes where this analysis is more substantially described.
- A chapter on the links between findings, conclusions and recommendations
- A chapter on good practices and lessons learnt from the evaluation, essential for future decision-making and programming contexts, including recommendations.
- A short overall assessment and general conclusions chapter.
- A chapter on Recommendations
- Main annexes:
  - Evaluation matrix with information gathered and analysis by indicator
  - A methodological annex, explaining the methodology applied to each step of the evaluation
  - Case study notes (if any)
  - Additional annexes if necessary
  - Minutes of the discussion seminar >

## **ANNEX IV – LIST OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION**

### **GENERAL DOCUMENTATION**

- Treaty of the European Union (Title V)
- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Part Five)
- Annual and special reports of the EU Court of Auditors:  
<http://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/AuditReportsOpinions.aspx>
- The Paris Agreement, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

### **EU OVERALL POLICY**

- A Union that strives for more ([https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en.pdf))
- The Union as a strong global actor (EUCO 79/14)
- EU Global Strategy  
([http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top\\_stories/pdf/eugs\\_review\\_web.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf))
- Regional and thematic policies (e.g. [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/policies/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/policies/index_en.htm))
- Council Conclusions, 26 May 2015 - "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015"
- Commission Communication, 5 February 2015 - "A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015"
- Council Conclusions, 16 December 2014 - "On a transformative post-2015 agenda".
- Commission Communication 2 June 2014 - "A Decent Life for All: From Vision to Collective Action".
- Council Conclusions, 25 June 2013 - "The Overarching Post 2015 Agenda"
- Commission Communication 27 February 2013: "A Decent Life for All: Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future".
- EU Common Position for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, 14 November 2011
- EU code of conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour in Development Policy, 15 May 2007
- Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus', 24 February 2006.

### **EU NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY (ENP) AND ENLARGEMENT FRAMEWORK:**

- Eastern Neighbourhood:
  - Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 (18/3/2020) – Together for resilient, fair and inclusive societies,
  - Eastern Partnership - 20 Deliverables for 2020 Focusing on key priorities and tangible results (9/6/2017). Priority 18, Youth



- Southern Neighbourhood:
  - Joint Communication: Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood - A new agenda for the Mediterranean
  - Joint Staff Working Document: Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours
- Enlargement region:
  - A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans COM(2018)
  - Western Balkans Summit, Sofia Declaration, 17 May 2018

#### **EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD INSTRUMENT (ENI, and ENPI until 2014) ASSISTANCE**

- Indicative planning documents 2007-2013, 2014-2020;
- Regulation establishing the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Regulation;
- Progress reports on implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy;
- Indicative Country Strategy Papers 2007-2013, 2014-2020;
- Programming documents;
- Annual Action Programmes;
- Other more specific evaluations can be found at: [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/overview\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/overview_en)

#### **Strategic evaluations undertaken<sup>39</sup>:**

- Thematic Evaluation of EU's Support to Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro and Serbia (2014)
- Evaluation of the Eastern Partnership Youth in Action Window (2014)
- The political economy of donor intervention in Western Balkans and Turkey: mapping and potential for stronger synergies (2014)
- External Evaluation of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) (2014 – mid 2017)
- External Evaluation of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (2014 – mid 2017)
- Evaluation of EU support to social protection in external action (2007-2013)
- Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of migration (2008-2018)
- Evaluation of the European Union's engagement with Civil Society in the Neighbourhood and Enlargement regions (2007-2018)
- Evaluation of performance of EU Info Centres in the enlargement and neighbourhood regions (2012-2017)
- Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (2010-2018)

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<sup>39</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/monitoring-and-evaluation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/monitoring-and-evaluation_en);

- Mid-term evaluation of cross border cooperation programmes between IPA II beneficiaries (2021)

**Other sources:**

- Council Conclusions on Youth in External Action (June 2020)
- EU Youth Strategy 2021-2027
- COM(2020) 276 final - Youth Employment Support: a Bridge to Jobs for the Next Generation

## 2 Evidence Matrix


The tables below provide, for each EQ, an overview of: i) the summarised findings identified per indicator; and ii) the main sources of the evidence underpinning these findings. The extent to which the various categories of sources have been explored/used is highlighted with a colour code.

Sources explored:	Substantial information collected	Some information collected	No information (or not relevant for the indicator)
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The tables also indicate the strength of evidence for the assessment done under each indicator using a three-level scale as summarised below.

Strength of evidence	Description
● (strong)	The findings are consistently supported by a comprehensive range of evidence sources OR evidence sources, while not comprehensive, are of high quality and reliable to draw robust findings.
● (medium)	There are at least two different sources of evidence with good triangulation, but the coverage of the evidence is not complete.
● (low)	There is no triangulation and / or evidence is limited to a single source.

### 2.1 EQ1 – Conducive policy frameworks for responsive programming

<p>To what extent have the EU external policy framework and strategies been conducive for a responsive programming and implementation of EU external action support in the Youth area?</p>	
<p><b>Rationale:</b> This EQ focuses on the quality of the growing set of policy frameworks and strategies elaborated by the EU (particularly since 2015) to integrate youth in programming and implementation of EU external action. The core elements to be considered relate to the context/conflict-sensitive, inclusive, responsive, and empowering nature of policy frameworks, engagement strategies and programming processes (see JC 1.1 below). As EU ambitions towards youth increase, ensuring that the overall institutional capacity to respond effectively follows suit is critical. This is the focus of J.C 2.</p>	
<p>This EQ consists of two Judgment Criteria (JC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>JC1.1:</b> EU ambitions towards youth are reflected in context-sensitive <b>policy frameworks and strategies</b></li> <li>● <b>JC1.2:</b> The EU provides an enabling <b>institutional environment</b> conducive for the evolving Youth Agenda</li> </ul> <p>The assessment of each JC builds on a set of specific indicators. The tables below provide an overview of: i) the main findings identified per indicator; and ii) the main sources of the evidence underpinning these findings.</p>	

### 2.1.1 JC1.1 – EU ambitions towards youth are reflected in context-sensitive policy frameworks and strategies

<p><b>I-1.1.1 Existence of differentiated engagement strategies towards youth in EU external action consider national and regional specificities, including the nature of the prevailing governance regimes or fragile/ conflict-affected state situations.</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is growing attention to underpinning engagement strategies with various forms of analysis as well as youth need assessments.</li> <li>• EUDs take into account prevailing (and often closed or deteriorated) governance conditions and fragility/conflict situations and manage – with varying levels of success – to find relevant forms of engagement with youth. This allows to generally define fairly customised engagement strategies at country level.</li> <li>• Regional programmes, by nature, seek to address common challenges. This is legitimate, yet in design and implementation a higher degree of differentiation could be useful.</li> <li>• An important point coming out of the interviews is the absence of a shared vision on the place, weight and role of youth in external action. This also leads to diverging approaches. Some see youth as a specific target group to be supported with dedicated programs, others as a “sector”, still others as a “crosscutting policy issue” to be mainstreamed. The available policy frameworks are generic in nature and do not provide the required clarity on how to proceed as EU.</li> <li>• Another dividing issue which emerges from interviews among EU actors is on the balance between providing direct support to youth (leading to tangible benefits for young people) and investing in then uphill struggle to push for national reforms and budgets (as a condition for sustainability).</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (strong)</p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., EAMRs, country reports, programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Not relevant for the indicator.	Various documents incl. EU Policies, strategic programming templates, guidelines, sampled MFFs, MIPs, RIPs, and strategic responses. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ and EUD staff.	EU Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<p><b>I-1.1.2 Evidence of responsive and flexible EU programming that integrates core youth challenges</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The three regions covered by this evaluation (i.e., Neighbourhood South and East, Western Balkans) share a number of similar youth realities, dynamics and challenges. First, the demographic factor. In each of the regions, youth generally represents a substantial part of the overall population. Second, youth agendas have acquired political prominence in the last decade as politicians increasingly acknowledge both the potential and risks associated with youth. Third, young people’s perceptions on their role in society tend to fluctuate as they either search for influenced meaningful forms of participation or disengage from the public arena. Fourth, major migration and brain drain challenges add pressure to act. Fifth, across regions one can observe tense relations between state actors (using centralised and top-down modes of governance) and youth (calling for economic inclusion, equal opportunities as well as transparency and accountability). Sixth, in recent years, space for civic action and meaningful youth engagement has been shrinking in many places – reflecting the fear of powerholders towards young people.</li> <li>• A growing number of regional reports and surveys, emanating from different sources, suggest there are equally significant differences between the three regions, linked to specific historical contexts, geographical factors, the resource base, dynamics of state formation, the quality of governance and public administration systems as well as</li> </ul>			

		<p>prevailing socio-cultural norms (particularly on gender). Stakeholders interviewed or consulted through surveys stress the need to recognise the heterogeneity of youth challenges within each of the regions. The Neighbourhood South and East encompass hugely diverse countries (e.g., on overall approaches to engaging with youth or on more technical aspects such as youth skills). Furthermore, youth perceptions may evolve as a result of internal events (e.g., the end of democratic transition in Tunisia, the failed opening-up of the political system in Belarus) or external events (e.g., the war between Israel and Hamas). The above brief analysis of youth challenges across regions was largely confirmed by the survey with youth actors carried out in the framework of this evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sampled programmes show globally responsive programming that integrate youth challenges.</li> <li>• Evidence shows important differences between EUDs, with some adopting a genuine strategic approach, others limiting their interventions to specific sectors, and others approaching youth as one priority among many others.</li> <li>• Overall there is recognition of the diversity of youth and challenges involved in reaching out to vulnerable / marginalised groups (scope for improvement at this level).</li> <li>• Youth are increasingly consulted in programming – yet there is limited feedback on effects of this participation and much less involvement in subsequent design and implementation of interventions. For example, in Tunisia, only a few EU-supported interventions could qualify as youth-centred, including youth within the decision-making and planning processes – though some exceptions such as the Participation et inclusion des jeunes tunisien(ne)s à travers la création, l'accès à la culture et au sport au niveau local/ Maghroum'in programme stood out.</li> <li>• There is evidence of stronger responsiveness in realm of economic/social inclusion than related to youth participation and engagement in peace and security. This is evident across the IPA region. Additionally, in Georgia, youth challenges, such as skills mismatch, problems with socio-economic inclusion, and the need for meaningful youth participation in public decision-making processes, have been reflected in EU programming over the years, but support to youth organisations and young activists is still very limited.</li> <li>• Still, evidence highlights possible tensions between aligning to European policies and approaches towards youth and local realities – leading to a mismatch with local youth priorities and ways of thinking/acting.</li> <li>• Strong evidence of flexible programming in response to COVID 19.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (strong)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurveys	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. EU Policies, strategic programming templates, guidelines, sampled MFFs, MIPs, RIPs, and strategic responses. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.

## 2.1.2 JC1.2 – EU provides an enabling institutional environment conducive for the evolving Youth Agenda

<p><b>I-1.2.1 Evidence that existing political and institutional incentives are adequate to engage with youth and adopt youth-centred approaches in the design and implementation of integrated support strategies (including a clear mandate, coherent job descriptions, quality, and operational support from different DGs in HQ, effective establishment and functioning of youth focal points in EUDs, etc.)</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the evaluation period, the incentive structure has evolved positively as reflected in an enhanced profile of youth at political level, in policy documents (and at institutional level) – though with important variations. For instance, in Bosnia and Herzegovina or in Türkiye, where such incentives were limited. In Georgia, political and institutional incentives are adequate to promote youth-centred approaches, but improvements could be made, both in terms of dedicating more human resources, as well as adding budget support indicators/conditions that directly reflect the importance of treating youth as actors and not just as beneficiaries of various actions.</li> <li>• Policy documents remain quite generic and do not offer a clear mandate.</li> <li>• There is less progress in applying youth-centred approaches due to lack of knowledge, operational guidance, and limited supervision implementing agencies.</li> <li>• There is evidence of some institutional innovations to better deal with an expanding youth portfolio, such as the Youth Focal point in most EUDs and in HQ. Yet their functioning shows a mixed track record.</li> <li>• There is evidence of collaboration with other DGs, primarily support to implementation.</li> <li>• Dedicated staff at HQ seeks to provide appreciated support – in collaboration with thematic unit INTPA- but strong demand for more operational guidance on many “how-to-do” questions.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (strong)</b></p>			
		<b><i>Main sources of information</i></b>			
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. EU Policies, strategic programming templates, guidelines, sampled MFFs, MIPs, RIPs, and strategic responses. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<p><b>I-1.2.2 Evidence that the EU invested in political economy / conflict and other analyses to elaborate realistic engagement strategies</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced attention for different forms of context analysis (seldom genuine political economy analyses) that are used for defining engagement strategies.</li> <li>• Evidence on gaps in analyses around power relations, incentives to change, impact of dysfunctional governance and administrative culture, conflicts within youth.</li> <li>• Reluctance of some EUDs to engage on politically sensitive issues – despite huge needs (e.g. Türkiye and Georgia).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (strong)</b></p>			

Main sources of information					
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. EU Policies, strategic programming templates, guidelines, sampled MFFs, MIPs, RIPs, and strategic responses. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<b>I-1.2.3 Quality of mechanisms and processes for reporting (transformative) results achieved with interventions related to youth in EU external action</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most M&amp;E and related reporting focuses on activities and outputs.</li> <li>• There is limited development of mechanisms and processes to detect potentially transformative effects. For example, the EaP regional flagship has done genuine efforts to document results achieved in yearly reports (see regional case study). Yet this has proven challenging (as the M&amp;E unit depends on the quality of data provided by implementing agencies. The latter tend to report on activities or on outputs, much less on qualitative changes/outputs.</li> </ul>			
		<b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (strong)</b>			
Main sources of information					
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. EU Policies, strategic programming templates, guidelines, sampled MFFs, MIPs, RIPs, and strategic responses. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.

## 2.1 EQ2 – Mix of EU delivery methods, funding channels and instruments

To what extent have the various aid delivery methods, funding channels and instruments, and their combinations as employed in EU external action, promoted responsive, cost-effective, and timely interventions?



**Rationale of EQ:** This EQ will assess the relevance, efficiency, and some aspects of effectiveness of the 'toolbox' used by the EU to engage with youth, respond to core needs and support its empowerment. This first requires an examination to what extent the EU managed to strategically combine instruments and implementation modalities to ensure synergies (JC 2.1). This EQ furthermore assesses the EU's capacity to flexibly respond to evolving country/regional dynamics by adapting its mix of aid delivery methods, funding channels and instruments (JC 2.2).

This EQ consists of two Judgment Criteria (JC):

- **JC2.1:** The **mix of modalities** enhances the **responsiveness** to needs and creates synergies within the EU portfolio.
- **JC2.2:** EU **flexibly adjusts its mix of instruments** and delivery methods to changing conditions.

### 2.1.1 JC2.1 – The mix of modalities enhances the responsiveness to needs and creates synergies within the EU portfolio

<p><b>I-2.1.1 Evidence that the choice to provide budget support is informed by solid political economy analysis and careful attention to eligibility criteria, and followed by a strategic use of variable tranches and complementary and coherent measures to foster policy/political dialogue on youth reforms</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was limited number of budget support programmes focusing on youth.</li> <li>• When Budget support was used, its operations were underpinned by relatively sound context analysis, and checks of eligibility criteria.</li> <li>• However, there was mixed track record in terms of quality of policy dialogue, performance assessment framework, policy dialogue and influence on reforms.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (medium)</p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, tranche documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points, programme managers, and national authorities.	Various documents incl., action documents, and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD staff.	EU Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<p><b>I-2.1.2 Evidence that the choice to deliver EU support through delegation agreements, including with EU MS agencies, is based on a careful analysis of the comparative advantages of this modality</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was limited evidence that choice is based on careful analysis of comparative advantages.</li> <li>• There was limited information/evidence available to assess the extent to which the selection of implementing agencies, includes an assessment of their ability to apply youth-centred approaches.</li> <li>• There is a tendency for the EU to rely on small group of (large) implementing agencies, particularly EU MS.</li> <li>• Mixed track in quality of work done by implementing agencies with youth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (strong)</p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. EU Policies, strategic programming templates, guidelines, sampled MFFs, MIPs, RIPs, and strategic responses. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.



<p><b>I-2.1.3 Degree of consideration for youth concerns, demands, expectations and capacities when deciding on the mix of implementation modalities, funding channels and procedures to be used</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth concerns, demands, expectations and capacities are often not central to decisions about suitable implementation modalities.</li> <li>• There is limited direct funding is available for youth to carry out their own agendas and priorities.</li> <li>• Existing EU procedures are not users-friendly for smaller, informal organisations – so funds tend to be channelled to larger intermediaries. In interviews across the board, concerns were expressed about the lack of trust in directly funding youth organisations, relying too much on intermediary structures, which may end up taking over control, also on funding. Furthermore, a majority of youth actors point to the complexity of the application process and inflexibility of EU's grant administration particularly for small, new and/or youth-led NGOs, There is a strong perception that larger organisations or international NGOs are favoured by the EU, leading to increased competition. Some respondents believe that funds are disproportionately allocated to cover these INGOs/Agencies administrative costs rather than the real impact or empowerment of youth-focused NGOs.</li> <li>• The implications of this can be seen in the EU4Youth program in the EaP, as it evolved over the years since its launch (2018), combines service contracts and grants, allowing the EU to cater for the three main components of the program. The program has been able to mobilise a dedicated and competent team to cater for several functions, including M&amp;E f as well as the Alumni Network. However, the Coordination and Support Team experienced challenges in connecting the dots of these various strands of action (carried out by a variety of actors) and in pushing some implementing agencies into 'collective action' (e.g., in terms of providing timely information on project implementation, delivering quality inputs for M&amp;E purposes, or contributing to joint learning). In the Neighbourhood South, there is no such comprehensive regional flagship initiative. The preferred approach has rather been to support established regional civil society structures to reach out to youth (such as EUROMED, the Majalat consortium or the Anna Lindh Foundation) with different levels of success and impact (see further EQ 4-7). The core regional EU initiatives in the Western Balkans consist of multi-annual programmatic support to respectively the RCC and RYCO. These programs also consist of several components and use service contracts as well as grants. Both surveys carried out for this evaluation as well as most interviewees (across the board) consider that both regional structures are responsive, flexible, and relevant. Despite a challenging and volatile regional environment, they have helped to define regional agendas, facilitate dialogues, experiment with new approaches to engaging with youth. This is confirmed in the Youth survey, particularly in the qualitative statements provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (strong)</p>			
		<p><b>Main sources of information</b></p>			
<p><b>Case study level</b></p>		<p><b>Global analysis level</b></p>			
<p><b>Document review</b></p>	<p><b>Interviews</b></p>	<p><b>Document review</b></p>	<p><b>Interviews</b></p>	<p><b>eSurvey</b></p>	<p><b>Inventory</b></p>
<p>Various documents (e.g., programming documents, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).</p>	<p>Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.</p>	<p>Various documents incl. action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).</p>	<p>Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, implementing agencies and youth actors.</p>	<p>EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).</p>	<p>Not relevant for the indicator.</p>
<p><b>I-2.1.4 Evidence of complementarities and synergies achieved between levels of intervention (bilateral, regional, global, and geographic/thematic instruments) and modalities used</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While there are positive examples, case studies show that there is limited evidence of a structured and systematic approach to ensuring synergies and complementarities between levels of intervention and various instruments used.</li> <li>• While regional programmes often provide added value compared to bilateral programmes (and may act as gap filler), there is often limited interaction with country programmes and EUD staff.</li> </ul>			


<b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (strong)</b>					
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., EAMRS programming documents, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff.	EU Survey report. (See Volume II).	See mapping details in Volume II.

### 2.1.2 JC2.2 – EU flexibly adjusts its mix of instruments and delivery methods to changing conditions

<b>I-2.2.1 EU support towards youth applies a problem-driven and iterative approach to programming and implementation, allowing for flexibility and timely adjustments to new opportunities and constraints</b>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both case studies and global interviews show evidence of use of problem-driven approaches – though interventions would gain from a greater localisation of actions in certain settings (risk of transferring ill-suited models).</li> <li>There is mixed evidence on use of iterative approaches to programming and implementation.</li> <li>EUDs have displayed ability to adjust to new opportunities or backlashes/constraints.</li> <li>For a diversity of reasons (e.g. political risks, lack of funding or capacity constraints), some EUDs referred not to engage on important matters in a given – though the problem is identified and real.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (medium)</b></p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., EAMRS programming documents, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, implementing agencies and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	See mapping details in Volume II.
<b>I-2.2.2 Evidence that a strategic and flexible use of implementation modalities, funding channels and instruments has contributed to enhance the relevance and cost-effectiveness of interventions</b>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed track record on strategic and flexible use of implementation modalities, instruments, and funding channels.</li> <li>Numerous examples of interventions with doubtful cost-effectiveness.</li> <li>Relative weakness of M&amp;E systems compounds the problem of assessing cost-effectiveness.</li> <li>Overall, the issue of cost-effectiveness is a complex to assess. First, strong perceptions exist, particularly among youth structures, on the limited cost-effectiveness of certain delegation agreements to expensive intermediaries which do not necessarily have the required skills to engage with youth as actors. Second, a substantial number of youth organisations, particularly in the Enlargement region and the Eastern Neighbourhood, perceived the EU support as unsustainable. Among the reasons cited, there is the length of the grant which is considered too short to have an impact on policies, and the fact that funding is restricted to project implementation, rather than support to the institutional development of youth organisations (this applies to the Eastern Neighbourhood too). Third, there is not yet a great and systematic focus on the whole question of the sustainability of EU youth interventions. However,</li> </ul>			

		there is growing awareness among EU policymakers and practitioners that this will largely depend on fostering conducive policy frameworks in partner regions/countries, ensure relevant forms of alignment, engage with state actors and push for domestic resource mobilisation for funding youth agendas. <b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., EAMRS programming documents, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, implementing agencies and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	See mapping details in Volume II.

## 2.2 EQ3 – Partnerships with other stakeholders and EU added value

<p><b>To what extent has the EU external action support in the youth area been used to design and implement activities which enhance partnership with other external actors and maximize EU added value?”</b></p>	
<p><b>Rationale of EQ:</b> This EQ first focuses on issues of coordination and complementarity with Member States and other external actors . This implies assessing the quality of partnership arrangements with MS to optimize relevance, quality, scale and impact of youth interventions, including through applying the ‘Team Europe Approach’ (see JC 3.1). In addition to this, there is a need to look at EU partnership approaches towards non-EU donors, multilateral agencies, and specialised knowledge institutions active in the regions covered or at global level (JC 3.2). Playing such a convening and coordinating role is traditionally seen as a potential added value of the EU. This EQ will also examine other aspects of EU ‘added value’. As EU policy documents related to youth do not explicitly spell out where the EU’s added value could lie in this domain, the focus will be on core dimensions of potential added value identified in the interviews conducted during the inception phase, including the ability to share knowledge related to youth gained within Europe/EU MS (JC 3.3) and the promotion of people-to-people exchanges between youth from different regions (JC 3.4).</p>	
<p>This EQ consists of four Judgment Criteria (JC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>JC3.1:</b> EU develops <b>partnerships with EU MS</b> and takes the comparative advantages of the parties involved into account.</li> <li>• <b>JC3.2:</b> EU develops <b>partnerships with other external actors</b> supporting youth.</li> <li>• <b>JC3.3:</b> EU external action allows to identify, mobilise and share EU <b>expertise and knowledge on youth</b>.</li> <li>• <b>JC3.4:</b> EU external action fosters mutually beneficial <b>exchanges between youth</b>.</li> </ul>	

### 2.2.1 JC3.1 – EU develops partnerships with EU MS and takes the comparative advantages of the parties involved into account

<b>I-3.1.1 Evidence of progressively increased incidence of joint analysis, programming and division of labour with EU Member States</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships between Member States and international organisations mainly exists for programme implementation purposes.</li> <li>Little evidence was found of genuine examples of joint analysis and programming in the field of youth between EU and MS (with the exception of Georgia).</li> <li>There is limited formally agreed division of labour between EU/MS – yet there are examples of shared interventions or de facto forms of task division.</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (strong)</b>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. programming documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with DG NEAR and EUD staff.	EU Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-3.1.2 Evidence of effects brought by the application of the ‘Team Europe’ approach in engaging with and supporting youth (e.g. greater coverage of youth issues, increased financial resources and leverage to push for reform, adoption of integrated approaches, etc.)</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is broad recognition of the potential of Team Europe approaches to engage in the youth domain.</li> <li>No examples so far of dedicated youth programmes under the Team Europe approach. However, there was some evidence of progressively increased incidence of joint analysis, programming and division of labour with EU Member States in Georgia, including through the application of the Team Europe approach. The most recent VET programming in Georgia which was designed utilising the Team Europe approach.</li> <li>Various Team Europe initiatives in the regions covered provide opportunities for youth, yet unclear at this stage to what extent and how this will happen.</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (strong)</b>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. programming documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ and ED staff.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.

## 2.2.2 JC3.2 – EU develops partnerships with other external actors supporting youth

<b>I-3.2.1 Existence and quality of partnership arrangements with non-EU donors, multilateral organisations and specialised agencies at various levels</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative arrangements exist yet again are mainly limited to programme implementation.</li> <li>• There is limited evidence of strategic partnerships and alliances with non-EU donors and multilateral organisations.</li> <li>• There is evidence of relevant EU efforts to develop strategic partnerships with regional organisations to push the youth agenda (e.g. RCC, RYCO, Anna Lindh Foundation).</li> <li>• Valuable partnerships with specialised agencies, primarily in Europe, as sources of knowledge and support to implementation (e.g. SALTO) but there is scope for to deepen these.</li> </ul>			
		<b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (strong)</b>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. programming documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, multilateral organisations, specialised organisations, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<b>I-3.2.2 Evidence that these partnerships led to enhanced knowledge, coverage of youth issues, increased financial resources / leverage, adoption of integrated approaches and mobilisation of additional sources of expertise</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships with specialised agencies led to enhanced access to knowledge and mobilisation of sources of expertise (e.g. good cooperation and engagement with KfW in Türkiye, SALTO globally).</li> <li>• Considering the predominantly instrumental nature of EU partnerships (linked to programme implementation), there is limited mobilisation of additional resources as well as opportunities for more integrated approaches.</li> </ul>			
		<b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (strong)</b>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points and programme managers.	Various documents incl. programming documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, multilateral organisations, specialised organisations, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.

### 2.2.3 JC3.3 – EU external action allows to identify, mobilise and share EU expertise and knowledge on youth

<p><b>I-3.3.1 Quality of the institutional mechanisms and capacities at EU level (HQ) to track relevant European/EU MS sources of expertise, policies and good practices regarding youth (within the Union) that could be used in the EU's external action</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative arrangements with other relevant DGs help to track and use relevant European approaches, models, tools.</li> <li>• There is less (documented) analysis on how the experiences and expertise of MS on youth is tapped.</li> <li>• There is scope to further exploit available sources of knowledge and expertise.</li> <li>• Constraints on human resources at DG NEAR impose limitations on ability to “connect the dots”.</li> <li>• Several implementation challenges related to sharing European expertise and knowledge were noted. These include issues such as: i) the relatively small size of international units within line DGs (reducing the capacity to respond to all demands or engage in a more structured/longer term way); ii) the tendency of these DGs to restrict their contribution to their core business and project delivery (resulting in less interest to invest in wider policy processes affecting the regional program, building synergies with other components or fostering integrated approaches). The limited institutional infrastructure to deal with youth issues at both EUD and partner country levels further compound the challenge of making the best use of the expertise and knowledge provided by line DGs or specialised agencies. Furthermore, while successful examples of uptake exist of European models, several stakeholders warned against a mimetic transposition across regions – which would not sufficiently take into account national/local specificities. Particular concerns were raised, for instance, against exporting “too quickly” the Youth Guarantee scheme, which was rolled out with some success in the Western Balkans (though not across the board, see EQ 5 below) to the Neighbourhood East and even more so the Neighbourhood South. Such a transposition only make sense if prior to this a proper political economy analysis is done on the existence of suitable implementation conditions (in terms of interests of powerholders, vision and capacities of core agencies, scope for multi-actor partnerships in delivery, funding, etc.).</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Not relevant for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points.	Various documents incl. programming documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with DG NEAR, other DGs and EUD staff.	EU Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<p><b>I-3.3.2 Quality of the institutional mechanisms and capacities to organise an effective transfer of relevant forms of knowledge and expertise to national and regional actors</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of knowledge is mainly organised when designing and implementing interventions.</li> <li>• The international units of other DGs involved in implementation act largely on their own, without much interaction with other components of youth programmes.</li> <li>• There is limited capacity at DG NEAR and EUD level to follow the transfer processes.</li> <li>• There is a risk of transferring ill-suited models and interviews at country level highlight the need for more localised approaches.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>

Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points, programme managers, and implementing agencies.	Various documents incl. programming documents, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, other DGs, EUD staff, multilateral organisations, specialised organisations, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I-3.3.3 Evidence that the sharing of knowledge on relevant EU policies, models, approaches and good practices used in Europe towards youth, has positively influenced national/regional engagement strategies with youth</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a mixed track record, where some partner countries and regions demand and are open for such sharing (e.g. IPA region), while in others the overall conditions are not conducive (e.g. Neighbourhood South).</li> <li>• Different dialogue experiences were noted in the three regions. In the Enlargement region, there is no direct channel of structured and iterative communication at the moment between the EU and youth from the Western Balkans but rather ad hoc opportunities, such as the recurrent gatherings of the Western Balkans Youth Forum. The declaration that emerged from the Forum reflected youth's ownership over important topics and was presented at the margins of the Berlin Summit held in 2022 between EU and government representatives.</li> <li>• In the Neighbourhood East, the programme 'Young European Ambassadors' provides an opportunity to young people from the EU MS and the region to create a network that raises awareness about the EU's cooperation with Eastern partner countries. Young Ambassadors are invited to represent their countries at meetings with high-level EU officials, contributing to policy discussions by participating in a variety of EU events, including European youth forums and Eastern Partnership conferences (such as those organised around the EaP Youth Forum).</li> <li>• In the Neighbourhood South, building on a long tradition of dialogue in the framework of the Barcelona Process linking countries and people on both sides of the Mediterranean sea, the EU has used several regional civil society facilities to stimulate dialogue processes. In these processes young people in the region could be heard, exchange, and interact with EU actors, as well as propose agendas for reform. As part of the expanding EU public diplomacy work, and taking inspiration from the Young Ambassadors scheme in EaP, the JEEL programme seeks to build a regional network of youth actors that share EU values and are willing to act as a multiplier voice in their own country/region (helped with this by 'JEEL connectors' or youth actors familiar with EU external action and support. This scheme has potential to enhance the visibility and image of the EU, yet it remains to be seen how representative these local influencers are for youth interests in the region. The perceived lukewarm reaction of the EU in relation to the recent war between Israel and Hamas has put the JEEL scheme under pressure – with several young people pulling out.</li> <li>• There is evidence of successful processes of sharing knowledge impacting positively on youth and on national/regional policy frameworks and practices. For instance, there are multiple examples that demonstrate the positive impact of experience/knowledge sharing on Georgia's engagement strategies with youth. They come from various types of projects from Budget Support technical assistance (GOPA Consulting Group) to the EaP European School. Some of the most notable impact is the adoption of the National Youth Concept and Strategy, development of the Draft Law on Youth, conceptualisation of youth work, development of the VET qualification framework, etc. Other examples include knowledge sharing, models, and good practices through Twinning interventions, as is the case with the German Academic Exchange Service/DAAD and the National Center for Education Quality Enhancement (NCEQE), which had an unintended positive outcome of improving the German populations' perception of Georgia and Georgian citizens.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u></b> • (medium)</p>			
		<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Main sources of information</b>	
			<b>Global analysis level</b>		

Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points, programme managers, and national authorities.	Various documents incl. programming documents, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, other DGs, EUD staff, multilateral organisations, specialised organisations, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.

## 2.2.4 JC3.4 – EU external action fosters mutually beneficial exchanges between youth

<b>I-3.4.1 Quality, relevance, impact and sustainability of the intra-regional exchanges</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews at global and country level highlights an overall appreciation for the existence of intra-regional exchanges / dialogues.</li> <li>There is mixed perceptions (among various stakeholders) on quality, relevance and impact of intra-regional exchanges.</li> <li>There have been noted examples of valuable efforts to reach out to various categories of young people (including vulnerable/marginalised groups) – with scope for improvement. Still, there is also need for realism about the limits to inclusion of some categories of youth in complex dialogue processes.</li> <li>There is a lack of data and analyses to assess impact of various dialogue processes (beyond testimonies).</li> <li>There are promising efforts in some dialogue processes to adopt more youth-centred approaches, better prepare youth to participate as well as improve the result-oriented nature of the exchanges.</li> <li>There is a lack of data and analyses to assess the sustainability of dialogue processes.</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (medium)			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points, programme managers, implementing partners national authorities, and youth organisations.	Various documents incl. programming documents, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, other DGs, EUD staff, multilateral organisations, specialised organisations, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.
<b>I-3.4.2 Quality, relevance, impact and sustainability of the exchanges between youth from the Union and the partner countries/regions</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are positive feedback on exchanges between youth from the EU and partner countries/regions. For example, in Tunisia, in flagship exchange programmes like Erasmus+ and MOBIDOC.</li> <li>However, there is mixed perceptions and evidence on quality and relevance.</li> <li>Interviews note challenges of moving beyond ad hoc approaches towards more structured forms of interaction (allowing for follow-up).</li> <li>Lack of solid data and analyses to assess impact and sustainability.</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (medium)			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			



Main sources of information					
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EU youth focal points, programme managers, and national authorities.	Various documents incl. programming documents, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, other DGs, EUD staff, multilateral organisations, specialised organisations, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for the indicator.

## 2.3 EQ4 – Youth engagement

To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to increased youth engagement, including enhanced quality and inclusiveness in relevant policy processes?



**Rationale of EQ:** This question is central in the present evaluation as it sheds light on how EU strategies and approaches in the youth area have sought to empower young people to act as citizens, rights holders and agents of their own development – engaging in and shaping relevant policy processes that affect their lives (such as those covered by EQ 6, 7 and 8). Improving the democratic participation of youth is a challenging task across the globe and particularly in the regions covered by the evaluation. There are barriers in the form of prevailing political, social and cultural norms, growing inequalities, and outright discrimination. Hence, it is important to first assess under this EQ how the EU has sought to adequately understand, exploit and enhance the space available, subject to context, for meaningful and influential engagement of different categories of youth (JC 4.1), including in its own cooperation processes. Furthermore, in order to enhance country ownership and promote transformational change, structured forms of dialogue and cross-sectoral collaboration between state institutions and youth actors/representatives (acting as citizens and agents in their own right) are key. This implies examining the extent to which the EU has stimulated/facilitated the co-production and co-management of youth policies and programmes (JC 4.2). Finally, we seek to assess the positive effects of EU efforts to understand the political arena for youth promotion (see above JC 4.1) and to engage with different stakeholders (see above JC 4.2). This implies examining the impact on the quality and inclusiveness of youth engagement in relevant policy processes and ultimately on the establishment of suitable national and regional frameworks / standards in the field of youth (JC 4.3).

This EQ consists of three Judgment Criteria (JC):

- **JC4.1:** EU contributes to **expanding the political and institutional space** available for different categories of **youth / youth organisations**.
- **JC4.2:** EU supports inclusive and meaningful forms of **dialogue and cross-sectoral collaboration** between state actors and youth groups (formal/informal).
- **JC4.3:** EU support fosters the establishment of **policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks** in the field of Youth at national level.

### 2.3.1 JC4.1 – EU contributes to expanding the political and institutional space available for different categories of youth / youth organisations

**I-4.1.1 Evidence that EU interventions are based on in-depth analyses of the political economy conditions for youth-centred approaches related to participation in decision-making processes at both national and regional levels**

**Key evidence/specific findings:**

- Evidence that EU actors increasingly used needs assessments and context analyses to underpin interventions in the field of youth participation in policy and societal processes, with improvements noted in the depth and quality of analysis used over time.
- However, there was limited evidence of genuine political economy analyses on the subject at global level, while more use of political economy analysis was observed in Georgia.
- Less solid analyses was found in regional programmes.

**Overall strength of the evidence base:** • (strong)

<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUDs and DG NEAR.	Programming documents and Action Documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews carried out with EUDs and DG NEAR.	Survey reports (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<p><b>I-4.1.2 Evidence of context-sensitive EU interventions supporting specifically the youth in elaborating their own agendas, organising themselves and developing skills and competences as youth leaders for meaningful and influential engagement in policy-making, implementation (including delivery of basic services), EU accession agendas, EU programming and monitoring processes</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most EU interventions were found to be context-sensitive, informed by an understanding of the political economy.</li> <li>• Youth were still often targeted as beneficiary groups rather than actors which are able to elaborate their own agendas.</li> <li>• Evidence of successful programmes building skills and competences of youth in different partner countries/regions.</li> <li>• Evidence of EU interventions contributing to youth being able to participate more meaningfully in policy processes at national level (e.g. through different forms of youth labs in Western Balkans and EaP) and in the three regions covered (e.g. the regional dialogue processes fostered by the Anna Lindt Foundation in Neighbourhood South).</li> <li>• Scant evidence of youth having a meaningful voice in monitoring or programming processes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (medium)</p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level in n at</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, DG NEAR, and implementing agencies.	Various documents (incl. Action documents, monitoring reports, annual reports, and evaluations) (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, and youth representatives (incl. National Youth Councils).	EU and Youth Survey (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<p><b>I-4.1.3 Evidence that the EU has invested specifically in youth groups that seek to promote participatory and inclusive governance as well as in the strengthening of civil society organisations seeking to promote the emergence of young leaders.</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was limited evidence of specific investments in youth groups seeking to promote inclusive governance, but valuable examples were found, particularly at local level (e.g. Palestine, Algeria).</li> <li>• Wide range of CSOs were supported to work with youth, empowering them to participate in policy processes, as reflected in the various case studies. Track record appears to be mixed (according to youth survey), depending on the overall quality of the CSO (acting as intermediary) and its ability to apply youth-centred approaches. An example is the Majalat programme in Neighbourhood South (2017-2021), a regional dialogue programme driven by a consortium of 6 leading CSOs. One of the stated objectives was to improve youth participation in the dialogues, yet this was not done optimally ensured, mainly because the CSOs were ill-equipped to reach out in a relevant manner to a wider and more diverse group of youth (see evaluation Majalat).</li> <li>• Less evidence was found of EU support aimed at structurally supporting CSOs with a mandate to empower youth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (medium)</p>			

<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, DG NEAR, and implementing agencies.	Various documents (incl. Action documents, monitoring reports, annual reports, and evaluations). (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, CSOs and youth representatives and other actors (incl. National Youth Councils).	EU and Youth Survey. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.

### 2.3.2 JC4.2 – EU supports inclusive and meaningful forms of dialogue and cross-sectoral collaboration between state actors and youth groups (formal/informal)

<p><b>I-4.2.1 Evidence that the EU has successfully reached out to and effectively involved different categories of Youth and related structures, ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable and discriminated youth groups (e.g. women, ethnic minorities, young people from rural/marginalised areas)</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In EU programmes aimed at enhancing youth engagement, enhanced efforts were made to be more inclusive and diverse at regional and EUD level. In Tunisia, most recent interventions focused on youth engagement, poor and vulnerable governorates were intentionally targeted, based on a regional multidimensional development indicators. In the IPA regions, only limited and mainly regional initiatives were found (e.g. ReLOAD project).</li> <li>However, evidence points to the existence of major barriers in many settings to reach out to broader set of actors and structures (beyond the usual suspects). These are linked to economic inequalities and exclusion, prevailing socio-cultural and religious norms/traditions or barriers related to youth competences and language.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (strong)</b></p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, DG NEAR, and implementing agencies.	Various documents (incl. Action documents, monitoring reports, annual reports, and evaluations). (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, CSOs and youth representatives and other actors (incl. National Youth Councils).	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<p><b>I-4.2.2 Evidence that the EU has consistently applied a youth-centred approach in its support programmes and promoted: i) the participation of diverse groups of youth (as citizens and right holders) in policy dialogue processes; ii) 'whole of government' approaches towards youth; as well as iii) capacity development initiatives towards the various duty bearers</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation found promising experiments in applying youth-centred approaches yet no systematic approach was found with much scope left for improvement in this area.</li> <li>Valuable efforts to ensure the participation of diverse groups of youth (e.g. the EaP EU4Youth program focused systematically on reaching out to vulnerable groups), yet these efforts did not take place across the board and often confronted major socio-economic, cultural, language and other barriers.</li> <li>Limited evidence of “whole of government approaches” towards youth at case study level.</li> <li>Case studies show enhanced attention towards the capacities of duty bearers on engaging with youth, but there are still incipient.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (strong)</b></p>			

<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies, and national authorities.	Various documents (incl. Action documents, monitoring reports, annual reports, and evaluations). (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, and youth representatives and other actors (incl. National Youth Councils).	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-4.2.3 Evidence that EU support has contributed to developing innovative approaches, mechanisms and tools to facilitate, where possible, a co-production and co-management of relevant youth policies and programmes between state authorities and youth organisations</b>		<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging promising experiments of co-production, yet too incipient to assess impact. The various forms of Youth Labs in EaP and in the Western Balkans have demonstrated to have a real potential, yet the challenge will be to keep the dialogue ongoing and translated into concrete changes. At national level, interesting experiences were noted in support programmes for youth in the tourist sector (Algeria) or at local level Palestine).</li> <li>The evaluation found no evidence of co-management schemes.</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (strong)</b>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies, and national authorities.	Various documents (incl. monitoring reports, annual reports, and evaluations). (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, CSOs and youth representatives and other actors (incl. National Youth Councils).	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II)	Not relevant for this indicator.


### 2.3.3 JC 4.2 – EU support fosters the establishment of policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks in the field of Youth at national level

<b>I-4.3.1 Evidence that EU has contributed to: i) the quality of youth policies; ii) the institutionalisation of good practices in terms of inclusive youth approaches; and iii) the establishment of owned national frameworks / standards for youth engagement</b>	<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of EU contributions to the quality of youth policies in some partner countries. This can take the form of supporting the formulation of a national policy on youth, new laws, reforms in certain critical sectors (e.g. VTET).</li> <li>Evidence of the use of good practices on youth policies – though none applied in a necessarily institutionalised manner.</li> <li>Governments made some progress – with support of the EU – towards owned national frameworks but they still have a very long way to go across the board. The main limitations are limited ownership, limited power and capacity of Ministry in charge of youth, prevailing administrative culture (top down), capacity constraints of key agencies, limited national budgets) and reluctance to genuinely empower youth b(particularly in authoritarian states).</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (strong)</b>				
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			

Document review		Interviews		Document review		Interviews		eSurvey		Inventory	
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).		Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies, and national authorities.		Various documents (incl. monitoring reports, annual reports, and evaluations). (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).		Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, CSOs and youth representatives and other actors (incl. National Youth Councils).		EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).		Not relevant for this indicator.	
<b>I-4.3.2 Evidence that the EU has contributed to: i) youth engagement in regional policy processes (beyond tokenism), including in cross-border peer-to-peer exchanges; ii) fostering a sense of belonging to a shared community and reducing tensions between neighbouring countries</b>				<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU support made valuable contributions to meaningful youth engagement in regional policy processes across the board.</li> <li>• There is still scope for refining the result-oriented nature of regional dialogue processes. In the Neighbourhood South, for instance, youth continue to be interested to exchange but there is also a certain “fatigue” creeping in as dialogue processes are too much ad hoc events without a clear follow-up in terms of actions that benefit young people.</li> <li>• Several EU-supported interventions have helped to foster a sense of belonging to a shared community. This is particularly the case in the Western Balkans with the RCC and RYCO programmes.</li> <li>• The evaluation noted a number of missed opportunities in some partner countries to work on regional sense of belonging.</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (strong)</b>							
				<b>Main sources of information</b>							
Case study level				Global analysis level							
Document review		Interviews		Document review		Interviews		eSurvey		Inventory	
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).		Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies, and national authorities.		Various documents (incl. monitoring reports, annual reports, and evaluations). (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).		Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, CSOs and youth representatives and other actors (incl. National Youth Councils).		EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).		Not relevant for this indicator.	
<b>I-4.3.3 Evidence that the youth of the regions/countries involved (in all its diversity) are better informed and empowered to engage in EU external action and influence EU policies and actions.</b>				<b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence from sampled interventions shows that targeted youth actors who participated in dialogue processes are better informed and empowered to engage in EU external action (e.g. policy dialogue, programming).</li> <li>• However, the engagement potential of youth is hampered by lack of structured and iterative dialogue opportunities.</li> <li>• Different forms of EU Ambassadors have been rolled out with relative success in terms of enhancing knowledge about Europe.</li> <li>• There is a risk of ‘elitist’ approaches in youth engagement which focus on highly educated/privileged young people.</li> <li>• Limited evidence was found on the youth’s ability to influence EU policies.</li> </ul> <b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b>							
				<b>Main sources of information</b>							
Case study level				Global analysis level							
Document review		Interviews		Document review		Interviews		eSurvey		Inventory	

Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies, and national authorities.	Mainly monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD Youth focal points, implementing agencies, CSOs and youth representatives and other actors (incl. National Youth Councils).	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
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## 2.4 EQ5 – Economic integration

<p><b>To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to achieving increased economic integration?</b></p> 
<p><b>Rationale of EQ:</b> This question covers youth employment, employability and entrepreneurship (including access to financial capital), digital skills, non-formal and informal learning (including skills), as well as how the EU support contributed to make the education and training systems relevant for labour market needs, including the new digital and green priority areas. Youth economic integration in decent work in partner countries (and in the EU itself) has been challenged not only by severe overall economic conditions and the difficulty to integrate large sections of the economy in the formal sector, but by (context-specific) political economy conditions including disincentives and flaws embedded in labour laws and labour market and social protection policies, “credentialism” and poor alignment of education systems with labour market needs, insufficient attention to TVET, and others. Exclusion of disadvantaged youth populations often strongly interacts with gender bias and other forms of discrimination (territorial, social, language). This EQ will examine the quality of EU implementation approaches in this domain (JC 5.1), including in terms of ensuring inclusivity (JC 5.2), the degree to which EU support has fostered ownership of youth economic integration efforts (JC 5.3) and the results achieved (JC 5.4).</p>
<p>This EQ consists of four Judgment Criteria (JC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>JC5.1:</b> EU supports Youth economic integration <b>by developing relevant and well-suited approaches for implementation.</b></li> <li>• <b>JC5.2:</b> EU support addresses issues related to the <b>economic integration of vulnerable and marginalised youth.</b></li> <li>• <b>JC5.3:</b> EU support increases <b>ownership</b> of economic integration efforts through improved <b>data and dialogue.</b></li> <li>• <b>JC5.4:</b> EU support contributes to improving economic integration of youth in a sustainable manner.</li> </ul>

### 2.4.1 JC5.1 – EU supports Youth economic integration by developing relevant and well-suited approaches for implementation

<p><b>I-5.1.1 Extent to which youth economic integration is treated in EU cooperation as a cross-cutting policy concern to be mainstreamed in national sector policies.</b></p>	<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic integration of youth has been a priority across the three regions. This is also reflected in the funding allocated to this sector.</li> <li>• The EU has combined dedicated youth schemes and efforts to push governments to adopt more coherent and integrated youth policies – though the latter has often proven a complex challenge due to limited political resistance, limited ownership and lack of capacities in partner countries.</li> <li>• There is solid triangulated evidence of relevant EU project contributions (at national and regional levels) to pressing youth issues such as employment, employability, entrepreneurship, digital skills, receiving an education linked to labour market needs, or youth mobility (in particular Erasmus+). For instance, the EU-Tunisia 2018-2020 Strategic Priorities (Decision 1/2018 of the EU-Tunisia Association Council) prioritised youth employment, mobility, education, and participation as major cross-cutting policy concerns with the “Partnership for Youth” Agenda. The</li> </ul>
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		<p>ILO LEP project also engaged in promotion of local partnerships in support to employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also including youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, on the side of the EU youth is seldom treated as a cross-cutting issue requiring a holistic approach and an effective mainstreaming (rather use of silo approaches).</li> <li>• The adoption of coherent and effective mainstreaming approaches has been hampered by lack of clear mandates, capacity constraints on how to do it and lack of sufficient funding.</li> <li>• Consultations with HQ and EUD staff show that divergent views exist on how to best address youth needs. For example, as a target group, a sector or a policy to be mainstreamed. EUD staff pleads strongly for integrated approaches as the way forward, also from an impact perspective. They argue that dedicated projects towards youth alone do not suffice and that programmes need to be embedded in overall policies (where youth is integrated like other societal groups).</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (strong)</b></p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers and national authorities.	Various documents incl. action documents, monitoring reports, and evaluations. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ and EUD staff.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	The mapping confirms the priority of this domain in EU spending.
<b>I-5.1.2 Extent to which Team Europe Initiatives, especially in critical areas such as Green Economy and Digital Transformation, include components promoting youth economic integration.</b>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Team Europe approach is widely recognised as a potential asset to enhance EU outreach and action capability on youth issues. In the four case studies no indication that TEIs are strategically used to directly target and foster youth economic integration.</li> <li>• However, there is limited evidence of a meaningful, direct integration of youth economic inclusion in existing TEIs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (strong)</b></p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews with EUD staff.	Various documents, incl. Action document and review of TEIs at country and national level (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ and EUD staff.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.

## 2.4.2 JC5.2 – EU support addresses issues related to the economic integration of vulnerable and marginalised youth

<p><b>I-5.2.1 Young people in the most vulnerable situations (i.e., youth from disadvantaged background and areas, displaced youth, youth with disabilities, youth from ethnic, linguistic, sexual, or religious minorities), especially girls and young women, targeted by EU actions.</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, there has been quite a consistent attempt to integrate vulnerable and marginalised groups in EU support to economic integration, including refugees.</li> <li>At country level, the case studies found that the EU dealt extensively with issue of the integration of vulnerable youth. For example, good practices were found in Türkiye regarding refugees' integration. In the Eastern Partnership region, the regional flagship EU4Youth also documented success stories in terms of outreach to vulnerable youth.</li> <li>However, case studies highlighted a mixed track-record in terms of effective outreach.</li> <li>Existence of different perceptions among EU stakeholders on the degree of inclusion. They recognised the potential of working at local level to ensure inclusivity and understood that this includes efforts to work outside the capitals.</li> <li>Good practices were found in EUDs reaching out to vulnerable youth. For example, in Palestine and Algeria.</li> <li>There was a recognition of structural obstacles in several contexts – due to deeply entrenched, intersected barriers to inclusion, as well as limitations in EU approaches and procedures.</li> <li>Partners and implementing agencies stressed the challenges encountered on the ground to implement inclusive approaches.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (medium)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers and national authorities.	Various documents incl. action documents, monitoring reports, and evaluations. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EU HQ, EUD Youth focal points, and implementing agencies.	– which displays varying perceptions on the degree and quality of inclusiveness.	Not relevant for this indicator.
<p><b>I-5.2.2 EU cooperation takes account of the potential of informal sector to provide meaningful employment opportunities while taking into account marginalisation in the form of precarity.</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are references in EU response strategies, particularly in the Neighbourhood South, to the critical importance of the informal sector and to the reality of precarity of youth.</li> <li>There is some evidence of attempts to reach out – with mixed success – to youth in the informal sector. For example, the Tunisia case study offers a good example of EU efforts to focus on youth in the informal sector (agriculture, services), however, the efforts palled to the needs.</li> <li>There is limited documented analyses and data on how this is done and with what effect.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: ● (low)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>



Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. EU response strategies, action documents, and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EU HQ, EUD Youth focal points, mainly from the Neighbourhood South.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II). Situation of precarity -linked to the informal sector- strongly stressed in Youth survey.	Not relevant for this indicator.
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### 2.4.3 JC5.3 – EU support increases ownership of economic integration efforts through improved data and dialogue

<p><b>I-5.3.1 The EU supports local and regional employment analyses, including data collection by government agencies, as well as value chain analysis with all the relevant actors (private sector, young persons, unions, etc.).</b></p>	<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU has increasingly supported data collection by governments and other agencies as a precondition for evidence-based policymaking and implementation. For example, the Tunisia case study shows the potential and limitations of budget support as a modality to push for evidence-based policies, multi-actor dialogues and reforms.</li> <li>• Evidence of EU efforts to promote multi-actor dialogues (using data) at both national and regional level. In some countries, the context is very challenging to do this, considering restrictions on civic space, reluctance of governments to dialogue (e.g. on education in Jordan, as conservative forces hold the reins or in Egypt where all youth participation is checked from a security perspective).</li> <li>• Evidence that these dialogue processes are still incipient, fragile, often of an ad hoc nature and lacking a structured follow-up.</li> <li>• Evidence of challenges encountered in ensuring a meaningful youth participation as well as a continuous engagement of relevant policymakers. As mentioned before, youth increasingly wants to see results coming out of dialogue processes and may disengage if this is not the case. The Anna Lindt Foundation has reviewed past support and has concluded that it must first invest more in truly preparing/empowering youth to engage meaningfully. The Youth Labs generally manage to convene key national officials for first meetings, but experience difficulties in some countries to ensure continued engagement over time.</li> <li>• Interviews with stakeholder confirm the importance of the country context, and the extent to which it is open to youth reforms, to the level of ownership at government level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> ● (medium)</p>				
	<b>Main sources of information</b>				
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUD youth focal points and programme managers.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.

<p><b>I-5.3.2 In order to address the needs of youth in economic integration, the EU supports effective dialogue and participation with young persons (especially disadvantaged); government at the national and local levels; national and local civil society; the private sector and labour unions.</b></p>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In recent years, the EU has invested more in dialogue processes involving young people on economic integration issues, particularly in the Western Balkans and Neighbourhood East region.</li> <li>• However, there is limited evidence that disadvantaged youth take part in such dialogues.</li> <li>• There is evidence of interesting and promising experiments with ‘Youth Labs’ in the Enlargement region, which brought together policymakers/state agencies and young people to discuss required reforms. The regional program EU4Youth in the EaP has invested in policy dialogue between policymakers and youth in the various partner countries with mixed level of success.</li> <li>• Still, there are significant challenges in institutionalising these dialogue processes and ensuring effective/result-oriented follow-up. These challenges are well highlighted in the interviews with youth and in the survey of youth stakeholders which note lack of follow-up and sustainability as key challenges to effective dialogue.</li> <li>• Interviews with regional stakeholders and implementing partners highlight additional challenges in organising policy dialogues, including i) the critical importance of having skilled process facilitators that include youth; and ii) the often critical views of participating youth in the dialogue processes (in terms of preparation, timely availability documents, facilitation of the dialogue, follow-up, etc.).</li> <li>• Limited evidence of involvement of the private sector and the unions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
<p>Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).</p>	<p>Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.</p>	<p>Various documents incl. action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).</p>	<p>Interviews with EUDs, implementing agencies, and youth actors.</p>	<p>EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II). See in particular survey Youth report with perceptions of various youth actors on relevance, quality and impact of dialogue processes and youth labs.</p>	<p>Not relevant for this indicator.</p>


#### 2.4.4 JC5.4 – EU support has contributed to improving the economic integration of youth in a sustainable manner

<p><b>I-5.4.1 EU support for labour market and social sector policy reforms bolsters employment incentives on both supply and demand sides of the labour market, and the integration from informal to formal sector.</b></p>	<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As mentioned before, both governments and EUDs generally do not adopt integrated approaches to youth economic integration in partner countries/regions. For various reasons, siloed approaches of a sectoral nature prevail (e.g. focusing on education or on employment schemes). This hampers the possibility to structurally bolster employment incentives or the integration from informal to formal sector.</li> </ul>			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of valuable EU efforts to push for coherent policy reforms, but still incipient and fragile in most partner countries. In Tunisia, the EU has engaged with the government on labour market reforms and support to local governance but could not assess the impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> ● (medium)</p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers and national authorities.	Various documents incl. EU response strategies, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with DG NEAR, HQ, EUDs, and implementing agencies.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-5.4.2 Education and TVET curricula and standards reformed with EU support have enhanced young people's skills and employability.</b>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of valuable EU efforts to education and TVET reforms yet still a long way to go in most partner countries. For example, in Georgia EU programmes were instrumental in the drafting of the VET strategy and supporting the implementation. However, insufficient time has passed to adequately assess the sustainability of the impact.</li> <li>Evidence of positive effects of EU supported programmes to enhanced youth skills and employability.</li> <li>Challenges of ensuring sustainability. For example, in Türkiye, despite EU efforts in this area, there was a notable absence of comprehensive aggregate data concerning the broader EU-wide contributions in the field of employment and entrepreneurship, limiting the ability to assess the impact or sustainability of interventions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> ● (medium)</p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project documentation, EAMRs, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers and national authorities.	Various documents incl. EU response strategies, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with DG NEAR, EUDs, implementing agencies, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-5.4.3 Evidence that the youth of the regions/countries involved (in all its diversity) are better informed and empowered to engage in EU external action and influence EU policies and actions.</b>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A wide range of dialogue processes at national, regional and EU level have sought to engage youth actors on economic integration challenges.</li> <li>Evidence of valuable effects resulting from these exchanges in terms of youth empowerment, networking, sharing experiences and good practices, formulating recommendations to policymakers.</li> <li>Still, the EU faced challenge to ensure sufficient levels of diversity (particularly in dialogue processes at regional/EU level) across the board.</li> <li>While there is evidence of youth actors being better informed about EU external action, it is more challenging to claim that youth have become more empowered to 'engage' in EU external action in a structured and influential</li> </ul>			

		<p>way. This is reflected in discussions with youth organisations and in the mixed views presented in the youth survey. In contrast, over 70% of EU stakeholders believed that youth could meaningfully participate and influence relevant policy processes.</p> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b></p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers and youth organisations.	Various documents incl. EU response strategies, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUD, EEAS, implementing agencies, and youth actors.	EU and Youth Survey reports. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-5.4.4 Evidence EU actions contributed to changes (increase or decrease) in youth emigration (both regular and irregular).</b>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence on this type of linkages between EU support to youth and effects on youth emigration.</li> <li>The issue of reducing emigration is recognised as a key concern in most EU response strategies, yet not further operationalised or monitored.</li> <li>All four country case studies found that youth migration and brain drain were linked to poor economic perspectives, amongst others. Similarly, the youth survey notes lack of access to economic opportunities as the most important challenge facing youth across the three regions. Yet there were no direct connections documented between EU support programmes and migration dynamics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (low)</b></p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. EU response strategies, at regional and national level. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ and EUD staff.	Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.

## 2.5 EQ6 – Social cohesion and inclusion

<p><b>To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to strengthening school retention and social inclusion and cohesion (including disadvantaged youth , youth from minorities and refugees / IDP youth)</b></p>	
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**Rationale of EQ:** This question assesses the extent to which EU implementation approaches and interventions contributed to fostering social cohesion and inclusion by improving youth access to education culture and health rights. It particularly focuses on the most vulnerable young women and men (including disadvantaged youth, youth with disability, youth from minorities and refugees and IDP youth), taking into account prevailing social norms and traditions in specific contexts. To this end, the EQ will subsequently assess EU's contributions to: i) school retention and prevention of drop-outs (JC 6.1); ii) the active involvement of youth in culture as actors/producers and consumers (JC 6.2); and iii) access to mental health and sexual and reproductive health services (JC 6.3). Furthermore, in order to promote the rights and empower young women and men, structured forms of dialogue on issues of discrimination, gender and social exclusion are key. This implies examining the extent to which the EU has managed to stimulate/facilitate the dialogue and engage different stakeholders on such issues in its programmes (JC 6.4).

This EQ consists of four Judgment Criteria (JC):

- **JC6.1:** EU supports school retention of youth and non-formal education by developing relevant and well-suited implementation approaches.
- **JC6.2:** EU support enhances the capacity of youth to be an actor and **producer of culture** and participate in intercultural dialogues.
- **JC6.3:** EU support contributes to access for youth mental health, sexual, reproductive rights and services.
- **JC6.4:** EU support contributes to expanding the space for inclusive dialogues on issues of discrimination, gender and social exclusion.

### 2.5.1 JC6.1 – EU supports school retention of youth and non-formal education by developing relevant and well-suited implementation approaches

<p>I-6.1.1 Extent to which policy, legislative and institutional framework addressing school retention issues were strengthened and are implemented to the benefit of the most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of different EU approaches and entry points were found in the domain of education and social cohesion.</li> <li>• In some partner countries, the EU has invested strategically and substantially in access to (non-formal) education (also for vulnerable groups such as refugees), achieving considerable influence. For example, in Türkiye, the EU's investments have proven effective in enhancing access to education and addressing the challenges faced by refugee children and youth, such as enrolment in the Turkish education system, retention and transition to employment. This was done, amongst others, through assistance frameworks such as the Facility for Refugees in Türkiye/FRIT, which included working with national institutions to introduce mechanisms and measures to engage with rights holders across different levels of education. Tunisia is another positive example of comprehensive EU support contributing to strengthening the education sector's institutional framework. Under the budget support d'appui à l'éducation, la mobilité, la recherche et l'innovation en Tunisie/EMORI programme, the EU influenced key institutional reforms (e.g. development of a pre-school year, revision of primary and secondary school curricula, training of teachers and administrators, development of technical and vocational training), including school retention.</li> <li>• Interesting (regional) initiatives have also been supported in the social inclusion and cohesion field, including through EU4Youth.</li> <li>• Evidence of valuable EU support regarding school retention (particularly in COVID times – in Tunisia), in other places it is not a priority and EU chose alternative entry points (gender equality).</li> <li>• Equally in this field, evidence of structural barriers to including vulnerable/marginalised youth, mainly linked to high levels of inequalities or socio-cultural norms/traditions (e.g. towards girls in some Neighbourhood South countries)</li> <li>• Progress in reforming policy, legislative and institutional frameworks was generally limited, reflecting a lack of ownership, institutional capacity constraints and often limited scope of EU engagement, funding and leverage.</li> <li>• The EU contributions to non-formal education through Erasmus+ yielded significant results – though challenges remain regarding youth mobility and access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (medium)</p>
	<b>Main sources of information</b>
<b>Case study level</b>	<b>Global analysis level</b>

Document review		Interviews		Document review		Interviews		eSurvey		Inventory	
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).		Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies and youth actors.		Various documents incl. EU response strategies, at regional and national level. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).		Interviews with HQ, EUD staff, and youth actors.		Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).		Not relevant for this indicator.	
<p><b>I-6.1.2 Extent to which policy and institutional frameworks at national/regional levels for non-formal education (and recognition of diplomas and competencies) have been strengthened and are implemented to the benefit of the most vulnerable groups.</b></p>				<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU implemented valuable programmes in several partner countries related to non-formal education.</li> <li>• Evidence of valuable contributions (to legislative reforms, standardisation of curricula or youth mobility) through these initiatives, especially with the Erasmus+, Horizon, and EU4Youth programmes playing important role.</li> <li>• However, there is limited evidence that this benefitted to the most vulnerable groups.</li> <li>• There is still a long way to go in many countries in terms of reforming relevant policy frameworks and institutional set-ups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b></p>							
				<b>Main sources of information</b>							
Case study level				Global analysis level							
Document review		Interviews		Document review		Interviews		eSurvey		Inventory	
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).		Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies and youth actors.		Various documents incl. EU response strategies, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).		Interviews with HQ, implementing agencies, and youth actors.		Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).		Not relevant for this indicator.	
<p><b>I-6.1.3 Evidence that the retention of the most vulnerable girls and boys (disadvantaged girls and boys, youth with disability, minorities and refugees) in schools has been addressed and dropouts have been reduced.</b></p>				<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is limited documented evidence available.</li> <li>• Case studies note some success stories in Türkiye (with refugee youth) and Tunisia.</li> <li>• However, the scope, level of EU engagement and available funding are not necessarily conducive to stimulating structural effects (e.g. in terms of reducing dropouts).</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)</b></p>							
				<b>Main sources of information</b>							
Case study level				Global analysis level							
Document review		Interviews		Document review		Interviews		eSurvey		Inventory	
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).		Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers and implementing agencies.		Various documents incl. EU response strategies, at regional and national level. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).		Interviews with HQ, EUDs, implementing agencies, and youth actors.		Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).		Not relevant for this indicator.	

## 2.5.2 JC6.2 – EU support enhances the capacity of youth to be an actor and producer of culture and participate in intercultural dialogues

<p><b>I-6.2.1 Extent to which EU support for cultural activities adopted a youth lens and contributed to empowering youth as actor and producer of culture.</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is wide recognition to the potential of culture as a vehicle for empowering youth at different levels.</li> <li>• There are numerous examples of valuable EU country level and regional programmes integrating youth as actors and producers of culture. For example, the Tunisia case study provides a quite comprehensive picture of the potential of culture as a vector for youth engagement.</li> <li>• However, the application of a youth lens in culture-related programmes is still limited as illustrated in the case studies. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, EU support to youth and culture was minimal. The country only recently integrated into the Creative Europe 2021-2027 programme, so its benefits will only be made possible going forward. In Georgia, EU funded actions that helped to empower young people, but it is difficult to assess whether the EU support for cultural activities adopted a youth lens. The most recent Technical Cooperation Facility/TCF evaluation in Georgia found that the Creative Europe projects have contributed to social cohesion. However, it also noted that the programme attracted the best and well-established Georgian institutions and CSOs, but has not been able to reach out to nascent and quickly growing (youth) organisations, which are often at the forefront of innovation. In the Neighbourhood East region, the programme EU4Culture sought to promote culture and creativity as an engine for economic growth /social development. The project, implemented by three cultural centres, faced major implementation challenges, including a lack of attention to gender issues, and the specific needs of youth.</li> <li>• On the whole, the M&amp;E systems of cultural programmes involving youth tend to report on activities, not on positive effects generated for youth empowerment.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (strong)</b></p>			
		<b><i>Main sources of information</i></b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing agencies, and youth actors.	Various documents incl. EU response strategies, action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with EUDs, implementing agencies, and youth actors.	Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<p><b>I-6.2.2 Extent to which EU support for culture was used effectively to promote cross-cutting goals including economic integration, empowerment, social cohesion (refugee integration), and peace and reconciliation (though inter-cultural dialogue).</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient data and analyses available to answer this indicator.</li> <li>• One example in Tunisia includes the promotion of cultural activities (in cinema, music, cultural leadership, etc.) through the Appui au renforcement du secteur culturel tunisien programme have contributed to cross-cutting goals, like youth engagement in public life by helping them create their own CSOs and developing networks with public actors at the local level.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (low)</b></p>			
		<b><i>Main sources of information</i></b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>

Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers and implementing agencies.	Various documents incl. action documents and monitoring reports. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	No relevant interviews for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.
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### 2.5.3 JC6.3 – EU support has contributed to promoting access for youth mental health, sexual, reproductive rights and services

<p><b>I-6.3.1 Extent to which policy and legislative framework protecting youth health, sexual, reproductive rights have been strengthened and are implemented.</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was limited evidence of EU involvement across the board in youth mental health and SRHR, with all case studies reporting a lack of direct EU engagement in these areas.</li> <li>In the Western Balkans, young people could set the agenda for policy topics to be given priority and mental health was selected a topic for a Youth Lab, which yielded valuable recommendations for policymakers.</li> <li>Engaging on the increasingly polarised issue of sexual health and reproductive rights has proven challenging (particularly in the Neighbourhood South) and explains limited EU engagement. For example, in Palestine, UNFPA possessed a good track record in dealing with diverse categories of youth on various issues, including SRHR. Yet they faced increasingly opposition and disinformation campaigns which limited their ability to push for such reforms (with support of EU).</li> <li>There is no evidence of changes in policy and legislative frameworks for SRHR as a result of EU interventions.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (strong)</b></p>			
		<b><i>Main sources of information</i></b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ and implementing agencies.	EU and Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<p><b>SI-6.3.2 Extent to which youth mental health, sexual, reproductive services were developed and accessed by vulnerable youth (refugees, women, LGBTQI, etc.).</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As mentioned above, there are no direct and significant EU interventions in these areas, therefore, this indicator cannot be answered.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (low)</b></p>			
		<b><i>Main sources of information</i></b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
No references found.	No relevant interviews for this indicator.	No references found.	No relevant interviews for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.



## 2.5.4 JC6.4 – EU support contributes to expanding the space for inclusive dialogues on issues of discrimination, gender and social exclusion

<p><b>I-6.4.1 Evidence that social norms, inequalities and gender stereotypes have been addressed and progress is made at regional/national/community level by engaging relevant local structures, schools, communities and the youth in dialogue on youth rights and inclusion.</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is scant evidence that the EU has contributed to expanding the space for inclusive dialogues on issues of discrimination, gender, social exclusion, and stereotypes.</li> <li>• Some valuable regional initiatives have been noted aimed at reducing exclusion and stereotypes. For example, Both the Bosnia case study and the regional study component report on the success story of the Western Balkans Schools exchange programme, bringing young people together to enhance awareness on discrimination and prejudices.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (strong)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Various documents (e.g., programming documents, project reports, ROMs, evaluations, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers, implementing partners, and youth actors.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EUDs, implementing agencies, and regional structures in the Western Balkans, and youth actors.	See reports EU and Youth survey	Not relevant for this indicator
<p><b>I-6.4.2 Evidence that the youth of the regions/countries, particularly women and vulnerable groups, are better informed, engage in educational and cultural activities and seek to influence EU policies and actions in these spheres.</b></p>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is limited evidence of EU engagement on these issues.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (low)</b></p>			
		<b>Main sources of information</b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
No references found.	No relevant interviews for this indicator.	No references found.	No relevant interviews for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.

## 2.6 EQ7 – Peace and security

To what extent has EU external action support in the Youth area contributed to strengthening peace and security?



**Rationale of EQ:** Over the past decade, the EU has increasingly recognised the positive role of young people in the construction of more peaceful and secure societies. In line with the 2015 UNSC Resolution 2250, major policy developments took place at EU level calling for a meaningful participation of youth in building lasting peace, contributing to justice and reconciliation and countering violent extremism. This EQ seeks to assess overall progress in translating these policy commitments into practice during the evaluation period. To this end, it will first examine to what extent the EU created space and suitable conditions for meaningful engagement of all youth -without distinction and discrimination- in core internal EU policy and institutional processes related to peace and security (JC 7.1). The next step is to focus on what the EU has concretely did in partner countries and regions towards youth and on positive effects induced. This means assessing the quality, coherence, effectiveness and impact of EU engagement strategies and direct support to youth in the area of peace and security (JC 7.2). Furthermore, experience clearly demonstrates the critical importance of addressing the root causes of the frustration, marginalisation and disengagement of youth. This calls for an analysis of how the EU sought to (indirectly) contribute to peace and security and youth empowerment by fostering democratic governance, the rule of law, the fight against corruption and the respect for human rights (JC 7.3).

This EQ consists of four Judgment Criteria (JC):

- **JC7.1:** EU adopts consistent and comprehensive **youth lens** in formulating peace and security priorities and strategies, programming processes, designing and implementing support programmes targeting youth.
- **JC7.2:** EU support empowers youth as **changemakers** in peace and security processes.
- **JC7.3:** EU support addresses the root causes of the **marginalisation, disengagement and migratory drive of youth**.

### 2.6.1 JC7.1 – EU adopts consistent and comprehensive youth lens in formulating peace and security priorities and strategies, programming processes, designing and implementing support programmes targeting youth

**I-7.1.1 Evidence that EU invested in data collection and relevant forms of analysis to understand youth realities in a given regional/national context and identify suitable response strategies.**

**Key evidence/specific findings:**

- There is evidence from the documents reviewed that the EU has invested in data collection analyses on evolving youth realities.
- However, there is less evidence that these sources of information/knowledge were used to develop suitable response strategies.
- Despite the existence of real challenges in partner countries, there is often a reluctance of EUDs to engage in peace and security, as well as to involve youth in the process.
- This limited engagement is linked to considerations of the complexity of the peace and security arena, the risks associated to intervene in this area, the lack of competences and capacities (compared to better positioned external players).

**Overall strength of the evidence base: • (medium)**

***Main sources of information***

Case study level		Global analysis level		
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey
				Inventory

Various documents (e.g., programming documents, EAMRs, other reporting) reviewed in the country and regional case studies. (See Volume III).	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-7.1.2 Evidence that the EU created space for an active and meaningful (upstream) involvement of young people, youth organisations and networks in defining EU external action agendas and priorities regarding peace and security.</b>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is very limited evidence of EU interventions related to upstream and structured youth involvement (except in generic dialogue events).</li> <li>• When interventions were implemented in this area, it was often difficult obtain documentation or reporting (e.g. Georgia, Syria).</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (low)</p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Limited documentation was identified for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-7.1.3 Evidence that the EU increasingly applies genuine youth-centred approaches in (downstream) programming processes and in the design/implementation and monitoring of support programmes in the field of peace and security, including by enhancing access to funding and putting in place suitable institutional arrangements to relate in a structured and continued way with youth (in EU Delegations and HQ).</b>		<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the whole, there has been limited EU action towards youth in this policy domain – despite the existence of many challenges across regions in terms of peacebuilding, justice, and reconciliation or countering violent extremism/radicalisation.</li> <li>• Limited evidence that youth centred approaches are followed in the few support programmes.</li> <li>• Very limited evidence of access to funding for youth in this area or opportunities for structured dialogue with EU.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (medium)</p>			
<b>Main sources of information</b>					
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Limited documentation was identified for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.

## 2.6.2 JC7.2 – EU support empowers youth as changemakers in peace and security processes

<b>I-7.2.1 Quality of EU implementation strategies and approaches to empower different categories of youth for engaging in peace and security processes, including through innovative forms of capacity development, networking or opportunities to participate in a structured</b>	<p><b>Key evidence/specific findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited evidence of solid interventions of the EU in this domain.</li> <li>• It is not possible to answer this indicator with the evidence available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall strength of the evidence base:</b> • (low)</p>
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and continued way in relevant dialogue platforms at national, regional, European and global levels.					
<i>Main sources of information</i>					
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Limited documentation was identified for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Not relevant for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-7.2.2 Evidence that the EU supports inclusive dialogue between youth and government at the national and local levels and the institutionalization of meaningful youth engagement in peace and security matters.</b>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No examples found of such EU efforts to promote multi-actor dialogues on peace and security matters.</li> <li>It is not possible to answer this indicator with the evidence available.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (low)</b></p>			
<i>Main sources of information</i>					
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Limited documentation was identified for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Not relevant for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-7.2.3 Evidence of positive contributions generated by EU support in terms of: i) conflict prevention; ii) peacebuilding; iii) countering violent extremism / radicalisation; and iv) responding to the challenges of women and young girls in fragile and conflicted countries.</b>		<p><b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only a few valuable EU interventions in the field of reconciliation were identified. For example, the good practice of the Western Balkans School Exchange programme.</li> <li>There were limited valuable EU interventions in the field of the fight against radicalisation. One example was found in Tunisia through the Ebni – Prévenir la radicalisation par l’insertion programme which supported young people leaving prisons (at risk of radicalisation) in five governorates. The intervention provided “life and values” sessions to the young people targeted and helped place them in professional training and internships.</li> <li>There was no evidence of programmes targeting women and young girls in fragile and conflict countries.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (low)</b></p>			
<i>Main sources of information</i>					
Case study level		Global analysis level			
Document review	Interviews	Document review	Interviews	eSurvey	Inventory
Limited documentation was identified for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Youth Survey report. (See Volume II).	Not relevant for this indicator.

### 2.6.3 JC7.3 – EU support addresses the root causes of the marginalisation, disengagement and migratory drive of youth

<b>I-7.3.1 Evidence that the EU systematically adopted a human rights-based approach in (sectoral) support programmes towards youth.</b>		<b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is difficult to assess whether and to what extent the EU has indirectly contributed to peace and security by systematically applying a human rights-based approach in (sectoral) support programmes towards youth.</li> <li>It is not possible to answer this indicator with the evidence available.</li> </ul> <b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (low)</b>			
		<b><i>Main sources of information</i></b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Limited documentation was identified for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Not relevant for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.
<b>I-7.3.2 Evidence that EU support to governance reforms, especially regarding the rule of law and the fight against corruption/impunity, have integrated a clear youth lens and contributed to addressing root causes of the marginalisation and disengagement of youth.</b>		<b><u>Key evidence/specific findings:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is difficult to assess whether and to what extent the EU has indirectly contributed to peace and security by systematically integrating a youth lens in its governance / rule of law support programmes (including on the fight against corruption) to address root causes of the marginalisation and disengagement of youth.</li> <li>It is not possible to answer this indicator with the evidence available.</li> </ul> <b><u>Overall strength of the evidence base:</u> • (low)</b>			
		<b><i>Main sources of information</i></b>			
<b>Case study level</b>		<b>Global analysis level</b>			
<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>Document review</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>eSurvey</b>	<b>Inventory</b>
Limited documentation was identified for this indicator.	Interviews carried out with EUD programme managers.	Various documents incl. response strategies and action documents. (See Bibliography Annex in Volume I).	Interviews with HQ, EEAS, and EUDs.	Not relevant for this indicator.	Not relevant for this indicator.

## 3 Policy framework

### 3.1 Introduction

While Youth was integrated into European Union (EU) internal policy at least as far back as 2002,<sup>1</sup> it has been a *latecomer* to the Development, Neighbourhood and Enlargement policy and in other partner regions. In the period 2000-2010, EU support was generally of an *ad hoc, project-related nature*. It was not *underpinned by a clear set of EU policies or sectoral strategies*. Typically, the flagship policy document of that time, the 2005 “*European Consensus on Development*”,<sup>2</sup> barely mentions youth. In that time, the topic of youth was largely considered as a topic to be addressed by sector-specific cooperation in education, technical and vocational education and training or small and medium sized enterprise/SME development,<sup>3</sup> culture or sports.

The development of a specific set of comprehensive and coherent EU policies towards youth would gradually take place in the next decade (2010-2020). A *mix of drivers*, operating at different levels and time scales, contributed to enhancing the profile, place and weight of youth in EU external action. These include: i) the growing realisation by the EU of the multi-faceted challenges confronting youth in partner countries and the potential cost of inaction (e.g. in terms of social cohesion, radicalisation, conflict, migration); ii) regional dynamics, particularly the Arab Spring, which put the needs of young people sharply on the radar; iii) evolving international policy frameworks (e.g. the Agenda 2030 and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the 2015 United Nations Security Council Resolution/UNSCR 2250 related to youth, peace and security); iv) new approaches *within* the Union towards youth (as reflected in the 2018 EU Youth Strategy and Youth Goals)<sup>4</sup> which would serve as a source of inspiration for evolving EU external action engagement strategies with youth; and v) more recently, the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis which particularly affected vulnerable groups, including youth, and the war in Ukraine.

In the last decade, it is also possible to observe *changes in EU perceptions and discourses* regarding youth. Traditional views associated youth with education, employment, and voluntarism and saw them primarily as beneficiaries. Other dominant perceptions, also to be found among other external agencies, tended to see youth as a problem group or risk factor (e.g. in terms of radicalisation). This often reduced the scope and focus of EU strategies and support provided. Over time, and in line with the abovementioned international policy developments, the EU discourse evolved. Youth was increasingly recognised as an asset, as an actor in its own right, as a driver of change in the construction of just and peaceful societies – to be empowered to meaningfully participate decision-making processes as well as in EU external action. The adoption of a “*youth-centred*” *approach* by the EU is fully reflected in the 2022 Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action, a direct result of the 2020 Council Conclusions on Youth in External Action.<sup>5</sup>

### 3.2 Global policy developments regarding youth

At global level it also took time before youth was considered as specific policy domain, requiring more sophisticated narratives, discourses, strategies, and approaches. The major *turning point* was the process leading to the adoption of *Agenda 2030* by the United Nations (UN) in September 2015. Reflecting changing perceptions on the role and potential of youth, the formulation process of the new agenda (due to replace the Millennium scheme which had no specific and elaborated youth focus) actively involved young people from across the globe.<sup>6</sup> The resulting universal agenda is embodied in 17 SDGs and 169 targets that are integrated and indivisible. It recognises that inequality has widened in many instances, with substantial numbers of people including youth, being excluded from full participation in economic, political, and social life. The central principle of “*leaving no one behind*” underlines the fact that the Agenda 2030 will not be a success unless it is based on inclusiveness and shared prosperity, particularly for young people from groups considered vulnerable or

<sup>1</sup> EU (2002): Framework of European cooperation in the youth field, Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments. 27 June 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the Member States meeting with the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission (2005): European Development Policy: The European Consensus, (2006/C46/01).

<sup>3</sup> In the EU Treaties, youth is mentioned mostly in relation to education (Art. 165) and the free movement of workers (Art. 47).

<sup>4</sup> European Commission (2018): Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy, Brussels, 22.5.2018.

<sup>5</sup> European Commission (2022): Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022-2027. Promoting meaningful youth participation and empowerment in EU external action for sustainable development, equality and peace, Strasbourg, 4.10.2022, JOIN (2022) 53 final.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations (n.d.): Youth and the Agenda 230 for Sustainable Development, World Youth Report.

marginalised. The pledges made by the international community stress the need to ensure that youth are included in all aspects of the agenda.

Another key global milestone is the related *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, adopted in July 2015, to provide a global framework for financing the implementation of the SDGs. In its opening paragraphs, the Action Agenda acknowledges the necessity of investing in youth: “*We recognise that investing in children and youth is critical to achieving inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development for present and future generations, and we recognise the need to support countries that face particular challenges to make the requisite investments in this area*”.<sup>7</sup> These global policy developments, to which the EU actively contributed, would soon find their translation in the EU policy frameworks regarding youth, particularly the new European Consensus on Development (2017). Contrary to its predecessor, this document fully aligns EU development policy with the youth approach of the Agenda 2030, emphasising their role as agents of change and development, requiring mainstreamed support across sectors (see section 3.3 below for more details).

At thematic level, an important global policy development impact on EU external action approaches towards youth, is the 2015 *UN Security Council Resolution/UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security*.<sup>8</sup> It is the first document of its kind to recognise the positive role young people play in the field of peace and security by engaging in conflict prevention and building peace in their communities. The Resolution outlines the responsibility of European Member States (EU MS) and other actors and regional and international levels to increase their political, financial, and technical support to promote the needs and participation of youth in peace efforts, in conflict and post-conflict settings. On the basis of this, the EU has committed itself to fully supporting this youth-peace-security agenda through various means (such as high-level dialogues, coherent programming).<sup>9</sup>

Other global policy developments (at UN or in other multilateral fora) that influenced EU policy formulation towards youth will be tracked during the desk phase (e.g. the degree of influence exercised by UN processes regarding the rights of children or on gender, relevant Conventions of the International Labor Organisation/ILO, etc.).

### 3.3 The EU external and internal action policy framework

As mentioned above, the elaboration of comprehensive and coherent EU policy frameworks regarding youth in development cooperation and external action was a slow and gradual process. Based on the documentary analysis of EU policy developments in the period covered by the evaluation (2010-2022), one might roughly detect three “*phases*” in terms of the political importance given to the topic and the existence / quality of overall EU policies on youth. The categorisation is not watertight, yet it helps to capture evolving EU engagement strategies and approaches.

In a *first phase* (2010-2015), the EU’s policy focus on youth is quite limited. Core EU policy documents do not include a clear narrative on the political importance of youth and their potential as development actors and right-holders. There are no landmark Communications clarifying the rationale and objectives to be pursued when engaging with or supporting youth. Generic EU policy documents at best refer to the importance of including youth in specific sectors of intervention (generally employment and education). A case in point is the EU’s 2011 “Agenda for Change”.<sup>10</sup> It acknowledged that the then prevailing people-led movements in North Africa and the Middle East were strongly pushed by young people in search of dignity and social justice. It stressed that it is “*critical for societies to offer a future to young people*”. Yet the implications of this political concern are not spelled out in the Agenda for Change beyond generic principles such as the need for “*inclusive*” approaches. The specific youth challenges linked to the proposed focal areas for future EU support (such as social protection, health and education, the development of a local private sector or addressing state fragility), all highly relevant for young people, are also not elaborated in the policy document.

In this first phase (2010-2015) the issue of youth will get some higher political prominence in the Neighbourhood South region following the Arab Spring. Several EU Communications are produced in 2011 that emphasise the need to integrate the pressing youth challenges into EU external action and development cooperation strategies (see below in section 3.4 for more details). They lead to changes in new programming approaches that seek to reach out to young people (through civil society facilities or culture). Yet they do not trigger a wider rethinking of overall EU external action policies towards youth or in the Neighbourhood East region and the Western Balkans.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations (2015): General Assembly, para. 7.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations (2015): Security Council, Resolution, S/RES/2250.

<sup>9</sup> For an overview of this UN process and the subsequent EU alignment to this agenda, see: United Nations of Young Peacebuilders (2019): Mapping the progress of Youth, Peace and Security in the EU, The Hague.

<sup>10</sup> European Commission (2011): Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy. An Agenda for Change. Brussels, 13.10.2011, COM (2011) 637 final.

The *second phase* could be seen to encompass the period 2015-2018. It marks the beginning of a much more sophisticated approach to engaging with youth. It is triggered by global policy development such as the Agenda 2030 (see above, section 3.2 and a growing uptake of these new discourses (such as the youth-centred approach) by the EU. The most interesting example is probably the 2017 *New Consensus on Development*.<sup>11</sup> It epitomises the policy shift regarding youth – compared to its predecessor of 2005. Youth is no longer a marginal issue (as a component of specific sector policies or a target group for support alongside many others). The document spells out a new narrative, recognises the urgency to act and defines a comprehensive and integrated set of EU commitments (see Box 1).

Box 1 The New Consensus on Development – a paradigm shift in EU approaches to Youth

**The policy shift in EU approaches to youth in external action is reflected in the following excerpts of the new Consensus:**

- “Young people are agents of development and change and, as such, are an essential contribution to the Agenda 2030, including their ability to innovate. Neglecting their education, employment, social and political needs, will undermine the achievement of the SDGs and leave them vulnerable to crime and radicalisation, particularly in situations of conflict”.
- “EU and Member States will focus on concrete actions to meet the specific needs of youth, particularly young women and girls by increasing the quality of employment and entrepreneurship supported by policies in education, vocational training, skills development and access to digital technologies and services”.
- “EU and Member States will aim to strengthen the rights of young people and their empowerment in the conduct of public affairs, including by promoting their participation in the local economy/society and decision-making, notably through youth organisations”.

In this core EU document, the main objectives towards youth are clearly announced in terms of respecting and mobilising as agents and changemakers, adopting a rights-based approach, empowering youth to participate in decision-making processes and mainstreaming their integrations across sectors (all issues that will be covered in the eight evaluation questions that will be addressed in the current evaluation).

This comprehensive and coherent EU approach towards youth, as reflected in the new Consensus, goes further than the 2016 landmark policy document advancing the EU's Global Strategy for external action<sup>12</sup> which contains only generic commitments to deepen work with youth in specific sectors or to include them as a target group in EU support related to state and societal resilience.

In our categorisation, a *third phase* in terms of EU engagement with Youth, runs from 2018 to our days. It could be characterised by a genuine *acceleration* of EU policy developments on the role of youth in EU external action, largely inspired by concomitant evolutions of EU approaches towards youth *within the Union* and the “Year of the Youth” (2022). This intertwining of internal and external dynamics regarding EU approaches towards Youth is highly visible in the adoption of respectively:

- *A Youth Strategy* for engaging, connecting and empowering young people within the Union in 2018.<sup>13</sup>
- *A YAP in EU external action 2022-2027*<sup>14</sup> calling for a “*strategic partnership with young people*” for the present, securing the future of next generations and contributing to intergenerational equity. It is largely built on the same narrative, overarching objectives (i.e. to engage, connect, and empower youth) and (four) key principles in building a strategic partnership with youth (i.e. a human rights-based approach and gender equality; a participatory approach for transformative change; youth inclusion; and evidence-based policy making and accountability). The YAP is based on the fundamental values laid down in Article 2 of the Treaty of the EU as well as different other existing EU strategies pertaining to the rights of the child, the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (that stresses the need for equal, full and meaningful participation of young people in public and political life), the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- The related *Council Conclusions*<sup>15</sup> stressed the need “...to devise, where appropriate, a coherent and comprehensive approach to youth in external action, one which seeks greater complementarity among all the relevant policies, programmes and instruments, and which ensures that youth is

11 European Commission (2017): The new European Consensus on Development. Our world, our dignity, our future. Joint statement

12 European Union (2016): Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe. A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, Brussels, 14 November 2016, 14392/16.

13 European Commission (2018): Engaging, Connecting and Empowering Young People: a new EU Strategy, Communication.

14 European Commission (2022): Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022-2027. Promoting meaningful youth participation and empowerment in EU external action for sustainable development, equality and peace,

15 Council of the European Union (2020): Youth in external action – Council conclusions, 5 June 2020, Annex 8629/20.



*meaningfully involved in shaping EU policies and actions [...] The Council further invites [...] to devise an action plan and to develop adequate toolkits to ensure that EU's external action contributes to the meaningful global engagement of youth at all levels in all regions”.*

The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument/NDICI Regulation (2021) does not contain many references to youth, but clearly affirms in the section on “*General Principles*” that the EU should pay particular attention of “*the empowerment of youth*”.<sup>16</sup>

### 3.4 Regional EU frameworks

Youth issues were highlighted in the revised (2015) European Neighbourhood Policy/ENP, as well as in the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). Some of the relevant priorities in this regard would be institutional cooperation and capacity development, including for the implementation of Union agreements; sustainable and inclusive economic development; development of social sectors, in particular for youth, with a focus on social justice, cohesion, and employment; support to small and medium sized enterprise/SME, employment and implementation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas/DCFTAs; and education and skills development.

Looking more specifically at the regional frameworks, the following elements are worth mentioning at this stage of the evaluation process.

#### 3.4.1 Neighbourhood East region

With regard to the Eastern Partnerships, the 2011 Communication *A new response to a changing Neighbourhood* contains some generic references to investing in youth education and exchanges. A key document is the “*20 Deliverables for 2020*”, which includes Priority IV, calling the EU to “*support for and empowering of the young generation, particularly in terms of developing their skills, civic engagement and fostering their employability*” (p.43). This fuelled important evolutions in terms of youth policy in the Eastern Partnership countries<sup>17</sup> (which will be further explored in the desk phase). The Neighbourhood East region beyond 2020 puts forward five core goals and youth is not explicitly mentioned in these.

Other important policy developments include the recommendations provided to the EU and national authorities by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Neighbourhood East region Youth Summit (Warsaw), which re-iterated the need to treat young people as active, critical, and responsible citizens and to build their entrepreneurship spirit and capacities, so that they are empowered to take the future into own hands.<sup>18</sup>

#### 3.4.2 Neighbourhood South region

The Arab Spring of 2011 propelled youth more forcefully onto the radar of EU development cooperation and external action. Several core Communications were issued between 2011 and 2021, illustrating the gradual maturation and sophistication of EU approaches towards youth (see Table 1). The two Communications issues soon after the start of the Arab Spring are all about promoting democratic, peaceful, inclusive and equitable societies, there is scant specific attention to youth (beyond education and people-to-people contact). The most recent Communication on the Neighbourhood South region from 2021<sup>19</sup> reflects well the political prominence youth has formally acquired in EU external action. In a dedicated section called “*Empowered Youth*”, the EU stresses that “*investing in young people should be at the heart of our cooperation*” as the “*empowerment, participation and involvement of young people as agents of change*” is key for achieving the SDGs.

Table 1 Youth in core EU policy documents from 2011 onwards

<b>Core EU Policy Documents impacting on Youth (2011- 2021)</b>	<b>Commitments to EU engagement with Youth</b>
2011 – Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Mediterranean <sup>20</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger partnership with people, particularly youth through exchanges and people-to-people contacts.</li> <li>• Enhanced access to the European Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (Erasmus) Mundus and Tempus.</li> <li>• Euromed Youth.</li> </ul>

<sup>16</sup> European Union (2021): NDICI Regulation, 14 June 2021. Article 8, par. 3.

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland and FRSE (2018): Youth Policy in Eastern Partnership Countries. Overview of youth policy in Eastern Partnership Countries and its European support mechanisms, Warsaw 2018.

<sup>18</sup> Eastern Partnership Youth Forum (2017): Recommendations.

<sup>19</sup> European Commission (2021): Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood A new Agenda for the Mediterranean. Communication. Brussels.

<sup>20</sup> European Commission (2011): Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Mediterranean.

Core EU Policy Documents impacting on Youth (2011- 2021)	Commitments to EU engagement with Youth
2011 – A new response to a changing Neighbourhood (East and South) <sup>21</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational education and training.</li> <li>• Limited explicit focus on youth, yet implicitly included in engagement strategies and support schemes for civil society (e.g. Civil Society Facility/CSF).</li> <li>• Enhanced access to Erasmus Mundus and Tempus.</li> <li>• Youth mobility (Youth in Action).</li> </ul>
2021 – Renewed partnership with the Neighbourhood South region: A new Agenda for the Mediterranean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigate impact COVID-19 crisis on vulnerable people, including youth.</li> <li>• Mainstreaming of youth in national policies.</li> <li>• Help partners improve their education system governance.</li> <li>• Give priority to structural causes for drop-outs, skills mismatches, lack of opportunities, brain drain.</li> <li>• Foster effective coordination and partnerships across policy fields.</li> <li>• Support to integrated approaches and capacities of relevant ministries related to not in Employment, Education or Trainings/NEETs.</li> <li>• Economic empowerment of young people.</li> <li>• Strengthen the role of youth in peacebuilding and promote the Youth-Peace-Security agenda at global level.</li> <li>• People-to-people contacts.</li> <li>• Enhanced access to Erasmus+ and Creative Europe.</li> </ul>

### 3.4.3 Enlargement Region: Western Balkans and Türkiye

From the Thessaloniki European Council in 2003, the accession dynamics linked to the European integration of the Western Balkans, has contributed to stimulate political, social and economic reforms, including the formulation of national youth strategies and sectoral policies over time – which in turn impacted on pushing forward regional agendas around shared challenges.

In 2018, the European Commission (EC) adopted a Communication titled “*A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans*”.<sup>22</sup> It calls the countries of the region to accelerate and deepen the required fundamental reforms by linked to the *acquis*, as well as to “*invest more in their younger generations, our future European citizens and give them a perspective for the future, not the past*”. The proposed Regulation for instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) -III prioritised investment in youth, education and skills for cross-border cooperation. The 2018 EU-Western Balkans Summit of May 2018 parties equally agreed to place special emphasis on creating further opportunities for youth.

Two other political processes are relevant for youth engagement strategies. *First*, the Berlin Process, initiated in 2014, to boost regional cooperation among Western Balkan countries in the context of European integration. This framework, supported by the EC, European Financial Institutions/IFIs and seven EU MS, has amongst others contributed to creating youth policies through meetings of the representatives of regional civil society organisations<sup>23</sup> and youth organisations. A case in point is the Action Plan for youth work and youth policy, formulated at the 2016 Europe-Western Balkans Youth Meeting in Ljubljana.<sup>24</sup> The Berlin Process also fuelled intergovernmental cooperation through the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), an independent institutional mechanism aimed to promote reconciliation and cooperation between the youth of the region through youth exchanges. A *second* framework is the South-East European Cooperation Council/SEECP put in place to foster regional cooperation between thirteen countries of Southeast Europe. Within this structure, a Regional Cooperation Council/RCC, launched in 2008, strives to maintain a climate of dialogue, reconciliation, tolerance, and openness towards regional cooperation. In its 2020-2022 strategy, a firm commitment is made to supporting youth policies and the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes. This builds on ongoing work of the Regional Cooperation Council/RCC, including the implementation of the Western Balkans Youth Lab under the IPA Multi-country Action Programme for 2019.

<sup>21</sup> European Commission (2011): A new response to a changing Neighbourhood. Communication.

<sup>22</sup> European Commission (2018): A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans. Strasbourg, 6.2. 2018.

<sup>23</sup> Such as the Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkan Summit Series

<sup>24</sup> Europe-Western Balkans Youth Meeting (2016): Connecting Youth Work and Youth Policy: Action Plan for Youth Work and Youth Policy, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 25-28 September 2016.

## 4 Intervention Logic

### 4.1 Approach to the reconstruction of the Intervention Logic

Ideally strategic evaluations are based on a solid “Theory of Change” (ToC) and underlying assumptions, which correspond to the Intervention Logic (IL) for EU support in a given domain. The “(re)constructed” IL (see section 4.2) can then function as a conceptual model of the causal chain of effects from inputs to outputs, outcomes and impacts (chain of expected results) that the EU is judged to have had in mind while planning and implementing its external actions. In the case of the present youth evaluation, this poses a **number of specific challenges**.

*First*, as can be seen from the above review of EU policies on youth, the most important and substantial policy frameworks and strategies towards youth in external action were only recently elaborated. In the period 2014-2021 (covered by this evaluation), EU policies towards youth were quite basic and often limited to stressing the importance of youth, formulating generic principles for engagement, and indicating priority areas for support. There was much less focus on fundamental objectives pursued or explicit mentioning of the need to adopt genuine youth-centred approaches based on their empowerment as right-holders and agents of change. All this means that it is quite **difficult to reconstruct a ToC and related IL for the full period 2014-2021** that can be meaningfully and coherently applied in a retrospective manner. In order to deal with this conundrum, it is proposed to integrate in the IL strategic policy choices of the EU (such as the empowerment of youth as central objective) even if these were only recently formulated in EU policy frameworks. When assessing earlier EU interventions (e.g. in the period 2010-2015), the evaluation lens will be adapted to take account of the then prevailing policy frameworks.

*Second*, in the specific area of youth, non-spending activities of the EU, primarily geared at fostering various forms of dialogue between and with youth, occupy a prominent place. These soft investments are (explicitly or implicitly) expected to yield important benefits such as trust between governments and youth actors, the establishment of structured dialogue opportunities allowing for meaningful voice and participation of youth, the formulation (or even co-creation) of genuinely owned national or regional policy frameworks towards youth as well as the institutionalization of good practices (e.g. in terms of co-creation of relevant policies). These dimensions and potential positive effects have to be integrated in the IL – while taking into account context-specific dynamics (e.g. different degrees of partner country commitment to empowering youth).

*Third*, the youth agenda is of a multidimensional nature,<sup>25</sup> encompassing interlinked sectors of intervention (e.g. the nexus between employability and education) that ideally are addressed in an integrated manner.

*Fourth*, while the countries covered in this evaluation share common challenges in terms of fully tapping the potential of youth, the IL (and resulting evaluation matrix) needs to recognise regional specificities as well as regional differences in EU partnership frameworks and engagement strategies (e.g. the existence of accession dynamics and incentives in the Western Balkans).

Building on these challenges, the IL shown in the following figure provides an understanding of how EU support to youth was expected to lead to certain outputs, outcomes and, ultimately, progress towards the actual objectives in the form of impacts. It is important to note that the IL below presents common or “global” impacts, outcomes and outputs, and that in reality these can vary according to the periods evaluated and different country contexts.

The results chains that underpin the IL are based on a set of *general assumptions*:

- Contextual factors: the global, regional, and national contexts will, if not enable, at least not prevent progress from being made at the various levels of the ToC and real-world events always modify an original logic since such events are near-unpredictable.<sup>26</sup>
- National and local stakeholders’ commitments: national stakeholders in partner countries (including national and local authorities) are willing to open-up space for meaningful youth participation, establish relevant structures and allocate the necessary resources to turn commitments on youth into reality.
- The political and institutional landscape remains stable.
- Opportunities exist to adopt inclusive approaches by also reaching out and involving marginalised/vulnerable young people.

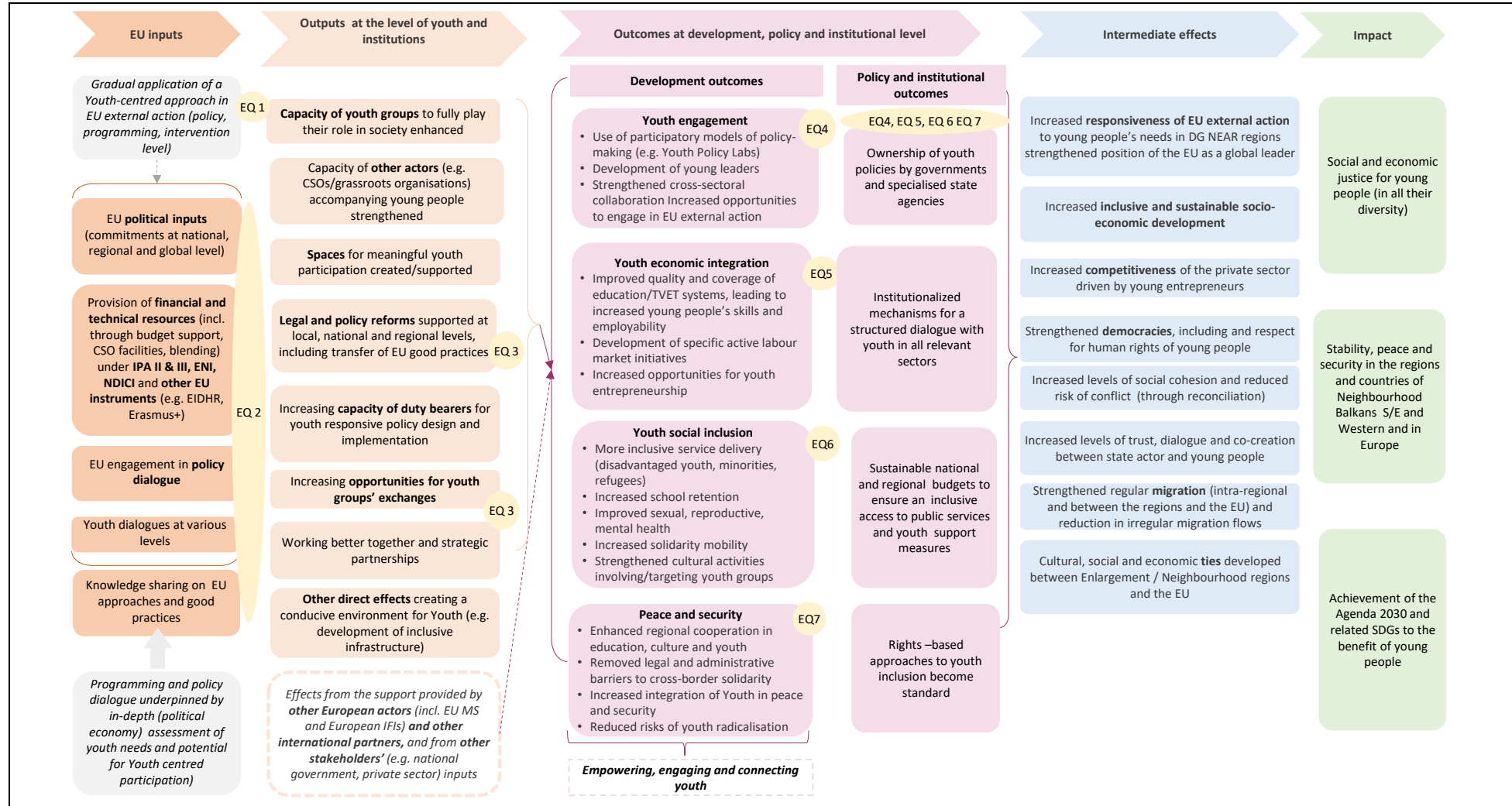
<sup>25</sup> Though there is also a growing field of “youth agenda” proper, linked also to work of Council of Europe, relevant at least for Western Balkan and partially Neighbourhood East region. Jugend für Europa (n.D.): Putting the European youth work agenda into action.

<sup>26</sup> Relevant examples for this evaluation include the COVID-19 crisis and resulting impact on youth (which led EUDs to revise programming and invest in rapid crisis responses) or the implications of the Russian war against Ukraine (which amongst others led to a further isolation of Belarus in the Neighbourhood East region framework).

- EU external action: enhanced EU ambitions regarding youth are implemented with reasonable quality, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence.
- Other assumptions regarding the EU include: i) adequacy and fitness for purpose of the EU External Financing Instruments, aid modalities and procedures; ii) an EU institutional landscape sufficiently conducive for the implementation of the planned action; iii) scope to share relevant knowledge on EU policies and practices towards youth with partner countries/regions; iv) existence of high-level EU political commitment to integrate youth in a structured and meaningful manner into EU external action.

## 4.2 The different levels of the reconstructed intervention logic

Figure 1 Reconstructed intervention logic



## 5 Quantitative overview of interventions

### 5.1 Methodology

#### 5.1.1 General approach

The mapping (“inventory”) of EU support for Youth, which builds on an enumeration of spending and non-spending actions, provides a key step in establishing a financial, thematic, and geographic understanding of the key features of the EU’s portfolio and its development over time. This understanding informed the development of the ToC, the analytical framework of the evaluation, as well as the case study selection.

For the purposes of this evaluation, “mapping” refers to the process of: i) understanding what is part of EU targeted support to Youth action (based on the typology developed below); and ii) identifying all other interventions that may be relevant for the analysis to be carried out by the evaluation team (including spending and non-spending activities, the latter being primarily related to policy and political dialogue).

The mapping provides an overview of the instruments, implementation modalities and partners mobilised, together with the associated budgets involved. Thematically, it presents an overview of the sectors/areas in which the EU has provided support and their relative importance in terms of the number of actions and their related budgets. Geographically, the mapping informs us about the distribution of EU support in the Directorate General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) regions. These categorisations help to structure data collection and provide quantitative evidence which can contribute to addressing some of the evaluation questions – e.g. by showing the relevance or relative importance of Youth actions in different context or sectors.

The development of the inventory followed four steps. First, we developed a preliminary inventory based on data at contract and decision level extracted from the EU Statistical Dashboard. Text search was used to various fields of the database (e.g. decision title, beneficiary zone, implementing partners, instruments) to identify interventions in or out of scope. Second, we refined the inventory using other sources (e.g. past case studies, key informant interviews, recent evaluations, and reports available online) where key youth interventions are mentioned. Third, the team confirmed that no major interventions are missing through validation with the Inter-steering Group/ISG and other interviews. Finally, the team conducted an analysis of the portfolio at global and case study level using a detailed standard typology.

For this exercise, the team drew on five main sources:

1. *Common External Relations Information System/CRIS* (lists of decisions/contracts with all relevant entries in the database), including the statistical dashboard.
2. EU *strategy and programming documents*, especially Multiannual Indicative Programmes/MIPs and Annual Action Programmes/AAP.
3. *Scoping interviews with key informants*, especially EU staff based in Brussels and selected European Union Delegations (EUD).
4. *Other sources*: intervention databases shared by EU staff, previous/ongoing thematically related EU evaluations, EU-funded interventions’ project documentation and internal reporting (e.g. External Assistance Management Reports).
5. *EU staff at the headquarter (HQ) and at EUD* including youth focal points, or focal points in the four sectors relevant this evaluation at HQ, regional and EUD level.

The team applied an *open and iterative approach* to this exercise, constantly developing the mapping and typology of actions as the understanding of the portfolio deepens through discussions with key informants and the documentary review. This is important since “Youth” as an intervention area is relatively new and cross-cutting in nature – meaning that no clear definition of what targeted, significant, and mainstreamed interventions exist, and no institutionalised markers were developed. The case studies constituted an essential opportunity to refine the analysis further and develop a full mapping of the different approaches to youth support in a specific context. Analysis at case study level filled in the gaps from the global analysis and illustrate the different levels at which youth are targeted in the DG NEAR area.

#### 5.1.2 Approach to preliminary analysis

The team has developed a *preliminary inventory* with the main objective to identify the main (“flagship”) youth targeted interventions implemented in the DG NEAR area, as well as develop an understanding of other types of EU programming which partially or directly target youth.

As a first step, the team developed a typology based on three broad categories and summarised in Table 2:

1. **Targeted:** EU interventions where youth are the primary target or support to sectors where youth are the primary group benefiting from the action (including Vocational Education and Training (VET)/higher education, Erasmus+ Youth (before Youth in Action under Sokrates), youth mobility).
2. **Significant component:** EU support where youth is one of the main beneficiaries, but not exclusively (programmes supporting civil society engagement and dialogue initiatives, culture, education, social inclusion and cohesion, reconciliation, employability).
3. **Other mainstreamed:** interventions in sectors relevant to youth (economic support programmes, large education facilities, democratic participation) – i.e. where youth is one of the indirect beneficiaries or where it can be expected that their interest has been mainstreamed.

Second, the team worked on identifying the *main targeted actions* for youth in EU External Action within scope. In doing so, the team relied on key programming documents, the ToR and key word search – for example looking for “Youth” (or young, jeunesse, labs, etc.). This entailed employing different level of analysis based on: i) instrument; and ii) decision. For thematic instruments the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights/EIDHR, the level of analysis was the contract title, while for geographic instruments (IPA, ENI, Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument/NDICI-Geo), the analysis was conducted at decision level. These interventions were coded as targeted (1A). Additionally, the team identified a second layer of targeted actions at programme or contract level within large facilities (e.g. civil society), global geographic allocations, cross-border cooperation programmes and Annual Action Programmes/AAP. Those interventions were coded as targeted (1B).

Once this step was completed, the team started to identify “youth” interventions at contract level as a means to find larger programmes with *a significant youth component*. These interventions were marked as significant (2). Finally, using sector search and key words relating to the areas in scope, the team identified some examples for interventions which benefit youth indirectly or where we would expect *youth interests to be mainstreamed* (3). Overall, the exercise aims to map all targeted interventions (1A and 1B), a large proportion of significant interventions, and limited examples of non-targeted support.

Table 2 Typology of Youth Actions

Type of support	Definition	Relevant sectors	Examples
Primary targeted (1A)	Interventions which exclusively target youth or youth specific sectors (usually decision level)	Higher Education VET Skills for employment Exchange and mobility Youth engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme d'appui à l'éducation, la mobilité, la recherche et l'innovation en Tunisie/EMORI.</li> <li>• EU4Youth (ENI E and Tunisia).</li> <li>• Palestinian Youth Empowerment Programme.</li> <li>• Employment and Vocational Education and Training in Belarus.</li> <li>• Programme d'Appui Formation-Emploi-Qualifications/AFEQ.</li> <li>• Provision of Higher Education to Syrian youth affected by the crisis in Syria and in Jordan.</li> </ul>
Secondary targeted (1B)	Contracts (standalone component or grants) within large facilities	Same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise Development &amp; Innovation Facility/EDIF Guarantee Facility on Youth Employment Cross-border Institution Building/CBIB+.</li> <li>• Western Balkans and Türkiye for Employment of Youth (EmptoYouth) in Civil Society Facility/CSF and media Albania.</li> <li>• Young Cell Scheme in Annual Programme for Kosovo 2014.</li> </ul>
Significant component	Interventions (usually decision level) with a significant youth component but also target other groups	Culture Education Entrepreneurship Civil society Dialogue and democratic participation Mental Health Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme d'appui à l'éducation, la mobilité, la recherche et l'innovation en Tunisie/EMORI.</li> <li>• EU4Skills: Better Skills for Modern Ukraine.</li> <li>• Skills4Jobs Georgia.</li> <li>• Support to Education and VET in Jordan.</li> <li>• Middle East Peace Process/MEPP EU Peace-building Initiative.</li> <li>• Egalite (Moussawat) programme in Morocco.</li> <li>• Programme to strengthen resilience and prepare for recovery in Syria.</li> <li>• EU for Inclusion in North Macedonia.</li> </ul>

Type of support	Definition	Relevant sectors	Examples
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Measure under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.</li> </ul>
Other mainstreamed	Large interventions which may contain some youth components or support sectors which indirectly benefit youth		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive Economic Development and Job Creation in the Neighbourhood South region.</li> <li>EU Trust Fund for Africa.</li> <li>Support to independent media in the Neighbourhood South region through the European Endowment for Democracy/EED.</li> <li>Special Measure on Education, Health, Municipal Infrastructure and Socio-economic Support to Refugees in Turkey.</li> </ul>

During the interim phase, the team: i) confirmed the proposed typology with Inter-steering Group/ISG members; ii) validated that the mapping adequately captured all targeted actions; iii) further identified significant or non-targeted actions; and iv) identified mapping by sectors and key channels. Finally, the team aimed to have a complete mapping of targeted, significant and mainstreamed spending on youth within each of the case study countries.

### 5.1.3 Limitations

There are clear limitations to any typology which is why it is important to be methodologically consistent and transparent, highlighting the limits of the exercise.

- *The absence of youth markers and clear definition of youth areas* necessitate that the team creates their own typology based on the mapping and ToR. This also means that there is no way to search for all youth specific actions as would be the case for other strategic evaluations (Gender, Rule of Law (RoL)).
- *The cross-cutting nature of youth actions* means that stakeholders can assess interventions and their relevance for youth differently. This is evident from the scoping interviews and documents shared by the Inter-steering Group/ISG which do not apply a consistent define what is youth specific. Accordingly, it was important for the team to clearly define what these categories mean for the evaluation and focus on interventions which specifically target youth, or where youth is a key target group. This means that the evaluation will focus to a lesser extent on identifying large economic support programmes, RoL, health, or democratic participation programmes where youth are indirect beneficiaries or constitute a small component of the overall action.
- *A bias against programmes where the youth component may be important but obscured* when looking at decisions and interventions is likely. This issue was addressed at the case level when a complete analysis of a specific country of programme is possible and with the assistance of key informants.
- *Other challenges relate to the type of data available and its limitations.* For example, old interventions under IPA I and ENI often have limited information available in *Common External Relations Information System/CRIS*. Additionally, Erasmus spending through the European Education and Culture Executive Agency/EACEA does not list the benefiting zone and therefore spending benefiting the ENI and IPA regions cannot be isolated.

## 5.2 Mapping of EU spending activities

The *mapping focuses on the identification of targeted youth action* (see full list in 7), while providing some insights actions with significant youth components.<sup>27</sup> The following observations emerged from the mapping:

- *Total amount:* the mapping estimates that the EU spent a total of EUR 536.6 million in targeted actions to support youth in the DG NEAR region, of which EUR 371.5 million was spent in *targeted 1A* actions.
- *Regional specificities:*
  - Neighbourhood South region countries received the highest amount of targeted funding in youth areas. Morocco, Tunisia, Syria as well as Gaza and the West Bank receive the highest funding of both targeted and significant support on youth.

<sup>27</sup> The mapping of interventions with significant youth objectives is incomplete and is used for illustration of key trends rather than a complete financial mapping. The case studies will be used to deepen the mapping at this level.

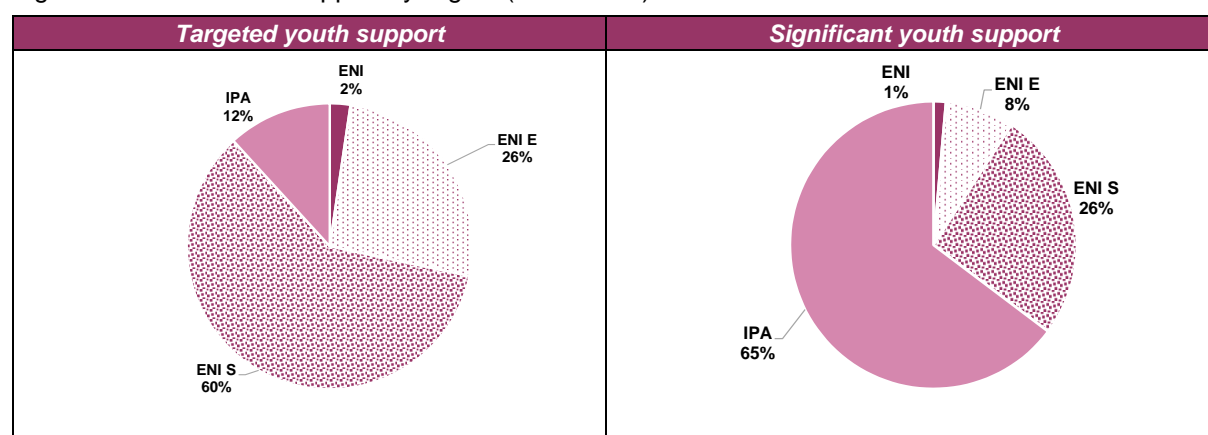


- o Neighbourhood East region has been receiving a consistent level of targeted youth funding through EU4Youth and regional.
- o Support to youth in the IPA region is mainstreamed within large programmes and facilities with a thematic or sectoral focus.
- *Regional instruments* are important for targeted youth action and are used differently in the three regions.
- *Thematic areas*: actions promoting the economic integration of youth receive the highest proportion within the portfolio targeting support to youth.

**Geographic distribution of youth actions by targeting level.** Figure 2 shows that the proportion of funding for youth for each region is substantially different when comparing targeted actions to actions where youth support constitutes a significant objective. The Neighbourhood region accounts for the majority of targeted support to youth, with 60% of spending going to the Neighbourhood South region. The large proportion of ENI South spending is owed to a number of key flagship youth programmes, such as Programme d'appui à l'éducation, la mobilité, la recherche et l'innovation en Tunisie/EMORI (Special Measure for Erasmus+ in Tunisia), and a number of high spending actions in Egypt and Morocco on vocational education and employment. ENI spending relates to EU4Youth and other large education for employment programmes, for example, in Belarus, Armenia and Georgia.

As evident in Figure 2, the approach of **EU support to youth in the IPA region is different**. To further understand this, the team conducted a rapid mapping of interventions with significant support to youth.<sup>28</sup> According to the mapping, support to youth seems to be a significant component of larger sector programmes where youth are an important but not exclusive targeted group. In this regard, support to youth is found within bilateral sector-specific cooperation (such Education, Employment and Social Policies Programme in Kosovo) or mainstreamed regionally within large facilities focusing on civil society, culture or refugee support, or multi-country programmes such as EU for fighting organised crime and drugs.

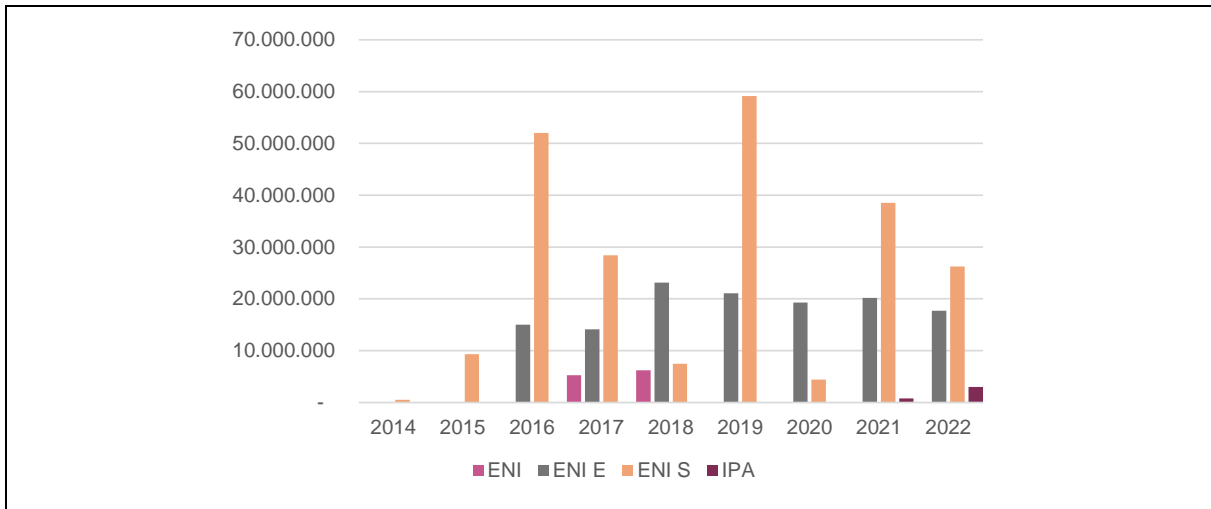
Figure 2 Youth support by region (2014-2022)



**Evolution of spending on youth targeted action.** Figure 3 shows the pattern of EU targeted support by region from 2014 to 2022. The EU started to target youth action in 2015, mainly in the Neighbourhood South region. ENI south funding seems to fluctuate but remains the highest regionally. The sharp increases are driven by one-year special allocations on youth engagement within targeted facilities or the disbursement of budget support for youth in Morocco. Funding for the Neighbourhood East region start in 2016 and remains relatively stable during the reporting period, while the accession region receives almost no targeted funding for youth programming.

Figure 3 Targeted youth actions (2014-2022)

<sup>28</sup> The mapping of secondary or significant support is incomplete. This is meant to provide an illustration of the portfolio rather than an exact picture. A full mapping of actions with significant youth components will be done at the case study level.



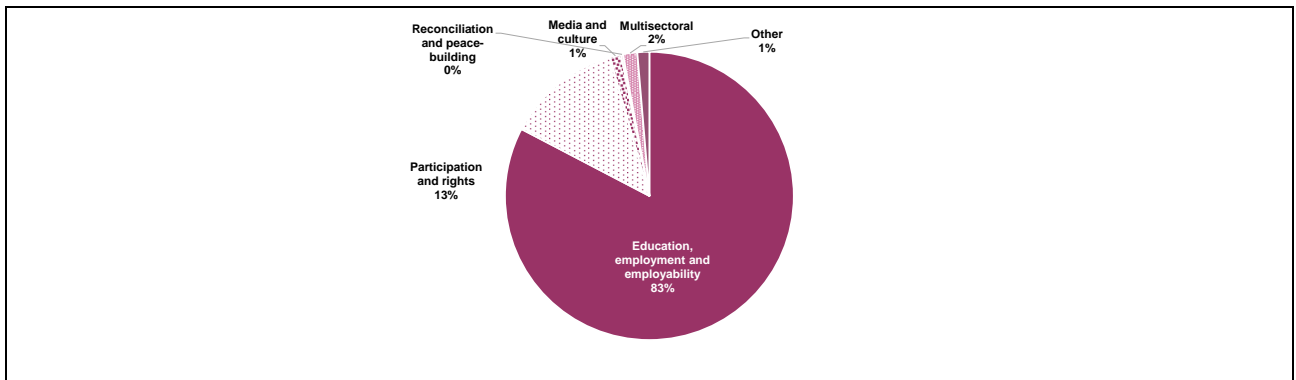
**Regional and country-level cooperation in youth areas.** EU support to youth areas seems to mainly take place at the country-level for both targeted and significant actions (see Figure 4). Here, country-level cooperation includes both bilateral actions between EU and DG Near countries, as well as multi-country facilities which are then allocated and implemented at a country level. Interestingly, regional cooperation for youth action is more important for targeted action across the three regions and is negligent for significant support. Regional programmes in the IPA region focus on promoting youth exchange and mobility schemes, as well as civil society dialogue on youth participation. In the ENI East region, regional spending predominantly relates to the EU4Youth programme, while regional cooperation in the ENI South is focused on youth empowerment and participation.

Figure 4 Type of cooperation (regional and country-level)



**Thematic distribution of targeted youth actions.** Figure 5 shows the thematic distribution of targeted funding in youth areas. It confirms that the highest proportion of funding (83%) goes to actions aiming to improve the economic integration of youth through investment in vocational training, higher education, skill for employment, and mobility schemes. “Participation and youth engagement” receives the second highest funding with approximately 13% of primary spending.

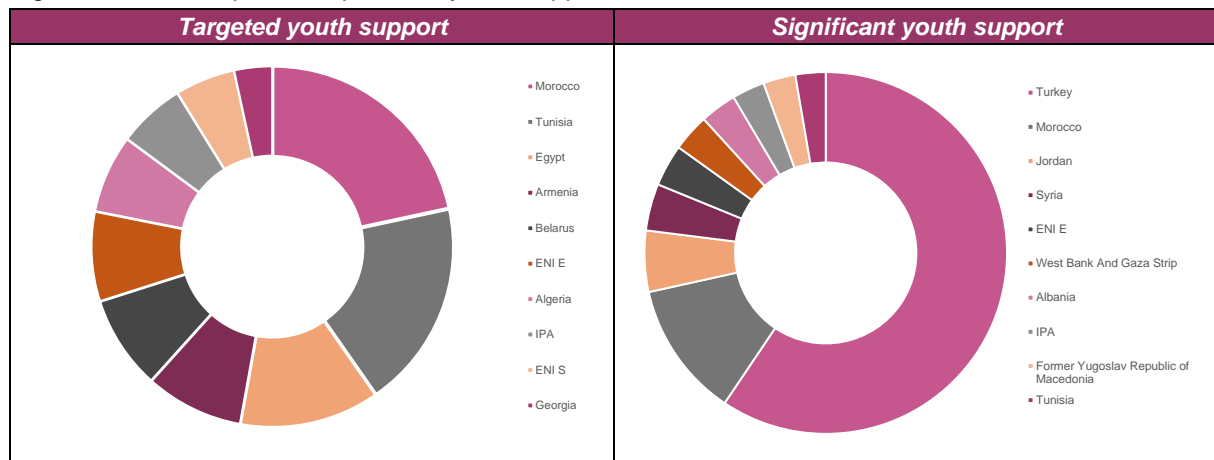
Figure 5 Thematic distribution of targeted youth actions



**Spending on youth actions by country.** Figure 5 shows the top ten recipients of targeted and significant youth support. Targeted youth support is topped by Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt in the ENI South region, followed by Armenia, Belarus and ENI East regional funding. Türkiye receives as a

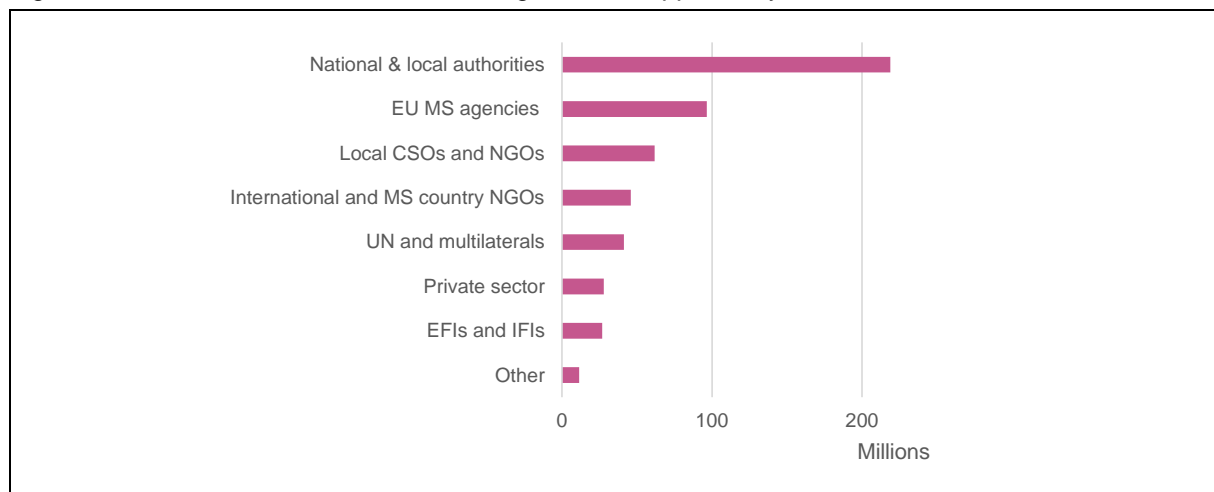
substantial proportion of EU interventions with significant youth support. In this regard, Türkiye benefits from support under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights/EIDHR, special measures supporting Türkiye to respond to the Syria crisis,<sup>29</sup> as well as Education and Training programmes focusing on economic integration in the country.

Figure 6 Top ten recipients of youth support



**Main channels for targeted youth support.** Figure 7 shows the main channels used to deliver targeted support for youth and finds that national authorities are the primary channel used. This is followed by EU MS agencies such as Enabel and institutions delivery Erasmus+. National Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) constitute the third largest channel of funding for EU support targeting youth. These are NGOs implementing youth exchange programmes and facilitating civil society dialogue on youth participation. Most of the NGOs are in the IPA region, and a smaller proportion are based in the ENI region (predominantly in Gaza and the West Bank). However, such an overview obscures important regional variations. In looking at the main channels used at the regional level, we found that spending in the Neighbourhood East region is predominantly channelled through national NGOs, then EU MS agencies, and private sector organisations. In the Neighbourhood South region, most funding is channelled through national authorities, while the IPA region, channels targeted funding through civil society facilities and therefore predominantly through national NGOs.

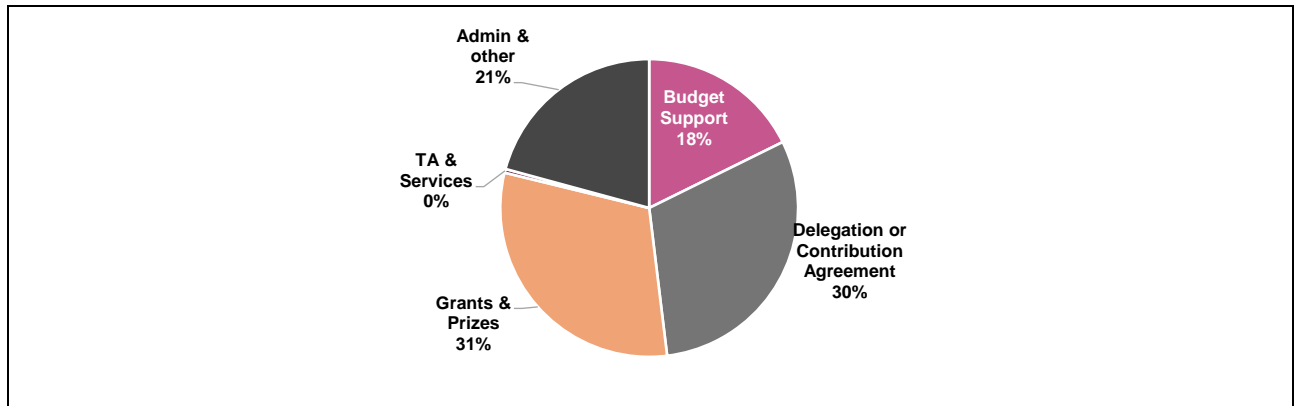
Figure 7 Main channels used for targeted EU support for youth



**Main modalities used for targeted support in youth areas.** Figure 8 illustrates that Delegation / Contribution Agreements were the primary modalities of EU support to youth actions. These include delegation agreements to UN agencies and some local NGOs, as well as contribution agreements to pillar-assessed Member State agencies as well as to European Financial Institutions/IFIs, namely the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development/EBRD and the European Investment Bank/EIB. Grants (31%) are the third most important channel for delivering targeted youth support, including national and international non-governmental organisations (INGO) and UN agencies, closely followed by delegation or contribution agreements with 30% of funding. Finally, Budget Support constitutes 18% of the portfolio.

<sup>29</sup> Support inclusive quality education for refugees in Türkiye and Special Measure under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

Figure 8 Modalities used for targeted youth support



### 5.3 Mapping of EU non-spending activities

A mapping of *EU non-spending actions* (e.g. dialogue in the context of the sector interventions, EU inputs to coordination activities, public diplomacy activities) complements the inventory of spending actions. EU's engagement in policy and political dialogue covered a broad *spectrum* of activities from "operational and technical dialogue" to "higher-level dialogue" with national/multi-country entities and global / joint processes.

The principal criterion for identifying non-spending activities is whether the activities have been carried out directly by EU institutional actors, i.e. EU staff, to promote the EU's youth-related agendas in different domains. A smaller number of non-spending activities are carried out by third parties, complementary to the work of these institutional actors. The evaluation team has adopted the following working definition for non-spending activities:

*EU institutional non-spending activities are carried out by EU institutional actors (EU officials and contracted staff as well as staff of EU MS delegated to EU institutions) in support of youth interventions that are being promoted and facilitated by the EU and its partners. These activities are paid from the administrative budget. The extent to which the EU engages in non-spending activities is often difficult to determine with precision, as they can comprise, for example, activities executed during the day-to-day business of an EU Head of Delegation's/HoD, diplomatic contacts, political dialogue as well as confidential negotiations; and/or activities that are not documented or for which only limited information is available to evaluators. However, there are also formal policy processes where the non-spending activities of EU institutional actors can more easily be detected and assessed. During the scoping phase, the example was given of the longstanding and structured EU engagement with the Union for the Mediterranean/UfM to create a conducive environment for the adoption of regional youth agendas that can, subsequently, stimulate effective uptake at national level.*

In this evaluation, an additional challenge resided in the fact that the EU supports several (structured) youth dialogues at various levels, among young people and with governments. These fall under the category of spending activities, yet they generally provide a suitable framework for EU institutional actors to intervene in dialogue processes and push forward specific agendas.

The team mapped these *EU non-spending actions* through additional documentary analysis and interviews. This helped to deepen the analysis of dialogue at country and regional levels, by specifically looking *at four dimensions*: i) *Stakeholders involved* (including, on the EU side, detailed identification of entities involved – i.e. sections within the EUD, EU MS, EC / European External Action Service/EEAS HQ units, etc.); ii) *Thematic coverage*; iii) Mechanisms (frequency and form of the exchanges); iv) *Evolution* in recent years. Access to relevant *documentation* and key informants was crucial to come up with a detailed analysis. Information gaps and key resource persons that help to fill them early in the process have been identified and it was discussed with the Inter-steering Group/ISG and EUDs, as well as youth organisations and Civil Society Organisations (CSO). The regional and country case studies as well as the survey to EUDs provided further opportunities for a more detailed analysis of EU's engagement in political and policy dialogue with partner governments and state agencies (for example, in the context on dialogue on economic reform or within budget support programmes).

## 6 E-survey reports

### 6.1 Survey to EU stakeholders for the Evaluation of EU support to Youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions (2014-2021)

#### Summary report on the e-survey

**Disclaimer:** the views presented in this summary report are not the views of the European Commission but of the stakeholders that participated in the e-survey. It cannot under any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission or its services.

#### 6.1.1 Objectives of the survey

The Evaluation team launched a survey to capture and **aggregate the perspectives of stakeholders in EUD/Offices and HQ to validate and generalise a first set of preliminary findings and hypotheses about EU support to youth areas in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions** between 2014-2021, in the context of the ongoing evaluation.

The survey targeted all EUD/Offices and HQ staff who had been interviewed in the previous weeks and months, and additional staff members who were recommended in the process. In total, around **97** persons were contacted to reply to the e-survey out of which **34 responded**. EUDs/Offices and HQ Units contacted were asked to provide at least one response per Delegation/Office/Unit.

The questionnaire was structured around five subjects: i) EU policy framework and institutional support on youth issues; ii) Design of EU support / programming; iii) Delivery of EU support; iv) Partnership and EU added value; and v) Effects of EU support (incl. in Youth engagement in policy processes and democratic spaces; Youth economic integration; Youth social inclusion and cohesion; Youth peace and security).

Respondents were asked to express to what extent they agreed with some statements regarding the five subjects, formulated on the basis of the information previously collected by the Evaluation Team. Respondents were given six answering options to choose from: Great extent; Some extent; Little extent; Not at all; Don't know; and Not Relevant. For the analysis of results, the answers *Not Relevant* were not counted, and do not appear in the graphs.

The survey was open for six weeks and took place from September 22 to November 2. Originally scheduled to be open for only three weeks, the team decided to extend its duration and carry out three rounds of reminders to address the initial low response rate. The questionnaire was available in **English**.

This report summarises the responses collected, following the structure of the questionnaire (see section 6.1.4).

#### 6.1.2 Who replied to the survey?

##### 6.1.2.1 Affiliation

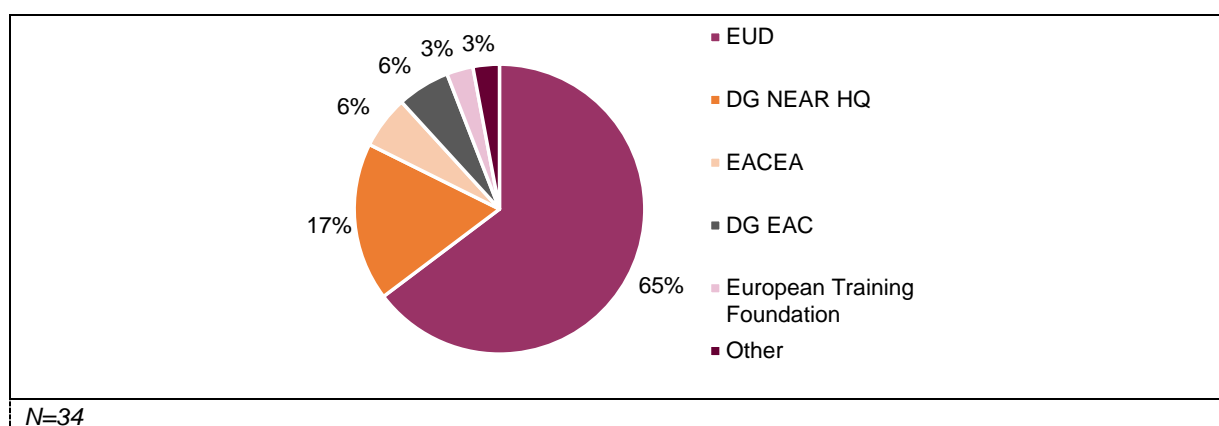
**34 EU stakeholders responded to the questionnaire.** HQ respondents could provide individual answers, while we asked each Delegation to provide one coordinated response. As a total of 13 Units/Offices and 23 delegations were contacted. Among the respondents, 22 (65%) were from an EUD, while 6 (17%) were from DG NEAR (EU HQ) and 6 (18%) from other EU services (e.g. European Education and Culture Executive Agency/EACEA, DG East African Community/EAC). See Figure 9 below.

The 22 respondents coming from EUDs belong to 18 different Delegations/Offices.<sup>30</sup> 19 of them were in the Cooperation section, 1 in operations, 1 in Economic Development, and 1 in the Political Section.

Out of the 6 respondents from DG NEAR, 2 belonged to Directorate A, 1 to Directorate B, 2 to Directorate C, and 1 to Directorate D.

Figure 9 Distribution of responses by EU service

<sup>30</sup> In total 23 EUDs were contacted – all those in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood Region. No answer was collected from EUD Algeria, EUD Egypt, EUD Israel, EUD Montenegro, and EUD Ukraine. Three Delegations provided 2 answers instead of one: EUD Albania, EUD Georgia, EUD North Macedonia, and EUD Syria.



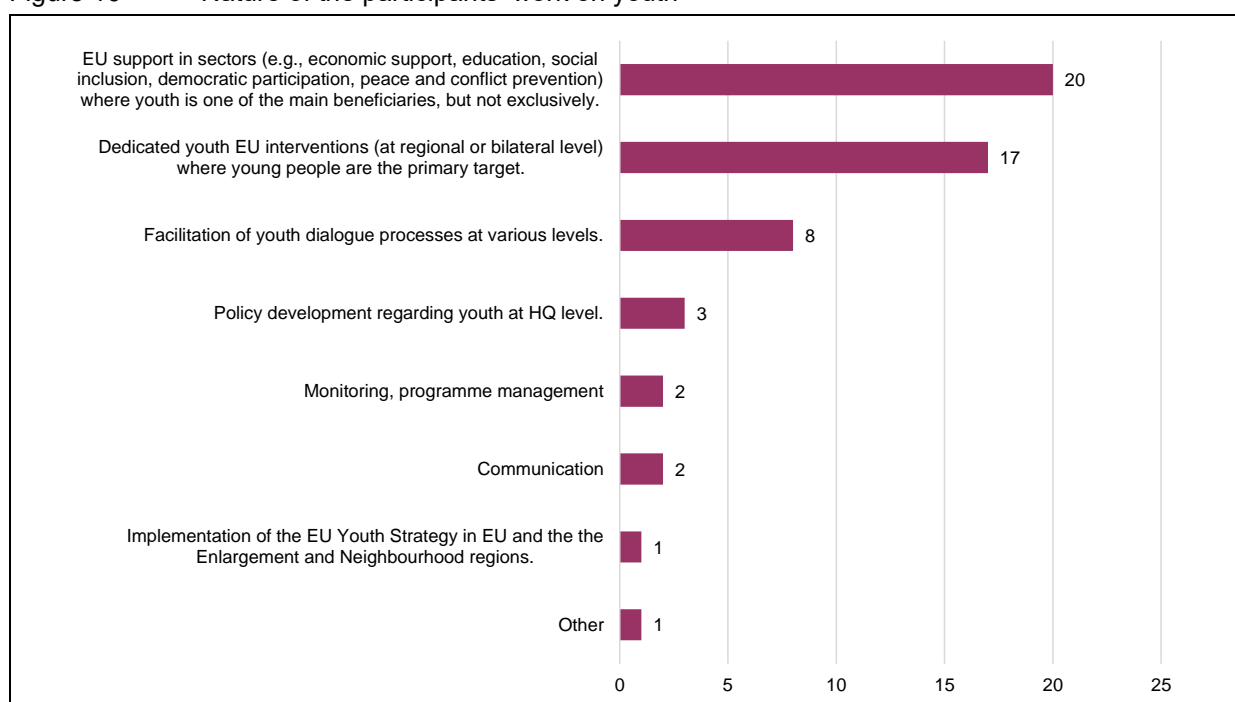
Respondents were asked to select the countries/regions their responses will mostly relate to (e.g. their current country of operation or a country where they had extensive recent experience). **The distribution of responses across the three regions was balanced:** the answers of 11 respondents covered the Enlargement Region, those of 8 respondents the Neighbourhood East region, and 11 respondents mostly related to the Neighbourhood South region. Three respondents covered all three Regions, and one respondent covered both the Enlargement and Neighbourhood East region.

### 6.1.2.2 Nature of respondents' work on youth

The last questions in the identification section of the survey asked participants to provide more details on the nature of their work on youth, on the time dedicated to youth-related interventions, and on whether they were Youth Focal Points in their Delegation / Office.

**All respondents were involved in EU initiatives involving youth, but to a different degree.** As shown in Figure 10 below, the majority of participants (58%) worked on EU support in sectors (e.g. economic support, education, social inclusion, democratic participation, peace and conflict prevention) where youth is one of the main beneficiaries, but not exclusively. Half of respondents were engaged in dedicated youth EU interventions (at regional or bilateral level) where young people were the primary target. About one fourth of e-survey participants (23%) were involved in the facilitation of youth dialogue processes at various levels. Only three respondents worked on policy development regarding youth at HQ level. Finally, two respondents worked on monitoring and programme management, and two on communication.

Figure 10 Nature of the participants' work on youth

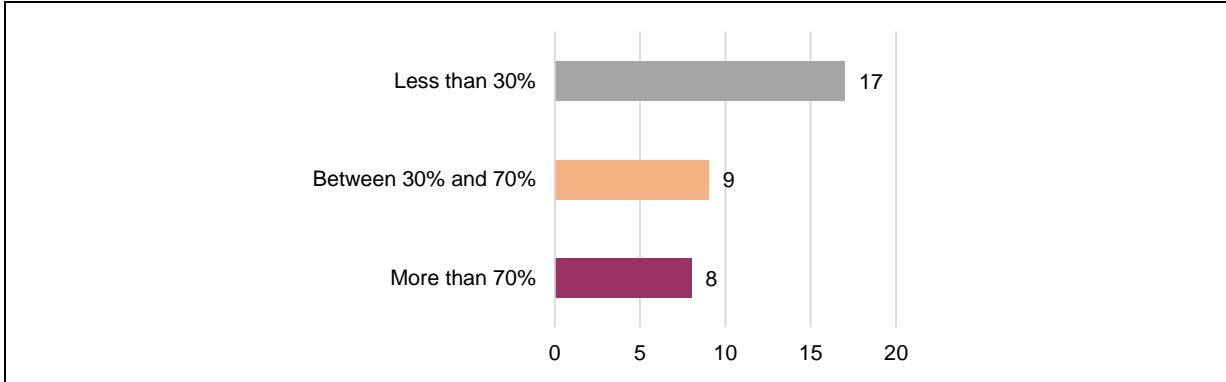


**Most of respondents did not invest much time of their work in supporting Youth-related interventions.** According to the e-survey results, half of respondents spent less than 30% of their time

on Youth-related interventions (17 out of 34, equal to 50%). 26% of respondents dedicated between 30% and 70% of their time. A bit less, 23%, dedicated more than 70% of their time to Youth.

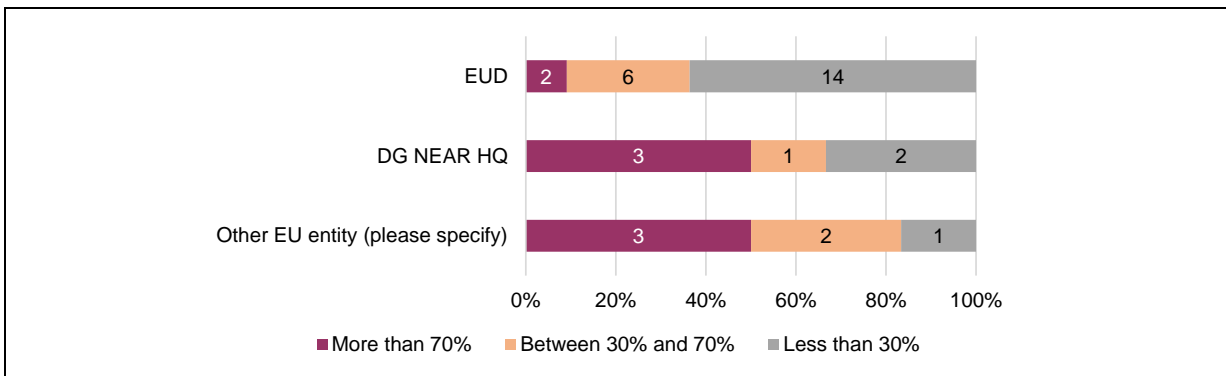
The disaggregation based on the respondents' Delegation/Unit/Office provides further insights. The vast majority of respondents working in EUDs dedicated less than 30% of their time to Youth-related interventions (14 out of 22, 63%). Only 2 respondents dedicated more than 70% of their time to Youth, while 6 spent between 30 and 70% of their time on this kind of interventions. In DG NEAR and other EU entities the distribution was more balanced. Half of respondents dedicated 70% or more of their time to Youth, while the other half dedicated less than 70% of their time to it.

Figure 11 Time dedicated to Youth-related interventions



N=34

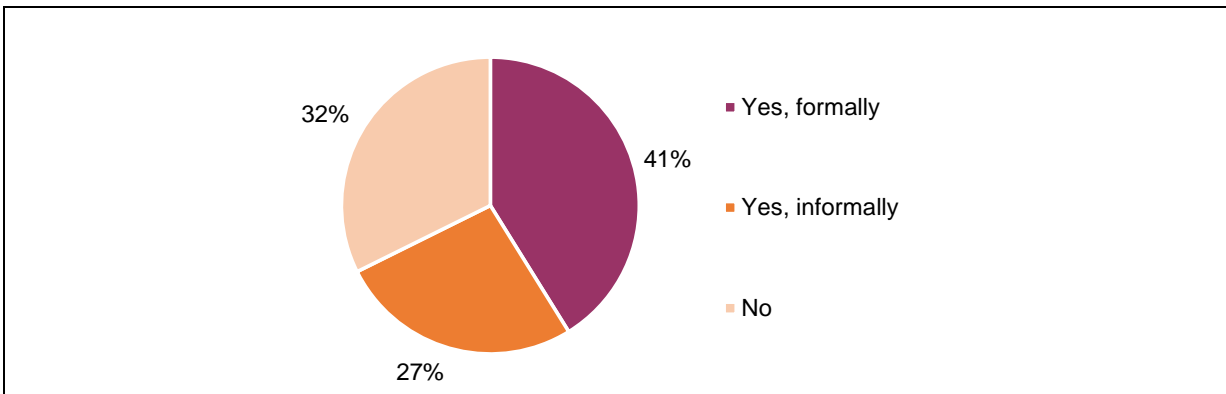
Figure 12 Time dedicated to Youth-related interventions (disaggregated by EU entity)



N=34

The majority of respondents were formal or informal Youth Focal Points in their organisation when the survey took place (68%). When asked whether they were currently a Youth Focal Point in their organisation, 41% of respondents answered that they were formally, 27% that they were informally, and 32% that they were not. The majority of respondents from EUDs answered that they were formal Focal Points (11).

Figure 13 Are you currently a Youth Focal Point in your organisation?

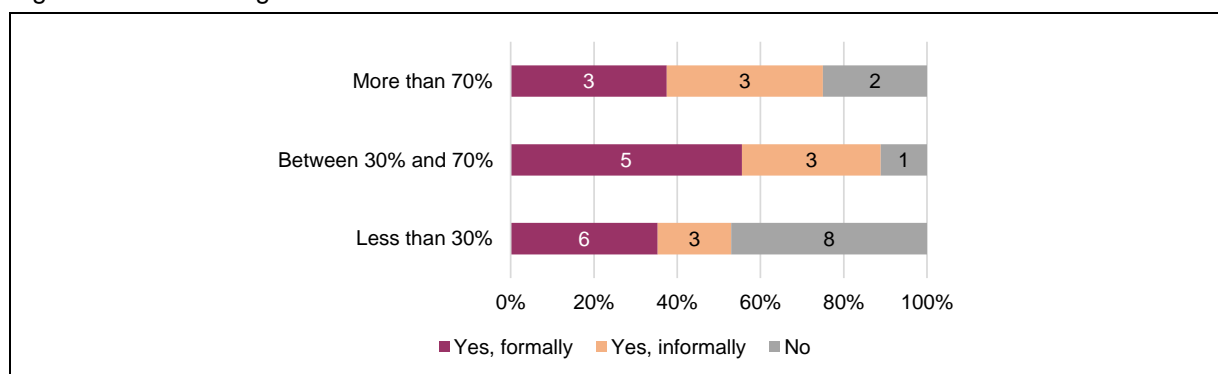


N=34

If we compare these results with the answers to the previous question on the time dedicated to Youth-Interventions, it seems that being a Youth Focal Point (formally or informally) does not necessary mean that more than 30% of the working time is dedicated to Youth-related interventions. 9 out of 23 formal

and informal Youth Focal Points spend less than 30% of their time on these interventions, while 8 spent between 30% and 70% and 6 spent more than 70%.

Figure 14 Being a Youth Focal Point vs time dedicated to Youth-related Interventions.



N=34

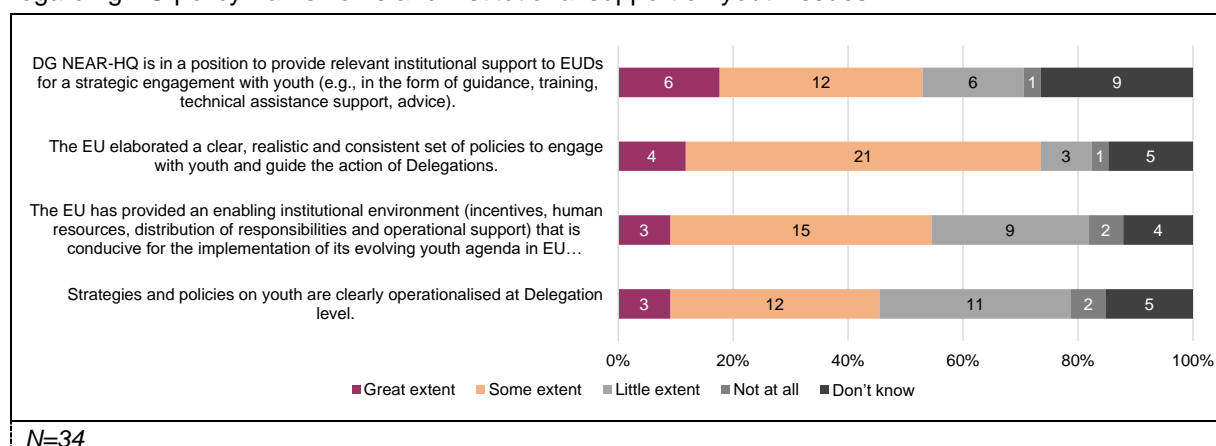
### 6.1.3 Main responses

#### 6.1.3.1 EU Policy Frameworks and institutional support on youth issues

After the identification section, the first question assessed the extent to which respondents agreed with four statements regarding EU policy frameworks and institutional support on youth issues, based on their experience. Respondents' views were mixed, but the majority agreed to some or great extent to 3 out of 4 statements, showing a generally positive view on EU policies on youth-engagement at EUD level; EU ability to create an enabling institutional environment for implementing its Youth agenda; and DG Near provision of relevant institutional support to EUDs to engage Youth. On the contrary, EU stakeholders were more sceptical on the operationalisation of strategies and policies on youth at EUD level.

The vast majority of respondents (25 out of 34, 74%) agreed to some or great extent that the EU elaborated a **clear, realistic and consistent set of policies** to engage with youth and guide the action of Delegations. The majority agreed to some or great extent that the EU has provided an **enabling institutional environment** (incentives, human resources, distribution of responsibilities and operational support) that is conducive for the implementation of its evolving youth agenda in EU external action (18 out of 33 respondents, 55%). The majority agreed that DG NEAR-HQ is in a position to **provide relevant institutional support to EUDs** for a strategic engagement with youth (e.g. in the form of guidance, training, Technical assistance support, advice) (18 out of 34 respondents, 53%). Notably, nine respondents answered that they don't have an opinion regarding this point (i.e. they answered *Do not know*). On a less positive note, less than the majority of respondents (15 out of 33, 45%) stated that **strategies and policies on youth are clearly operationalised at Delegation level** to a great or certain extent.

Question 1 Based on your experience, to what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding EU policy frameworks and institutional support on youth issues?



N=34

Qualitative contributions by e-survey respondents focused mainly on the **shortcomings of EU policy frameworks and institutional support on youth issues**.

The majority of contributions were quite critical about EU support. Two contributions stressed **external elements** hampering support to youth issues: the political situation in a partner country; the lack of



respect of a minimum set of rules by partner countries (e.g. provide visas, allow bank transfers). The other contributions focused on **EU organisational issues**: a nominal commitment to Youth not matched with adequate funding (3 contributions) and human resources, especially in EUDs (2 contributions); lack of trainings, including for non-youth sectors (stressed by 2 respondents).

Only two contributions stress **positive aspects** instead: i) the presence of a Youth Focal Point at DG NEAR HQ; and ii) the evolution towards a more strategic policy framework (e.g. with the YAP) and key programmes/projects (e.g. EU4Youth and Western Balkans Youth Policy Labs). In both cases the limits are highlighted as well, and are the same as mentioned by others: lack of active trainings or guidance provided to non-youth sectors; and too little (human) resources especially at EUD level to fully operationalise and implement the strategic policy frameworks.

Box 2 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional).

#### DG NEAR HQ

- *“There is a youth focal point at DG NEAR HQ supporting when demanded on youth but no active trainings or guidance is provided to non-youth sectors.”*
- *“Evolution towards a more strategic policy framework (e.g. with YAP) and with key programmes/projects (e.g. EU4Youth and Western Balkan Youth Policy Labs), but too little (human) resources to fully operationalise and implement, especially at EU Delegation level.”*

#### EUD

- *“Commitment to youth a still very nominal and on the paper, words are never matched with needed funding, and it is often left to the personal initiative and energy of the youth focal point to bring back the youth lens and the EU commitments towards youth. DG NEAR obsession with economic initiative such as the global gateway grossly fail in truly addressing the needs of young people for freedom, democracy and human rights-based values.”*
- *“Due to political situation in the country very little can be implemented in Belarus at the Delegation level.”*
- *“No interaction with HQ regarding youth policies or strategy. Perhaps I would find an interlocutor if I looked, but I do not have the time.”*
- *“Once a year, generic guidelines are disseminated, followed by a couple of webinars. The framework of reference is entirely detached from reality in each country and at regional level, where in the end we talk to a small elite.”*
- *“The EU has implemented several types of intervention to support youth in Georgia, including Grants and Technical assistance.”*
- *“With the caveat that the survey relates to EU support in the period 2014-21, of which I have direct experience of a comparatively little portion, development of Youth policies have never really been a focal area of EU support under bilateral cooperation. Areas including also Youth have been, such as Education, VET and to some extent Employment, but not Youth policies per se. In a way this is implicit in the very horizontal and cross-cutting nature of the “youth” sector. However, traditionally Youth has been more the subject of regional and global programmes (see the Eastern Partnership EU4Youth various iterations, or the Erasmus+ Youth strands) than of bilateral actions managed by the EUD. This is due to several (probably too many) competing needs and priorities, in a context of overall limited resources (financial and human) in the implementation of external assistance. In the EUD, Youth is a field which is usually “squeezed” among many others in the capacity of one officer covering at once a variety of policy domains such as Education, Culture, Youth, Employment, Social Sectors, Civil Society and/or more. Or, Youth is mostly subject of communication and visibility, which is certainly important, but also risky if not followed up by concrete and targeted operational actions. More staff and dedicated financial resources for specific Youth programmes would be needed.”*

#### Other EU entity

- *“More resources and trainings are needed to reflect fast changing situation, needs and expectations of youth in the EU neighbourhood regions. A bit more flexibility in programming and adjustments given the highly volatile political and security/conflicts environment.”*
- *“There is a positive EU framework on youth, not difficult to adapt it in all areas for the profit of young people and youth CSOs.”*
- *“Policies may be difficult to implement if EU does not ask the involved countries to respect a minimum set of rules for example EU activities participants should receive visas, bank transfers among partners in EU projects should be possible, etc.”*

To conclude this section on EU policy frameworks and institutional support on youth, respondents were asked to provide more details about the **incentives needed to ensure that EUD can fully integrate/mainstream support to youth and implement the EU Action Plan on Youth in External Action**. Their answers are presented in Box 4. Main incentives included: trainings and guidelines with examples (according to 2 contributions); adequate financing (3); institutionalising the role of Youth Focal Point instead of adding it to one staff member with many other roles; having more support from management (3); and more human resources (2).

Two contributions also stressed external conditions: i) commitment from the government of the beneficiary country; ii) political stability; and iii) enhancing dialogue with youth representatives.

Box 3 What incentives are needed to ensure that EUD can fully integrate/mainstream support to youth and implement the EU Action Plan on Youth in External Action? (optional)

#### DG NEAR HQ

- “Trainings, guidelines with examples, mainstreaming sessions.”
- “Add Youth Focal Point to job description; not as an additional task for a colleague who already has too much work, but free up time for more active work on youth; make use of Technical assistance support (incl. from HQ-managed regional service contracts) consider an all-NEAR service contract to support on youth.”

#### EUD

- “Adequate financing for achieving youth related milestones, establish and implement performance valuation mechanism that include youth related key performance indicators/KPIs.”
- “Clear funding commitments and buy in of management.”
- “Clear messages to higher management, expert support for internal organisation in the EU Delegation to mainstream support across sector (similar to gender mainstreaming in Western Balkan).”
- “Commitment from the government and political stability.”
- “Human Resources.”
- “More dedicated funding and not just limit the sector as an ancillary field that requires just ticking the box in action documents.”
- “More trainings on how to implement the support in actions not directly targeting youth.”
- “More human and financial resources in the Delegations. It’s difficult to ensure proper coverage and implementation of more tasks/programmes with the same amount of resources as usual. Despite professional commitment and goodwill by all parties, it’s not necessarily possible in practice “do more with less”.”

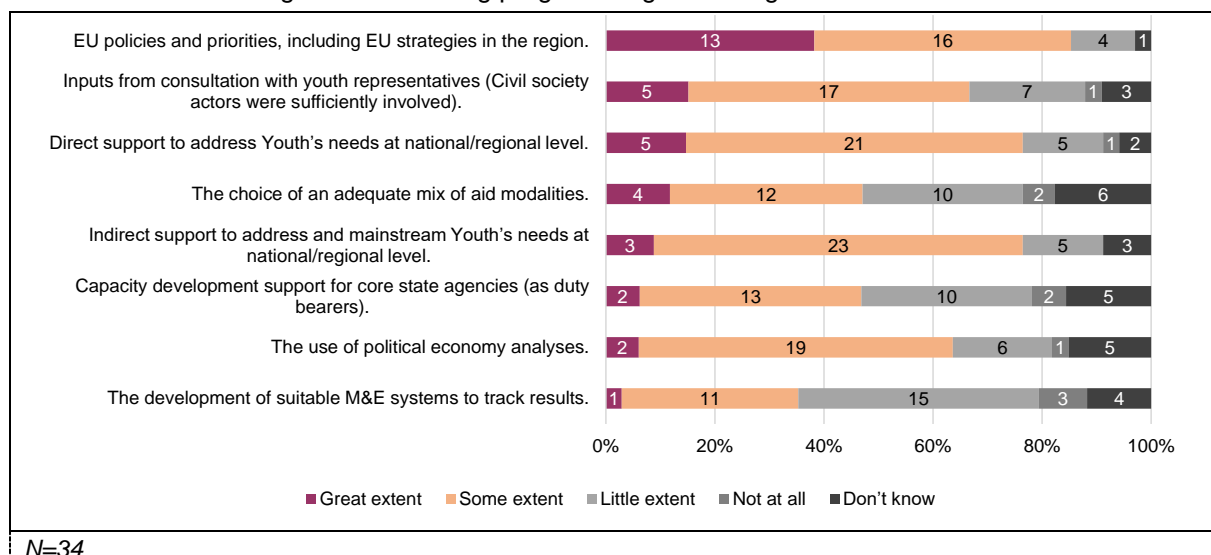
#### Other EU entity

- “Trusted and relevant dialogue with youth representatives from beneficiary countries.”

### 6.1.3.2 Design of EU support – programming

The second question asked respondents to assess, based on their experience, the extent to which EU Youth interventions adequately considered eight elements during programming and design: the use of political economy analyses; EU policies and priorities, incl. EU strategies in the region; direct support to address Youth’s needs at national/regional level; indirect support to address and mainstream Youth’s needs at national/regional level; inputs from consultation with youth representative (i.e. civil society actors were sufficiently involved); capacity development support for core state agencies (as duty bearers); the development of suitable Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems to track results; and the choice of an adequate mix of aid modalities.

Question 2 Based on your experience, to what extent have EU Youth interventions adequately considered the following elements during programming and design?



Based on respondents’ experience, there is agreement that five out of the eight elements assessed were adequately considered (i.e. to a great or some extent) by the EU during programming and design. Almost all respondents agree that **EU policies and priorities, including EU strategies in the region** were highly considered (38% answered to a great extent, while 47% to some extent, so 85%). **Direct support** to address Youth’s needs at national/regional level, and **indirect support** to address and mainstream Youth’s needs at national/regional level were quite considered as well according to a vast majority of respondents (76%). More than 60% of respondents assessed positively the EU consideration

of **inputs from consultation with youth representative** (i.e. civil society actors were sufficiently involved) (67%), and the **use of political economy analyses** (64%).

There was no agreement over two statements. According to 47% of respondents, EU Youth interventions adequately considered the **choice of an adequate mix of aid modalities** during programming and design, while 35% argued that it was considered only a little or not at all, and 18% did not have an opinion about it. Similarly, 47% of participants indicated that the **capacity development support for core state agencies** (as duty bearers) had been adequately considered, while 37% that it had been considered too little or not at all, and 15% did not know.

According to respondents, one element lacked adequate consideration or had too little: the **development of suitable M&E systems to track results** (53% of respondents argued that there was little consideration or not at all of this element).

Some respondents provided additional information on their assessment. One respondent identified a need to **improve stakeholder consultation mechanisms** for regional/multi-country programmes (i.e. managed from HQ), taking good practices in national programming as examples. Another respondent argued for **stronger involvement of Youth CSOs representatives** both in programming and execution, reducing the reliance on international and external management.

Box 4 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### DG NEAR HQ

- “Stakeholder consultation mechanisms for regional/multi-country programmes (i.e. managed from HQ) should be improved, taking examples from good practice from national programming where more systematic consultation with national stakeholders takes place, both via EU Delegations and with programming missions.”

#### EUD

- “Non-functional government in Lebanon.”

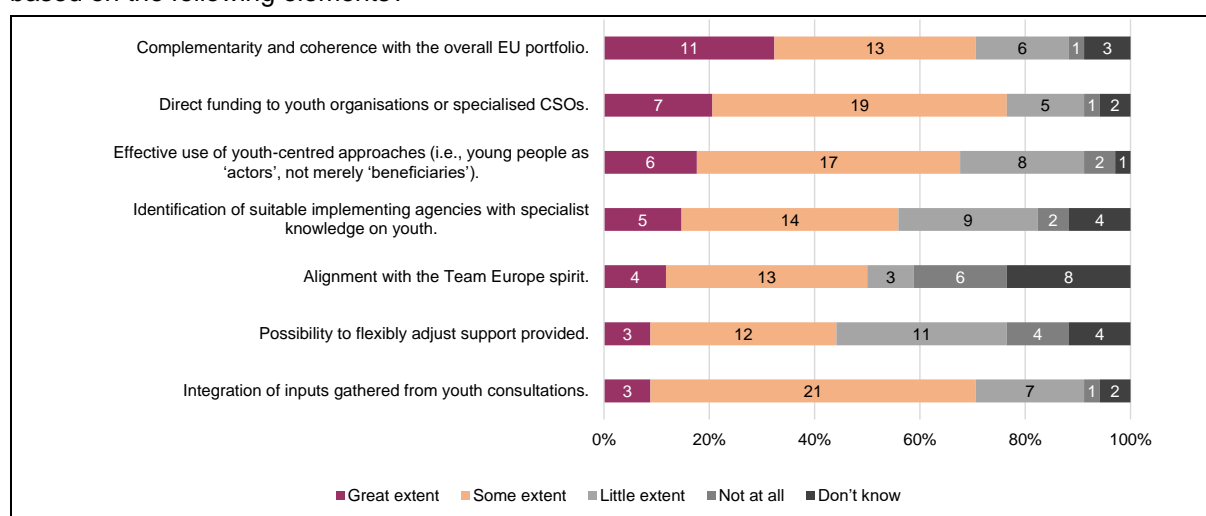
#### Other EU entity

- “Need for stronger involvement of youth civil society representatives, particularly those CSOs representing underprivileged groups, both in programming and execution (less reliance on international / external management).”

### 6.1.3.3 Delivery of EU support

The third section assessed the extent to which EU support to Youth was based on the following seven elements: complementarity and coherence with the overall EU portfolio; integration of inputs gathered from youth consultations; identification of suitable implementing agencies with specialist knowledge on youth; effective use of youth-centred approaches (i.e. young people as “actors”, not merely “beneficiaries”); direct funding to youth organisations or specialised CSOs; alignment with the Team Europe spirit; and possibility to flexibly adjust support provided.

Question 3 Based on your experience, to what extent has the delivery of EU support to youth been based on the following elements?



N=34

Results show a strong consensus on four elements as being to a great or some extent the basis for the delivery of EU support (over 65%): i) **direct funding to youth organisations or specialised CSOs** (76% of EU participants); ii) **complementarity and coherence with the overall EU portfolio** (32% agreed to a great extent, and 38% to some extent); iii) **integration of inputs gathered from youth**

**consultations** (according to 71% of participants); and iv) **and effective use of youth-centred approaches** (i.e. young people as “actors”, not merely “beneficiaries”) (68%).

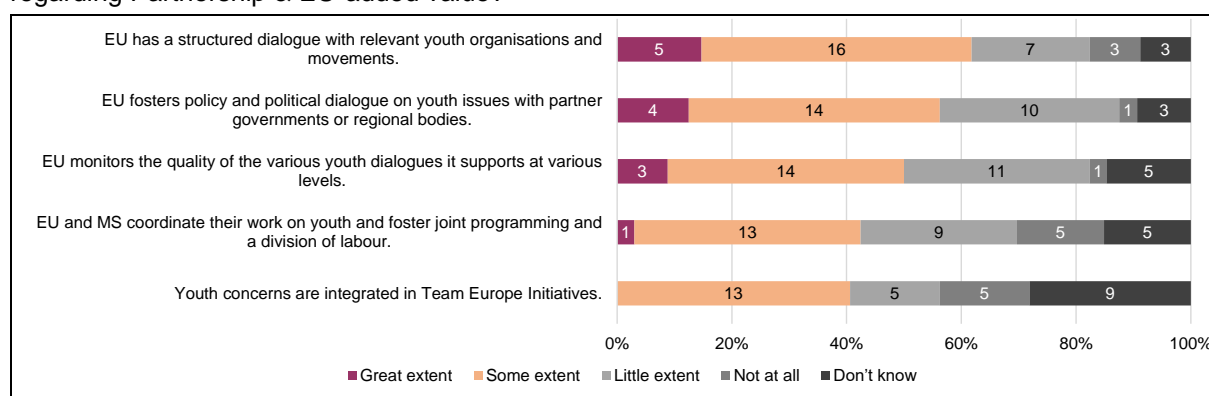
A slight majority of respondents argued that the **identification of suitable implementing agencies with specialist knowledge on youth** was at the basis of the delivery of EU support to youth (56%).

There was no agreement on the extent to which the **alignment with the Team Europe spirit** was at the basis of it. 50% of participants agreed to a great or some extent, while for 26% it was agreed to a little extent or not at all, and 24% did not have an opinion. Similarly, respondents expressed different views about the relevance of the **possibility to flexibly adjust support provided** (44% answered to a great or some extent, while 44% answered to a little extent or not at all, and 12% did not have an opinion).

#### 6.1.3.4 Partnership and EU added value

The fourth section assessed the extent to which respondents agreed to five statements regarding Partnership & EU-added value.

Question 4 Based on your experience, to what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding Partnership & EU-added value?



N=34

The majority of participants agreed to a great or some extent that the **EU has a structured dialogue with relevant youth organisations and movements** (62%) and that the **EU fosters policy and political dialogue on youth issues with partner governments or regional bodies** (56%).

Mixed views were expressed on whether **the EU monitors the quality of the various youth dialogues it supports at various levels**. Half of participants agreed to a great or some extent (50%), while 35% did not agree at all or to a little extent, and the remaining 15% had no opinion about it. There was no agreement over whether **EU and MS coordinate their work on youth and foster joint programming and a division of labour** (42% agreed to a great or some extent, 42% agreed to little extent or not at all, while 16% did not know).

The last statement was the most divisive, with one out of four participants not knowing whether **Youth concerns are integrated in Team Europe Initiatives/TEI**, 13 agreeing (41%), and 10 disagreeing (31%). Regarding Team Europe Initiatives/TEI, one participant clarified that there was no ongoing Team Europe Initiative/TEI in their country of assignment, while another participant argued that the TE approach could be further developed on Youth: aligning the EU Youth Strategy and initiatives such as EU Youth Dialogue and Youth Guarantee could create more increase cooperation between EU MS and partner countries (see Box 5).

Box 5 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional):

##### DG NEAR HQ

- “Cooperation with Member States and Team Europe approach could be further developed. Alignment with EU Youth Strategy and initiatives such as EU Youth Dialogue and Youth Guarantee could help to create more connecting points for more exchange and knowledge sharing between partner countries and Member States at various levels (incl. youth representative bodies, but also relevant state institutions).”

##### EUD

- “There is no ongoing Team Europe Initiative/TEI in the country of assignment.”

#### 6.1.3.5 Effects of the EU support

The fifth, and last, section investigated the effects of EU support to Youth, focusing on **four main thematic areas** which the team needed to evaluate, dealing respectively with:

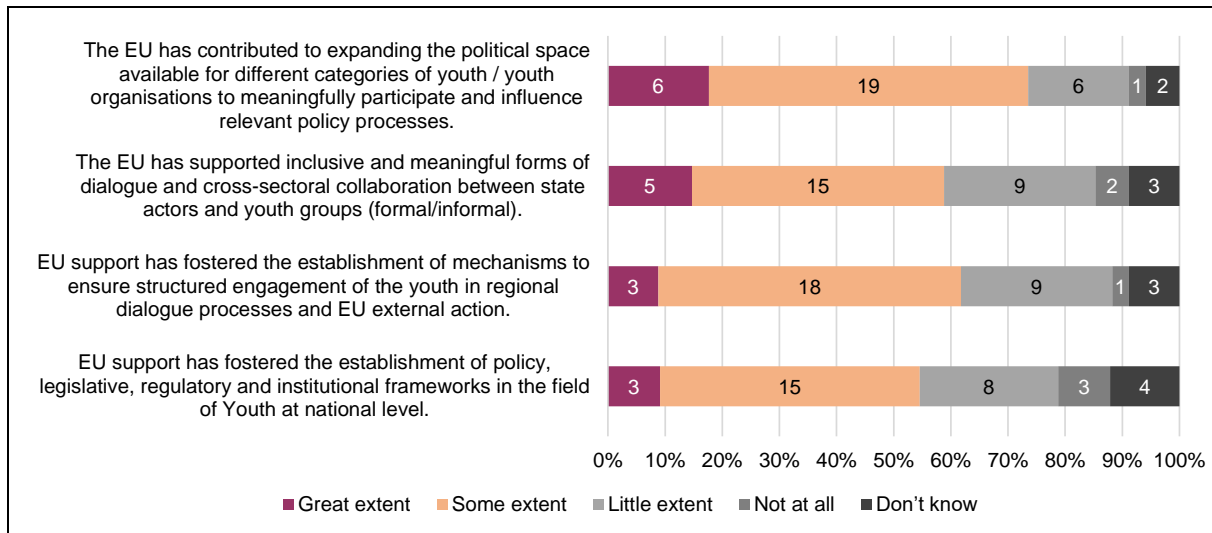
1. Participation of young people in relevant policy processes and democratic spaces;
2. Economic integration, (formal and informal) education, and employability;

3. Social inclusion / protection, incl. mobility, culture and mental health;
4. Engagement of young people in peace and security, conflict prevention and reconciliation processes, as well as addressing the root causes of marginalisation and radicalisation.

### 6.1.3.6 Youth engagement in policy processes and democratic spaces

In this section, the e-survey assessed the extent to which respondents agreed with four statements regarding Youth engagement in policy processes and democratic spaces.

Question 5 Based on your experience, to what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding Youth engagement?



N=34

Answers from the e-survey provide an **overall positive assessment** on the contribution of EU support to improve Youth engagement in policy processes and democratic spaces.

Based on their experience, the majority of respondents agreed that the EU has contributed to **expanding the political space available** for different categories of youth / youth organisations to meaningfully participate and influence relevant policy processes (73%); and they agreed that EU support has **fostered the establishment of policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks** in the field of Youth at national level (62%). The majority of respondents agreed to a great or some extent with the fact that the EU has **supported inclusive and meaningful forms of dialogue and cross-sectoral collaboration** between state actors and youth groups (formal/informal) (57% of respondents); and that EU support has fostered the establishment of **mechanisms to ensure structured engagement of the youth** in regional dialogue processes and EU external action (54% of participants).

One respondent provided positive examples of EU support in this area: Western Balkans Youth Policy Labs; EU4Youth East Policy Labs; and support towards Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue process. Another participant reported that a programme that was supposed to improve youth involvement in their country/region had started quite late and results were lagging behind.

Box 6 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional):

#### DG NEAR HQ

- “Western Balkans Youth Policy Labs, EU4Youth East Policy Labs and support towards Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue process.”

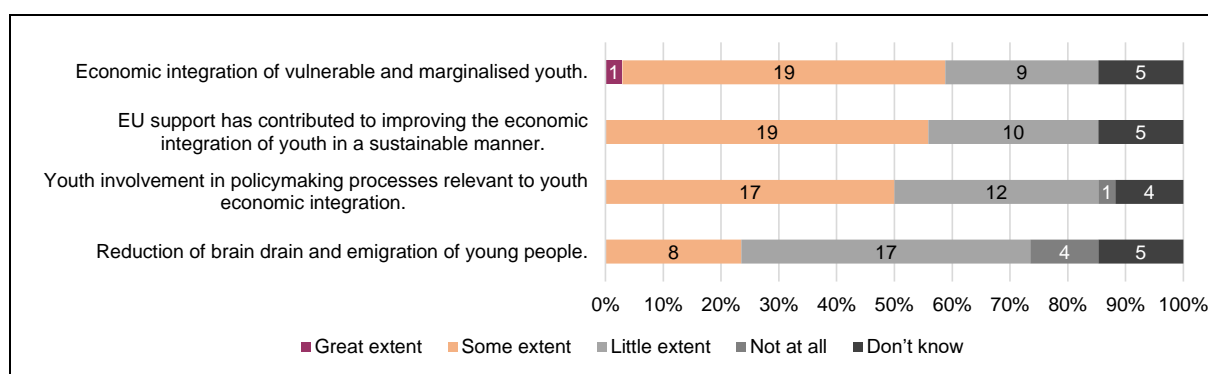
#### EUD

- “The programme that is supposed to improve youth involvement has started quite late and results are lagging behind.”
- “Youth lab regional project.”

### 6.1.3.7 Youth economic integration

The perception about EU support to improving Youth economic integration was assessed through four statements.

Question 6 To what extent has EU support contributed to improvements in the following areas related to economic integration?



N=34

Results showed that perceptions about the EU contribution to improving Youth economic integration were **mixed**. 58% of respondents agreed that EU support contributed to improving the economic integration of **vulnerable and marginalised youth** to some extent, and 56% that it contributed to improving the economic integration of youth in a **sustainable manner**.

Half of respondents perceived an improvement (to some extent), thanks to EU support, in **Youth involvement in policymaking processes** relevant to youth economic integration, (50%).

The majority of respondents claimed that the EU contributed **marginally or not at all** to the **reduction of brain drain and emigration** of young people (50% claimed the improvement has been to a little extent due to EU support, while 12% that the EU has not at all contributed).

Box 7 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional):

#### DG NEAR HQ

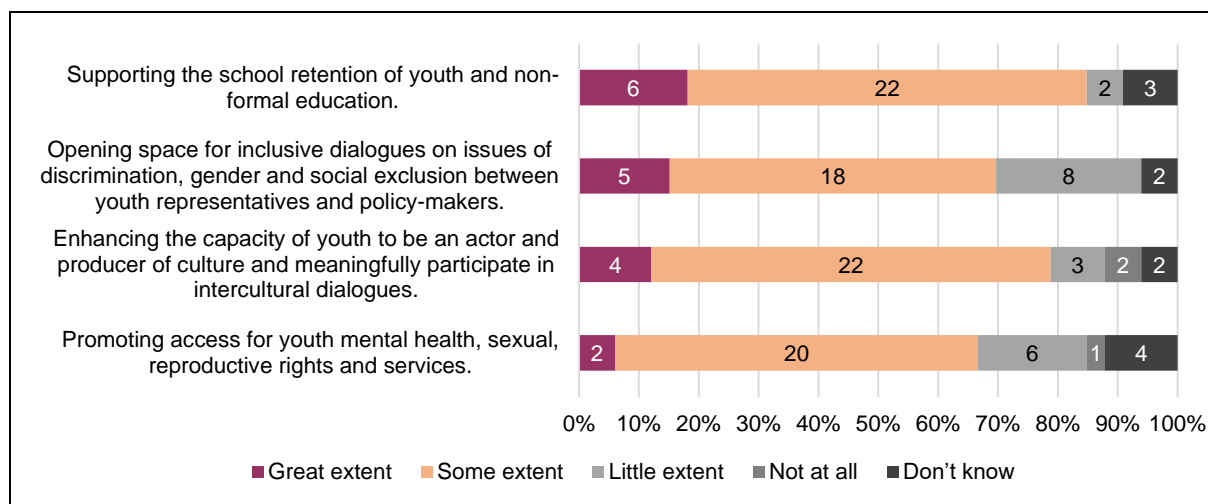
- “Support for employability and youth (social) entrepreneurship under various EU-funded projects.”

#### EUD

- “Thanks to activities implemented by International Labor Organisation/ILO on Economie Sociale et Solidaire (less than 10% of the overall programme budget).”

### 6.1.3.8 Youth social inclusion and cohesion

Question 7 To what extent has EU support contributed to improvements in the following areas related to social inclusion and cohesion?



N=34

According to the results, **EU stakeholders perceive positively the contribution to Youth social inclusion and cohesion of EU support**. More than 65% of respondents agreed that EU support has contributed to a great extent or some extent to the different areas proposed in the statements.

EU support to **school retention of youth and non-formal education** was the area in which the most of respondents agreed on EU contribution (85%). Another area which saw the EU play a key role contributing to improvements was the enhancement of the capacity of youth to **be an actor and producer of culture and meaningfully participate in intercultural dialogues** (78% of respondents claimed EU support has contributed to a great or some extent). EU support was key in **opening space for inclusive dialogues** on issues of discrimination, gender and social exclusion between youth representatives and policy-makers, according to 70% of participants. To conclude, improvements in

promoting **access for youth mental health, sexual, reproductive rights and services** were due to EU support according to most of participants (67%).

One respondent from DG NEAR suggested that the thematic areas of culture and (mental) health as well as other topics related to EU Youth Goals (incl. climate change, etc.) could feature more prominently in operational EU youth support / funding, and at the same time more mainstreaming of youth in other programmes/projects should support greater social inclusion and cohesion.

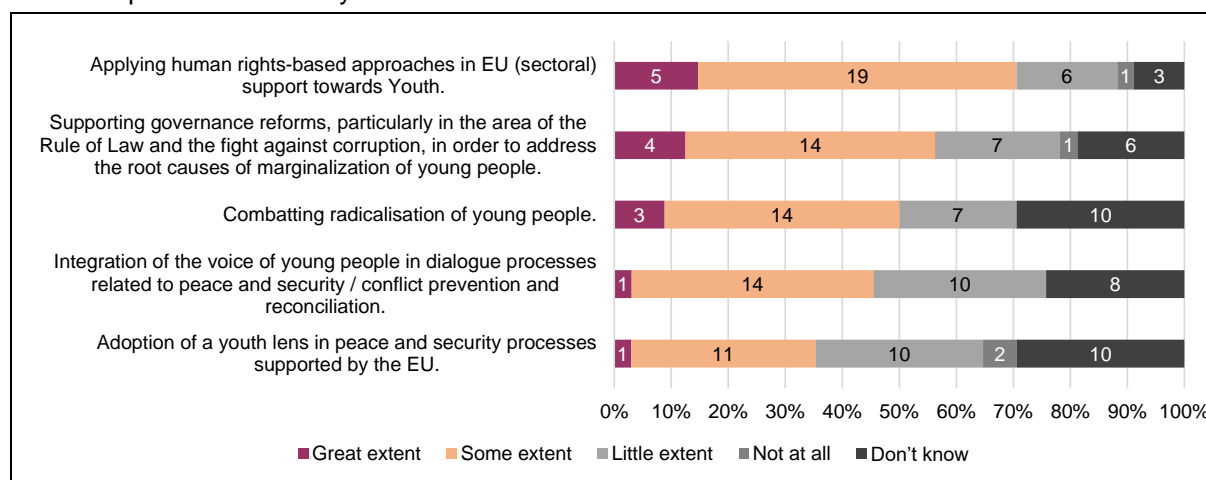
Box 8 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional):

#### DG NEAR HQ

- *“Thematic areas of culture and (mental) health as well as other topics related to EU Youth Goals (incl. climate change, et al) could feature more prominently in operational EU youth support / funding and at the same time more mainstreaming of youth in other programmes/projects should support greater social inclusion and cohesion.”*

### 6.1.3.9 Youth peace and security

Question 8 To what extent has EU support contributed to improvements in the following areas related to peace and security?



N=34

Youth peace and security emerged as an area where **the EU was perceived by the majority of participants as having positively contributed**. The vast majority of respondents agreed that EU support contributed to improvements in **applying human rights-based approaches** in EU (sectoral) support towards youth (70% of participants selected that EU support has contributed to a great or some extent). The majority also agreed that the EU has contributed to improvements in **supporting governance reforms**, particularly in the area of the RoL and the fight against corruption, in order to address the root causes of marginalisation of young people (55%).

At the same time, **many participants did not have an opinion** on EU contribution to peace and security. In two statements, a considerable number of EU stakeholders (about 25%) stated that they are don't have an opinion on the issue (choosing Do not know). 50% agreed that EU support helped to **combat the radicalisation of young people**, while 29% have no opinion. 45% saw an improvement in the **integration of the voice of young people in dialogue processes** related to peace and security / conflict prevention and reconciliation thanks to EU support, but 24% did not express an opinion.

Finally, it is not clear from the results whether EU support contributed to improvements in the **adoption of a youth lens in peace and security processes** supported by the EU (35% of participants agreed to some extent, 35% agree to a little extent or not at all, and 30% did not know).

One participant from DG NEAR argued that there was a lot of potential, but very little targeted EU support/funding on Youth Peace and Security so far, and suggested to include as a thematic priority in future programming / design of grant schemes the support to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution/UNSCR 2250.

Box 9 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### DG NEAR HQ

- *“A lot of potential, but very little targeted EU support/funding on this so far. Support of implementing the UN Security Council resolution/UNSCR 2250 should be included as thematic priority in future programming / design of grant schemes.”*

#### EUD

- *“RYCO support projects.”*

### 6.1.3.10 Challenges

To conclude the section on the effects of EU support in the four thematic areas, respondents were asked to provide the **three main challenges for the regions in the scope**.

The three main challenges across regions based on the responses were: i) **lack of commitment and responsiveness of beneficiary country's Governments**; ii) **building inclusive processes and actions to engage Youth and foster participation**; and iii) **shortage of funding for Youth initiatives**.

Based on the contributions of EU stakeholders, the more recurring challenges can be divided into four areas: i) political and governance issues; ii) Youth engagement and participation; iii) structural and geopolitical challenges; and iv) financial constraints and organisational challenges.

Among **political and governance issues**, many respondents mentioned the lack of commitment and responsiveness of beneficiary country's Governments (5 respondents), resulting in a lack of sustainability and ownership of the programmes after their completion; and complex political dynamics and political instability (2).

Challenges related to **Youth engagement and participation** included: building inclusive processes and actions, expanding the beneficiaries to include the vulnerable and reaching out to Youth in rural areas (5); identifying the right interlocutors at local level and engaging Youth in a meaningful way (2); high turnover of young people engaging with organised youth structures (1); and language barriers (1).

Many respondents highlighted **structural and geopolitical challenges** on the side of the beneficiary country limiting the EU support to Youth: migration and brain drain, linked to a lack of work for Youth (4); lack of peace and security (3); lack of governance reforms in the area of RoL to address the root causes of marginalisation of young people (2); weak civil society in the country (1); lack of national focus on Youth issues in a context of multiple crises (1).

The next group of challenges referred to **financial constraints and organisational challenges**: shortage of funding for Youth initiatives (3), also in partner country's youth sector; lack of mainstreaming of youth issues and actors into other sectors (1) and across EU Delegation sections and areas of expertise (1); difficult operating context (1); poor design of actions and concentration of implementing capacities (1); poor monitoring of the impact of youth actions/measures (1); excessive red tape both at EU level internally and in beneficiary countries (1).

Box 10 Please provide the three main challenges in relation to EU support to youth in the above mentioned four thematic areas, for the regions in the scope (optional).

- *"Better design of actions and better concentration of implementing capacities."*
- *"Building trusted and inclusive processes of consultation and implementation of youth supported actions and going beyond the usual beneficiaries (sometimes politically affiliated or representing well off young people; speaking foreign languages etc)."*
- *"Difficult operating context."*
- *"From a programme view the main challenges are to interact with local organisations in as meaningful way."*
- *"Funding and resource allocation."*
- *"Identification of relevant interlocutors on the side of youth (CSOs)."*
- *"Lack of common vision with the state actors."*
- *"Lack of government agency commitment."*
- *"Lack of responsiveness of governmental institutions."*
- *"Migration -lack of long-term realistic policies on beneficiary side."*
- *"Policy dialogue in the field of youth policy, both among institutions and with EU."*
- *"Political instability."*
- *"Reach out of rural and most vulnerable youth."*
- *"Supporting governance reforms, particularly in the area of the RoL and the fight against corruption, in order to address the root causes of marginalisation of young people."*
- *"Limited institutional/political support from partner countries authorities. Limited awareness and knowledge in public institutions of partner countries about possibilities for youth engagement."*
- *"Economic integration – brain drain and emigration of young people."*
- *"Migration and brain drain are trends extremely difficult to revert."*
- *"Enhanced access to financial support for youth."*
- *"Including cutting red tape both at EU level internally and for Western Balkans, Neighbourhood South region and Neighbourhood East region countries."*
- *"Lack of ownership of the programmes by state actors after their completion."*
- *"Lack of sustainability due to no interaction with de facto authorities."*
- *"Lack of youth work."*
- *"Language barrier – some (higher level) consultation processes are run in English."*
- *"Mainstreaming of youth issues and actors into other sectors."*



- *“Mainstreaming youth issues across EU Delegation sections and areas of expertise.”*
- *“Regional security.”*
- *“Scattered leadership commitment.”*
- *“Skills.”*
- *“EU support has fostered the establishment of mechanisms to ensure structured engagement of the youth in regional dialogue processes and EU external action.”*
- *“Shortage of resources (funding) in partner country’s youth sector, limited base and high turnover of young people engaging with organised youth structures (such as youth councils, youth organisations, etc.).”*
- *“Peace and security – combating the radicalisation of young people.”*
- *“Youth engagement and active participation in policy/political dialogue is hardly a priority in contexts of multiple and overlapping crises (including geopolitical ones) affecting essential aspects of countries’ life. The focus of National stakeholders and international assistance alike tends to be inevitably on other sectors than Youth.”*
- *“Better public policies at national level to foster youth engagement.”*
- *“Complex political dynamics.”*
- *“Economic and energy crisis.”*
- *“Lack of genuine engagement in decision making.”*
- *“Limited territorial coverage (often focused on capital and bigger cities).”*
- *“To know how our actions/measures “in reality” benefit youth and youth organisations.”*
- *“Weak civil society in the country.”*
- *“(Policies for) Reduction of brain drain and emigration of young people.”*
- *“Limited outreach to and low participation of young people in civic life, especially in non-urban and other disadvantaged regions (incl. young people in/from areas affected by violent conflict).”*
- *“Peace and security – supporting governance reforms, particularly in the area of RoL and the fight against corruption.”*

### 6.1.3.11 Achievements

After discussing the challenges, EU stakeholders were asked to highlight the three most important achievements of EU support to Youth in the four thematic areas. The answers can be grouped into the four thematic areas. Youth engagement in policy processes and democratic spaces was the area which counted the most achievements among the responses.

Regarding **Youth engagement in policy processes and democratic spaces**, the main achievements highlighted by participants included: the development of structured dialogue mechanisms (e.g. EU Youth Dialogue, and Youth Policy Labs) (according to 3 participants); the creation of spaces for the promotion/uphold of fundamental rights and democratic values, as well as freedom of expression for Youth and Youth organisations (3); the provision of a greater voice to Youth in policy and political processes through youth-centred programmes (e.g. Eastern Partnership EU4Youth programme; Youth Advisory Panel) (4); support to governance reforms, also through policy advocacy for Youth (3).

Regarding **Youth Economic integration**, the most important achievements according to EU stakeholders were: initiatives to contrast Youth unemployment (e.g. Youth Guarantee) (according to 4 participants); support to skills development to access the job market (e.g. VET) (2); support to the development of Youth entrepreneurship (1).

Regarding **Youth social inclusion and cohesion**, the main achievements included: capacity building and youth mobilities (3); support to young vulnerable people (e.g. improved access to financial and technical support) (2); opening space for inclusive dialogues on issues of discrimination, gender and social exclusion between youth representatives and policymakers (1); provision of additional resources to the Youth sector to compensate the lack of resources at national level, including by focusing more on youth issues across grant schemes for civil society (2); enhancing the capacity of youth to be an actor and producer of culture and meaningfully participate in intercultural dialogues (1).

Only one respondent wrote specifically about **Youth peace and security**, by highlighting the EU effort in applying human rights-based approaches in EU (sectoral) support towards Youth.

**Cross-cutting achievements** of EU support included: the adoption of the YAP in EU external action (2); the cross sectoral design of youth policies (1); the transfer of EU best practices and policies (1); the creation of momentum in coordination for youth action among donors and international community (1); and the increasing positive attitudes towards the EU among youth, academics and parents generated by the Erasmus+ programme (1).

#### Box 11 Achievements

- *“Adoption of Youth Action Plan.”*
- *“Attempting to give a greater voice to youth.”*
- *“Contribution to development of youth entrepreneurship.”*
- *“Cross sectoral design of youth policies.”*

- *“Engaging youth organisations in the Erasmus and Solidarity Corps programme.”*
- *“Establishment of Youth Advisory Panel jointly with UN, also involved as consulting body for government youth sectorial strategy.”*
- *“Implementation of youth guarantee to combat youth unemployment.”*
- *“Intervention at legislative areas for young people.”*
- *“Knowledge dissemination of support measures.”*
- *“More focus on youth issues across grant schemes for civil society, should not be one off.”*
- *“Positive attitudes towards the EU increased among youth, academics and parents via Erasmus.”*
- *“Supporting governance reforms, particularly in the area of the youth engagement in the political parties.”*
- *“Transfer of EU best practices and policies.”*
- *“Youth Policy.”*
- *“Develop structured dialogue mechanisms, linked to EU Youth Dialogue and developing the model of youth policy labs as multi-stakeholder process.”*
- *“Social inclusion and cohesion opening space for inclusive dialogues on issues of discrimination, gender and social exclusion between youth representatives and policymakers.”*
- *“The various editions of the Eastern Partnership EU4Youth programme have contributed to bring the Youth sector more into the scope of the political and policy decision makers, ultimately indirectly contributing to formulation of National strategies, policies and programmes for youth.”*
- *“Access to financial and technical support for young vulnerable people.”*
- *“Assisting youth to find employment.”*
- *“Creating momentum in coordination for youth action among donors and international community.”*
- *“Creation of youth centred programmes (both bilateral and regional level).”*
- *“Meaningful youth activities including capacity building and youth mobilities.”*
- *“Promotion/uphold of fundamental rights and democratic values.”*
- *“Skills Vet EU competences.”*
- *“Youth NGOs found a space to express themselves via EU supported projects. This contributes to the development of a European identity among young people.”*
- *“Facilitate exchange and develop the model of Youth Guarantee also outside the European Union with partnerships of various actors for youth employment, involving also youth organisations directly themselves.”*
- *“Social inclusion and cohesion – enhancing the capacity of youth to be an actor and producer of culture and meaningfully participate in intercultural dialogues.”*
- *“Contribution to public discussion on relevant topics for young people.”*
- *“Creating concrete programmes supporting youth transition from education to the job market.”*
- *“Engaging vulnerable youth.”*
- *“Especially employment related programmes are an anchor of hope for Turkish youth who have been enduring economic challenges for many years.”*
- *“Policy advocacy for youth.”*
- *“Providing resources to a sector which are not getting a lot of resources from national/regional/local level.”*
- *“Providing a strategic framework with the Youth Action Plan that covers all of the above aspects and which can/should guide further development and operationalisation.”*
- *“Peace and security applying human rights-based approaches in EU (sectoral) support towards Youth.”*

### 6.1.3.12 Improvements or changes

After highlighting the challenges and areas of improvements, EU stakeholders were asked to suggest **improvements or changes to enhance the EU support to youth in the four thematic areas**, in the country/region they covered.

One of the most common suggestions was to **allocate more human resources and funding** to Youth, especially at EUD level. This was suggested by six respondents, stressing that is key to achieve sustainable results, and to match the increasing workload derived from the tasks and responsibilities of supporting Youth. To this end, one respondent stressed the need of continuous support from HQ in capacity development, training and advisory services to the EUDs.

Five respondents suggested that the EU should **increase Youth inclusion** in all phases of EU interventions, from project level to programming, to ensure that they are at their centre. Climate change, Peace and security, and governance reforms (RoL) are three sectors in which the voice of young people should be more included according to EU stakeholders.

Four respondents suggested to **improve the M&E system** of Youth initiatives. Better data collection and statistics would help to focus more on the impact at project level. One of them suggested to introduce a “youth marker” system similar to the “gender marker”.

One more group of suggestions referred to the **focus of EU support to youth**. Two respondents suggested to focus on youth work and municipal work. One respondent suggested to enhance political

dialogue on youth support with national public stakeholders. Another one to focus on better addressing the risks of radicalisation and social exclusion. Mirroring the answers in the section on challenges, one respondent suggested to expand the coverage and focus on most deprived groups, and another one specified to focus more on those who are exposed to joblessness and low education attainment. One respondent highlighted the need to improve the selection of implementing partners through assessment of their implementing and technical capacity.

Box 12 What improvements or changes would you suggest to enhance the EU support to youth in the above mentioned four thematic areas, for the regions in the scope? (optional).

- *“Design dedicated funding with mainstreamed objectives.”*
- *“Mainstreaming to other sectors.”*
- *“More human resources.”*
- *“More resource allocation for sustainability of results achieved.”*
- *“More systemic integration of youth issues in programming of IPA and other support.”*
- *“More tangible actions regarding youth.”*
- *“Placing young people in action-based approaches at the centre of interventions.”*
- *“Try to expand the coverage and focus on most deprived groups.”*
- *“Youth should be more involved in design of EU support firstly.”*
- *“Youth work.”*
- *“Introduction of a “youth marker” system similar to a the “gender marker” to promote more systematic consideration of youth already during programming stage, but also related a set of corporate level indicators to allow for better related monitoring and reporting.”*
- *“Better strategy for combating brain drain and youth emigration once countries get closer and open up to the EU.”*
- *“More staff in the EUD to better match workload and likely increasing tasks and responsibilities in supporting Youth.”*
- *“Better choice of implementing partners through assessment of their implementing and technical capacity.”*
- *“Defining youth mainstreaming as “the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a youth perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages.”*
- *“Finding the right interlocutors.”*
- *“Focus more on impact and sustainability at project level.”*
- *“Focus on those who are exposed to joblessness and low education attainment.”*
- *“Municipal work.”*
- *“Stronger management commitment to youth mainstreaming and consultation/participation.”*
- *“EU to become more active in operational terms on Youth, Peace and Security, i.e. support/fund youth organisations and youth-led initiatives in conflict-affected regions.”*
- *“Better inclusion of youth in supporting governance reforms, particularly RoL and the fight against corruption.”*
- *“More concretely include Youth in the priorities of bilateral programming in the medium and short terms. This entails financial resources to implement bilateral programmes to support Youth.”*
- *“Address the risks of radicalisation and social exclusion.”*
- *“Better data/ statistics collection.”*
- *“Concrete commitment and programming supporting Youth peace and security agenda.”*
- *“Enhanced political dialogue on youth support with national public stakeholders.”*
- *“Increase number of EUD staff who can dedicate more time.”*
- *“Monitoring and evaluation what EU really achieves.”*
- *“More support on and better involvement of young people in promoting necessary reforms and changes related to climate change.”*
- *“Better integration of the voice of young people in dialogue processes related to peace and security / conflict prevention and reconciliation.”*
- *“Continuous support from HQ in capacity development, training and advisory services for the EUD to work effectively in Youth.”*

### 6.1.3.13 Final remarks

The last section of the e-survey gave the opportunity to participants to provide other contributions to this evaluation, focusing on sharing of experiences/good practices, lessons and recommendations as well as concrete examples of impact of EU support in their country/region.

Very few participants took this opportunity, and only three contributions provided more information. One respondent highlighted the **key role of social media** (those where the EUD is active) in contacting Youth, making it easier to reach them rather than old people who receive info via large television (TV) channels. As an example, it is mentioned that the central communications team behind the EU Year of Youth was very active in promoting the initiative on social media, where it created a lot of interest from the audience. One respondent shared from their experience that working together with influencers and

empowering them on the ground proved effective in communicating EU achievements towards the youth. Another respondent took the opportunity to reiterate the need to increase human and financial resources in the EU Delegations to effectively work with and for Youth.

Box 13 Please feel free to provide other contributions to this evaluation, focusing on sharing of experiences/good practices, lessons and recommendations as well as concrete examples of impact of EU support in your country/region (optional).

- *“The central communications team behind EU Year of Youth was very active in promoting the initiative on social media. There was also big interest from audiences on social media in the EU year of youth. In a way it’s easier to contact youth (as they are a lot on social media where we are active) than old people who receive more info via large TV channels.”*
- *“Working together with influencers and empowering them on the ground proved effective in communication EU achievements towards the youth.”*
- *“More human and financial resources in the EU Delegations to effectively work in Youth would be necessary.”*

## 6.1.4 Annex I: Questionnaire Survey to EU stakeholders on the Evaluation of EU support to Youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions (2014-2021)

### 6.1.4.1 Introduction

This survey is part of the **Evaluation of EU support to Youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions (2014-2021)**, commissioned by the EC (DG NEAR) and jointly implemented by Particip GmbH and ECDPM.

EU Delegations/Offices and colleagues in HQ have already provided **very useful contributions to this evaluation, and we would like to thank you for your support**. Overall data collection has progressed well and the Evaluation Team has been able to identify a first set of preliminary findings and hypotheses as a result of this process.

The team is now seeking to **validate and generalise** some of its emerging findings with a survey to all EU Delegations/Offices and HQ staff who have been interviewed in the past weeks and months, and additional staff members who have been recommended in the process. This survey constitutes an important milestone for this evaluation. The idea is not to collect new data, but rather to go further with the analysis at the aggregate level.

Receiving responses from a high number of Services and Delegations (**at least one answer per Delegation/Office or Service**) is therefore crucial. We are therefore inviting you to share your insights with us.

Answering it should take **between 15-20 minutes**.

Survey responses will remain completely **anonymous**.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this evaluation in general, or this online survey, your contact persons are:

Evaluation Team:

- **Lorenzo Antoldi**, Survey Manager
- **Mariam Hamad**, Evaluation Manager

European Commission:

- **Emanuela Parisciani**, Evaluation Manager (DG NEAR).

The Evaluation Team



#### Note

- *The main focus of the e-survey is on EU external actions in the Enlargement and European Neighbourhood regions under the responsibility of the European Commission DG NEAR.*
- *Unless specified otherwise, the term “EU support” thus refers to these actions and does not cover the specific actions funded directly by EU Member States.*

### 6.1.4.2 Identification

1. [ALL] Which **EU service** are you working for?

- EUD
- DG NEAR HQ
- Other EU entity (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. [if EUD] In which **section of the EUD** do you work?

- Co-operation section
- Political section
- Other section (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

3. [if DG NEAR] In which **Directorate of DG NEAR** do you work?

- Directorate A
- Directorate B
- Directorate C
- Directorate D
- Support Group for Ukraine

4. [ALL] What is the nature of your work on **youth**?

- Dedicated youth EU interventions (at regional or bilateral level) where young people are the primary target.
- EU support in sectors (e.g. economic support, education, social inclusion, democratic participation, peace and conflict prevention) where youth is one of the main beneficiaries, but not exclusively.
- Policy development regarding youth at HQ level.
- Facilitation of youth dialogue processes at various levels.
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5. [ALL] On average, how much **time of your work** is dedicated to youth related interventions?

- Less than 30%
- Between 30% and 70%
- More than 70%

6. [ALL] Are you currently a **Youth Focal Point** in your organisation?

- Yes, formally.
- Yes, informally.
- No.

7. [ALL] Some of the questions below will require focusing your responses on a specific geographical context. Please select the countries/regions your responses will mostly relate to (e.g. **your current country of operation** or a country where you have extensive recent experience). *If your work covers multiple countries, please select the one(s) where you feel you have the most relevant experience.*

- |   |                                     |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albania                | <input type="checkbox"/> Israel     | <input type="checkbox"/> North Macedonia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Algeria                | <input type="checkbox"/> Jordan     | <input type="checkbox"/> Palestine**     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armenia                | <input type="checkbox"/> Kosovo*    | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbia          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Azerbaijan             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon    | <input type="checkbox"/> Syria           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belarus                | <input type="checkbox"/> Libya      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tunisia         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input type="checkbox"/> Moldova    | <input type="checkbox"/> Türkiye         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egypt                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Montenegro | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia                | <input type="checkbox"/> Morocco    |  |

Enlargement region                       Neighbourhood East region                       Neighbourhood South region

*\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with the UN Security Council Resolution/UNSCR 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice/ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

*\*\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.*

#### 6.1.4.3 EU policy frameworks and institutional support on youth issues

*The questions below relate to the EU support to youth portfolio as a whole (i.e. all sectors are covered). For country-specific questions/answers, please focus on the country that you have selected in the introduction question.*

8. Based on your experience, to what extent **do you agree** with the following statements regarding **EU policy frameworks and institutional support on youth issues**?

	<i>Great Extent</i>	<i>Some Extent</i>	<i>Little Extent</i>	<i>Not at All</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Not Relevant</i>
The EU elaborated a clear, realistic and consistent set of policies to engage with youth and guide the action of Delegations.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Strategies and policies on youth are clearly operationalised at Delegation level.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
DG NEAR-HQ is in a position to provide relevant institutional support to EUDs for a strategic engagement with youth (e.g. in the form of guidance, training, Technical assistance support, advice).	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
The EU has provided an enabling institutional environment (incentives, human resources, distribution of responsibilities and operational support) that is conducive for the implementation of its evolving youth agenda in EU external action.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)*

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*What incentives are needed to ensure that EU delegations can fully integrate/mainstream support to youth and implement the EU Action Plan on Youth in External Action? (optional)*

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#### 6.1.4.4 Design of EU support – programming

9. Based on your experience, to what extent have EU Youth interventions adequately considered the following elements during programming and design?

	<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Not Relevant</i>
The use of political economy analyses.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU policies and priorities, including EU strategies in	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

the region.						
Direct support to address Youth's needs at national/regional level.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Indirect support to address and mainstream Youth's needs at national/regional level.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Inputs from consultation with youth representative (Civil society actors were sufficiently involved).	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Capacity development support for core state agencies (as duty bearers).	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
The development of suitable M&E systems to track results.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
The choice of an adequate mix of aid modalities.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

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#### 6.1.4.5 Delivery of EU support

10. Based on your experience, to what extent **has the delivery of EU support to youth been based on the following elements?**

	Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know	Not Relevant
Complementarity and coherence with the overall EU portfolio.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Integration of inputs gathered from youth consultations.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Identification of suitable implementing agencies with specialist knowledge on youth.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Effective use of youth-centred approaches (i.e. young people as "actors", not merely "beneficiaries").	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Direct funding to youth organisations or specialised CSOs.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Alignment with the Team Europe spirit.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Possibility to flexibly adjust support provided.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

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#### 6.1.4.6 Partnerships and EU added value

11. Based on your experience, to what extent **do you agree** with the following statements regarding **Partnership & EU-added value:**

	Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know	Not Relevant
EU and MS coordinate	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )



their work on youth and foster joint programming and a division of labour.						
Youth concerns are integrated in Team Europe Initiatives.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU fosters policy and political dialogue on youth issues with partner governments or regional bodies.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU has a structured dialogue with relevant youth organisations and movements.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU monitors the quality of the various youth dialogues it supports at various levels.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

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#### 6.1.4.7 Effects of the EU support

This final question relates to the effects of EU support to youth. It focuses on four main thematic areas which the team needs to evaluate, dealing respectively with:

- i) **Participation of young** people in relevant policy processes and democratic spaces;
- ii) **Economic integration**, (formal and informal) education, employability;
- iii) **Social inclusion** / protection, including mobility, culture and mental health;
- iv) Engagement of young people in **peace and security** conflict prevention and reconciliation processes, as well as addressing the root causes of marginalisation and radicalisation.

##### 6.1.4.7.1 Youth engagement in policy processes and democratic spaces

12. Based on your experience, to what extent **do you agree** with the following statements regarding **Youth engagement**?

	<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Not Relevant</i>
The EU has contributed to expanding the political space available for different categories of youth / youth organisations to meaningfully participate and influence relevant policy processes.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
The EU has supported inclusive and meaningful forms of dialogue and cross-sectoral collaboration between state actors and youth groups (formal/informal).	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU support has fostered the establishment of policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks in the field of Youth at national level.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU support has fostered the establishment of mechanisms to ensure structured engagement	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

of the youth in regional dialogue processes and EU external action.						
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Please feel free to share any examples of co-creation and co-management of youth policies and programmes that you have worked on or that come to your mind:

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#### 6.1.4.7.2 Youth economic integration

13. To what extent has **EU support contributed to improvements** in the following areas related to **economic integration**?

	<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Not Relevant</i>
Youth involvement in policymaking processes relevant to youth economic integration.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Reduction of brain drain and emigration of young people	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Economic integration of vulnerable and marginalised youth.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU support has contributed to improving the economic integration of youth in a sustainable manner.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

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#### 6.1.4.7.3 Youth Social inclusion and cohesion

14. To what extent has **EU support contributed to improvements** in the following areas related to **social inclusion and cohesion**?

	<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Not Relevant</i>
Opening space for inclusive dialogues on issues of discrimination, gender and social exclusion between youth representatives and policy-makers.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Supporting the school retention of youth and non-formal education.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Enhancing the capacity of youth to be an actor and producer of culture and meaningfully participate in intercultural dialogues.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Promoting access for youth mental health, sexual, reproductive rights and services.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

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#### 6.1.4.7.4 Youth Peace and Security

15. To what extent has EU support contributed to improvements in the following areas related to Peace and security?

	<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Not Relevant</i>
The adoption of a youth lens in peace and security processes supported by the EU.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
The integration of the voice of young people in dialogue processes related to peace and security / conflict prevention and reconciliation.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Applying human rights-based approaches in EU (sectoral) support towards youth.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Combating radicalisation of young people.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Supporting governance reforms, particularly in the area of the Rule of Law and the fight against corruption -in order to address the root causes of marginalisation of young people.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

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16. Please provide **the three main challenges** in relation to EU support to youth in the above mentioned thematic areas for the regions in the scope? (optional)

	<i>Description</i>
Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	

17. What have been the **three most important achievements** of EU support to youth in the above-mentioned thematic areas for the regions in the scope? (optional)

	<i>Description</i>
Achievement 1	
Achievement 2	
Achievement 3	

18. What **improvements or changes would you suggest** to enhance the EU to youth in the above mentioned thematic areas for the regions in the scope? (optional)

	<i>Description</i>
Area for improvement 1	
Area for improvement 2	
Area for improvement 3	

#### 6.1.4.8 Final remarks

19. Please feel free to provide other contributions to this evaluation, focusing on sharing of experiences/good practices, lessons and recommendations as well as concrete examples of impact of EU support in your country/region (optional).

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## 6.2 Survey to youth actors for the Evaluation of EU support to Youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions (2014-2021)

### Summary report on the e-survey

**Disclaimer:** the views presented in this summary report are not the views of the EC but of the stakeholders that participated in the e-survey. It cannot under any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission or its services.

#### 6.2.1 Objectives of the survey

The Evaluation team launched a survey to capture and **aggregate the perspectives of various youth actors on the relevance and effectiveness of the EU's support to youth areas in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions** between 2014-2021.

The questionnaire was **addressed to youth actors** in Europe's South and Neighbourhood East regions, Western Balkan and Türkiye. Youth actors were defined as youth-led organisations, representative bodies, CSOs, activists, or programme participants who have directly engaged in initiatives supported by the EU. They survey was interested in capturing the views of youth that participated in an EU supported programme, initiative or dialogue, whether implemented through a partner (such as UN agencies, private sector, public bodies, NGOs, or CSOs), or directly through open calls to youth groups, activists, and national youth council.

The survey focused on capturing respondents' views of **EU support to four thematic areas** which impact youth groups:

- **Youth participation:** through youth work and participation in policy making (local, national, regional or international);
- **Youth economic integration:** through youth employment and employability; Youth entrepreneurship (including access to finance and quality of jobs); Digital skills (including skills for green and digital transition); Formal learning (including school retention); Non-formal and informal learning (including skills development);
- **Youth social inclusion** (including women, disadvantaged youth, youth from minorities and refugee youth): through Youth mobility (scholarships, exchange, and employment mobility); culture, school retention, and health (including sexual, reproductive and mental health);
- **Peace and security:** looking inclusion of youth in regional cooperation, reconciliation agendas, and addressing root causes of marginalisation, disengagement, and radicalisation.

The survey was **open for four weeks** and took place from 22 September to 20 October. The questionnaire was available in **English**, though respondents were given the option to answer open questions in their own language. In total, **526 persons** in the sample countries **were contacted** to reply to the e-survey, out of which **173 responded**. This report summarises the received responses, following the structure of the questionnaire (section 6.2.4).

#### 6.2.2 Who replied to the survey?

##### 6.2.2.1 Country/Region

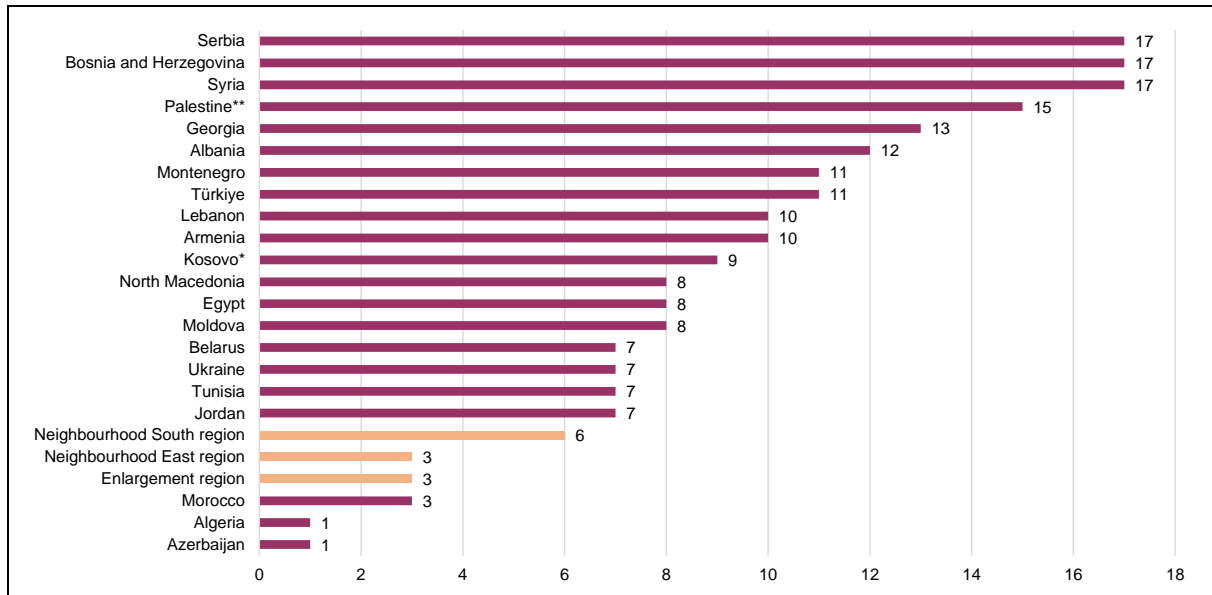
Figure 15 below shows the geographic distribution of the responses received. 173 stakeholders responded to the questionnaire, covering 21 countries (31) or one of the three sub-regions (Enlargement, Neighbourhood South region, Neighbourhood East region). The distribution of responses was relatively balanced at regional level. The Enlargement Region was the most regionally represented (36%, 63 responses from seven countries), followed by the Neighbourhood South region (35%, 61 responses for seven countries) and Neighbourhood East region (27%, 46 responses for six countries). Lastly, three respondents declared that they work with multiple regions. Seven out of the first twelve countries per number of respondents belong to the Enlargement Region. In the Neighbourhood South region, half of the responses came from Syria and Palestine (52%, 32 out of 61). Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon represent 69% of all Neighbourhood South region response. This should be carefully considered in the analysis. In the Neighbourhood East region, Georgia was the most represented (32%), followed by Armenia (22%), while only one response was received from Azerbaijan.

Overall, the highest number of responses came from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Syria (17 answers from each country, 29% of responses cumulatively). The least represented countries were Morocco, Algeria and Azerbaijan (3, 1 and 1 answers respectively).

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31 No responses were received from Israel or Libya.

Figure 15 Distribution of responses by country/region (32)

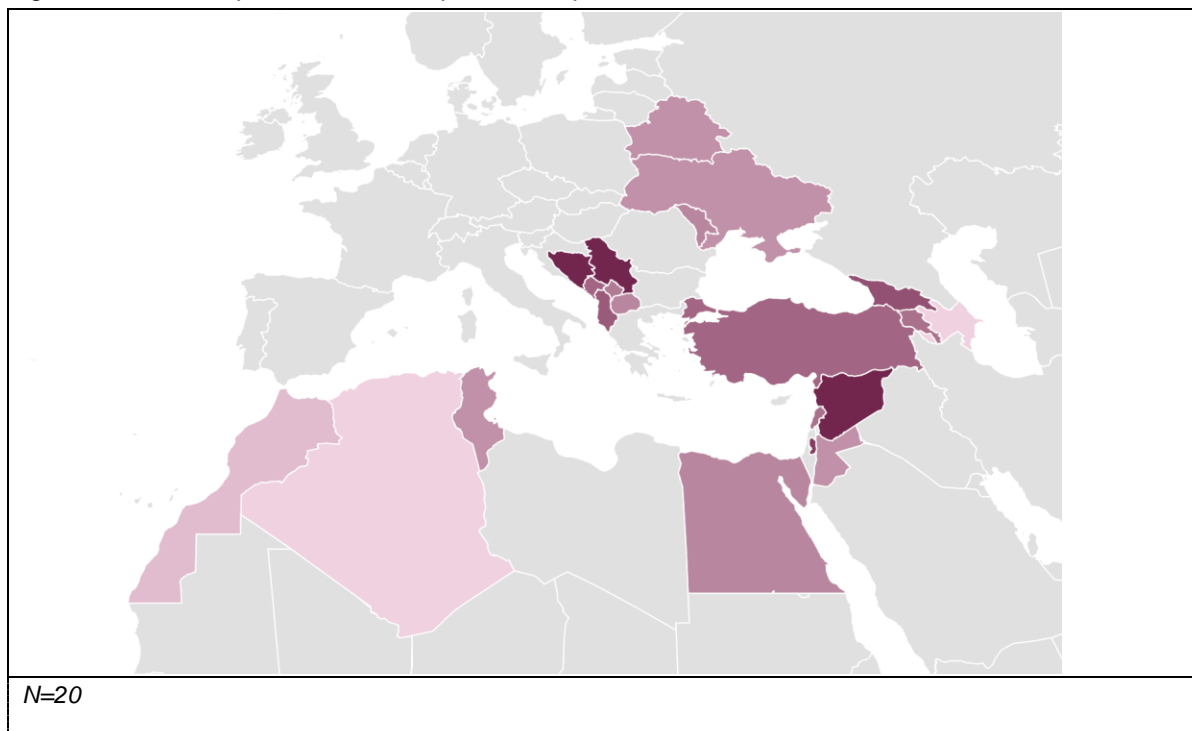


\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution/UNSCR 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice/ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

\*\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

N respondents = 173. On average each respondent chose only one option; when multiple options were chosen, they were disaggregated.

Figure 16 Map of countries respondents operate in

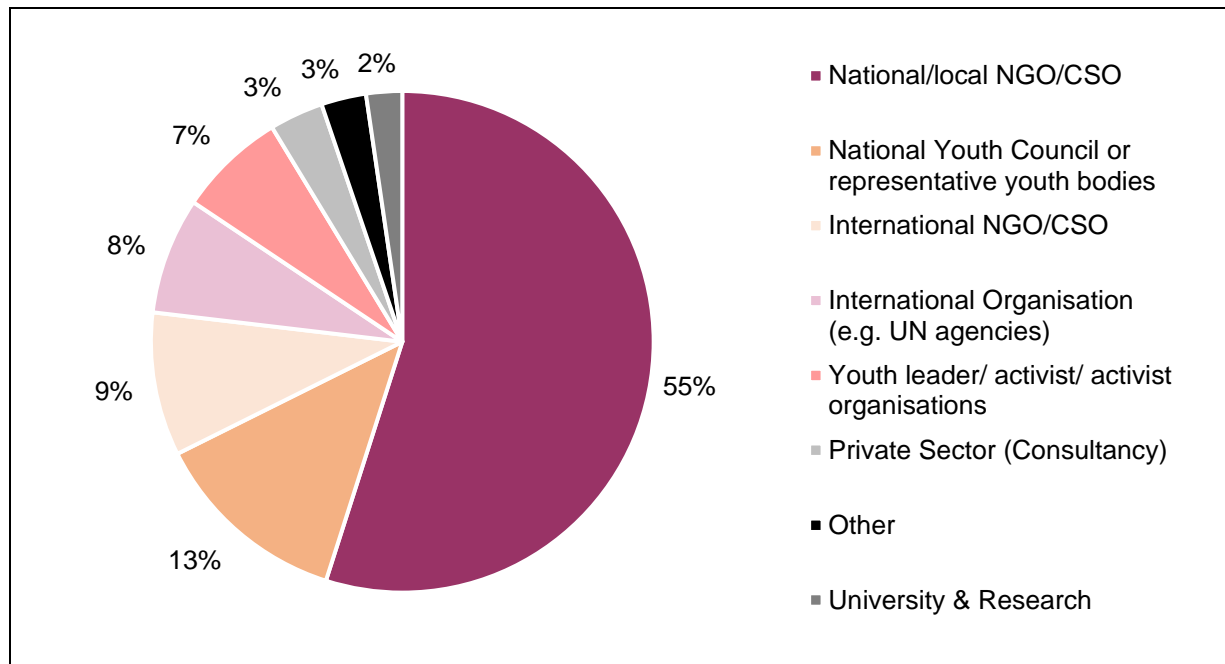


### 6.2.2.2 Organisation and role

Respondents were asked to indicate the type of organisation they were currently working in. If they worked in multiple organisations, they were asked to select the one where they felt they had the most relevant experience in relation to EU support/engagement.

32 Respondents were asked to indicate the country or region they are based in and/or have interacted with EU initiatives. If their work covered multiple countries, they were asked to select the one where they felt they have the most relevant experience to EU support.

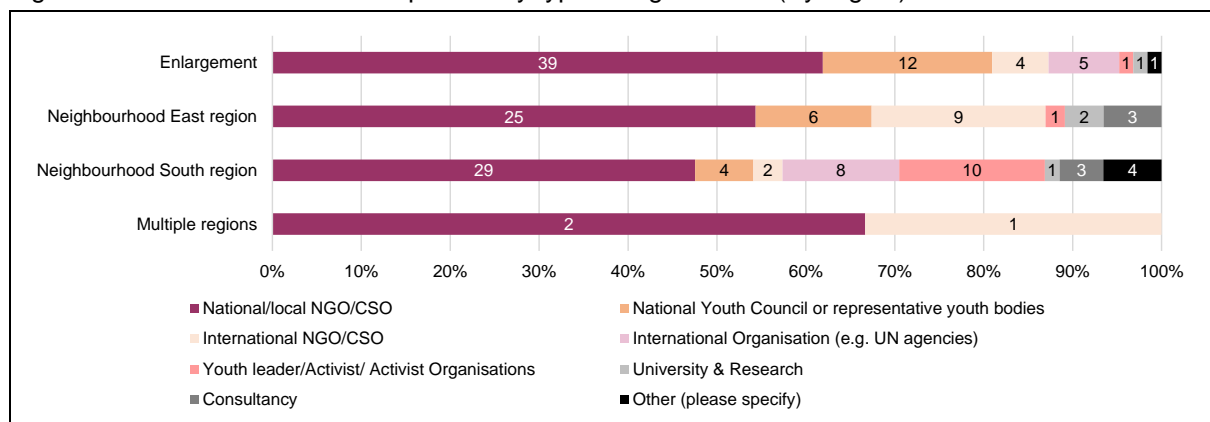
Figure 17 Distribution of responses by type of organisation



N=173

The survey was administered to stakeholders working for various organisations. According to the results, more than half of respondents work for a National/local NGO or CSO (55%), while 13% of them work for a National Youth Council or representative youth bodies, 9% for an INGO/CSO, 8% an International organisation (e.g. UN agencies), while 7% are Youth leader/activist or belong to an activist organisation. Few respondents work for the private sector or in Research or University.

Figure 18 Distribution of responses by type of organisation (By region)



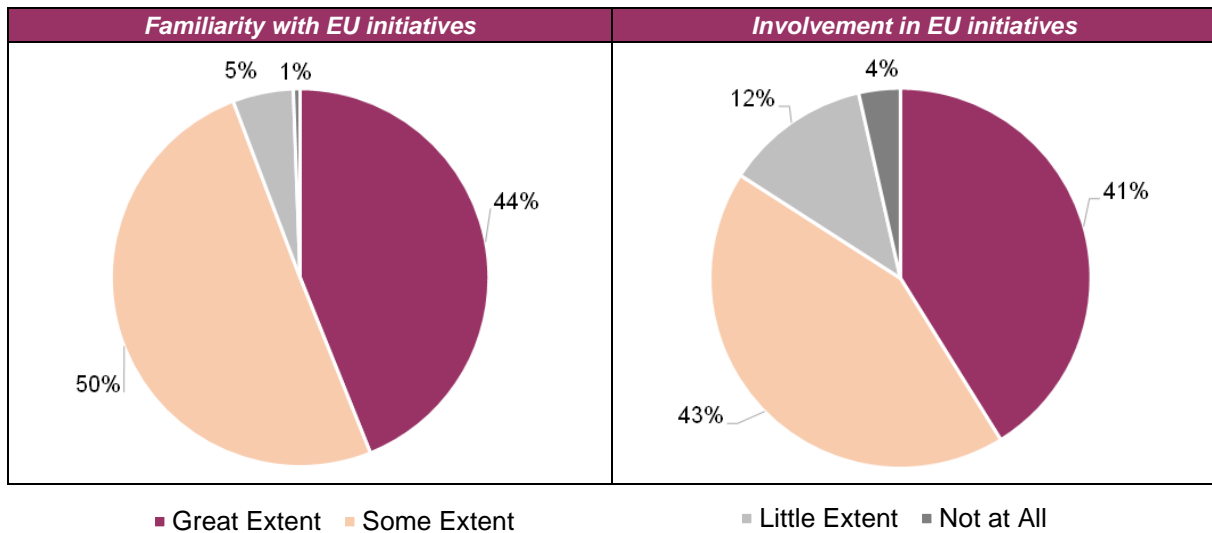
The distribution of the organisations respondents work with changes from region to region. More than half of the Enlargement and Neighbourhood East region respondents worked for a national or local NGO or CSO, while the number is slightly less than half in the Neighbourhood South region. Also, the Neighbourhood South region had the highest representation of Activists.

Regarding the respondents' main role within their organisation, most held senior positions (50% management, 24% Chairperson or President), while 17% were listed as staff members and 6% as volunteers. The remaining 2% identified as consultants.

### 6.2.3 Main responses

#### 6.2.3.1 Familiarity with and involvement in EU initiatives supporting youth

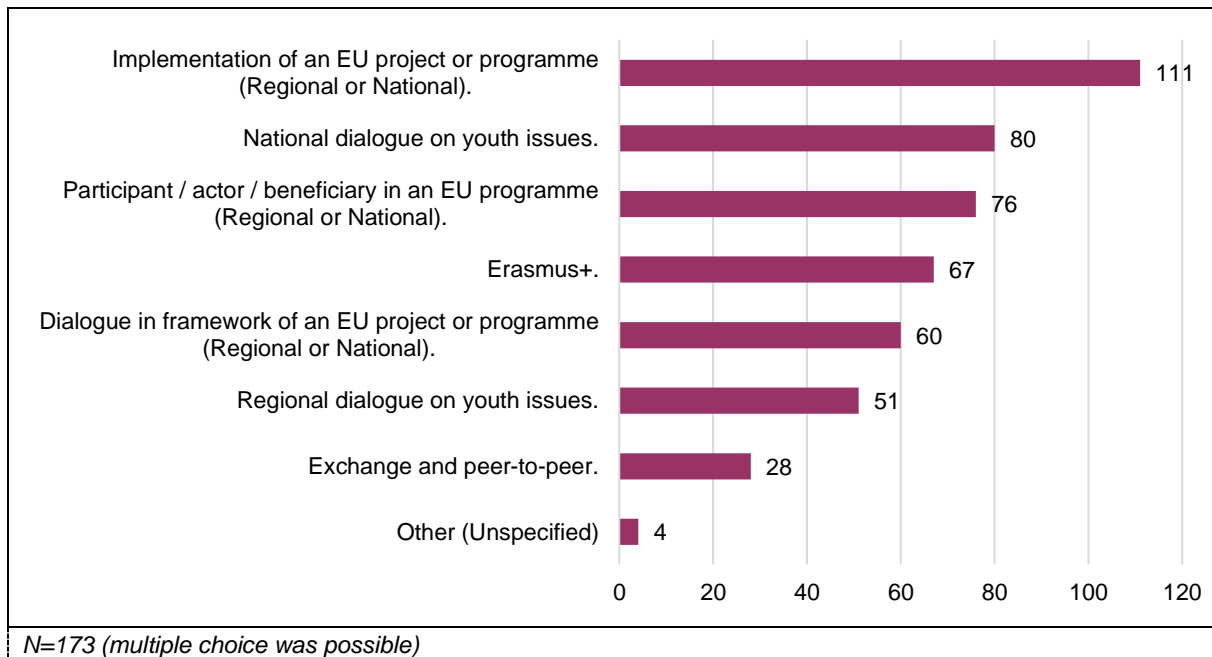
Figure 19 Familiarity and Involvement in EU initiatives supporting youth



N=173

After the identification section, the first question assessed the extent to which respondents were familiar with EU initiatives, dialogues, or programmes supporting youth and/or had been directly involved in EU activities or dialogues supporting youth or youth areas. As Figure 19 shows, almost all respondents were either to a great extent (44%) or to some extent (50%) familiar with EU initiatives and were involved in EU initiatives (great extent 41%; some extent 43%).

Question 9 What type of EU activity have you/your organisation been engaged in?

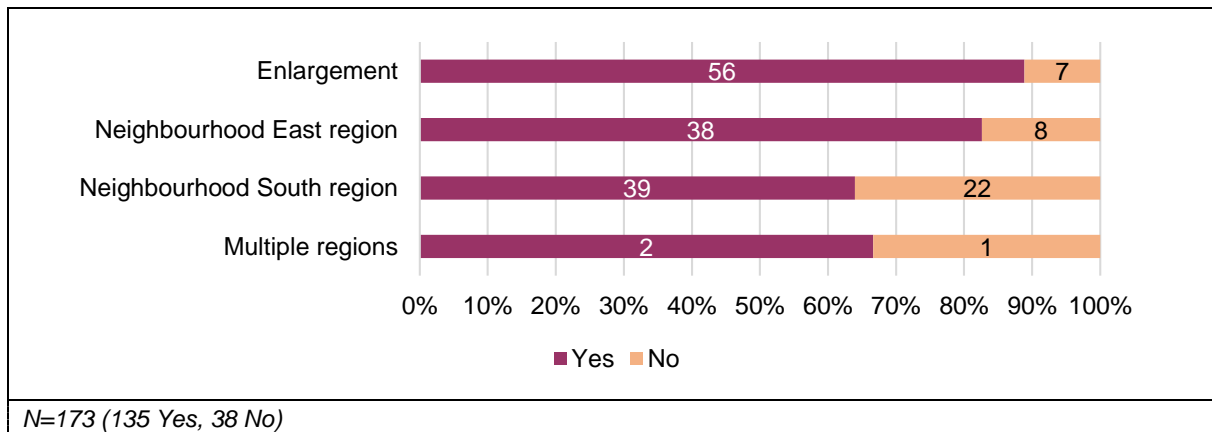


Regarding the **type of EU activity respondents (or their organisation) were engaged in**, 64% of respondents were involved in the implementation of an EU project or programme (111). In comparison, 43% were involved as participants/actors/beneficiaries of an EU programme (76). Some of the respondents have been involved in multiple programmes.

Key examples of EU initiatives included Erasmus+, Horizon, Cultural programmes, as well as regional programmes specific to DG NEAR region such as Youth Ambassadors, Eastern Partnership Youth Forum, Young Mediterranean Voices, EuroMed, Youth Labs, EU4Youth, VET, etc.

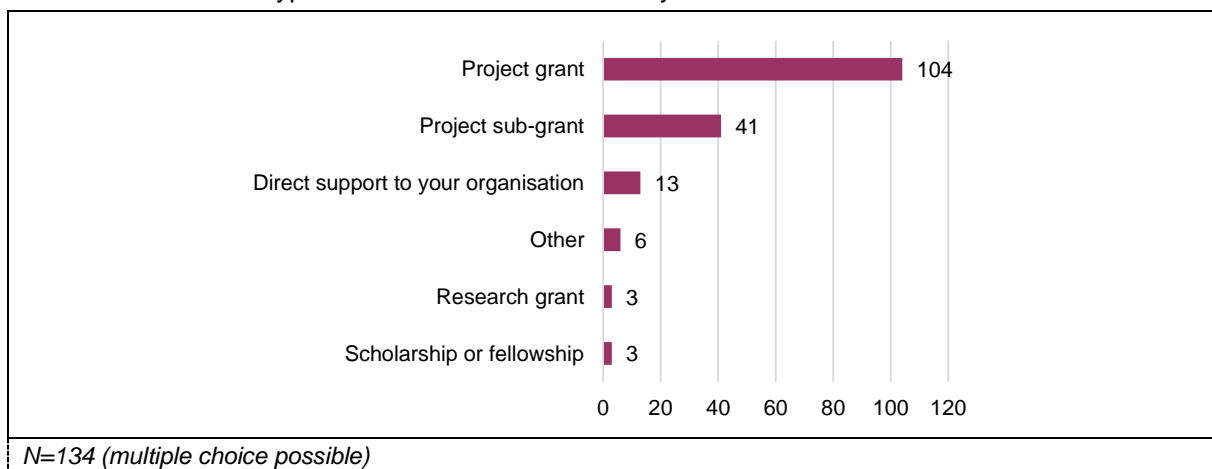
### 6.2.3.2 Financial assistance

Question 10 Have you or your organisation ever received any financial assistance from the EU? (By region)



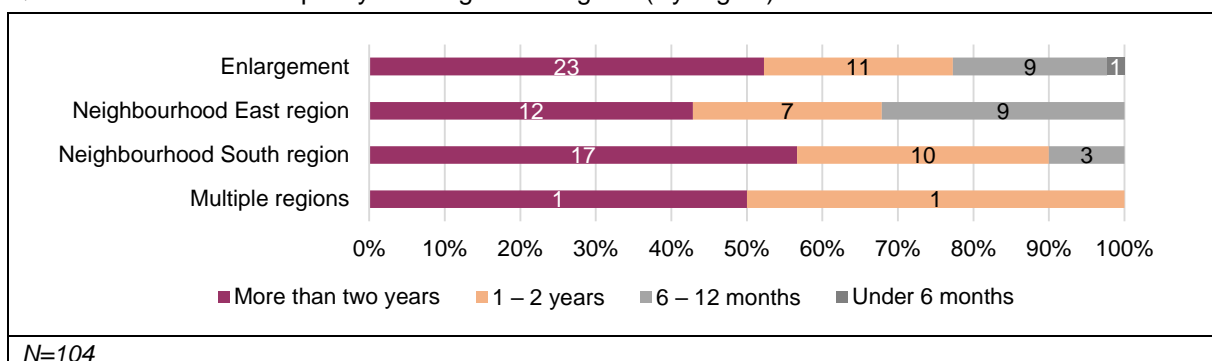
Most of the stakeholders surveyed have **received financial assistance from the EU**. The highest percentage of respondents who have received EU funding was in the Enlargement region (89%), followed by the Neighbourhood East region (82%), and the Neighbourhood South region (64%).

Question 11 What type of financial assistance have you received?



Project grants were the main form of financial assistance received by survey respondents (104 out of 134, 77%). Other forms included Project sub-grants (51, 38%), and direct support to the respondents' organisations (13, 10%). Only three respondents received a research grant (2%), and three received a scholarship or fellowship (2%). The trend was constant across regions, with a similar distribution.

Question 12 Please specify the length of the grant (By region)



Data on the length of the grants received by participants signal a “long-term” engagement. The majority of grants lasted more than two years (53, 51%). And the vast majority of grants lasted more than one year (79%). As Question 12 shows, the trend was stronger in the Neighbourhood South region, where only 10% of participants had a grant lasting less than one year.

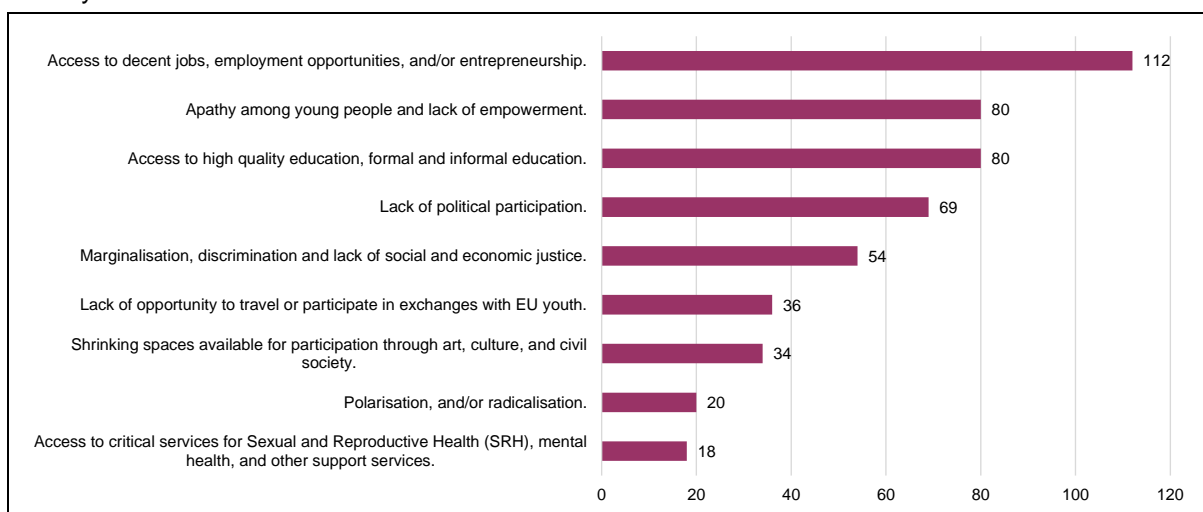
### 6.2.3.3 Engagement and Participation

The main section of the survey measured **youth engagement and participation**, assessing the Relevance of EU support for youth, Dialogue with EU institutions, and the effectiveness of the Implementation and Results of EU strategies. Finally, respondents were asked to highlight key EU achievements and areas for improvement.



### 6.2.3.3.1 Relevance

Question 13 In your opinion, what are the three most important challenges facing youth in your country?

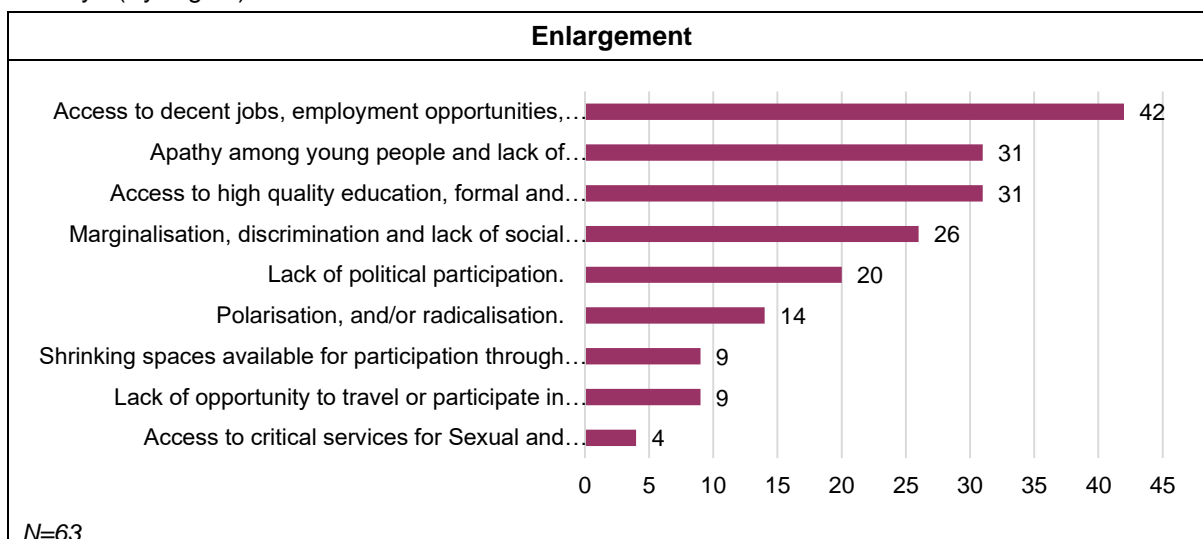


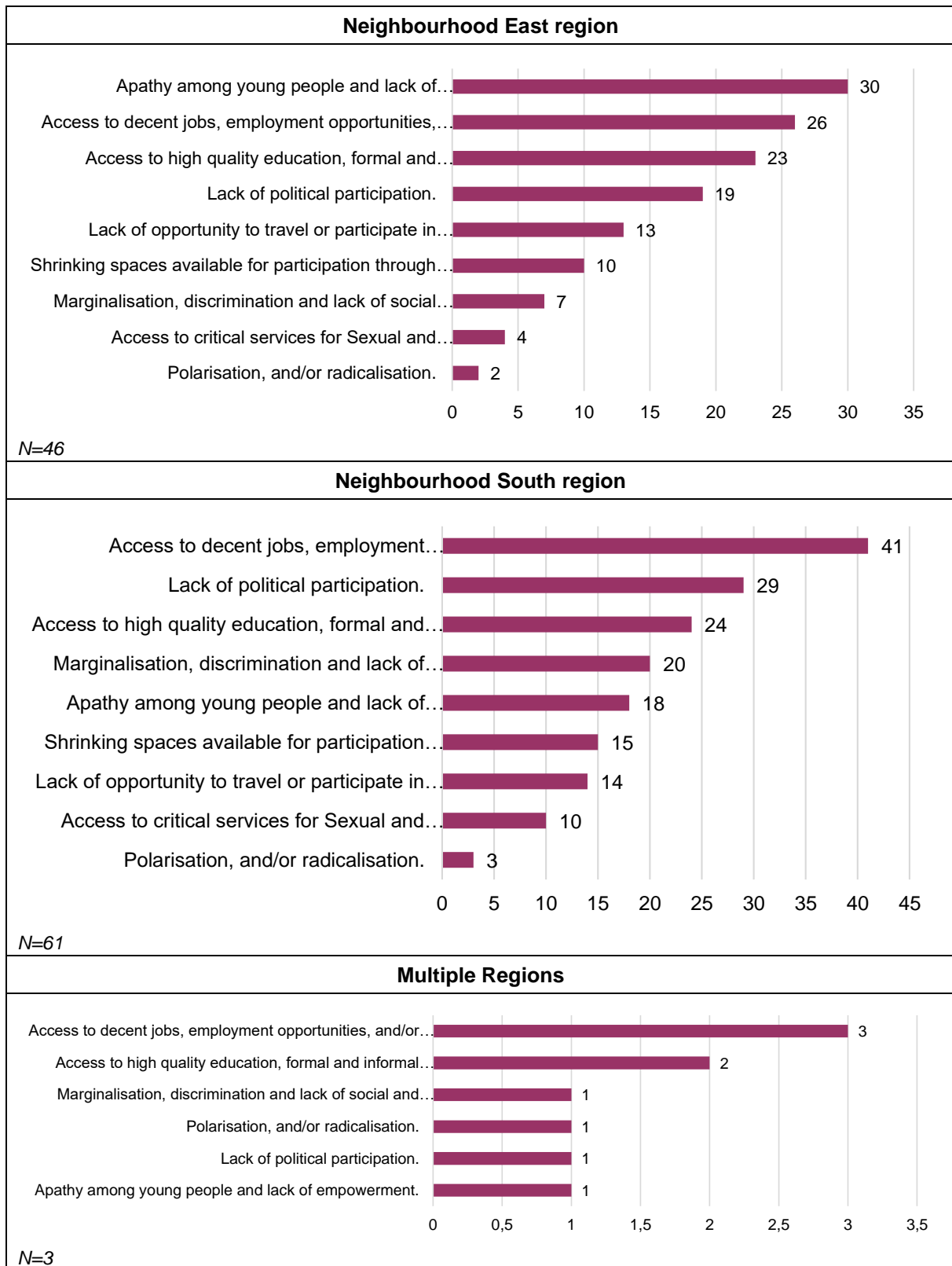
*N=173 (multiple choice, up to 3 answers)*

Based on the survey results, the three most important challenges facing youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood region were: i) “Access to decent jobs, employment opportunities, and/or entrepreneurship” (chosen by 65% of participants); ii) “Apathy among young people and lack of empowerment” (46%); and iii) “Access to high-quality education, formal and informal education” (46%). “Lack of political participation” was chosen by 40% of participants, while “Marginalisation, discrimination and lack of social and economic justice” was selected by 31% of participants. Only 10% of survey respondents chose “access to critical services for sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and other support services”, and “polarisation and/or radicalisation” as the main challenges facing youth in their country.

The results align well with the EU investment and prioritisation of Youth sector.

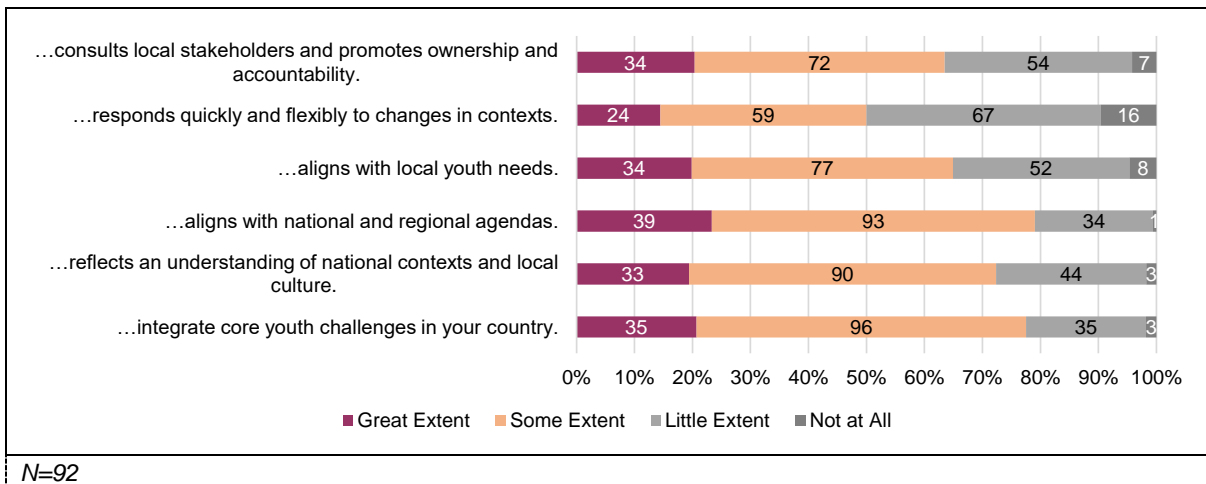
Question 14 In your opinion, what are the three most important challenges facing youth in your country? (By region)





Considering the regional disaggregation, the top three challenges remained consistent for the Enlargement and Neighbourhood East region. In the Neighbourhood South region, access to decent jobs was the most common challenge, followed by lack of political participation and access to quality education.

Question 15 Based on your knowledge, to what extent does EU support to youth... (aggregated)



In Question 15, respondents were asked to give their opinions on a number of statements related to the **relevance of EU support for youth**. Neighbourhood South region respondents' perception was more positive than respondents from the other two regions in four out of six questions.

The majority of respondents (63%) agreed that the EU **consulted with local stakeholders and promoted ownership and accountability**. Perceptions, however, varied significantly across regions. Perceptions from the Enlargement and Neighbourhood East regions were more negative compared to those in the Neighbourhood South region, with 54% and 52% choosing to a great or some extent, and 46% and 48% little extent or not at all, compared to 80% and 20% among Neighbourhood South region respondents.

Half of the respondents agreed that the EU **responds quickly and flexibly to changes in contexts** (50%). Again, the answers were considerably more positive in the Neighbourhood South region, with 71% affirming that in their experience, the EU greatly or, to some extent, responded to context changes. In the Enlargement and Neighbourhood East region results, only 33% and 41% respectively agreed with the statement.

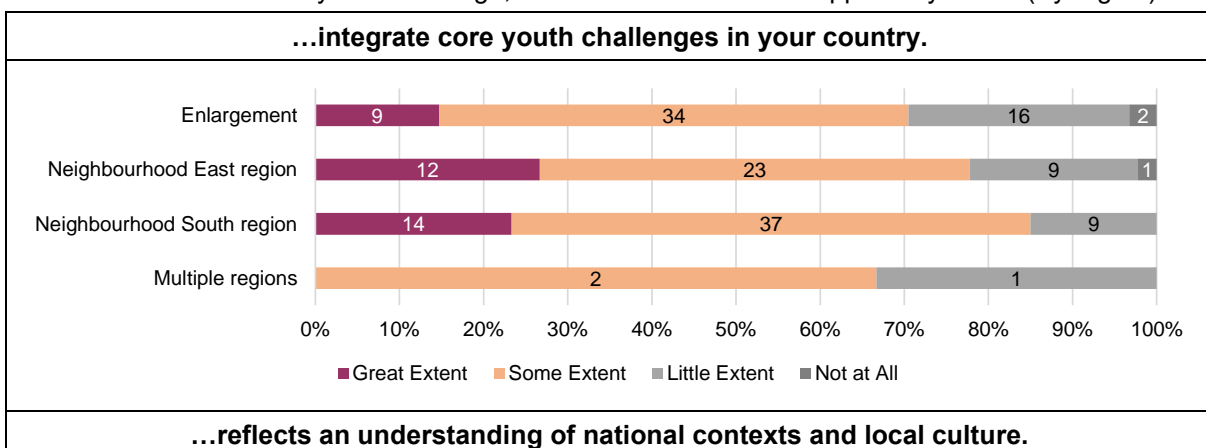
On the EU's **alignment with local youth needs**, more than half of respondents answered positively – to a great or some extent (65%). The Neighbourhood South region provided significantly more positive responses. Almost twice as many agreed with the statement (83%) as those respondents from the Enlargement region (47%) and the Neighbourhood East region showing average results (65%).

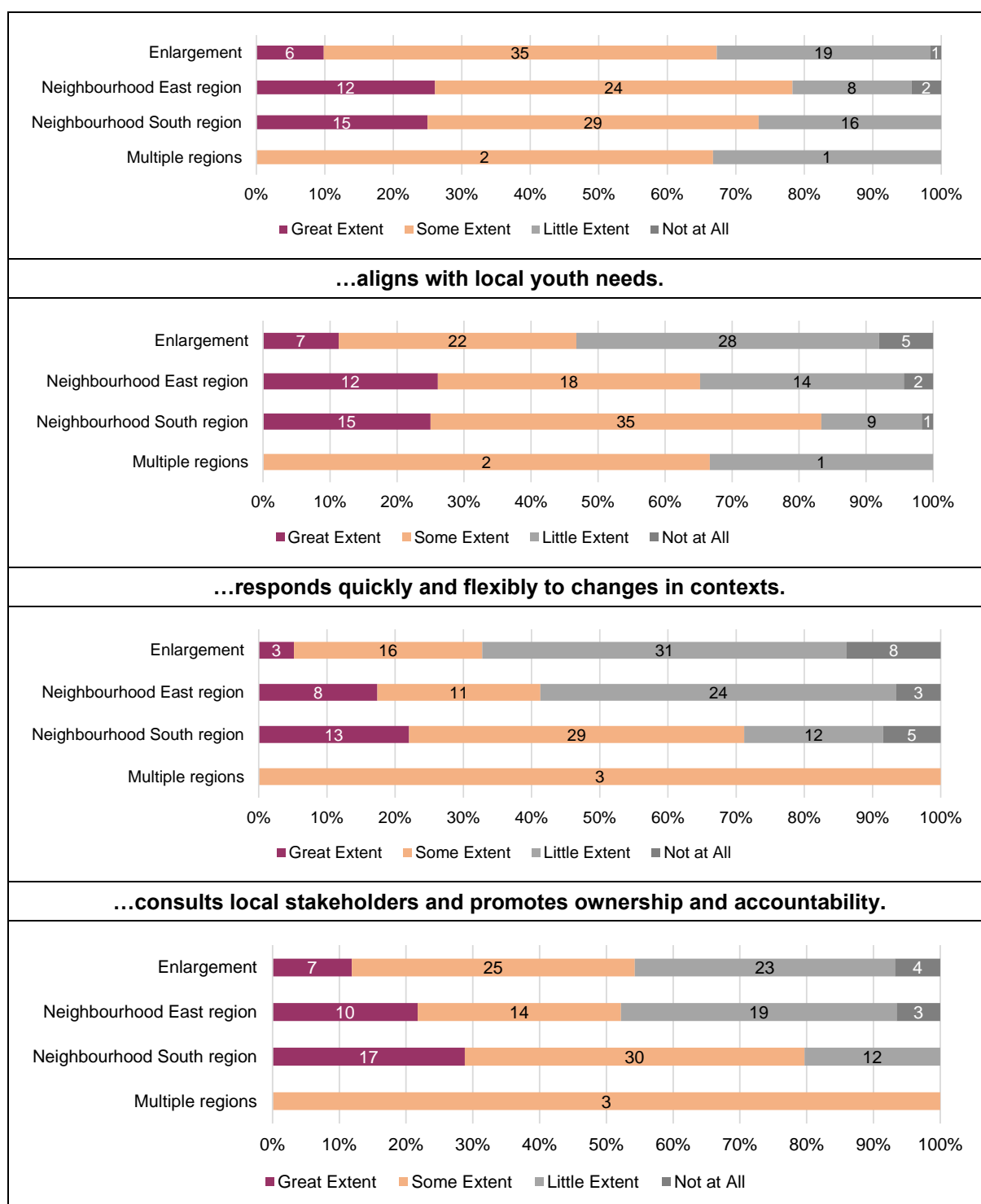
Regarding the EU **alignment with national and regional agenda** in its support to youth, 79% of all respondents agreed that it is to a great or some extent. There was little variation in responses at regional level.

With regards to whether the EU support to Youth **reflects an understanding of national contexts and local culture**, a vast majority of respondents agreed to a great extent or some extent (72%), with the lower figure in the Enlargement region (67%), and the highest in the Neighbourhood East region (78%), followed by the Neighbourhood South region (73%).

Finally, regarding the EU's **integration of core youth challenges in their country**, the vast majority of respondents agreed that it does to a great extent or some extent (78%). Noticeably, the figure is the same in the Neighbourhood East region, while it increases to 85% in the case of the Neighbourhood South region, and it decreases to 70% in the Enlargement region.

Question 16 Based on your knowledge, to what extent does EU support to youth... (By region)





The analysis of qualitative contributions expands on the assessment of EU support to Youth and provides additional information. The following list adds details on the key concerns raised by participants (see Box 14).

### Enlargement Region

- 1. Complexity, inflexibility and lack of inclusivity of grant administration:** Concerns were raised about the complexity and inflexibility of EU's grant administration to Youth NGOs, particularly at the local level. Another respondent mentioned that small and new NGOs face challenges in accessing EU-related funds, limiting their meaningful participation. Some participants noted a concentration of support on the same local NGOs in the capital city, calling for more outreach and engagement with youth in smaller towns and cities. One respondent argued the need for the EU to reassess its support to CSOs, avoiding the emergence of "monopolies".
- 2. Youth Participation in Decision-Making and Youth empowerment:** One participant highlighted the importance of the EU helping youth have a stronger voice and ensuring the

effective implementation of initiatives. One Participant also highlighted a perceived lack of youth participation in decision-making processes.

3. **Misalignment of interests and limited adaptability to national context:** One respondent called for the EU to be more agile in understanding the national context, especially the political landscape and its impact on civil society and youth. Concerns were raised about the alignment of EU interests with those of youth, with suggestions that adaptation to changing circumstances could be improved.
4. **Freedom of mobility as a key issue (Türkiye):** One participant emphasised the importance of addressing the freedom of mobility for young people in Türkiye, highlighting visa-related challenges and their impact on youth development.

#### Neighbourhood East region

1. **Critique of current stakeholder engagement in the region:** Three out of four contributions in the region criticised the existing support system in the Neighbourhood East region for not fully meeting ongoing and shifting political, economic, and social needs, with a need for more government involvement, ownership, and enhancing the sustainability of initiatives. One of the participants raised concerns about the NGOs' and EU's efforts to identify and engage marginalised communities, particularly in remote areas. One respondent expressed concerns about the EU's understanding of the local context and suggested that grants were given to NGOs involved in money laundering.
2. **Political situation impacting support (Belarus):** the socio-political crisis in Belarus was mentioned by one participant as a factor impacting youth support from the EU, and there was a call for support in advocacy efforts for Belarusian democratic youth.

#### Neighbourhood South region

1. **Appreciation of EU cooperation and engagement with and for youth in Palestine and Lebanon.** Three out of six participants acknowledged the EU's efforts in both countries. One respondent raised concerns about the extent of alignment between the EU's policies and Palestinian cultural and political contexts. In Lebanon it was suggested there could be more space for young people to raise issues and contribute to future agendas.
2. **Limited opportunities and marginalisation of youth:** One respondent expressed that, despite aspirations for change, young people in their countries face limited opportunities and are often marginalised, with few initiatives meeting their ambitious needs.

Box 14 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional):

#### Enlargement

- *“National and regional agendas is little extent because for the most part they are negative, and I prefer the EU agendas.”*
- *“Administration of EU grants is too complex for youth NGOs, and it is inflexible to local context. There are strict rules that are not applicable to some countries and at the local level.”*
- *“EU can help youth have stronger voice and make sure initiatives are implemented.”*
- *“EU should be more agile in understanding the national context particularly the political landscape and its impact on civil society and youth. Due to the EU integration is a process run by governmental agencies, the need that it should comprehensively include independent civil society actors and youth in the process to realise the integration, it becomes more and more unfeasible considering restrictive governmental policies, shrinking civic space and oppressed youth. EU should take immediate action to adjust its policies and programmes considering the needs and demands of independent CSOs and youth, and to empower them.”*
- *“EU through its grants supports mainly same local NGOs based in Pristina there is need to do more outreach and engage youth from small towns/cities.”*
- *“Interests of the EU and EU accession are not always aligned with the interests of youth, and they don't adapt that easily.”*
- *“Lack of youth participation in decision making processes.”*
- *“Only big organisations have more access in EU related funds etc by living little space for new or small Non-Profit Organisations/NPO to participate and to be meaningfully engaged.”*
- *“The EU does not provide enough support to the main and most important problem of young people in Türkiye. This issue is the freedom of mobility of young people in Türkiye. Mobility is a natural youth right, a human right. Young people in Türkiye are stuck in the country they live in. They want to see and know other countries and cultures. This freedom of mobility is restricted by both diplomatic and economic means. Visa applications require a lot of documents, and visa applications are an expensive and stressful process. In this process, the pride of young people is hurt. While European young people can travel around Türkiye and the world without doing anything, young people in Türkiye have to be accountable and have to be above a certain economic level. While this situation is restrictive, it is also damaging to the dignity of youth. Young people feel oppressed, excluded and secondary compared to their peers in Europe. Many criteria requested in visa applications, such as detailed bank account statements, the*

requirement for a sponsor to cover the travel expenses, and the requirement for the person to be a student or working, contain attitudes that are contrary to human rights. Young people are constantly trying to prove themselves. He feels obliged to meet constantly demanding criteria. They are forced to shape their development not according to their free will, but according to the expectations of adults. This causes them to become regulated, standard people today and in the future. Nationalism grows in young people who are deprived of knowing other cultures and intercultural respect is lost. They begin to look with hatred towards those who exclude them. Young people whose visions are limited can become useless or even harmful to the country and the world they live in. Instead of legal ways to go abroad, they start looking for illegal ways. They begin to see learning a foreign language as unnecessary. For this reason, their perspective on the world begins to resemble only the views of the society they live in. Even Erasmus+ project participants cannot obtain a visa from time to time. Even young people who are accepted from a school abroad cannot get a visa from time to time. Getting a visa is a big problem in itself. It is unrealistic to expect young people with limited mobility to worry about the world's problems. The first and most important way to achieve SDGs is to liberate young people and educate them. Young people are not anyone's future. They are their own present. Türkiye has the largest and most dynamic young population in Europe. Young people in Türkiye are very promising. They think actively about life and the world and take action. The only thing they expect is freedom and support. The first and most important way to achieve SDGs in Europe is to support and educate youth. I am also the subject of the question I mentioned. As a non-governmental professional who has received visas countless times before, my last visa application to Greece was rejected meaninglessly. For this reason, I will not be able to attend the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation/UNESCO – Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service/CCIVS general assembly. I am an active member in the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations decision-making body called "TEAMS." Also I am a board member of the GSM-Youth Services Center and I am representing GSM in many umbrella organisations worldwide. I need to go abroad at least 6-7 times a year and I never had a rejection before. I represent GSM, the founding organisation of Türkiye's national youth council, GO-FOR, and I am an alternate executive board member of GO-FOR. My youth has many needs. However, the most important problem of young people in Türkiye is mobility and accessibility to education opportunities."

- "While the EU is disseminating its support among civil society, monopolies are emerging. With the elitisation of civil society, interest groups are formed. The EU should reconsider the CSOs it supports."
- "The consultations are majorly done via larger CSOs based in Belgrade, small and medium organisations that are grass root organisation (with direct contact to young people) are often excluded from these processes. Thus, local youth needs are often not fully reflected in the open calls and EU support measures."

#### **Neighbourhood East region**

- "Does EU or Do implementing NGOs really focus on the identification of marginalised communities in the remote areas and try to engage them? I barely have seen true efforts. Even in my case, when I was a project manager of the EU4Youth – Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development/SEED project implemented by the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network/CENN and Green Lane NGO, it was almost impossible to reach marginalised as sub-granting was available for those being able to provide financial contribution (marginalised, impoverished communities cannot do that; Plus, environmental entrepreneurship is costly, creativity-bound, extensive in its design and scope, can impoverished/malnourished youth thing that big?). It is high time EU redesigned its programme scope and really start consulting people on the ground, they are the ones who can deliver the impact. Trust me, we have reached more that designed by the project, however, as a true youth sector contributor, I could see many challenges which bounded my hands and creativity to help youth in need. Also, I am not sure if this is the right text box for this, however, I feel sad, really heartbroken that I had to leave the youth sector and entire country (Georgia) due to the recent political situation which undermines youth participation in all sectors and aspects of governance. I am not a representative of marginalised communities; however, I still consider myself as a youth representative who could have done more to provide for youth."
- "Due to social political situation Belarus has lack support to youth from EU."
- "EU is not doing enough to understand the local context and is giving grants to NGOs that are laundering money. I hope you know how it works. Otherwise, beware of where EU money goes."
- "There is a huge socio-political crisis in Belarus, youth sector is under pressure and repressions from government for several years already. There is a feeling that for EU support it is very hard to understand this reality Belarusian youth facing now and it still work as it was before (which was supportive before but is not that supportive in current reality anymore, unfortunately also taking into consideration all the challenges). + one huge need is popped up for those NGOs who are still operates under pressure and in these circumstances: there is huge need for support for advocacy for Belarusian democratic youth in order to be included and continue the work in the direction of human rights and values. This need is popped up, because often within Europe, as well as youth sector specifically, Belarus is considered equal to Russia, which is very colonial and neglect all the movement and fight for democracy and human rights and all the sacrifices that were taken. With this logic Belarusian youth appear in a very hard position when it is to a different extent but still oppressed from two sides, from autocratic government and from European side."
- "The EU's system for helping young people in the Neighbourhood East region isn't fully meeting the ongoing and shifting political, economic, and social needs in the area. This isn't just because of limited financial help, but also because there aren't enough plans in place to boost government involvement, joint creation, and ownership. The efforts that are made usually just focus on specific projects and are often just advisory, and when they finish, there's a gap in solid steps to keep initiatives going and sustainable over

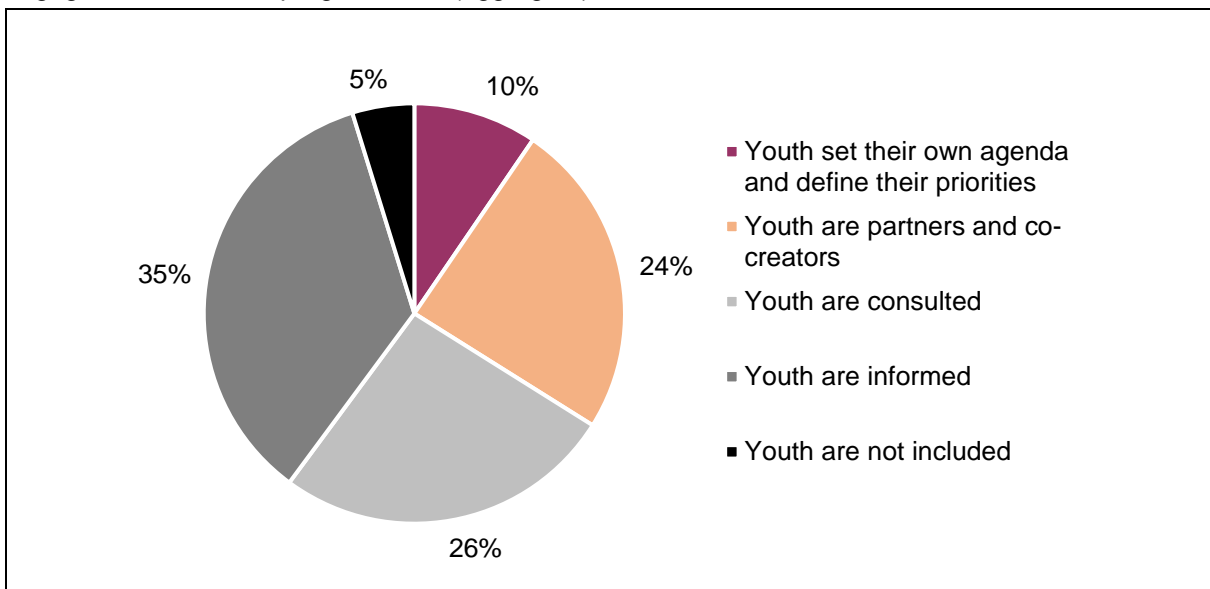
time. While young people might have similar needs, the political and economic differences in the region mean a more customised approach is needed. However, there's a risk of trying to make everything uniform in the overall support structure."

#### Neighbourhood South region

- "As far as I know the EU does a great deal in trying to help foster a healthy relation to Palestine and Palestinians. I am however uncertain about the extent that the EU's policies align with Palestinian ones as they differ culturally and politically."
- "Based on the work and meetings with our partners in the EU, we note the extent of the wide interest in youth issues and other societal issues, but there can be more space for young people to raise issues and solutions from youth to young people to be actors and have a clear future agenda in society."
- "The EU youth programme team has been in close coordination with national and UN stakeholders to address and adapt to national needs and priorities. They have been closely consulting and engaging young people through the youth advisory panel through introducing the EU global and Palestine strategy with a focus on youth. In addition to dialogues with EU heads of political sections and cooperations soon in October 2023."
- "The EU's continued efforts to support the youth in Lebanon is demonstrated through their involvement and funding of projects that span across various disciplines, including education, employment, entrepreneurship, environment, healthcare, capacity building, policy making, culture, gender equality and other. These projects are implemented in collaboration with local governmental entities, non-profit organisations, private entities, youth-led initiatives, and more. However, despite efforts to integrate core youth challenges in the initiatives implemented, there are gaps in addressing the complex and deeply rooted multifaceted challenges the Lebanese youth face (economic, political, and social). While efforts are being made to engage local stakeholders, it is critical to ensure that local communities, youth-led and youth-centric organisations have a strong voice and influence in the design and implementation of these initiatives. It's important to keep in mind that the nature of challenges faced by Lebanese youth sometimes outpace the pace at which programmes can be developed and implemented, which can be challenging."
- "The logical framework takes into account all of the options we have chosen."
- "The participation of young people in my country is very shy. They aspire to change, but the available opportunities are very few, and often the youth group is marginalised despite their many needs, and most initiatives do not meet the ambition."

#### 6.2.3.3.2 Dialogue

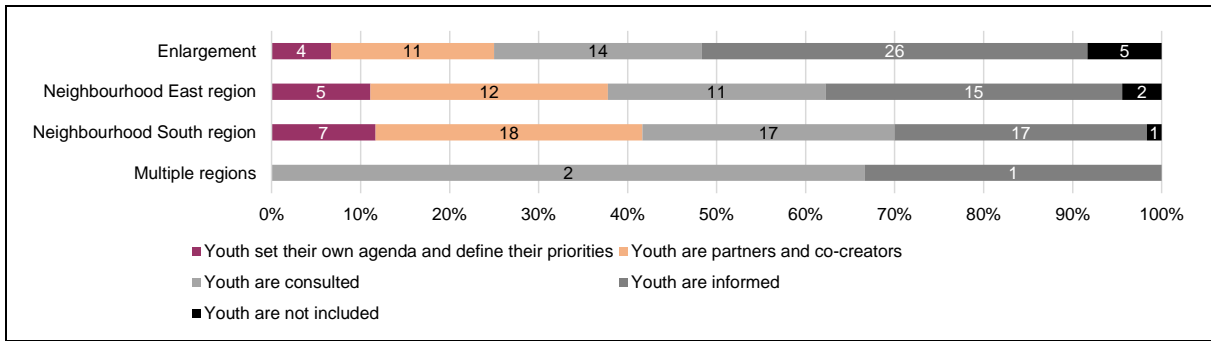
Question 17 Based on your experience, how would you define the quality of youth participation and engagement within EU programmes? (aggregate)



N=168

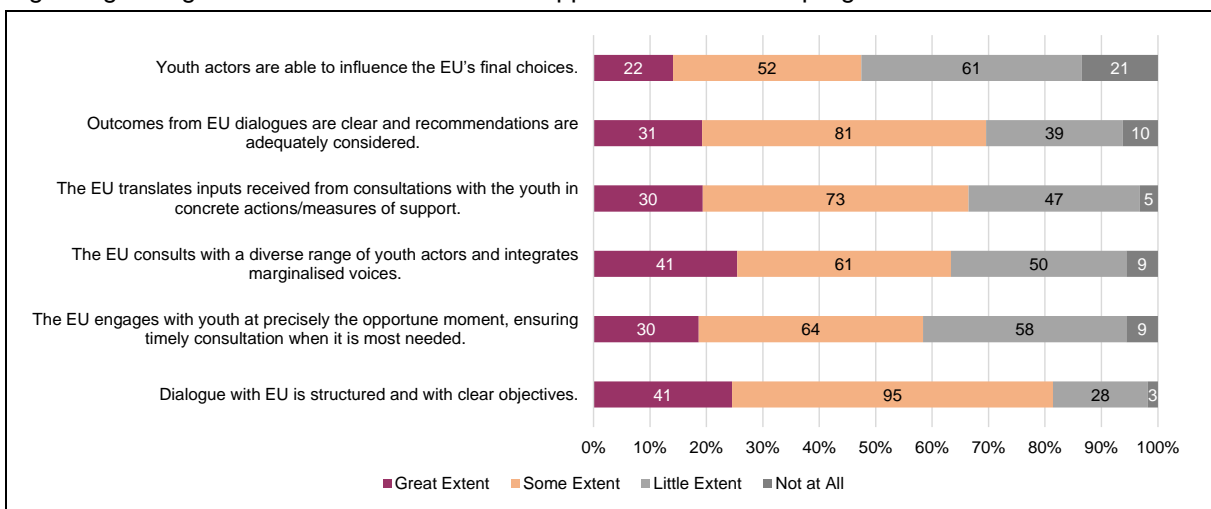
Respondents defined differently the **quality of youth participation and engagement within EU programmes**. According to one out of 10 respondents, Youth set their own agenda and define their priorities (10%). One out of four respondents stated that Youth are partners and co-creators. Based on their experience, most respondents believed that Youth are consulted (26%) or informed (35%). Only 5% of respondents claim that Youth are not included.

Question 18 Based on your experience, how would you define the quality of youth participation and engagement within EU programmes? (By region)



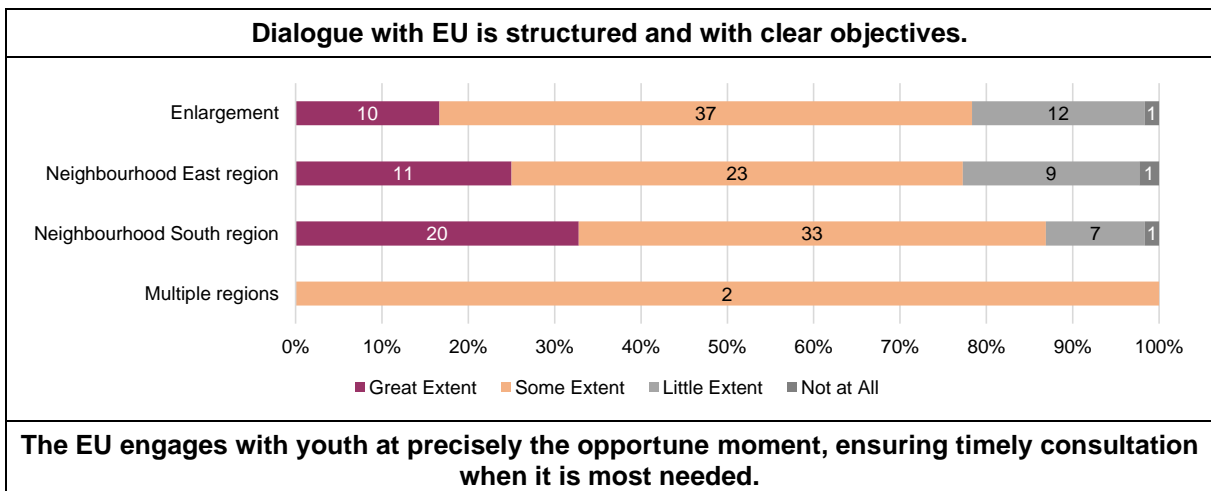
As Question 18 shows, the disaggregation of results by region shows a more critical assessment by respondents from the Enlargement Region. Only 6% answered that Youth set their own agenda, 18% that they are partners and co-creators, and 23% that they are consulted. According to 43% of respondents they are only informed and 8% claims that they are not included. Responses are more positive in the other two regions, especially in the Neighbourhood South region.

Question 19 Based on your experience, to what extent do you agree with following statements regarding dialogue with the EU or within EU supported initiatives or programmes?

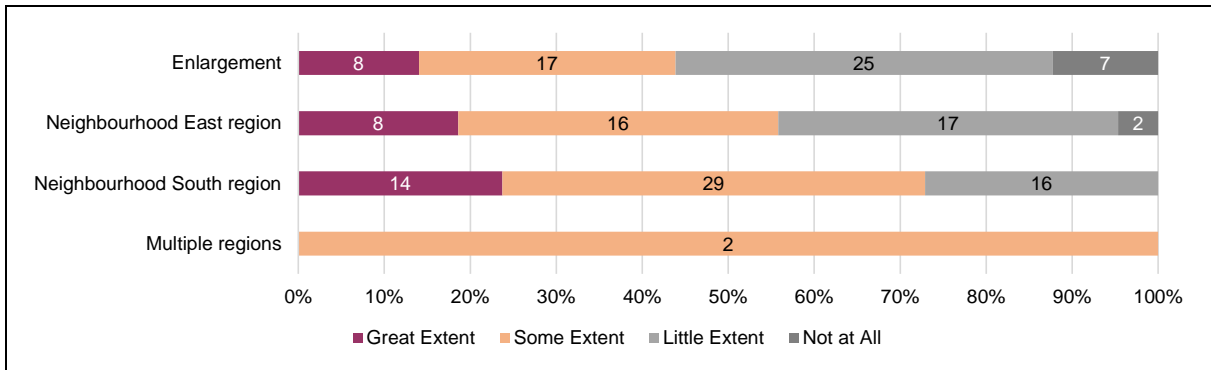


The next set of questions was about the extent to which respondents agreed to a series of statements regarding **dialogue with the EU or within EU supported initiatives or programmes**. Based on the survey results, the overall perception of EU dialogue with youth was positive in the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Region. A great majority of respondents claims that dialogue with EU is structured and with clear objectives. The outcomes of the dialogue are also adequately considered, and the inputs from consultations are translated in concrete actions or measures of support. However, many respondents were sceptic about the ability of Youth actors to influence the EU's final choices.

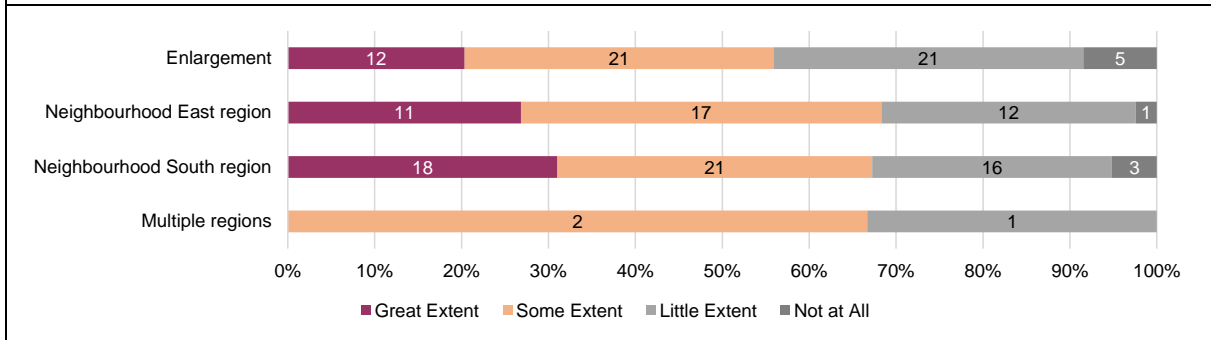
Question 20 Based on your experience, to what extent do you agree with following statements regarding dialogue with the EU or within EU supported initiatives or programmes? (By region)



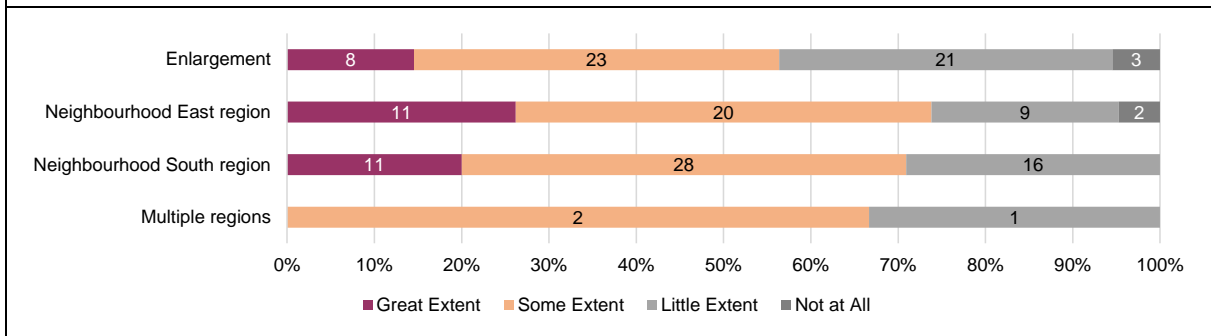




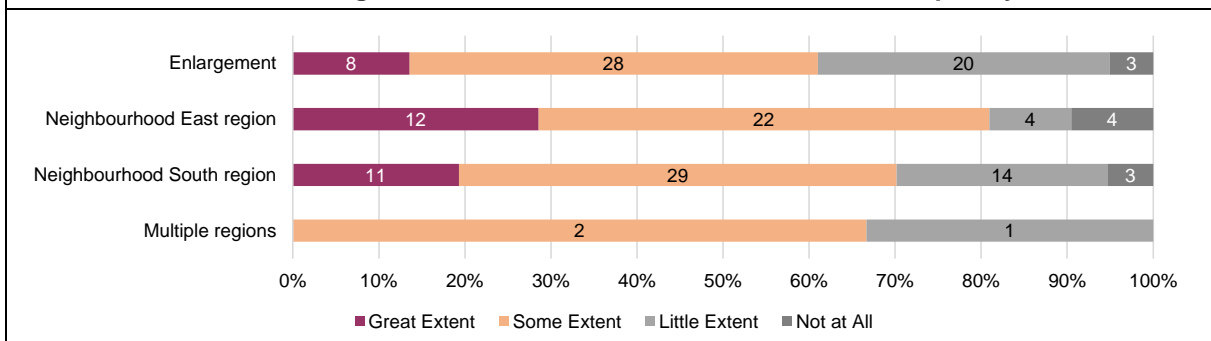
**The EU consults with a diverse range of youth actors and integrates marginalised voices.**



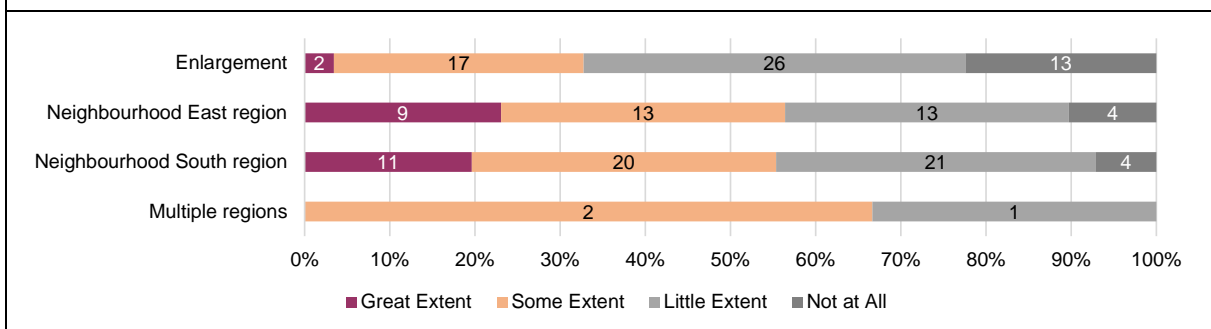
**The EU translates inputs received from consultations with the youth in concrete actions/measures of support.**



**Outcomes from EU dialogues are clear and recommendations are adequately considered.**



**Youth actors are able to influence the EU's final choices.**



Perceptions of EU dialogue with the EU or within EU-supported initiatives or programmes varied across regions. As in other sections of the survey, assessments of Enlargement region respondents were significantly worse.

Regarding the **dialogue with the EU being structured and with clear objectives**, responses were consistent across regions, with an overwhelming majority agreeing to a great extent or some extent (around 80%). The consistency of results was evident also regarding **EU consultation with a diverse range of youth actors and integration of marginalised voices**. The perception is overall very positive.

Perceptions differed about **EU engagement with youth at precisely the opportune moment**. Results suggest that EU engagement in the Enlargement region is not timely enough (only 44% of respondents agreed to a great extent or some extent to the statement), while it is sufficient in the Eastern Region (56% of positive answers) and positive in the Neighbourhood South region (73%).

The survey results suggest that the EU translates inputs received from consultations with the youth in concrete actions/measures of support in all three regions. Positive responses in the Enlargement one are the majority, but less than the other two regions (only 56%, compared to 71% in the Neighbourhood East region and 74% in the Neighbourhood South region).

Based on the results, it emerges a wide consensus in the Neighbourhood East region that **outcomes from EU dialogues are clear and recommendations are adequately considered** (81%). The assessment is very positive also in the two other regions (61% in the Enlargement, and 70% in the Neighbourhood South region).

Lastly, the largest regional discrepancies in survey results are regarding the **ability of Youth actors to influence the EU's final choices**. A slight majority of respondents in the Neighbourhood East region (56%) and in the Neighbourhood South region (55%) agreed to a great extent or some extent, compared to only 33% of respondents from the Enlargement Region. Moreover, 22% of respondents from Enlargement countries did not agree at all.

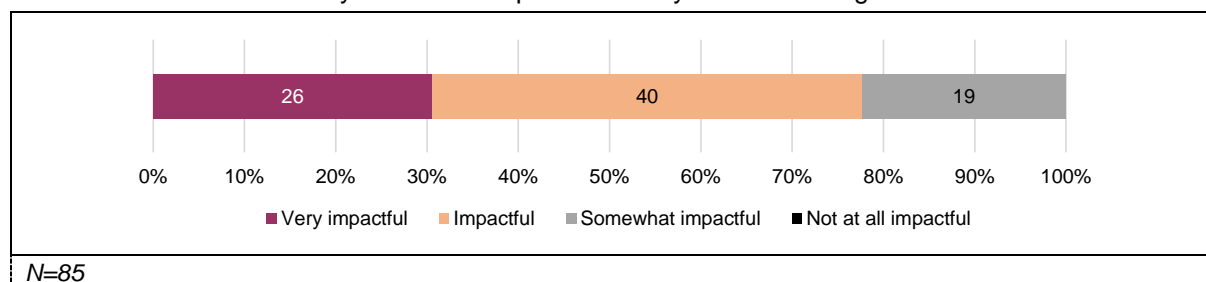
In the following question of the survey, respondents were asked **whether they had participated in networking or peer-to-peer exchanges supported by the EU (e.g. national, intra-regional, or with EU)**. The exact Half of the survey respondents answered that they did (50%).

Participants were invited to **specify to which networking or peer-to-peer exchanges supported by the EU (e.g. national, intra-regional, or with EU) they had participated**. Based on the contributions, the main initiatives in each region could be identified (in order of recurrence):

- **Enlargement:** Erasmus+; National and Intra-Regional Networking Events (e.g. Regional Cooperation Council/RCC; RYCO; EU Technical Assistance To Civil Society Organisations/TACSO Events; Young European Ambassadors); training events for Youth CSOs; European Solidarity Corps/ESC Volunteering.
- **Neighbourhood East region:** National and Intra-Regional Networking events and initiatives (e.g. Eastern Partnership Initiatives; EU4Dialogue; Young European Ambassadors (YEA); Youth Labs); peer-to-peer exchanges (e.g. EU4Youth).
- **Neighbourhood South region:** Networks (e.g. EU Jeel Connect Network (majority of respondents); Impact Makers Network; Youth of Change Network); Erasmus+; Peer-to-Peer Exchanges and Initiatives (e.g. EU4Youth).

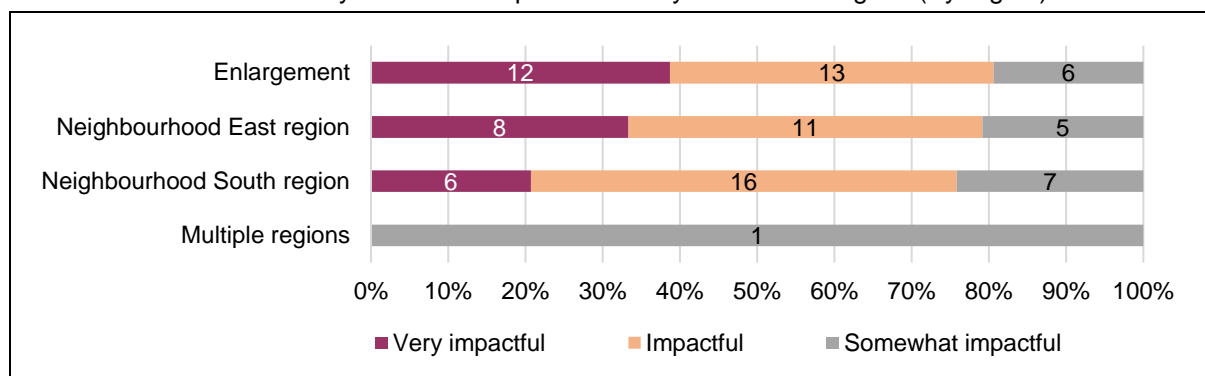
Based on the qualitative results, it emerges that the EU Jeel Connect programme was especially perceived as positive in the Neighbourhood South region. This is confirmed by a comment in Box 15.

Question 21 How would you rate the impact and utility of the exchanges?



As shown in Question 21, respondents consider the exchanges impactful to varying degrees. About one out of three respondents considers them very impactful (varying from 20% in the Neighbourhood South region to about 30% in the Neighbourhood East region, and 40% in Enlargement), while half of respondents considers them impactful, and the remaining ones somewhat impactful (20%). No one chose not at all as an answer, suggesting a certain degree of impact and utility in all regions.

## Question 22 How would you rate the impact and utility of the exchanges? (By region)



Box 15 provides further explanation of the impact or otherwise of the exchanges. There were few contributions, so it was not possible to identify common themes, but they include both positive evaluations and challenges faced, summarised as follow:

- **Enlargement region:** Positive Impact on peacebuilding; Perceived Usefulness and Cooperation Opportunities; Enhanced Knowledge Exchange and Impact; Challenges in Achieving Continuous Impact; Outdated Programmes and Local Variations.
- **Neighbourhood East region:** Enhanced Information Sharing and Partnership Building between CSOs; Increased Awareness of Disinformation; Beneficial Exchange of Best Practices; Challenges in Addressing Diverse Regional Needs.
- **Neighbourhood South region:** Beneficial Interactions with EUD and personal Projects; Positive Impact with Follow-up Actions from UN agency involved; Youth Ambassadors' limited Engagement and Follow-up; Challenges with Workshop Consultants detached from local reality.

Box 15 Why was it or not impactful? Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### Enlargement

- *“European Solidarity Corps/ESC projects and Youth exchange programme have important roles for Western Balkans peacebuilding mission with different non formal activities.”*
- *“In order for us to call the result “impact”, it must be continuous and fully comprehensive. Young people in Türkiye rarely benefit from the effects of change and rarely make an impact. Because all these participations are temporary and limited.”*
- *“Based on our own feedback forms, participants found it useful to meet new potential cooperation partners, etc.”*
- *“Dynamic of programmes and offers to youth are out of date while local situation and needs of youth very a lot in region.”*
- *“It fostered exchange of experience, knowledge and increased impact of the youth work programme concept in the Western Balkan region.”*

#### Neighbourhood East region

- *“CSOs in the network inform each other, exchange experience, establish partnership relationships to provide young people with quality services.”*
- *“I managed to understand how brainwashed people are (not regarding to the EU propaganda, but in general, people are highly disinformed).”*
- *“It was useful get to know best practices of participants.”*
- *“The approach is not country-to-country needs based, but “equal” for the region with very diverse needs and agendas.”*

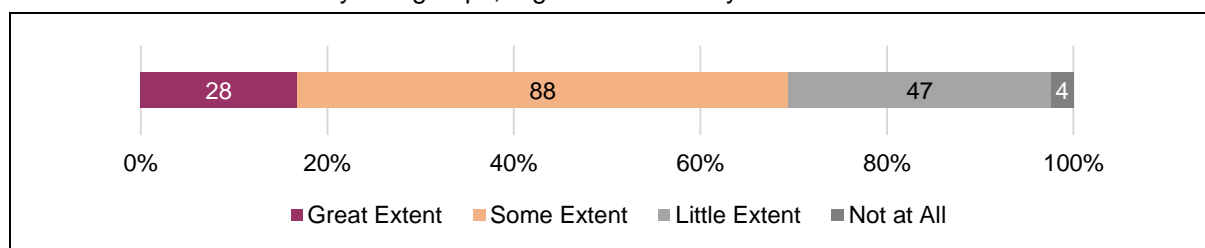
#### Neighbourhood South region

- *“I believe that the most prominent issue is the fact that the Ambassadors tend to gravitate towards one another instead of mingling with the participants, understanding their views and meaningfully implementing their recommendations. Sometimes I fear that these events are an act of youth washing, where little follow up is conducted to have the youth participate in strategizing or planning for the implementation of the policy that they put forward.”*
- *“Impactful because follow up actions have been put in partnership with the UN Population Fund/UNFPA and national partners. UN Population Fund/UNFPA has followed up to integrate recommendations in national youth strategy and relevant discussions with the UN and counterparts.”*
- *“Some workshops are made by consultants that are far from the reality of the country.”*
- *“The EU Jeel Connect network provided its members direct in-person dialogues and conversations with European External Action Service/EEAS personnel in Lebanon as well as the EU’s Head of Cooperation in Lebanon for the years 2022/2023. Those interactions were beneficial in terms of learning about the EU’s activities in Lebanon, which prompted members of the EU Jeel Connect network to carry out 26 local personal projects connecting EU opportunities with roughly 1,000 young people from their local*

communities in the first half of 2023. With more engagement from European External Action Service/EEAS personnel and funding, more youth would be able to participate in those exchanges.”

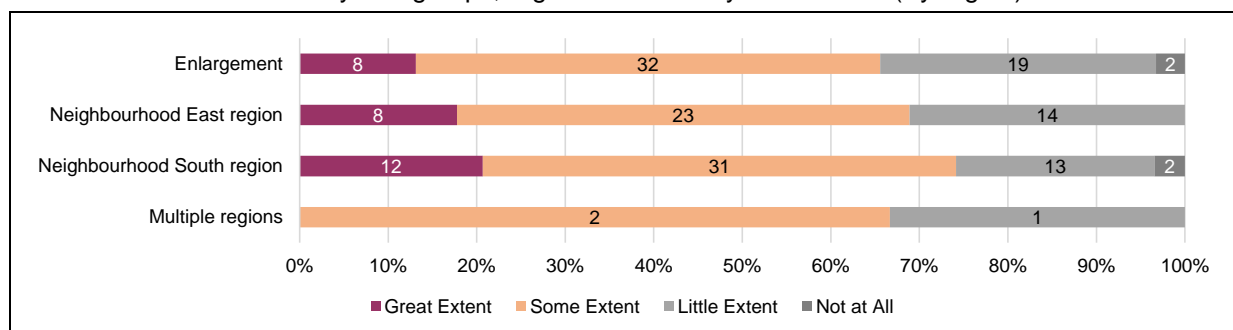
### 6.2.3.3.3 Implementation and results

**Question 23** Based on your experience, to what extent do EU funding instruments and processes enable access to finance to youth groups, organisations and youth actors?



Based on the experience of the majority of respondents, **EU funding instruments and processes enable access to finance to youth groups, organisations and youth actors** to a great or some extent (69%). The distribution of responses across regions does not present significant variations.

**Question 24** Based on your experience, to what extent do EU funding instruments and processes enable access to finance to youth groups, organisations and youth actors? (By region)



Respondents provided extensive explanations of their assessment, suggesting the relevance of the question. From the list of the main themes in each region below, it is possible to identify some trends common to all three regions: i) 10 respondents out of 34 mentioned administrative burdens and high eligibility requirements of EU procedures; ii) 9 wrote about the need to enhance small CSOs capability to access funding; and iii) 6 respondents claimed that direct funding goes mainly to INGOs, while youth-CSOs have to rely on sub-granting. These issues were highlighted also in other sections of this report (See Question 35).

#### Enlargement

- Administrative burden:** Several respondents expressed that the administration and EU procedures are too complex, creating pressure, especially for smaller youth-led groups. Effectiveness is reduced by long response times after application.
- Competition with INGOs/Agencies and administrative costs:** There is a perception that larger organisations or INGOs are favoured by the EU, leading to increased competition. Some respondents believe that funds are disproportionately allocated to cover these INGOs/Agencies administrative costs rather than the real impact or empowerment of youth-focused NGOs. One respondent adds that small NGOs frequently have difficulties in co-financing other organisational costs. One respondent was concerned with the very limited access to other EU funding instruments for youth CSOs and CSOs working with youth, beyond Erasmus+, as they go to larger CSOs which are not youth-focused.
- Limited awareness of funding and CSO capability to access them:** Youth organisations often lack awareness of funding opportunities, and there is a need for more empowerment through knowledge and tools to create and submit quality projects.
- Political influence on funding allocation:** Concerns are raised about conservative policies in some countries influencing the direction of EU grants. There is a desire for funds to go through independent civil society actors to minimise political impact.

#### Neighbourhood East region

- Capacity misalignment and advantage of large organisations:** Local and regional organisations have limited access to direct project funding through EU programmes, contributing to an echo chamber where bigger NGOs tend to get the best grants. Funding mechanisms are perceived not to align with the capacity of youth organisations, with larger

international organisations having an advantage in accessing funds. Most small NGOs have access to sub-granting.

2. **Complexity of funding mechanisms:** The complexity of funding mechanisms and application processes is a barrier, preventing some organisations from applying.
3. **Challenges for NGOs in Belarus:** Limited extent of support for youth NGOs operating inside Belarus is highlighted, with some improvements expected in the eligibility criteria for Erasmus+ in the future.

### Neighbourhood South region

1. **Eligibility requirements and limited inclusivity:** respondents expressed concerns about high financial and administrative thresholds. Some programmes require a previous activity or interaction with the youth as an eligibility requirement, potentially excluding individuals with the capacity and potential to participate. The application process is perceived as complex, often conducted in English, limiting inclusivity for youth with limited capacities. Opportunities are also shared only online, reducing their reach.
2. **Limited support for local youth initiatives:** There is a perception of weak support for youth initiatives in certain areas, despite the availability of energies and human resources.
3. **Competition with INGOs:** EU funding is given mostly to INGOs or big local NGOs. Small youth-NGOs are dependent on sub-granting through other partners. This gives limited ability to shape programmes.

Box 16 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### Enlargement

- *“As I said previously, the administration and procedures are too complex for young people. It should be much more youth friendly. Lot of different platforms, with very strict rules and deadlines create huge pression.”*
- *“As stated in the previous answers, in some countries where conservative policies pursued the direction of EU grants which are managed by the country’s public institutions go toward organisations that are politically close to the government. This approach of the government prevents access of EU funds for youth groups, organisations, and youth actors. Thus, EU funding should go through independent civil society actors in order to minimise the impact of government or any political ideology.”*
- *“Economy standard is high, day by day.”*
- *“EU administration is often too complex for smaller, youth-lead groups. Those grants are also not accessible to youth-lead groups as the grants are usually given to more experienced CSOs.”*
- *“EU is not supporting NGOs in Kosovo as much as it needed. EU should support more and also to train us who are working in civil society fields how to win projects from EU etc.”*
- *“First of all, the support and meetings are not sufficiently announced to youth organisations. Youth organisations are not invited to support promotion meetings on other issues that concern them (climate change, social cohesion, etc.). In addition, the agenda in Türkiye often changes too fast for young people. The response time after applying for EU funds is very long. This makes it difficult to be effective.”*
- *“In North Macedonia funds for the Erasmus+ programme are significantly less compared to similar countries. On the other hand youth organisations tend to avoid implementing IPA programme grants due to their complicated procedure. Additionally these programmes are very competitive between organisations and youth are rarely a priority (although that seems to be changing in the last 2 years).”*
- *“In Türkiye, organisations such as the “Ensar Foundation”, which has been implicated in child abuse, receive youth funds. Young people who are members of religious sects and communities, or members of a political party close to the government, have more access to financial resources. Youth cannot think with their own free will. Because there is no freedom of mobility. Freedom of mobility does not only describe the possibilities of going abroad. Motivation to think and act is related to mobility. A youth who is busy meeting the criteria of adults cannot benefit freely from financial resources. Youth is under the control of adults. The EU cannot choose well who to give financial resources to. Because they don’t know.”*
- *“Lately, youth has become part of donors/EU agenda. Big organisations now or International Organisations have start to put youth in focus to thus implementing or applying in calls which target youth. Now real youth organisations which have been working with the topic for many years are competing with strong Non-Profit Organisations/NPO which have more years of working experience, more human resources and financial means. As conclusion, more of the funds go for the administrative costs of these Non-Profit Organisations/NPO / International Organisations rather the real impact or for the empowerment of the NGOs which know how to work with youth and are aligned with Council of Europe youth work standards etc.”*
- *“Most of them are very difficult to get and/or need additional groups or organisations to be a viable candidate.”*
- *“To adjust programmes according needs of youth, to enhance youth organisations and equip them with knowledge on planning, implementation and monitoring.”*
- *“Youth are not very well aware of their opportunities and possibilities within EU programme grants. Also, youth are not empowered with knowledge and tools to create and send adequate and quality project. That*

is the reason why usually only a few organisations withdraw funds from EU because they are used to the pattern of creating project proposals for EU, while EU programmes are inaccessible to other young people, especially in small communities and rural areas.”

- “Next to the programme costs of hosting programme budgets rarely are able to co-finance other organisational costs and in that way often request co-financing of other donators for its implementation.”
- “Beside Erasmus+, youth CSOs and CSOs working with youth have very limited access to other EU funding instruments due to fact that are mainly funded greater scaled organisation from Belgrade. The most important is that these CSOs are not by their nature youth organisation or organisation for youth, young people are one of many target groups (they in general deal with human rights, employment, democratisation, RoL, while youth are just one of the many topics). In this way, organic youth sector is decreasing rapidly (more than ever). IPA cross border funds are also to some extent accessible, yet they face number of challenges regard management of the Action by the contracting authority (late instalments, late approval of interim reports, organisations need to prefinance not only what is predicted by the Contract but also funds that are approved by the EC- thus, CSOs often choose not to apply).”
- “Youth organisations often do not have capacities to apply for EU funding.”
- “Priorities are primarily geared towards institutional support, not youth or CSOs that could support them. When CSOs have funding to support youth projects, financial disbursement rules are too onerous for youth to manage.”

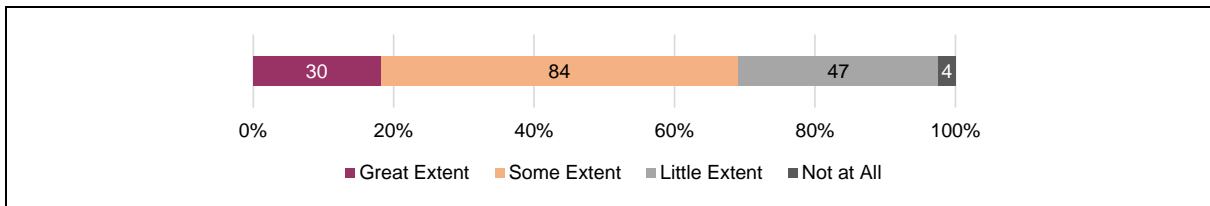
#### **Neighbourhood East region**

- “For those who still operated inside Belarus – very little extent.”
- “From January 2024 Belarusian youth NGOs will finally be eligible to apply as hosts to Erasmus+.”
- “Funding mechanisms do not align with the capacity of youth organisations, in result big international organisations are mostly in the lead of accessing such funding.”
- “Grant management on the ground is quite challenging – sub-granting requires contribution from the grantee, which is cumbersome for the youth, especially those starting up their own initiative.”
- “Local youth organisations have access to re-granting under national projects. But local and regional organisations have very limited access to direct project funding through EU programmes.”
- “The complexity of funding mechanisms and/or application process prevent organisations from applying.”
- “There is an echo chamber, where big NGOs are getting the best grants, and newcomers or smaller NGOs are having a hard time getting them.”
- “Unfortunately, it is difficult or sometimes not possible to get financial support from the EU for start-up initiative groups.”
- “Youth organisations have limited access to EU funding and struggling to guarantee even basic democratic processes like annual meetings. The process of spreading the funding is unclear and untransparent.”
- “Mainly under Erasmus+ and especially within the framework of Youth Windows. EU4Youth Phase III has an important component in this regard, and it is expected that it should increase access to finances for improved youth dialogue.”

#### **Neighbourhood South region**

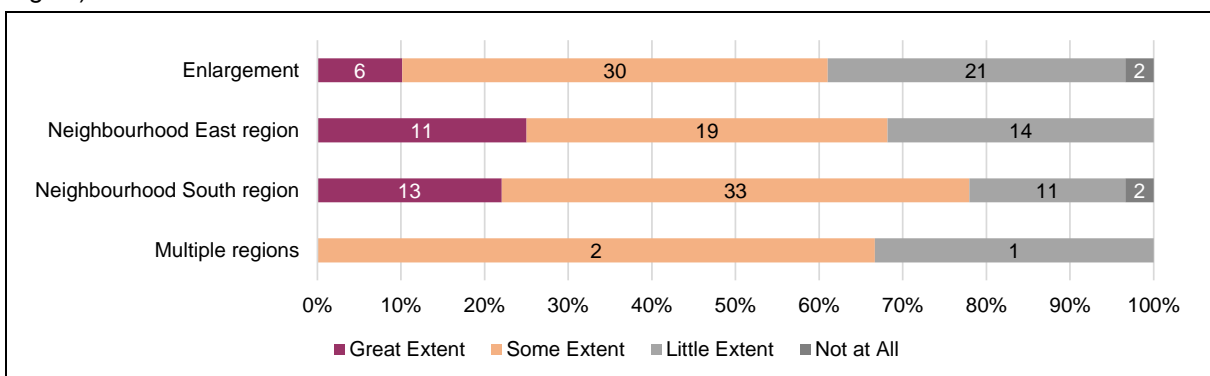
- “Access to funds for projects and programmes is still needed to help businesses and initiatives achieve sustainability and scalability.”
- “EU funding offers a good opportunity, but perhaps it would be even better if workshops were provided that developed knowledge about accessing funding opportunities.”
- “Financial and administrative thresholds are much too high. Even within Financial Support to Third Parties.”
- “I believe that the EU is very focused on youth in the region and that they are eager to support programmes and organisations that seek to empower young people. Sharek Youth Forum is one example.”
- “I think one of the major problems that I myself sometimes face, is that in some programmes one of the eligibility requirements to participate in them is that you have to have had a previous activity, interaction with the youth. This of course serves as an exclusion criterion where some people do possess the capacity and potential to take part in such activities, but unfortunately are unable to because precedence goes to people who have been provided with previously with a platform within the EU.”
- “Limiting youth and community work, meaning that its objectives are with a specific budget and in specific issues and relationships, and this is what I faced during several youth initiatives and projects.”
- “The support for youth initiatives in my area is very, very weak, although the energies and human resources are widely available, but I don’t know why the needs of peers in my area are marginalised, unfortunately.”
- “Whereas there might be efforts in providing finance to youth led projects, however the application process is often complex. Additionally, it’s often conducted in the English language; thus, not inclusive for youth with limited capacities. Moreover, such opportunities are often shared online and not disseminated widely; increasing its lack of inclusivity.”
- “EU funding is given mostly to INGO’s or big local ones. Youth groups or youth led and youth serving organisations seldom receive direct funding and are such dependent on programme proposals and grants that come to them through other partners. So they don’t have as much control on the shaping of the programme.”

Question 25 Based on your experience, to what extent are the implementing agencies delivering EU support programmes effective in engaging and including youth as actors rather than beneficiaries? (aggregate)



Respondents were asked about the **extent to which the implementing agencies delivering EU support programmes are effective in engaging and including youth as actors rather than beneficiaries**. The majority of respondents state that they do to some extent (51%), 18% say to a great extent, 29% to little extent, and 2% not at all.

Question 26 Based on your experience, to what extent are the implementing agencies delivering EU support programmes effective in engaging and including youth as actors rather than beneficiaries? (By region)



Looking at the regional disaggregation of results, it appears that Youth are included as actors rather than beneficiaries by implementing agencies more in the Neighbourhood South region than the Enlargement region.

Box 17 provides more details with qualitative contributions from all regions. One participant from the **Enlargement region** argues that implementing agencies are including more national and local organisations in the planning process. Another respondent pointed to the lack of capacity of many youth organisations to be actively included. Another participant claims that in their country, civil initiatives by young people are for the elite and not the vulnerable ones, thus they use EU programmes for their own interest, and are not inclusive.

One respondent of the **Neighbourhood East region** declared that EU support programmes mainly view youth organisations as beneficiaries and not actors. Another one reported that engagement is limited to consultations, while several others claim that youth are not engaged at all. Finally, one respondent states that Youth are acting as actors mainly in Erasmus+ project, but not in other initiatives and projects CSOs are involved.

One respondent from the **Neighbourhood South region**, highlight the Youth Advisory Panel or another EU project of a mock-election as positive example of youth engagement as actors. Another one stressed institutional modifications and budget limitations as key challenges limiting the effective involvement of young people. Two participants mention Lebanon as an example of a context in which youth is considered by implementing agencies as a beneficiary, not an actor, not being involved in the programming phase, thus not effectively addressing youth needs. A variety of factors are mentioned as possible challenges in the country context, including, and not limited to, fragmentation and social divides.

Box 17 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### Enlargement

- “Bosnia and Herzegovina do not have National Agency.”
- “I can give the same answer here as I gave to question 13.”
- “In context of my work local organisation are key actors for delivering youth issues, implementing agencies to more include national and local organisations in planning process.”
- “In programme countries such as Türkiye, young people are very vulnerable in the civil society structure. Young people have difficulties in accessing human rights, and elite civil initiatives created by young people use EU programmes for their own interests without sharing them.”
- “Our agency is focused on formal education much more than youth sector.”

- “Some youth organisations have the capacities to be actively included, however many youth organisations still lack capacities.”
- “Implementing agencies based in Brussels-excellent, in Belgrade ... please see above.”

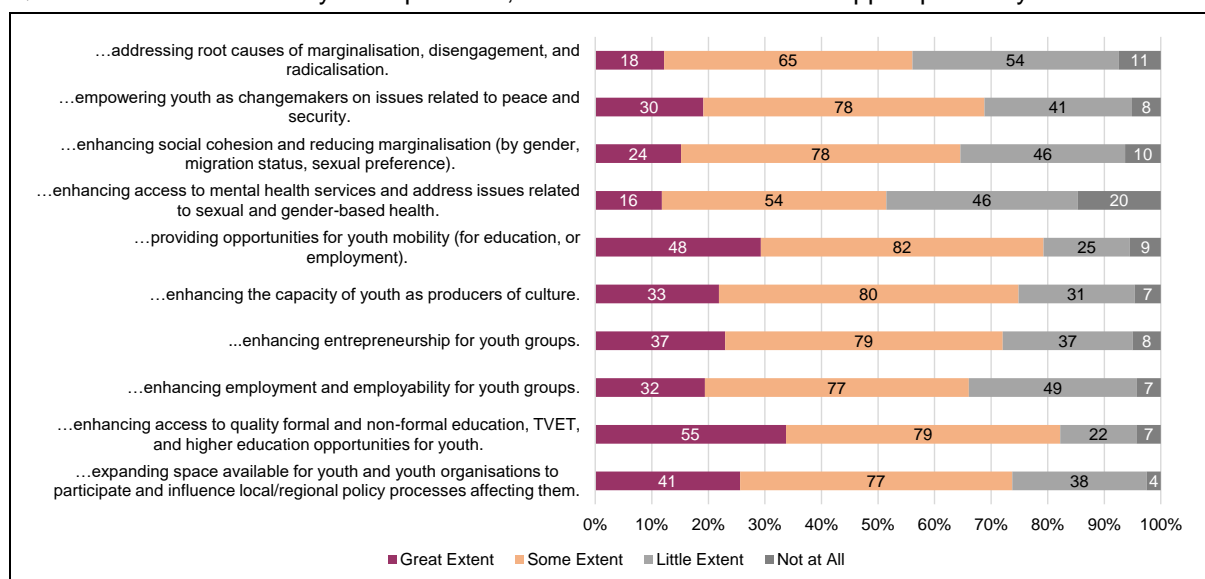
#### Neighbourhood East region

- “For now it is consultations but not often.”
- In the best-case youth/organisations access small sub-grants and mini-projects, the EU support programmes mainly view them as beneficiaries not experts of local youth work.”
- “There are frequent delays in providing the funding.”
- “We had no information on youth involvement by implementing agencies.”
- “Which state policy, or document which was adopted recently is reflective of youth participation? Youth agency you might say, but no.”
- “Youth are acting as actors mainly in Erasmus + project, but in other initiatives and projects are involved CSOs.”

#### Neighbourhood South region

- “Although I was more of an observer than a participant at the Sharek Youth Summit (9/2023) my impression was that the young people engaged with the mock election felt (maybe for the first time) empowered. I hope that they will bring that experience with them into real life circumstances.”
- “Involving young people and working with them within their creative community programmes and initiatives that are offered from them without institutional modifications and without limiting that to budgets and within a profit agenda.”
- “Most institutions that carry out projects in Lebanon that target the community (whether youth-centric or not) view the youth as beneficiary. The community’s participation as an actor (rather than just a reactor) in the design and implementation of projects that address their needs and challenges is lacking, limiting reach and impact. This is due to contextual factors such as fragmentation, social/sectarian divides, lack of trust in institutions, lack of proper civic education and awareness, lack of inclusive policies, weak CSOs, etc.”
- “Some implementation agencies consider young people targeted by the project they are involved in as figures to add to their reports (as index of a success implementation) rather than being an active part of the society whose needs should be discussed and taken into account.”
- “The youth advisory panel is a great example of the partnership and meaningful engagement of youth.”
- “Unfortunately, most of the agencies operating do not have transparency and do not consult with the local community, even at the design stage of the project, they take into account the programmes that the institution is working on.”
- “We found through our experience that the role of young people and their opinions are a focus of attention and appreciation, and the experience was rich in consultation and participation.”
- “The overall culture in development work in Lebanon is to think of youth or others as “beneficiaries” at the receiving end of help or support. The narrative, the terminologies used, and the programme design is most of the time top-down dictated originally by donors’ requests and followed through from international partners down to local ones. Even if we as implementing partners try our best to engage youth as our partners, it is not enough. Constraints in the programme direction from the donors or multiple partners does not always allow the flexibility to co-design with youth or engage them from an early stage in the programmes meant for them.”

Question 27 Based on your experience, to what extent has the EU support positively contributed to...

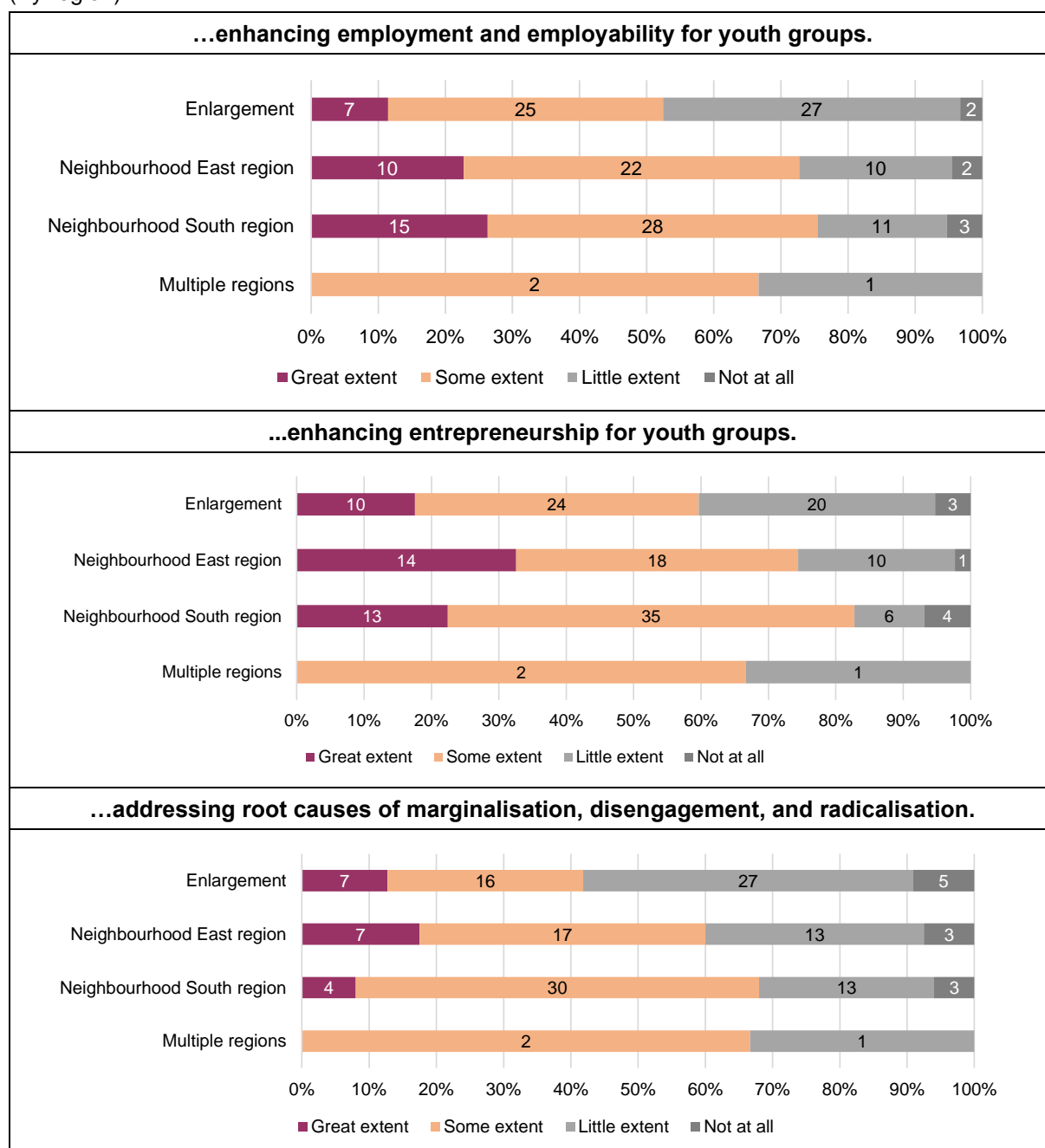


As shown in Question 27, respondents' views regarding the **extent of EU positive contribution in addressing country/regional challenges** was overall positive. At aggregate level, a majority of



respondents agreed with a positive EU support to tackle all the challenges. Support is especially positive in: i) enhancing access to quality formal and non-formal education, VET, and higher education opportunities for youth; and ii) providing opportunities for youth mobility (for education, or employment). EU support is weaker overall in: i) enhancing access to mental health services and address issues related to sexual and gender-based health; and ii) addressing root causes of marginalisation, disengagement, and radicalisation. In most statement, perceptions of EU support in the Enlargement Region were worse than in the other two.

Question 28 Based on your experience, to what extent has the EU support positively contributed to... (By region)



In a few statements, the distribution of results by region provides further insights into the extent of the positive impact of EU support at regional level.

Data suggests that the positive contribution of EU support in **addressing root causes of marginalisation, disengagement, and radicalisation** in the Enlargement Region has been perceived more negatively than in other regions. Only 41% of respondents from the Enlargement region agreed that EU support in this area has been positive to a great or some extent, opposed to 60% in the Neighbourhood East region, and 68% in the Neighbouring South region.

According to results, the positive contribution of EU support in the Enlargement region has been perceived less positively than in the Neighbourhood South and East region when **enhancing**

## employment and employability for youth groups and enhancing entrepreneurship for youth groups.

The perception of EU support about the remaining statements was constant across the regions.

Qualitative contributions (see Box 18) further shed light on the assessments of the previous statements. In the **Enlargement region**, one respondent was concerned about the lack of strategy in entrepreneurship enhancement. Another one highlighted unequal access to funds and programmes due to language barriers (e.g. English) and groups not connected to the EU in Türkiye. One respondent argued that the EU lacks leverage in combatting radicalisation and tensions; different priority needs between EU Youth and Türkiye Youth.

One participant from the **Neighbourhood East region** raised concerns about NGO Unions in Ukraine not prioritising anymore youth interests over their own. In the **Neighbourhood South region**, one participant called for an EU assessment of implementing agencies' discrimination and biases.

Box 18 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

### Enlargement

- *“Enhancing entrepreneurship is all being done ad hoc with no bigger picture in mind or plan.”*
- *“Only youth groups with access to the EU can benefit from the programmes and because of their anti-democratic attitudes, youth movements at the grassroots level cannot find room for development. Only those who speak English can apply for projects in Türkiye. But in Türkiye, English language education is a class condition. i.e. the children of the rich are active in the field of civil society like the rich people’s club. Therefore, they are unaware of the general youth situation in Türkiye.”*
- *“The EU hasn’t been very active or successful with combatting radicalisation or tensions, it feels like at most they wag their finger and say “No, bad country.” Which politicians are ignoring more and more and doing their own thing. The EU needs to show that there is a real chance of being an EU member and that there are consequences to not working with them.”*
- *“The priorities of young people in Türkiye and those in Europe are different. Unless we communise needs, problems and solutions, the EU’s support will be only marginally effective.”*
- *“Erasmus+ was great opportunity for mobility, now young people still use EU programmes (Solidarity corps).”*

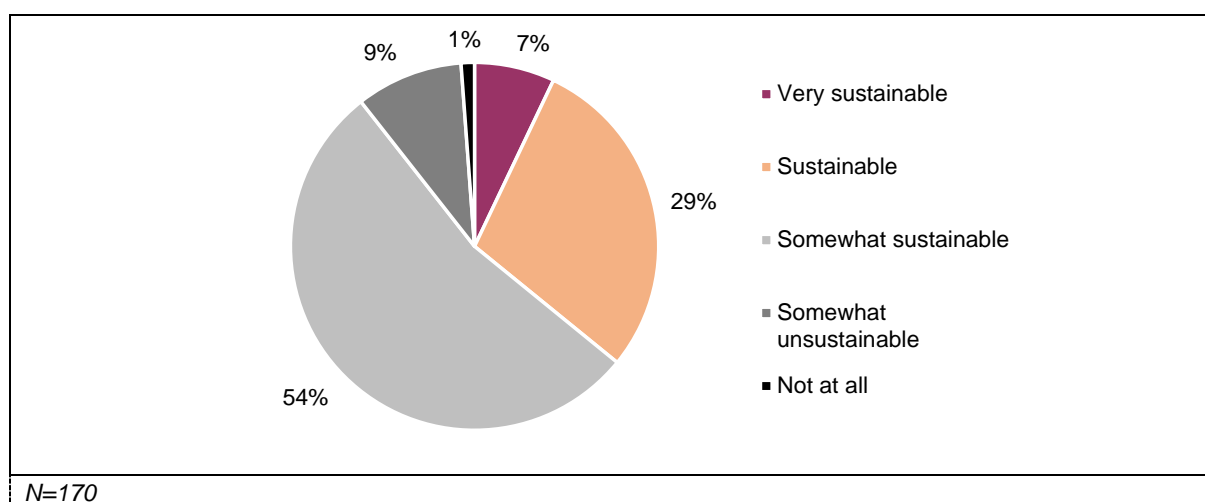
### Neighbourhood East region

- *“It was always contributed to a great extent. However, now as youth NGO we feel that this contribution is getting lower and lower due to challenges appeared after 2020 elections.”*
- *“Unfortunately, in Ukraine, the work is done by the non-working unions National Ukraine Youth Association/NUMO and National Youth Council of Ukraine/NYCU, which no longer work for the interests of the youth of Ukraine, but for the interests of a few people in the Board of the unions. Besides lots of organisations left both unions. For example, as I know, the Ukrainian Youth Councils Association was a member of National Ukraine Youth Association/NUMO, and now it is the biggest platform that works on local regional, national and international levels.”*

### Neighbourhood South region

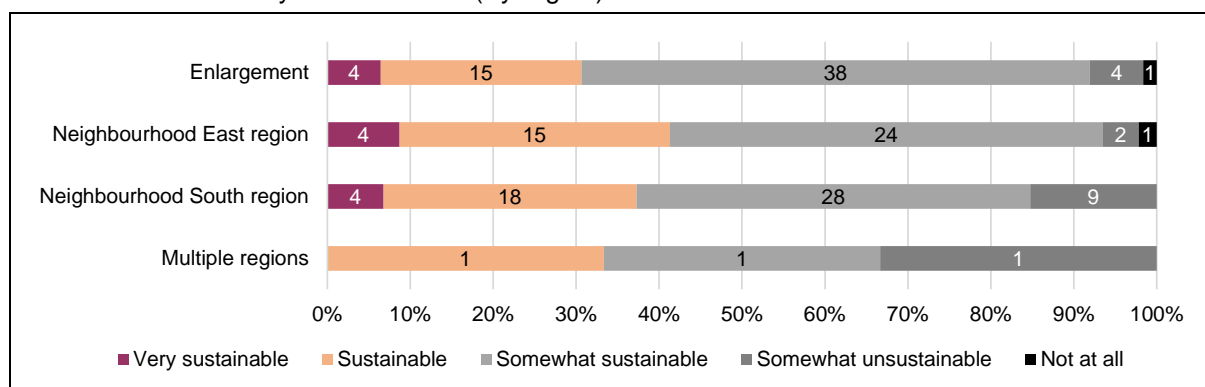
- *“PS: Please bear in mind that my responses are tied to the work that my organisation carried out. However, I am aware of opportunities in Lebanon for youth to engage in policymaking and access EU-funded mental health services.”*
- *“The answers above are based on my general knowledge of the local context and the projects I worked on.”*
- *“Unfortunately, even the projects submitted by the EU to the institutions in the Afrin region are granted to institutions that unfortunately deal with discrimination and bias, either national or ethno-religious, so it is desirable for the EU to have points of contact on the ground to assess the context and the work of the institutions.”*

Question 29 In relation to those initiatives that you participated in/contributed to, how would you rate the overall sustainability of the results?



According to survey results, the sustainability of results of initiatives in the **Neighbourhood and Enlargement Region** could be improved. While only 10% of respondents rated the results not at all sustainable or somewhat unsustainable, 54% of respondents consider them somewhat sustainable, 29% sustainable, and 7% very sustainable.

Question 30 In relation to those initiatives that you participated in/contributed to, how would you rate the overall sustainability of the results? (By region)



The sustainability of results did not vary significantly from region to region.

Some respondents provided further details about the issues which they perceive as limiting the sustainability of results (See Box 19). They pointed to: i) focus on individual level with no clear link to institutions / systems or long-term plan; ii) allusions to political tensions which limit sustainability; iii) lack of follow up / limited impact; iv) short-term funding / short-term thinking.

### Enlargement

- Institutional Capacity Issues and Youth Involvement:** One respondent highlighted a lack of institutional capacity as a barrier to sustainability. Another one recognised that involving young individuals and addressing youth-related issues is crucial for sustainability.
- Call for Support (Kosovo):** One respondent called for increased training and support for projects for youth from Kosovo.

### Neighbourhood East region

- Alignment with Local Policies and Public Officials engagement:** Respondents expressed the view that sustainability could be improved if actions align with local policies and strategies. Engagement with state actors was seen as important.
- Competence Development:** The sustainability of initiatives was seen by one participant as tied to the development of competences of individuals, although maintaining and measuring these competences is acknowledged as difficult.
- NGO Dependency on EU grants:** One respondent expressed concerns about sustainability when initiatives are implemented by NGOs dependent on grants from the EU.
- Lack of visibility (Belarus):** One respondent highlighted a challenge related to the visibility of results in Belarus due to safety concerns.
- Success Stories:** Positive examples were cited, such as start-ups created by the Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development/SEED project that were still operational.

### Neighbourhood South region

1. **Lack of Sustainability Strategy & Timing:** Many initiatives were perceived to lack a sustainability strategy that ensures continued youth engagement and activity. One respondent stressed the need for consistent, well-timed efforts to achieve long-term and sustainable results. They emphasise the importance of informal engagement between youth and the EU.
2. **Weak Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** One respondent highlighted the weakness of M&E in most programmes, with a focus on short-term goals rather than long-term objectives.
3. **Fragmentation in Programs:** There was a concern about the fragmentation of services and opportunities, with the observation that most programmes are not integrated or endorsed by public institutions, hindering institutionalisation.

Box 19 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### Enlargement

- *“Lack of institutions capacity.”*
- *“We are very active during programme. We usually do Partnership with EU programme countries.”*
- *“We know the rights and problems of youth arising from being young. We do not marginalise young people’s problems. Youth is the most dynamic area in civil society. The only way to make the work done in this field sustainable is to attract young individuals and the young population.”*
- *“You should make possible more youth from Kosovo to train for a lot of things. Make it possible please because it is very, very needed. Also support Kosovo projects.”*

#### Neighbourhood East region

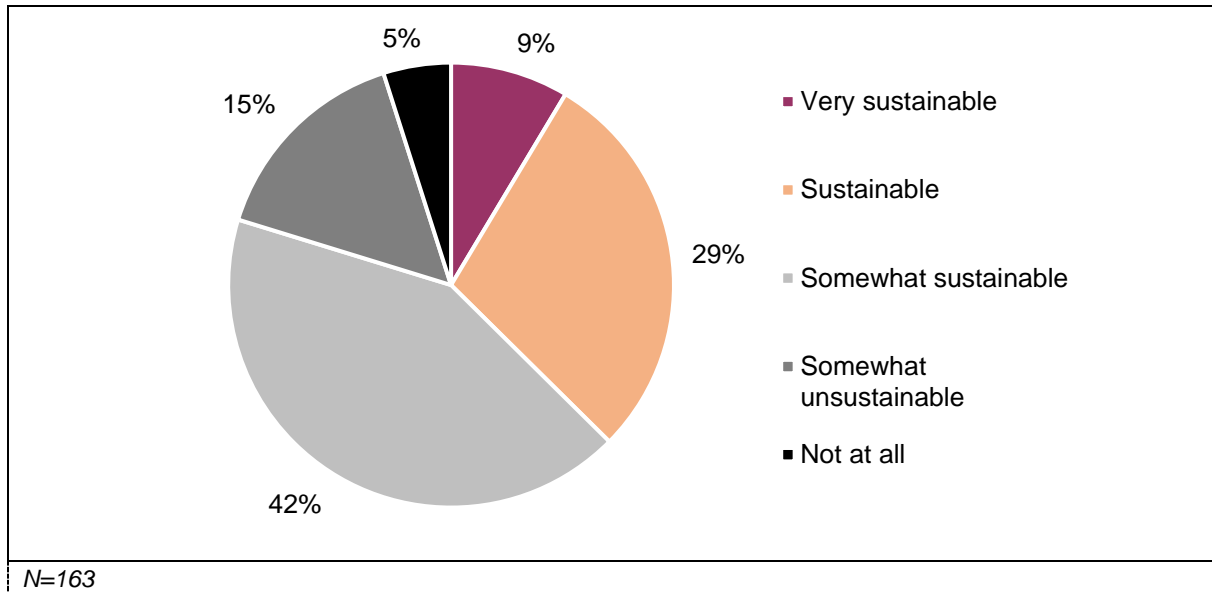
- *“27 start-ups created by the Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development/SEED project are up and running still. 11,000 youth were educated in the fields of Social Entrepreneurship and Green Innovation. I remain hopeful that someday they will be able to empower others.”*
- *“A lot of challenges due to visibility of results due to safety reasons in Belarus. Results are usually sustainable, however with much lower level to visibility comparing to the one before active repressions.”*
- *“I suppose, all the actions supported by EU could have been more sustainable, if the actions were in line with the local policies and strategies. In addition, in the process of consultancy, state actors must be engaged, to be aware of the events happening further in the projects and even short-term activities, to be prepared to ensure its sustainability.”*
- *“Mostly the sustainability is tied to development of competences of individuals, which is difficult to maintain and measure.”*
- *“Regarding ongoing situations in my country unfortunately it’s hard to say that the impact is sustainable. We are expecting more actions in this regard.”*
- *“Sustainability is the last thing we can talk about, when an initiative is implemented by the NGOs, that are parasiting on EU grants.”*
- *“The impact of the projects implemented by our organisation is very high. Young people have made radical changes in their lives, increased their quality of life and well-being. Young people have a job, a job, a monthly income.”*
- *“the implemented programmes are still working.”*
- *“It much depends on the governmental commitments and also those of the respective public officials.”*

#### Neighbourhood South region

- *“As I have explained in previous sections, I believe M&E in most of the programmes that I have either directly participated in or learned about from my Network is very weak. Most of the times I can’t sense the presence of long-term objectives that they wish to achieve. They are more short-term goal oriented than long term goal oriented.”*
- *“Most of the initiative I participated in which are EU related die by the end of the initiative. There lacks a sustainability strategy that ensures youth are still engaged and active. Not to mention that when events include policy recommendations provided by youth, we are never really informed of the status of the recommendations; whether it had been implemented or not. Additionally, we are not further consulted on the implementation of the recommendation after the dialogue ends.”*
- *“Most of the initiatives did not have a lasting impact, but some of them had an impact.”*
- *“Positive first-hand impression while actual results (due to the circumstances) are yet to be presented.”*
- *“The societal impact that emerged from our initiative was significant and resonated with young people and local organisations.”*
- *“To achieve long-term and sustainable results, efforts must be consistent, well-timed, and encourage more informal engagement between the youth and the EU, in addition to funding to sustain the impact.”*
- *“UN Population Fund’s/UNFPA support through this EU fund will increase national ownership and sustainability of national efforts naming The policy level interventions with the higher council for youth and sports including the national youth volunteerism programme, youth wellbeing index with Palestine central bureau of statistics aligned with the national youth strategy.”*
- *“Most support programmes and initiatives are done through multiple partners and are mostly one-year programmes. There is lots of “fragmentation” in the services provided or the opportunities that can be accessed and while different partners can collaborate, the fact that most programmes are not integrated or endorsed by public institutions (ministries or other), due to different reasons, most of the work remains*

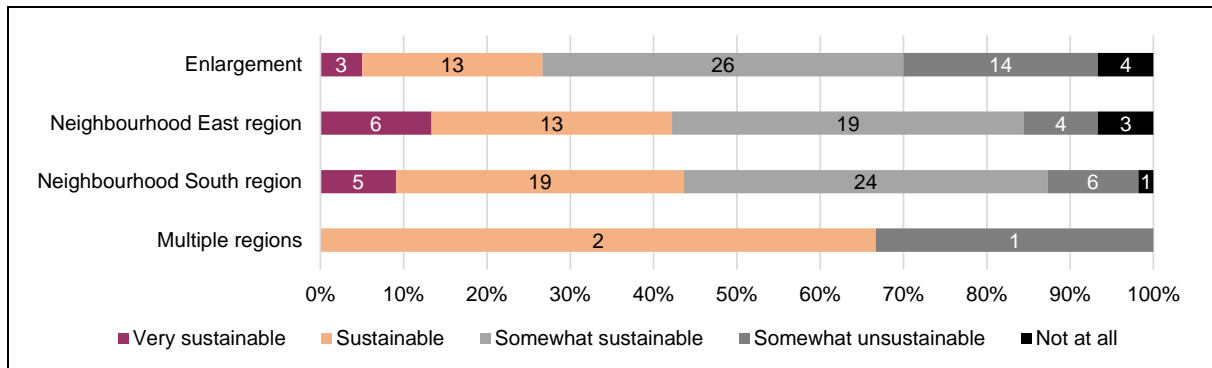
*fragmented and is not being institutionalised and do not fall into one big plan tied into policies, rules, regulations and systems.”*

Question 31 In your experience, how would you assess the sustainability of EU support to youth organisations?



When asked about the **sustainability of EU support to youth organisations**, 38% of respondents rated them very sustainable or sustainable, while 42% somewhat sustainable, and 20% somewhat unsustainable or not at all sustainable.

Question 32 In your experience, how would you assess the sustainability of EU support to youth organisations? (By region)



Looking at the regional distribution of responses, EU support to youth organisations is perceived as the least sustainable in the Enlargement region.

Enhancing the sustainability of funding to youth organisations emerges as a common request from participants of all three regions (see Box 20). Most of respondents argue that the **length of the grant is too short** to have an impact on policies, and **funding is restricted to project implementation**. They **call for the EU to support the institutional development of youth organisations** (e.g. to develop their own income).

Respondents from the Neighbourhood South region argue for the **need to institutionalise results**. Youth organisations should feed into the national youth strategy and support the government to operationalise the youth strategy for impactful scalable interventions. Follow up mechanisms should be strengthened as well.

Box 20 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### Enlargement

- “Unfortunately, not every youth organisation works for the benefit of young people. We cannot do this with a perspective that is far from scientific and philosophical teachings, does not create the habit of critical thinking, and sees young people only as a tool for the good days to come. The support provided by the EU can be sustainable in the EU. However, it is very difficult to say this in Türkiye. Because the support is at European standards, but Türkiye is not like that.”

- “Organisations apply for grants, without any long-term financing or persistence. Projects that affect policy changes should be at least 5 years long, in order to increase their impact.”
- “EU does not support CSOs generating their own income, which is a key pillar of sustainability.”

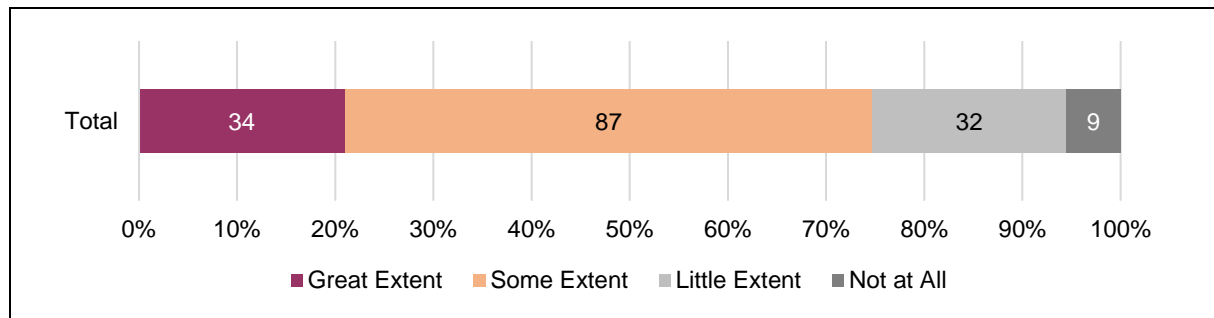
#### Neighbourhood East region

- “I was a project-based staff, the entire Caucasus Environmental NGO Network/CENN is strictly projectized organisation. As the project was over, my contract was cancelled, and I left the organisation. Not sure if I have answered the question, however, projects as single initiative, cannot be sustainable. Currently, I am employed by another INGO (Forest Stewardship Council/FSC International).”
- “Organisations are more consolidated, more empowered, more credible, have a better voice at national level.”
- “Project-bases small funding is not supporting the institutional development of youth organisations almost ever.”
- “Youth organisations are the most vulnerable and have the highest risk to be shut down, whenever young people moving in their life and changing career paths. Sustainability of funding must be ensured, either by funding, or very strong core team. Both of these criteria, are based on local supporters and EU.”
- “Under Erasmus+ Youth Window a great change was visible, but this vanished quite quickly, as there are major gaps (financial, resources, capacities) for youth organisations to survive and grow. The governmental support is very limited, sometime non-transparent and biased, while youth organisations are often very much dependent on international funds.”

#### Neighbourhood South region

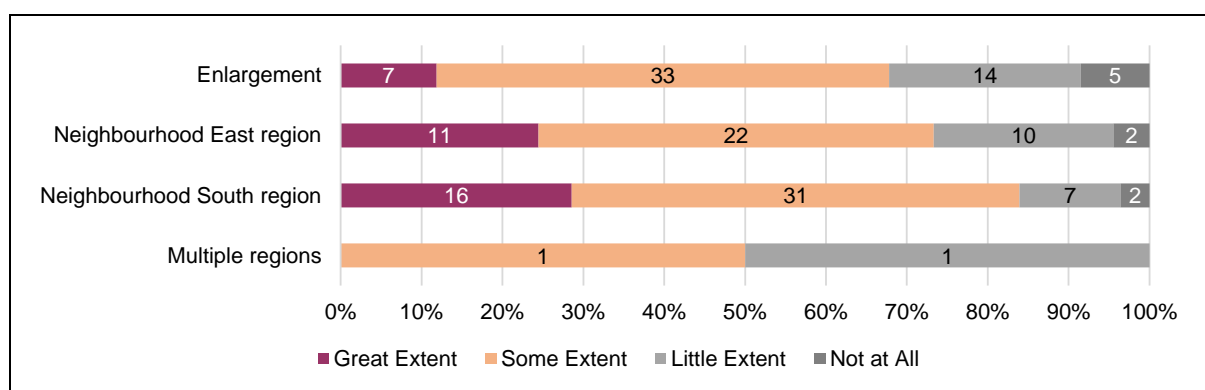
- “Creating something fully sustainable in unstable countries just aims to high better to concentrate on the many impact stories.”
- “One-time support may not be enough to get young people off to an ideal start, especially in light of the team building phase and its policies.”
- “The youth organisations have to feed into the national youth strategy and support the government to operationalise the youth strategy so that impactful scalable interventions live.”
- “There are organisations, institutions and volunteer teams that did not get the support of the EU despite their correct legal status, but there are those who did not support the arrival of these distinguished teams.”
- “This echoes the above reflection, there are weak follow up mechanisms after the end of this programme. More efforts need to be invested in the institutionalisation of the results.”
- “For same reason above. Most programmes and support are short term and are somehow restricted to programme implementation. This does not allow youth organisations to have long term plans and activities that will help them sustain their operations when funding is reduced or gone.”

Question 33 Based on your experience, to what extent are youth organisations/actors satisfied with the quality of financial support provided by the European Union for youth-focused projects/programmes?



This question focused on the **extent of satisfaction of youth organisations/actors with the quality of financial support provided by the EU for youth-focused projects/programmes**. 21% of respondents are satisfied to a great extent, 54% to some extent, 20% to little extent and 5% not at all. The regional disaggregation suggests that the most satisfied are respondents from the Neighbourhood South, followed by the Neighbourhood East region, and Enlargement.

Question 34 Based on your experience, to what extent are youth organisations/actors satisfied with the quality of financial support provided by the European Union for youth-focused projects/programmes? (By region)



Qualitative contributions provide additional information about the **quality of EU funding** (see Box 21). Many issues were raised which can be identified also in previous answers (see Box 19 and Box 20).

One respondent from the Enlargement region called for **more funds to grass-roots organisations**; another one called for **grants longer than 24 months**.

Some respondents from the Neighbourhood East region pointed out to several challenges including: i) **difficulty in accessing funds for small and/or unexperienced organisations**; ii) Frequent **delays and the complexity of applications**; iii) **not youth-friendly procedures**; iv) **language barriers**.

Respondents from the Neighbourhood South region also raised the issue of **limited access to funding for small organisations**.

Box 21 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### Enlargement

- “For the same reasons stated above.”
- “More funds to be directly addressed to grass roots organisations.”
- “No, too many national and local organisations are implementing projects. EU supports UN agencies more and youth organisations are treated as beneficiaries.”
- “Resources are provided only to certain organisations every term. I find it important to support more local youth organisations.”
- “Short term projects/ grants there is need to extend the project timeline more than 24 months.”

#### Neighbourhood East region

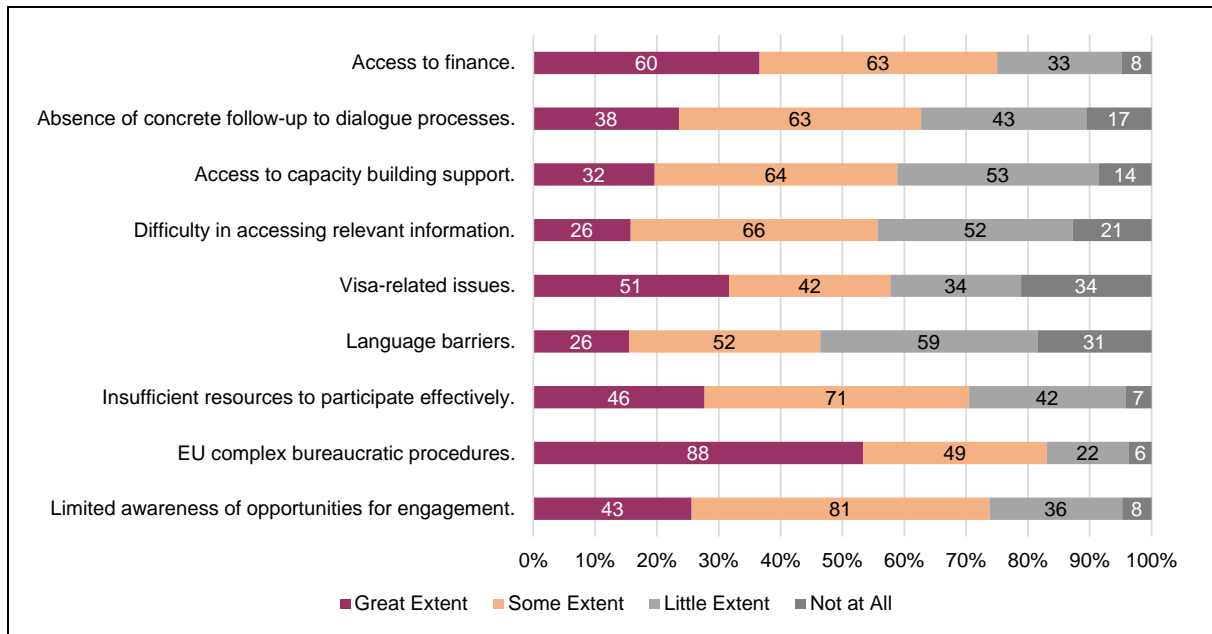
- “Big organisations get big grants. Small ones keep quiet and try hard.”
- “Frequent delays and the complexity of applications.”
- “In general very satisfied, but there is very specific case for Belarusian youth due to persecutions lots of youth had to leave the country, however, continue to be active for the country and democratic values. It is very important such youth represents Belarus, not the country of temporary residence on the youth projects. However, in these cases often, even if it is allowed to come from another country and represent Belarus, financial support for traveling might be very low comparing the costs of travelling for example from Georgia, where there are a lot of persecuted youth leaders in exile, and often there is no flexibility on it.”
- “Procedures and complicated, highly competitive and not youth friendly. Often monetary contribution is demanded, which most youth organisations cannot input. The presumption that outside EU costs are lower and fees/unit costs should be smaller, is not justified by the reality of expenses.”
- “There are very less structural grants for youth organisations, or youth organisations have no access to international granting. Language barrier remains the first barrier and challenge. In addition, there is a little chance, that newly established, youth organisations get a granting directly from EU.”
- “Generally, in the framework of EU4Youth projects the funds receive bigger NGOs located mainly in big cities and are more experienced.”

#### Neighbourhood South region

- “I believe the quality of funding is great but perhaps there should be more flexibility in terms of the activities design and the distribution of funds towards a more sustainable outcome and what it takes/costs to maintain it.”
- “Please try to solve the issue of rejecting some CSOs sign the agreement because of the conditional funding.”
- “There is no support for youth initiatives in the areas of Afrin city.”
- “We feel very satisfied with the flexibility of the support provided, more than its value, because this enables us to deal with the variables.”
- “As long as local NGOs are not direct recipients of the financial support, most of the control for all programme aspects remains with the intermediary partner, mostly the INGO which has the bigger say in budget and programme design and which affects how local NGO’s can spend their money. Allowing local NGOs to have more direct financial support based on what they need to ensure long term sustainable

*programmes and not just a short-term annual programme, gives local NGO's more flexibility in managing their finances and deciding where the financial support can help most."*

**Question 35** Based on your experience, to what extent have youth organisations/actors faced the following challenges while actively engaging with the European Union?

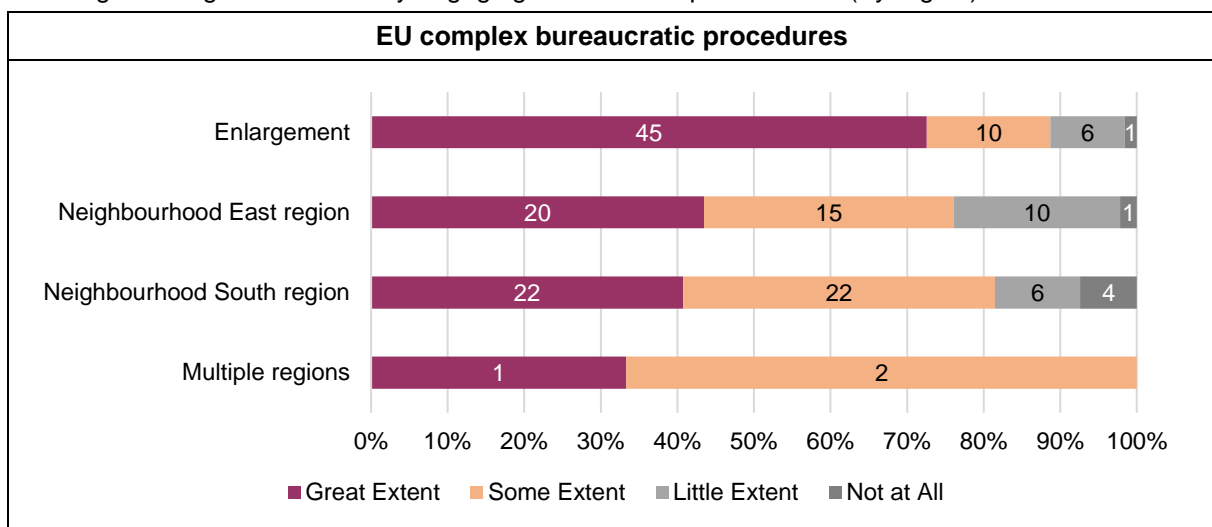


The focus of the last quantitative question of the survey focused on the many challenges faced by Youth organisations/actors while actively engaging with the EU. All the challenges proposed but language barriers were faced to a great or some extent by the majority of respondents.

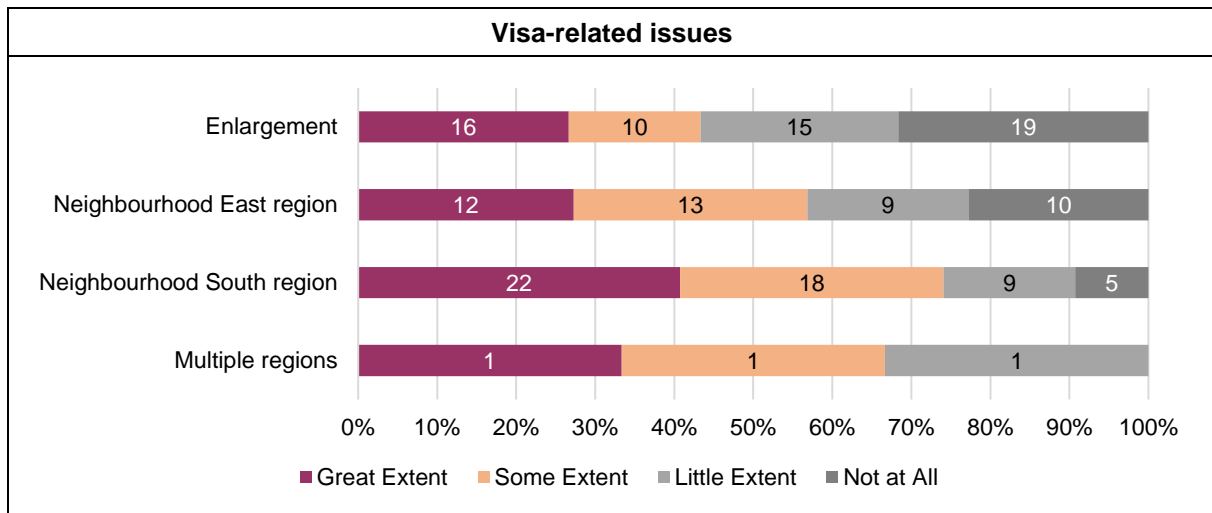
As shown in Question 35, the challenges which have been faced the most respondents were: i) EU complex bureaucratic procedures (according to 83% of participants, of which 53% to a great extent); ii) access to finance (75%, 36% to a great extent); iii) limited awareness of opportunities for engagement (74%, 25% to a great extent); and iv) Insufficient resources to participate effectively (70%, 28% to a great extent).

The challenges faced the least by participants were: i) language barriers (a challenge to a great or some extent for 46% of respondents, while not at all for 18%); ii) Difficulty in accessing relevant information (56%, while not at all for 13%); iii) visa related issues (58%, and not at all for 21%); and iv) Access to capacity building support (59%, not at all by 8%).

**Question 36** Based on your experience, to what extent have youth organisations/actors faced the following challenges while actively engaging with the European Union? (By region)







The regional distribution of results shows how **youth organisations/actors have faced several challenges to a different extent across regions**. Limited awareness of opportunities for engagement, and EU complex bureaucratic procedures show consistent results across regions (respondents from all three have faced these challenges to a similar extent). Respondents from the Enlargement region have experienced more than the other two regions the absence of concrete follow-up to dialogue processes (88%, compared to 81% in the Neighbourhood South region); Insufficient resources to participate effectively (82% compared to 68% in the Neighbourhood South region); Access to capacity building support (75% compared to 52% in the Neighbourhood South region); Absence of concrete follow-up to dialogue processes (72% compared to 58% in the Neighbourhood East region); Access to finance (86% compared to 72% in the Neighbourhood East region).

Visa related issues are more present in the Neighbourhood South region. They represented a challenge to a great or some extent for 74% of respondents from the Neighbourhood South region; compared to 56% in the Neighbourhood East region, and 43% in the Enlargement.

Among respondents, those from the Neighbourhood East region had less difficulty in accessing information, compared to the other regions.

The additional information provided by some respondents provide further insights into how the different challenges were faced, and issues already emerging from previous questions can be identified. Contributions from all three regions mentioned a **lack of effective communication** of EU youth support to Youth organisations about new opportunities, coupled with **complex procedures** and the **lack of training and capacity building**. Lastly, respondents argued that **INGOs and large CSOs have better access to funding opportunities** than smaller ones.

Box 22 Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

#### Enlargement

- “A number of EU youth support related information is not communicated to youth organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina in their own manner, seems complex and difficult to understand. Furthermore supported projects need more promotion and youth organisation’s need more training and capacity building to respond to EU possibilities. E.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina is only using Erasmus Plus in the youth filed partially. Two national organisations in a role of contact points for European Solidarity Corps/ESC and E+ Youth are having very limited budget to support wider number of organisations and youth to actually participate in the programmes. Furthermore national, entity, cantonal and local authorities are lacking training in preparation, support and implementation of EU programmes and projects in the field of youth.”
- “As I mentioned before, the money the EU provides is very hard for regular people, small organisations, and startups to access since there are a lot of bureaucratic hurdles to go through that take a lot of time and effort. There should be a centralised body in the EU or each candidate country that can petition them for funding and project ideas. This eliminates the lack of communication on the EU’s part and conglomerates all the funds and projects into a single info area. There are too many organisations and EU programmes that are hard to find or find out about.”
- “Usually there are less initiatives in rural areas and small towns and the youth there has still lack of awareness and opportunities. Also, lack of motivation to search online and apply in calls.”

#### Neighbourhood East region

- “There are 3-5 grants in open calls for Moldova in environment. Only international organisations or large national organisations have access to them.”

#### Neighbourhood South region

- “My experience is greatly influenced by the EU Jeel Connect. When asked about their difficulties in connecting the EU’s work in Lebanon to their local communities, the youth would first identify the difficulty in finding relevant information on current projects, followed by the difficulty in the implementation when

*financing is limited or not available. While youth are aware of opportunities associated to the EU, many lack the resources to engage in them (transportation, schedule, etc.). However, it is also understandable that this is the very first chapter of the EU Jeel Connect, and there is room for improvement with experience and learning.”*

- *“Before our involvement with the EU Neighbours South for EU Jeel Connect, we had little knowledge ourselves about the EU even when we had been implementing projects funded by the EU. There has always been an intermediary partner which has more knowledge of and stronger access to the EU. Local NGO’s rarely have the visibility over who is who, and what dialogues they can initiate or who to approach and how to approach. Through the EU Coffee Talks which we have implemented to bring youth to know more about the EU work in Lebanon, we have also got introduced to delegation members and the teams of the EU in Lebanon. Otherwise, the opportunities to meet and discuss are very limited.”*

#### 6.2.3.4 Achievements

**What have been the most important achievements of EU support to youth in your country/region in 2014-2021?**

##### *Enlargement Region*

The EU’s support to youth in the Enlargement Region from 2014 to 2021 has yielded multifaceted achievements.

The most recurrent achievement among the responses is the notable **capacity building and skill development** observed among youth organisations and individuals. Through programmes like Erasmus and structured dialogues, participants acquired essential skills in project management, writing, budgeting, and overall project cycle management. This capacity-building aspect has been instrumental in enhancing the employability and entrepreneurial spirit of the youth.

A significant outcome has been the **empowerment and increased participation of youth in decision-making processes**, both at the national and European levels. Initiatives like the European Youth Capital designation for Novi Sad underscore the EU’s impact on fostering active youth engagement. Furthermore, the establishment of the Youth Network of Montenegro, comprised of 35 youth CSOs, stands out as a concrete manifestation of youth empowerment through project funding.

The **promotion of social entrepreneurship** emerges as another key achievement, with a focus on employment service programmes and initiatives that ensure the sustainability of efforts beyond the termination of financial support. T

EU’s support has successfully brought attention to **cross-sectorial cooperation**, connecting youth work with culture, and **fostering dialogue** between diverse youth groups, governmental institutions, and young individuals. Initiatives like the WeBalkans programme have facilitated communication and collaboration, bringing youth closer to EU opportunities and enabling them to implement initiatives in their local communities.

In terms of education, the support has contributed to the **improvement of school education and increased awareness about youth issues**. Media literacy, critical thinking, and awareness of disinformation and propaganda have been promoted among the youth.

According to several respondents, the EU’s **advocacy and support for policy development** are evident in the drafting and adopting of youth policies in different regions, as well as the push for the Youth Guarantee, reflecting a commitment to enhancing youth employability and active participation in decision-making processes. Moreover, the EU supported Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Non-Binary, Intersex, and Queer/LGBTIQ projects.

**Regionally, the EU’s support has fostered cooperation** through initiatives like the Regional Youth Cooperation Office/RICO, strengthening social cohesion among young people. The creation of new bridges and the establishment of the European School of Integration highlight the EU’s efforts to foster dialogue and cooperation between government authorities, the international community, and young people.

Overall, the achievements underscore the diverse and impactful outcomes of the EU’s support, spanning capacity building, empowerment, cross-sectorial cooperation, social entrepreneurship, education, policy development, and regional networking.

##### *Neighbourhood East region*

Participants in the survey from the **Neighbourhood East region** consistently highlighted several key themes regarding the achievements of the EU’s support to youth from 2014 to 2021.

A predominant focus emerged on **capacity building and education**, with an emphasis on the development of civil society and non-formal education. The EU’s efforts in these areas were seen as pivotal in enhancing the skills, knowledge, and values of the youth.

**Youth empowerment and engagement** emerged as another central theme, encompassing a wide range of activities, including involvement in decision-making processes, participation in volunteer

movements, and exposure through exchange programmes. **Mobility and opportunities** played a significant role in the EU's impact, providing young people with exposure to diverse experiences and alternative perspectives, both within the region and in European countries.

**Entrepreneurship and employment** were prominent themes, with participants noting the EU's contribution to reducing youth unemployment through the fostering of job creation, entrepreneurship programmes, and improved access to the labour market.

**Civic engagement and social impact** were also key aspects, as the EU played a role in promoting diversity and inclusion, raising awareness of civil and human rights, and influencing politics through youth-led initiatives.

**International exchange and volunteering programmes and initiatives**, such as Erasmus+, European Voluntary Service, and European Solidarity Corps/ESC, were specifically mentioned, underlining their significance in the positive development of youth in the region. **Networking and collaboration** were underscored as critical, with participants expressing the need for sustainable cooperation and strategic mechanisms among stakeholders.

While the overall sentiment was positive, some participants acknowledged challenges, particularly the importance of clearer alignment with the overall state strategy in youth policy.

In summary, the themes highlighted in the survey responses collectively portray a comprehensive approach to youth development, encompassing education, engagement, employment, and social impact, with an emphasis on collaboration and sustainability.

### Neighbourhood South region

Over the period spanning 2014 to 2021, the EU has made substantial contributions to the development and empowerment of youth in the Neighbourhood South Region.

Notably, a recurrent theme in the achievements mentioned by participants has been **education and skill development**. The EU successfully increased access to higher education, offering over 3000 scholarships to underserved youth, fostering academic exchange, and capacity building. According to participants, vocational training programmes and initiatives to equip young people with skills demanded by the job market were also pivotal in reducing youth unemployment rates.

The **empowerment of youth extended to entrepreneurship**, with specific programmes such as Tamayyaz and Tounes Wajhatouna. These initiatives provided crucial support, both in-kind and financial, to youth-led startups, contributing significantly to economic development and job creation.

**Civil society engagement** emerged as a core theme, as the EU actively integrated youth into decision-making processes. The establishment of youth advisory panels and councils, the creation of a leadership and empowerment ministry in one country, support for youth volunteer teams, and the implementation of the Anti-Discriminatory index in universities underscored the commitment to fostering an inclusive and participatory society.

Beyond national borders, the EU demonstrated a **commitment to environmental and humanitarian causes**, particularly through projects focusing on afforestation and energy, as well as funding for various humanitarian initiatives. The impact extended to societal models, with the EU's approach influencing university structures positively.

**Facilitating youth engagement and dialogue** remained a central tenet of the EU's efforts. Programmes like the Erasmus Exchange Programs, Youth Mediterranean Voice, and projects promoting political awareness, participation, and media literacy played vital roles in nurturing an informed and active youth population.

In essence, EU's support has been comprehensive, spanning education, entrepreneurship, civil society engagement, environmental sustainability, and humanitarian aid.

#### Box 23 Achievements

##### Enlargement

- *“Bringing the topic of rural youth work into focus of different stakeholders.”*
- *“Capacity for employment and entrepreneurship.”*
- *“Connecting youth and CSO working with youth in the region of Western Balkan.”*
- *“Contributed to the political development of young people who wanted to increase their political development.”*
- *“Education.”*
- *“Erasmus programmes.”*
- *“Established practices of Structured dialog.”*
- *“Establishment of the of the representative union of CSOs which implement youth policy, as prescribed by the Montenegrin Law on Youth, under the name Youth Network of Montenegro – founded by 35 youth CSOs. Its representativeness was certified by the Ministry of Sports and Youth – on November 17, 2020. This process of youth CSOs joining forces for the purposes of establishing representative union in*

accordance with the Law on Youth, started in October 2019: several CSOs, under the leadership of NGO Active Zone, came together and sent out an open call to CSOs for joining the initiative for establishing the union – 49 CSOs responded to their call. This was achieved through our EU funded project (entitled De facto Development).”

- “EU support was the main facility for civil society and your programmes since the beginning of the 2000s. People learned project writing, management, budgeting, and project cycle management with EU funds and projects.”
- “Increased youth participation in decision making at national level.”
- “Increased participation in the Erasmus+ projects.”
- “It is very difficult for young people in Türkiye to see EU countries. Especially thanks to academic mobility, capacity development has been strengthened.”
- “Novi Sad as the European Youth Capital of 2019 and the creation of the OPENS Youth Center in Novi Sad.”
- “Number of initiatives supported has increased.”
- “opportunities for youth across the region to meet.”
- “Popularisation of employment service programmes among youth, especially social entrepreneurship thus ensuring implementation of the services/programmes even when the financial support by the EU ends.”
- “Projects for Western Balkan 6.”
- “RCC Youth Lab.”
- “Social Entrepreneurship is higher on the agenda.”
- “Support in the implementation of Youth Law in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (e.g. establishment of Youth Council ; the law is still not being implemented fully in all prescribed levels and certain things are still in the very beginning even the Youth law in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is adopted in 2010 with EU support too).”
- “Youth mobility.”
- “more media literate youth.”
- “Novi Sad European Youth Capital.”
- “Access to ERASMUS+ for youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina.”
- “Support for the implementation of youth policies and the strengthening of youth centers/spaces for free time and work with young people.”
- “Pushing for Youth Guarantee.”
- “Exchange.”
- “Tirana – was the European Youth Capital 2022 – youngster could engage in a lot of activities.”
- “Bringing the topic of cross-sectorial cooperation and connection youth work with culture into focus of different stakeholders.”
- “Communication.”
- “Ensuring that the governmental institutions are working with youth and ensuring structure/youth dialogue even we are not EU country yet.”
- “Improved Youth employability.”
- “In this period (2014-2021) we have implemented 3 projects funded by the EU: all included sub-granting/financial and technical/mentoring support to sub-grantees. Among them, about 40% have been youth CSOs, active in various thematic areas: from participation to mental health. We do invest special efforts into outreach to youth CSOs, including non-formal youth groups.”
- “Increased awareness about youth issues.”
- “Increased critical thinking on youth issues.”
- “It increased the dialogue between young people.”
- “Networking of youth with each other.”
- “Programmes on social entrepreneurship.”
- “Promotion of Civic Engagement and Youth Empowerment.”
- “Providing finance to civic space, especially youth groups, expanding the civic space to some extent, and empowering diverse youth groups.”
- “Refugee work and social cohesion among young people strengthened.”
- “RYCO.”
- “School education is improved as teachers have bigger access to knowledge.”
- “Support in drafting (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and drafting and adopting (Republic of Srpska) youth policy.”
- “Support to non-formal education.”
- “Support to the non-formal education validation and valorisation.”
- “The proliferation of Erasmus+ youth exchanges and the number of Youth who participate.”
- “Youth engagement.”
- “Youth aware of disinformation and propaganda online.”
- “Support to dialogue between youth and institutions.”
- “Support in providing quality and free informal education to all young people.”

- “New organisation support.”
- “WeBalkans programme – YEA Network in the region / this communication programme brought youngsters closest to EU opportunities and also gave them the chance to implement initiatives in local communities.”
- “Decreased level of stereotypes and prejudices among youth on their peers from other ethnic and religious’ belonging.”
- “Erasmus.”
- “Erasmus+ for studies and projects.”
- “Establishing of the Expert team for implementation of Bonn process in Serbia and recognition of youth work.”
- “EU Youth Dialogues implemented by the National Youth Council of Serbia.”
- “Improved practice of learning and implementing international best practices.”
- “Increased level of youth participation.”
- “It increased the capacity of youth organisations.”
- “Movement in youth participation.”
- “Quality informal education.”
- “Regional support in establishment, funding, and cooperation with the RYCO.”
- “Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Non-Binary, Intersex, and Queer/LGBTIQ projects.”
- “Tolerance.”
- “Youth Employment Initiatives.”
- “Youth engagement and active participation in decision making processes in local but also in national level.”
- “Youth Guarantee.”
- “Youth more engaged towards different EU projects.”
- “Achieving dialogue and cooperation with representatives of the government authorities and the international community with young people.”
- “Creating new bridges.”
- “European School of Integration.”

#### **Neighbourhood East region**

- “Developing of civil society and its capacity.”
- “Development of non-formal education and youth work promoting values, knowledge and skills.”
- “Development of volunteers movement.”
- “During 2014-2021 period EU was interested in working with youth civil society actors in the country. In order to keep sustainability there should be much more sustainable cooperation and strategic mechanisms between stakeholders and EU.”
- “Eastern Partnership School in Tbilisi.”
- “Eastern Partnerships Youth Window with direct financial support to youth organisations from the European Education and Culture Executive Agency EACEA.”
- “Empowered young people wo gained new knowledge and skills.”
- “Enhancing the involvement of young people in the decision-making process.”
- “Exchange programmes.”
- “Giving opportunities 1000 and 1000 of young people for non-formal education.”
- “Increase in the number of social and environmental entrepreneurs.”
- “Opportunities for youth mobility to see alternative.”
- “Opportunity to get education in the European Countries.”
- “Organisation of Erasmus + mobilities for exchange of experience.”
- “Promoting social entrepreneurship and youth entrepreneurship.”
- “Startup business for youth initiatives.”
- “The EU has supported Ukraine to improve the quality and access to education and training for young people. This has included support for curriculum reform, teacher training, and the development of vocational education and training programmes. As a result of this support, more young people in Ukraine are now completing secondary education and entering higher education or the workforce.”
- “The EU may have supported programmes aimed at improving the quality of education, vocational training, and skills Development for Armenian youth. This could include scholarships, training programmes, and educational infrastructure development.”
- “The training programme Life skills and Employability are implemented by state and NGOs organisations after the project finish.”
- “Youth in Action/YiA, Erasmus+, European Voluntary Service/EVS, European Solidarity Corps/ESC programmes.”
- “Youth mobility.”
- “Youth mobility and good practices exchange.”
- “Youth empowerment.”
- “Youth Engagement.”

- *“Labor market research conducted by Save the children.”*
- *“Increased number of Erasmus+ mobility projects.”*
- *“Access to finance for youth NGOs.”*
- *“Contribution to reducing youth unemployment by fostering job creation, providing vocational training, and supporting entrepreneurship programmes.”*
- *“Contribution to youth participation and initiatives.”*
- *“Diversity and inclusion development in regions, intercultural experience exchange.”*
- *“Eastern Partnership Youth Window.”*
- *“EU oriented vision of foreign policy among youth.”*
- *“EU4Youth Coordination and support 2020 on, with Alumni network and other local-impact initiatives.”*
- *“Funding for youth programmes benefiting large youth organisations.”*
- *“Increasing young people’s access to the labour market, including through self-employment.”*
- *“Non formal/vocational education opportunities.”*
- *“Promoting heightened discourse on democracy.”*
- *“Raised awareness and high engagement in the non-formal education activities.”*
- *“Research.”*
- *“Support of youth organisations and their activities.”*
- *“Supporting to youth work to become a profession and be recognised officially.”*
- *“The EU has also supported Ukraine to create more jobs for young people and to improve the quality of employment for young people. This has included support for entrepreneurship programmes, job training programmes, and programmes to promote social inclusion. As a result of this support, more young people in Ukraine are now employed and have access to decent work.”*
- *“Variety of opportunities for personal and professional development in big cities.”*
- *“Young European Ambassadors.”*
- *“Young people found jobs or started their businesses.”*
- *“Youth entrepreneurs supported by EU have improved their life situation.”*
- *“Youth policy – however lacks the big picture, alignment with other state documents and action plans are not clear as to how they contribute to overall state strategy towards youth empowerment.”*
- *“Motivation to be active.”*
- *“Access to capacity building support.”*
- *“The first Open youth centre established in the frame of STRONG CSO project.”*
- *“Increased overall awareness of entrepreneurship mechanisms, particularly in the social, green and digital sector.”*
- *“Becoming more tolerate to the other people...”*
- *“Capacity building and networking for youth NGOs.”*
- *“Decentralised calls for Erasmus+ programme.”*
- *“Enhancing awareness of civil and human rights among youth and women.”*
- *“EuroClubs.”*
- *“Expanding network of the contacts / colleagues.”*
- *“Facilitating the social and professional integration of young people.”*
- *“Improved digital literacy and technology skills among Armenian youth, positioning them to excel in technology-related fields and adapt to the digital age.”*
- *“Influencing politics through many tools from Government.”*
- *“Life skills and employability.”*
- *“More formal and non-formal educational opportunities for young people.”*
- *“Most of young people who were employed or launched their businesses within the project, sustained these results.”*
- *“Participation in policy making processes.”*
- *“providing opportunities for youth with fewer opportunities to participate in EU youth events and educational programmes (which is often a real life-changing experience, dividing life on before and after).”*
- *“Supporting youth organisations to build their capacity.”*
- *“The EU has also supported youth civic engagement in Ukraine. This has included support for youth organisations, youth-led projects, and programmes to promote youth participation in decision-making. As a result of this support, young people in Ukraine are now more involved in civic life and are playing a more active role in shaping the future of their country.”*
- *“grow of NGO sector.”*
- *“Youth Employment.”*
- *“Increased awareness and capacity for engaging in policy dialogue (across variety of sectors).”*

#### **Neighbourhood South region**

- *“Afforestation.”*
- *“Awareness of Protecting Islamic and Christian Cultural Heritage in Jerusalem, Anent of change programme.”*

- *“Capacity building.”*
- *“Creation of youth advisory panel.”*
- *“developing the youth capacities.”*
- *“Education and vocational training for students in order to teach them skills required by job market.”*
- *“Enhancing access to higher education.”*
- *“Establishment of Income Generated Projects.”*
- *“EU projects contribute to creating job opportunities for a large number of young people.”*
- *“Formation of a Youth Council.”*
- *“Growing and nourishing the youthful cultural sectors and active participation/engagement as most young people view the EU as a very youthful close to heart organisation.”*
- *“Helping youth with fewer opportunities to travel beyond borders to learn, exchange and network with others.”*
- *“Integrating youth into society and decision-making in decision-making centres.”*
- *“Networking opportunities.”*
- *“Opening spaces for dialogue and cultural exchange.”*
- *“Providing more than 3000 higher education scholarships to underserved youth.”*
- *“Supporting youth.”*
- *“Supporting Youth-led startups and initiatives, in-kind and through funds.”*
- *“Tamayyaz Program”.*
- *“The formulation of the leadership and empowerment Ministry.”*
- *“Tounes Wajhatouna.”*
- *“VET reform programme.”*
- *“Unfortunately, I did not find any achievement to support youth in my region. The support of the EU is limited to food security only, and the rest of the necessary needs of women, youth and children are marginalised, although they are the group in society most in need, especially women who lead families alone.”*
- *“Youth Employment and Skills Development: The EU has supported numerous projects aimed at enhancing the employability of Jordanian youth. These initiatives have included vocational training programmes, apprenticeships, and skill-building workshops, which have helped young people acquire the necessary skills to access the job market. By providing job opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship, these efforts have contributed to reducing youth unemployment rates.”*
- *“Youth Mediterranean Voice.”*
- *“Support of programmes for higher education.”*
- *“There isn’t any.”*
- *“Support for the creation of decent jobs for young people.”*
- *“At this point I am not acquainted with other programmes.”*
- *“Capacity-building.”*
- *“Community support.”*
- *“Competence-based education.”*
- *“Creative Tunisia.”*
- *“Employment opportunities by giving support for entrepreneurship and encouraging the growth of small and medium sized enterprises/SME.”*
- *“Employments and self-employments programme.”*
- *“Empower youth.”*
- *“Enhancing employment and contribution to the development of youth’s interpersonal and professional skills.”*
- *“Enhancing rationale policies and strategies.”*
- *“Erasmus Exchange Programs.”*
- *“Gathering Youth from all over the country in a one Network and connecting them to foreign Youth.”*
- *“Higher Education and Scholarships: The EU has provided scholarships and grants to Jordanian youth, enabling them to pursue higher education and research opportunities both within Jordan and in Europe. This has facilitated academic exchange and capacity building, fostering a generation of well-educated and skilled young professionals.”*
- *“Media and Information literacy programmes/support.”*
- *“National and international mobility.”*
- *“Specific programme for youth tailored to national needs and priorities.”*
- *“Support to emerging voices.”*
- *“Supporting CSOs (Limited to big organisations).”*
- *“Supporting initiatives.”*
- *“Supporting youth, and students.”*
- *“The EU has supported teams and organisations that support youth volunteer teams and there has been an impact in increasing participation.”*

- “The implementation of the Anti-Discriminatory index in Universities.”
  - “Support for multiple entrepreneurship programmes.”
  - “Transition of young people from the informal to the formal economy.”
  - “And the ability of young people to dialogue between them.”
  - “At this point I am not acquainted with other programmes.”
  - “Consortium of relevant partners.”
  - “Democratisation and human rights.”
  - “Education support.”
  - “Enhancing employability of youth.”
  - “Flywheel.”
  - “Launching dialogues on challenges faced by youth (e.g. language barriers, recognition of credentials, online learning, legal barriers).”
  - “political awareness and participation.”
  - “Providing support for marginalised and underprivileged communities.”
  - “Strengthening diversity of expression.”
  - “The dedicated focus on environmental and energy projects in Jordan and the region is admirable in my opinion.”
  - “The funding it provides for humanitarian projects reflects positively on society and youth.”
  - “The model of the EU at Universities.”
  - “Training Courses.”
  - “VET, Awareness programmes in several aspects.”
  - “Youth empowerment by promoting the active participation of young people in civil society, politics, and decision-making processes.”
  - “Youth Entrepreneurship Support: EU-funded programmes have encouraged youth entrepreneurship by offering financial support, training, and mentorship to aspiring young entrepreneurs. These initiatives have empowered young Jordanians to start and grow their businesses, thereby contributing to economic development and job creation.”
  - “Development and promotion of vocational education and skills.”
  - “Involvement of young people in public life.”
- Multiple regions**
- “Supporting networks that works with youth led teams.”

### 6.2.3.5 Areas for Improvement

**What improvements or changes would you suggest to enhance the EU engagement in youth areas in your country or region?**

#### *Enlargement Region*

Foremost among the improvements suggested by survey participants was a call for **improved access to capacity-building support and resources**. Participants emphasised the need for increased support, including financial resources, for capacity building in youth organisations. This emphasis on empowerment formed a central theme, aligning with the suggestion to **establish a centralised information hub** for EU projects and opportunities, to enhance accessibility and awareness among the youth.

Participants advocated for **concrete EU dialogue and support for youth representatives**, underscored by stable financial and capacity-building support for umbrella youth organisations.

A notable sentiment emerged regarding the **necessity for a more targeted focus on youth organisations and stakeholders**, urging a shift where youth are treated as primary stakeholders in programmes.

The participants stressed the need for **sustained support for the youth agenda**, positioning them as active contributors to significant political agendas. To operationalise this support, direct funding to independent CSOs, especially national youth councils, was recommended for its potential to foster capacity development and flexibility. Simultaneously, a desire to **streamline funding access for youth organisations and initiatives** was expressed to alleviate bureaucratic burdens. Further, the participants proposed a **shift in financing dynamics**, favouring local and national CSOs over larger international entities for better impact.

A common thread throughout these recommendations was the **advocacy for increased inclusion of youth in decision-making processes**, underscoring the importance of their active involvement.

These recommendations collectively highlight the importance of financial support, streamlined processes, and active involvement of youth in decision-making as pivotal areas for improvement in EU engagement within the Enlargement Region.

#### *Neighbourhood East region*



Survey respondents consistently advocated for **augmented funding for youth programmes and initiatives**, with an emphasis on ensuring sustainable, long-term outcomes. The most recurrent suggestion was the necessity for **direct access to small and medium funding for local youth organisations** through simplified and youth-friendly procedures.

The importance of **capacity building, both for youth organisations and governmental structures**, emerged as a prominent recommendation. Country-specific recommendations were made, such as providing financial support and capacity-building measures for local or national organisations in countries like Moldova and Georgia. Additionally, there was a call for Georgian organisations to have the opportunity to apply directly to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency/EACEA.

**Enhancing the link between youth and the labour market** and **supporting youth entrepreneurship** emerged as a key suggestion to the EU in the region, shared by many survey respondents. There is a need to develop initiatives that foster youth employment, such as job training, internship programmes, and incentives for companies to hire young talent. Participants call for **education and skills development**, with a focus on supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics/STEM education and digital literacy and expanding access to education and training in rural areas.

Moreover, participants emphasised the need for **active participation of youth in decision-making processes**, including budget planning and audits. One participant pointed to the need of increased involvement of National Youth Councils in the planning and implementation of initiatives, underlining their role in fostering effective youth engagement. Other participants highlighted the need for more attention to marginalised and newcomer groups.

**Reducing bureaucratic obstacles**, particularly through pre-project assessments based on an organisation's track record, was also highlighted. Suggestions for **creating more physical spaces for young people** (youth centres, youth rooms and other youth spaces) and **addressing visa issues** were also raised.

In conclusion, the participants' responses collectively underscore the significance of direct and accessible funding, collaboration with youth councils, and a comprehensive approach to education, employment, and youth participation in decision-making processes.

### **Neighbourhood South region**

One of the most frequent recommendations was a resounding call for **greater empowerment and participation of youth**. Participants emphasised the need for young people to play an active role in shaping their own agendas, contributing to decision-making processes, and participating in initiatives that directly impact their communities.

**Education and skill development** emerged as another central theme, with a consensus among participants on the necessity for reforms in the education system, vocational training, and collaborative efforts with companies to bolster the employability of young individuals. The overarching goal was to equip the youth with practical knowledge and skills aligned with market demands.

The imperative of **inclusivity and fair funding allocation** was a recurrent concern. Participants highlighted challenges faced by smaller organisations in accessing funds and recommended streamlining application processes and establishing support programmes tailored to their specific needs.

Environmental consciousness, particularly in the form of **climate advocacy and practical initiatives** for waste management, were mentioned by some participants.

**Health sector support**, especially in conflict-affected regions, drew considerable attention. Participants stressed the importance of contributions to healthcare and the need for initiatives that specifically target health challenges in affected areas.

Four participants stressed the importance of **streamlining visa processes** to facilitate youth mobility and participation in international programmes. Participants sought simplified procedures, recognising the current challenges associated with securing timely appointments and the financial burden of obtaining visas.

**Improving communication channels** and raising awareness about ongoing projects and opportunities were also recommended. Participants suggested targeted campaigns, workshops, and enhanced online visibility to inform youth and youth organisations about the benefits of participating in EU-funded initiatives.

Lastly, a recurring emphasis on **community engagement, accountability, mentorship, and long-term sustainability** underscored the participants' commitment to holistic and enduring solutions. The recommendations collectively depicted a comprehensive vision for bolstering the EU's engagement in youth areas, reflecting the nuanced and interconnected needs expressed by the diverse group of respondents.

Box 24 Areas for improvement

#### **Enlargement**

- *"Access to capacity building support and resources (including finance) ..."*
- *"Centralised information hub for all the EU projects and opportunities, either offices in countries or a site."*
- *"Concrete dialogue with youth representatives and stable financial and capacity building support to the umbrella youth organisations."*
- *"Concrete focus in youth organisations/youth stakeholders. Little programme has been that treat youth as a primary stakeholder."*
- *"Continue supporting even stronger the youth agenda and help them be part of all big political agendas, as they laterally pave the road for our politicians in the region of Western Balkan to cooperate even stronger!"*
- *"Direct funding to independent CSOs, especially national youth councils, will provide your organisation with capacity development, flexibility, and freedom from oppression."*
- *"Enhancing employment and employability for youth groups."*
- *"Facilitation on bureaucratic procedures and heavy criteria."*
- *"Financing local/national CSO rather than large international organisations."*
- *"Focus on content rather than on administrative questions."*
- *"Inclusion of youth in decision making process."*
- *"Initiation and support in the development and implementation of national/state level youth policy with action plan and budget."*
- *"Less bureaucracy."*
- *"Less complex bureaucratic procedures."*
- *"More operational grants for peacebuilding projects."*
- *"More sustainable financing of youth opportunities for CSOs."*
- *"More Youth Labs on different topics."*
- *"Networking with EU youth organisations."*
- *"Streamlined Funding Access for the Youth Organisations and Initiatives."*
- *"Strengthening political participation."*
- *"Support active organisations."*
- *"Support more projects in Kosova."*
- *"Support of initiatives that generate profit and have vision on sustainability (move away from project logic and go closer to social entrepreneurship)."*
- *"Support of programme work of youth organisations (core grants)."*
- *"Tailor made capacity building to youth organisations."*
- *"The EU needs to learn better the special dynamics of young people in Türkiye."*
- *"To work more on the youth employability vis a vis the institutions of Kosovo in order not to replicate/target or benefit only one category of youth (disadvantaged youth)."*
- *"To take into account the City Councils and Youth Councils that produce solutions to the problems of the local."*
- *"Youth dialogue on national level."*
- *"Youth-led CSOs working for young people can access financial support, especially the resources to employ youth workers."*
- *"more peacebuilding narratives."*
- *"Greater support organic youth work organisations and youth organisations instead of large CSOs who have only youth as one (among the others) of the target groups."*
- *"More opportunities for grants for youth CSO and more financed projects for youth."*
- *"Support for strengthening and core granting to youth councils."*
- *"Programme that supports income generation of CSOs, as a means of sustainable development of youth programmes."*
- *"Financing more youth NGO."*
- *"Non formal education – in EU integration and EU policies."*
- *"Access to decent jobs, employment opportunities, and/or entrepreneurship."*
- *"Be more accessible and less bureaucratic to youth and organisations working with youth."*
- *"better outreach."*
- *"Call for applications to support youth organisations in accordance with law/policies in place or support cooperation big NGOs – youth NGOs."*
- *"Change in Regional Youth Cooperation Office/Ryco staff."*
- *"Dedicated programmes even for small and new youth organisations or non-formal groups."*
- *"Easier access to funds for individuals, small groups, and non-official institutions."*
- *"Enhancing access to mental health services and address issues related to sexual and gender-based health."*
- *"Enlarge financial support to youth organisation."*
- *"give opportunities to youth led business – Entrepreneurial activities and capacity building of the local NGOs."*
- *"Increased Outreach and Awareness about available youth programmes."*

- *"Institutional support for youth networks."*
- *"Mental health."*
- *"Mobility issue is not a serious problem in Europe. For this reason, it is natural that it is not at the first steps of the agenda. Could we expect a European youth who has not solved the mobility issue to be interested in the climate crisis or gender equality? In Türkiye, the first priority should be mobility."*
- *"More focus on the core challenges for youth, such as unemployment."*
- *"More pressure on the decision-makers (vis-a-vis policies and their implementation...)"*
- *"Participation youth in all process, mapping needs and advocacy."*
- *"Strengthen Non-formal education."*
- *"Strengthening capacity on the most important issues concerning young people (climate crisis, social injustice, youth participation in decision-making processes, etc.)"*
- *"Support capacity building at all levels of governance in the field of youth policy and youth work."*
- *"Support more local NGOs in Kosova because central level is not bad, so local youth need more."*
- *"Support of youth workers who will provide long-term support to young people."*
- *"Supporting the development of youth work and youth policy as an area, not a tool for addressing other issues related to youth."*
- *"Use more youth-friendly language, channels (Tik-Toks, Trap role models etc)."*
- *"Increasing dialogue with local CSOs."*
- *"More dialogue, stopping polarisation between Serbia and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina."*
- *"Support establishment of "Youth resource centers", places where youth can be educated for engagement in civil sector – to secure youth activist in the future. In the future, these centres should be financed by national institutions."*
- *"Support in advocacy processes when it comes to amendments to existing laws and legal frameworks that concern the needs of young people."*
- *"More exchange for Albanians."*
- *"Non formal education- how to apply to EU calls and funds."*
- *"(Improve) coordination among EU supported programmes, projects, initiatives..."*
- *"Better communication of achieved results."*
- *"Civic engagement – youth engagement in decision making processes in local and central level knowing."*
- *"Emphasise the importance of inter-ethnic programmes that reach marginalised and disadvantaged youth, including those in rural areas or from minority communities."*
- *"Empowering youth as changemakers on issues related to peace and security."*
- *"Enhancing of youth organisations."*
- *"Increase supports/engagement youth/ NGOs/ youth stakeholders from EU with Western Balkan."*
- *"More access to youth organisations to decision on IPA funding on youth governed by the national government."*
- *"Networking, networking and networking all the time."*
- *"Often consultation with non-EU countries for shaping the programmes."*
- *"Programme support for regional projects and initiatives."*
- *"Put environmental values up front."*
- *"Quality youth work."*
- *"Reactionary sects, religious communities and parties close to the government should be prevented from receiving youth support. The support you give to these groups causes spiteful and harmful people to grow in Türkiye. Please research carefully who you support."*
- *"Reviewing the youth groups in the existing network and including new groups."*
- *"Support in the development of youth (political) participation; recognition of youth work and capacity building of youth organisations."*
- *"Support platforms that give the opportunity to youth to understand common concerns as well as interests in the youth and help them achieving their aims."*
- *"Supporting opportunities to run programmes with youth workers to enable young people to take action."*
- *"Supporting policies against marginalisation and discrimination against Roma and Egyptian minorities."*
- *"Youth rights and youth standards (housing, youth standard, quality jobs, culture, mobility etc)."*
- *"Introduction of Youth Guarantee in Bosnia and Herzegovina."*
- *"Support for the production of socially responsible media content by young people for young people in video formats."*
- *"More support for Albanian NGO."*

#### **Neighbourhood East region**

- *"Direct access for small and medium funding for local youth organisations through youth friendly "easy procedures."*
- *"Enhancing the link between youth and the labour market."*
- *"EU4Youth should involve National Youth Councils more in planning and implementation."*
- *"Financial support and capacity addressed to local or national organisations from Republic of Moldova."*

- *"Hope Soon Georgian organisation's will be able to apply project directly to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency/EACEA."*
- *"if possible, to work directly with youth organisations."*
- *"Increase funding for youth programmes and initiatives. The EU has already provided significant funding for youth programmes and initiatives in Ukraine, but more could be done. Increased funding would allow the EU to support more young people and to implement more ambitious programmes."*
- *"Increase number of projects with youth participation with sustainable long terms outcomes."*
- *"Increasing the professional qualification/re-qualification of young people."*
- *"Integrate marginalised youth in the consultation actions."*
- *"Less bureaucracy (based on pre-project assessment of the organisation and previous track-records)."*
- *"More attention to newcomer groups, organisations."*
- *"More capacity building actions for youth organisations."*
- *"More physical spaces for young people."*
- *"opportunity to share experience with EU countries of youth workers and young people."*
- *"Review opportunities to provide additional logistic support for non-EU countries (travel costs are sometimes too high, it's difficult to arrange visa on time (now even more difficult in Belarus) that demotivates partners to cooperate with non-EU countries and makes search of participants difficult)."*
- *"Strengthen Education and Skills Development: Invest in education and skills development programmes to equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed for employment and entrepreneurship. This includes supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics/STEM education and digital literacy."*
- *"To launch more programmes for youth helping them to acquire profession and skills."*
- *"Visa issues."*
- *"work directly with Belarusian youth NGO or Belarusian youth council Rada in order to assess the current needs and state of NGO sector. (+ keep in mind that verification might be needed, because due to the fact that majority if the NGO are liquidated or persecuted there is the risk of developing of governmental NGO, who will follow the autocratic regime)."*
- *"Youth becoming the actor of the things that happen to them."*
- *"Youth participation in the dialogue, state budget planning at the regional or central levels (why not team up with State Audit Office of Georgia and empower youth on the skills of state budget planning, execution and inclusion in the monitoring and youth-led audits? This will put the light on the importance of state comptroller and the tools youth can use to hold the government accountable to the society, etc.)."*
- *"Youth spaces development (youth centres, youth rooms and other youth spaces."*
- *"capacity building support with EU organisations."*
- *"Qualitative representation of Ukraine (not pseudo platforms)."*
- *"Enlarge the involvement of national/local community-based youth NGOs support for institutional capacity building."*
- *"increase involvement of governmental bodies (cross-sector) in the implementation of actions."*
- *"active youth participation."*
- *"advocacy, landing pages, recommendations to include Belarusian youth in EU projects."*
- *"Education and employment."*
- *"Empowering youth work and youth workers."*
- *"Erasmus+."*
- *"EU4Belarus youth CSOs component needed in addition to education and other components."*
- *"Expand access to education and training for young people. The EU should continue to support Ukraine to improve the quality and access to education and training for young people. This could be done by supporting further curriculum reform, teacher training, and the development of vocational education and training programmes. The EU could also support the development of more online and distance-learning programmes, which would make education and training more accessible to young people in rural areas and to young people with disabilities."*
- *"Financial support and capacity of the organisations in the Advocacy sector."*
- *"Funding for operational costs and institutional capacity building, in addition to funding allocated for activity implementation."*
- *"Increase awareness of opportunities for engagement."*
- *"Increased funding."*
- *"Increasing opportunities for regional youth."*
- *"Involve partner countries to more opportunities and to more roles (e.g. receiving grants in Erasmus+, to be coordinating organisation in European Solidarity Corps/ESC, KA2)."*
- *"More accent to rural areas!"*
- *"More grants for youth."*
- *"Opportunity to get quality education in the regions of Georgia."*
- *"State Youth Policy with operational action plans focusing on youth education, participation and empowerment rather than attending the entertainment camps (camps are important, but not strategic tools in the youth empowerment)."*

- *"Supporting job creation for young people. Increasing young people's access to the labour market."*
- *"Informing about opportunities."*
- *"Youth Dialogue."*
- *"Smooth regulations of receiving EU funds for small or new established CSOs."*
- *"Enhance capacities and institutional memory at governmental structures."*
- *"Develop initiatives that foster youth employment, such as job training, internship programmes, and incentives for companies to hire young talent. Encourage the growth of industries that are particularly relevant to the region. Support Entrepreneurship: Facilitate access to funding, mentorship, and resources for young entrepreneurs. Promote innovation and create a favourable environment for startups and small businesses. Engage in Civic Education: Promote civic education and encourage youth participation in local governance, politics, and civil society. Empower young people to become active and informed citizens. Empower Young Women: Address gender disparities by implementing programmes that empower young women and promote gender equality in education, employment, and leadership roles. Foster Cultural Exchange: Facilitate cultural exchange programmes, student exchanges, and initiatives that expose young people to diverse cultures and perspectives, both within the country and through international partnerships. Digital Inclusion: Bridge the digital divide by expanding access to the internet and digital technologies in underserved areas. Support digital literacy programmes to ensure all youth can benefit from the digital age. Environmental Initiatives: Encourage youth involvement in environmental conservation and sustainability efforts. Support projects related to climate action, renewable energy, and environmental education. Peace and Reconciliation: In regions with conflict or post-conflict situations, invest in youth-focused peacebuilding and reconciliation programmes. Promote dialogue and cooperation among young people from different backgrounds. Mental Health and Well-being: Recognise the importance of mental health and provide resources and support for young people facing mental health challenges. Youth-Led Initiatives: Empower youth to take the lead in designing and implementing programmes that address their own needs and concerns. Engage youth in decision-making processes. Monitoring and Evaluation: Implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of youth programmes. Continuously gather feedback from young people to refine and improve initiatives. Partnerships: Collaborate with local governments, NGOs, and youth organisations to leverage resources and expertise. Engage in public-private partnerships to enhance the effectiveness of youth programmes. Sustainability: Ensure the sustainability of youth programmes by considering long-term funding and capacity-building strategies. These recommendations can be adapted to fit the specific needs and priorities of your country or region. Engaging with local stakeholders and conducting regular assessments will be essential in shaping effective youth-focused initiatives."*
- *"Capacity building for State, to prepare them for Erasmus+."*
- *"Country-by-country priorities and individualised approach to support and funding."*
- *"Empowering local youth organisations and newcomers."*
- *"Enhance employment and employability for youth groups."*
- *"Funds available for start-ups (be it environmental, social, or any impact oriented) without financial contribution liability."*
- *"In regions with conflict or post-conflict situations, invest in youth-focused peacebuilding and reconciliation programmes. Promote dialogue and cooperation among young people from different backgrounds."*
- *"Introduce green/environmental criteria in project selection + some training on sustainability/greening for grantees."*
- *"More grant schemes for smaller organisations."*
- *"More startups."*
- *"Promote youth participation in decision-making. The EU should support programmes and initiatives that promote youth participation in decision-making. This could be done by supporting youth organisations, youth-led projects, and programmes to train young people in leadership and advocacy skills. The EU could also support the establishment of youth councils and other mechanisms for youth participation in government decision-making."*
- *"Support for Belarusian CSOs and young people in exile."*
- *"Support for youth voices and structural dialogue in East Neighbourhood region and Belarus in particular."*
- *"Support of vulnerable youth."*
- *"taking into consideration specific safety needs or other specific needs like visa support."*
- *"Youth Guarantee Scheme to implement in Eastern Partnership countries."*
- *"Youth involvement and consultation in the Accession process of the Republic of Moldova to UE."*
- *"Youth entrepreneurship."*
- *"improve recognition of youth initiatives at local levels resulting from the work done by EU4Youth Alumni Network."*

#### **Neighbourhood South region**

- *"Allocate more targeted support to support culture and art as advocacy tools."*
- *"Allow youth to put their own Agenda."*
- *"As much as it is covered and considered, access to high quality employment and vocational training opportunities remains a persistent issue and need."*
- *"Avoid youth tokenism at all costs, making initiatives sustainable and consequential, especially regarding policy dialogues."*

- *"Broader support and creation of new projects for youth."*
- *"Communicating and granting funding to volunteer teams and associations in Syria."*
- *"Community participation and accountability between the youth and knowing the most important issues and finding suitable solutions for them."*
- *"Contribute more to supporting the health sectors."*
- *"Contributing to multi-sectoral collaboration."*
- *"Developing tools of fairness, equity and equality among youth, especially in the case of opportunities sharing."*
- *"Education and skill development for young people and fresh graduates with networking with companies in Europe mainly those who may offer jobs opportunities for them (on-site or remotely)."*
- *"Education and Vocational Training Reform: Collaborate with the Jordanian government to reform the education system, placing greater emphasis on practical and vocational skills that align with job market demands. Ensure that education."*
- *"Enhance the youth participation in decision making."*
- *"Facilitate the generalisation of working projects."*
- *"Focus on the positive aspects of being youth."*
- *"Freedom of expression."*
- *"I think that the EU should make a lasting campaign or programme for climate advocacy in Palestine especially in consideration to garbage disposal and sorting facilities. Public and recreational spaces in Palestine are flooded (yes, flooded) with garbage. While people seem aware and concerned about climate change and the environment much is still needed. Garbage can be seen everywhere, in the streets, plastic bags hanging from tree branches, along the highway and in the rivers and canals. The few public garbage containers that exist are rarely emptied and clearly not the right capacity. Also they fill the sidewalks forcing pedestrians to walk in the dangerous traffic lanes. City animals feed from the garbage and have infections and diseases which may in turn spread further. People throw garbage on the street since they rarely have the opportunity to go to a container. It is depressing to see such a beautiful country spoiled by human made waste and people living under unhygienic conditions. Palestine urgently needs a modern garbage incinerator facility to tackle this problem alongside with people who are willing and who have the resources to deal with this."*
- *"Inclusivity and Fair Funding Allocation: One of the primary areas of improvement should focus on making EU funding more inclusive. Currently, it appears that only larger organisations have the capacity and resources to successfully apply for and receive financial support from the EU. Smaller and mid-sized organisations often struggle to access these funds due to their limited human resources and the complexity of drafting proposals that align with European standards. To address this, we suggest establishing specialised support programmes or simplified application processes specifically designed for smaller organisations. These programmes could provide mentorship, capacity-building, and guidance to help these organisations navigate the application process successfully."*
- *"Increase engagement with decision makers in my country to support decision making process because it takes a lot of time in my country."*
- *"Meetings only with young people."*
- *"More youth networking activities and events."*
- *"Not to develop institutions "a link between the Union and youth groups"."*
- *"Please try to modify the EU agreements so as to find solution for the latest annex that was added regarding the conditional funding."*
- *"Providing educational programme on the fundamental s of the different topics that presents an essential part of the EU Agenda; i.e. Climate change and AI. Most people are interested in the programmes offered but they tend to be intimidated by the fact that the programme doesn't along with their existing knowledge."*
- *"Reach to marginalised groups through youth panel by investing in their promotion and reach."*
- *"Reaching out to youth from marginalised areas through creating coffee talks in those areas and choosing local focal points that consult the EU regarding this area. These focal points could disseminate EU opportunities as well. In other words, choosing goodwill ambassadors that truly represent the needs of the people."*
- *"Recognition of youth work in the South Mediterranean region."*
- *"Reduce bureaucratic measures."*
- *"Target Rural areas in Jbeil/Keserwan/Mount Lebanon (not only North Bekaa and South)."*
- *"The EU should engage in more in-depth contextual research and understanding of Lebanon's particular challenges, which include economic, political, and social dynamics. This understanding should guide the design and implementation of youth-focused projects."*
- *"To enhance scholarship opportunities for youth."*
- *"Youth Engagement and Community Initiatives."*
- *"Plan longer term engagements that have as objective to be institutionalised whether within the public or private sector."*
- *"Involving young people in the identification of priorities."*
- *"Business."*

- *"Community engagement and accountability for young people to know their issues and make them. One of the pioneers of solutions, not only those who are accountable, and only those who address issues and initiatives only."*
- *"Contribute more to supporting the educational sectors."*
- *"Create an online portal where Youth can submit a concept paper/proposal for their startup and specify their needs. This portal can connect Youth to on-going/ future programmes that answers their needs."*
- *"Empowering youth intellectually and economically."*
- *"Enhancing access to labour market."*
- *"Ensuring capacity building and sustainability elements within any EU budgets."*
- *"Extend the sustainability of regional programmes by allowing iterations of successful initiatives."*
- *"Facilitating the visa process for youth in Lebanon to represent their country and EU-based networks in networking and high-level events and forums organised by the EU."*
- *"Facilitating visa processes for people going on exchange programmes to ensure their inclusion."*
- *"Mentorship and Skills Development: Expand mentorship programmes and skills development opportunities to equip young Jordanians with the practical knowledge and soft skills needed to excel in the job market and entrepreneurship. Collaborate with local industries to create training programmes that align with labour market demands."*
- *"More youth and ground-oriented projects and fundings."*
- *"Open forums for political discussions to help foster a healthy debate environment with free speech."*
- *"Political exchange between Europeans and Palestinians on peace building."*
- *"Preparing a programme to build professional administrative capabilities for the youth team staff."*
- *"Provide support for venerable communities in (C) area."*
- *"Providing scientific missions abroad."*
- *"Salqine"*
- *"Strategic dialogue with national policy makers on the investment of youth for demographic and peace dividends."*
- *"Streamlining Visa Procedures: Visa issues represent a significant challenge for young people, particularly when they wish to participate in programmes like Erasmus+. Securing timely visa appointments can be an arduous process, leading to missed opportunities and delays in programme implementation. Furthermore, the financial burden of obtaining visas, even for Erasmus programmes, places an undue strain on youth organisations. To enhance EU engagement in youth areas, we recommend working towards streamlining the visa application process for participants of EU-funded programmes. This could involve establishing a dedicated channel or priority access for programme participants to secure appointments and exploring options to waive or subsidise visa fees for such participants. Simplified visa procedures would greatly facilitate youth mobility and encourage greater participation in EU programmes."*
- *"Supporting programmes that equip young people with digital literacy and promoting innovation and technology-driven entrepreneurship."*
- *"Survey their most important needs related to education and job opportunities, creating safe spaces for women and girls, and reducing Gender Based Violence/GBV."*
- *"The EU should ensure that local communities and youth-led organisations have an active role in the design and implementation of projects. This can be achieved through participatory workshops and capacity-building trainings, and by providing resources to empower them as active participants, rather than passive beneficiaries."*
- *"to support elections legislation in favour for youth representation by raising limitations on Candidacy age: to have 18 as the age for candidacy and voting."*
- *"Work on the marginalisation against minorities, it is said that it happens, from what I experienced it is not. At least during the EU related activities that tolerate homophobia, does not encourage it, however, there is no clear policies against it."*
- *"Provide more direct support to local and smaller NGO's who believe in youth as partners and not beneficiaries."*
- *"Identification of the target audience (number and quality)."*
- *"Avoid betting on regional programmes only; this strategy has proved limited. Find ways to work at national levels."*
- *"Contribute more to youth inclusion and women's empowerment programmes."*
- *"Create more opportunities for youth that allows them to be changemakers and decisionmakers."*
- *"Creation of a youth coordination body with national and international stakeholders."*
- *"Direct support for the creative ideas of young people, which allows them to contribute and participate without restrictions or bureaucracy."*
- *"Encourage youth participation in civic and political processes and supporting leadership development programmes and mentorship opportunities."*
- *"Establishing youth study centres and building their capacities."*
- *"Financial support for entrepreneurship or small business lead by youth."*
- *"Flexibility to renew support in case the project needs it."*

- *"Guaranteed access to clean drinking water for people, animals and crops which is a scarce resource in the region and one which in the coming years and decades may otherwise be used as a weapon to subdue the Palestinians and cause both a humanitarian and environmental crisis."*
- *"Improving the Civic Space for youth and all organisations in Southern Mediterranean."*
- *"Increase support and funding for higher education."*
- *"More UN/EU projects."*
- *"Not limiting work with young people in one way or another and working as he sees fit from young people to young people."*
- *"Promoting Awareness: Another critical aspect of improving EU engagement in youth areas is increasing awareness among youth and youth organisations about the opportunities available through EU programmes. This could be achieved through targeted awareness campaigns, workshops, and outreach efforts that highlight the benefits of participating in EU-funded initiatives."*
- *"Providing funding for young people to start their own projects."*
- *"Salqine."*
- *"Simplifying the financial application processes and allowing for translated versions of them."*
- *"Social inclusion."*
- *"Sustaining the financing and funding for start-ups and early-stage initiatives."*
- *"Tailored Programmes and Strategies: Develop tailored programmes and strategies that address the unique needs and challenges of youth in Jordan. Engage with local youth organisations and consult with young people themselves to ensure that initiatives align with their aspirations and priorities."*
- *"The establishment of peace political networks."*
- *"The EU must improve communication channels to disseminate information about ongoing projects and opportunities. This could include updating the European External Action Service/EEAS website, organising regular info sessions on ongoing projects, and collaborating on social media with local implementing partners when a project is launched to reach a wider audience and centralise information."*
- *"Provide more visibility for all EU youth engagement programmes and encourage more synergy among partners so that there's complementarity in the services or the areas covered and less duplication of efforts."*
- *"Ensuring the sustainability of interventions."*

#### **Multiple regions**

- *"To increase engagement with unregistered youth-led teams and provide them with financial project support."*
- *"To offer sustained, long-term support with coaching and ongoing follow-up."*
- *"Strengthen projects that emphasise accountability and improve access to the decision-making process."*

### **6.2.3.6 Final remarks**

The last section of the survey gave to participants the option of providing other contributions to the evaluation, focusing on sharing of experiences/good practices, lessons or concrete examples of impact of EU support in your country/region.

Among **Enlargement region** participants, one highlighted as a good practice the GoFor Youth Project funded by EUD Türkiye under Support to Civil Society Networks and Platforms in Türkiye and implemented by Youth Organisations Forum (GoFor). The Capital (Ankara) Youth Assembly was suggested as a good practice as well, as it makes extraordinary efforts to promote the EU Identity and helps to shape Youth Policies. One participant warned that the EU should pay attention to national processes affecting the allocation of funds for Youth Project in Serbia, and report them. Another one stressed a lack of initiatives creating a critical gap in addressing the pressing issues of reconciliation and internal reintegration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other participants stressed again some recommendations: continued support to Kosovo Youth; increase funding; new strategies to reach out more efficiently to young people; more focus on peacebuilding projects, dialogue, stopping polarisation among youth in projects.

One **Neighbourhood East region** participant highlighted the importance of cross-border knowledge sharing and collaboration for youth; another one felt confident in the value, sustainability and effectiveness of EU projects; another participant stressed how Erasmus+ is able to empower youth and their capabilities, while the Policy Lab is a good initiative to shape more youth-friendly national policies.

Overall participants in the **Neighbourhood South region** expressed appreciation for the EU engagement in the region. One participant emphasised the need for thorough planning, effective communication, and centralised information to foster open dialogue, increasing awareness, and encouraging meaningful discussions. One further suggestion from a participant is to ensure greater youth participation in designing the projects themselves. Lastly, one participant highlighted how their organisation's engagement in two programmes has been an eye opener for them as they learned with the youth about the work of the EU in the country, and we also found out the huge gap in information and communication that exists.



Box 25 Please feel free to provide other contributions to this evaluation, focusing on sharing of experiences/good practices, lessons or concrete examples of impact of EU support in your country/region (optional)

### Enlargement

- *"First of all, the fact that the Government of Serbia has merged the Ministry of Youth with the Ministry of Tourism speaks to their dedication to addressing the issues and problems faced by young people in Serbia. I suggest you take a look at the research conducted by the National Council of Youth of Serbia, analysing the 2023 call for projects by the Ministry of Tourism and Youth. It demonstrates the extent to which the selection processes for youth policy projects are non-transparent, and even worse, substantial funds have been allocated to non-existent or newly established organisations with no track record in working with young people. Given that Serbia is a candidate country for EU membership, it is crucial to draw attention to such processes and address them through various EU reports."*
- *"GoFor Youth Project funded by the EU Delegation to Türkiye under Support to Civil Society Networks and Platforms in Türkiye and implemented by Youth Organisations Forum/GoFor which is the National Youth Council of Türkiye can be one of the good practices."*
- *"The Institute for Youth Development KULT was founded at the national level in 2002 under the name Association KULT, and it continued conducting its activities under this name until May 2011. In addition to the Head Office in Sarajevo, we also have offices in Gradačac and Subotica, which have retained the original name. Our cooperation with the governmental authorities is very effective and is based on a partnership. In all the communities where we have our offices, KULT has been trying to implement activities needed by the target group in that very area. In order to determine our focus and direction, we conduct annual planning workshops. We strive to establish good cooperation with municipal authorities, and with various national and international organisations, in order to prevent repetition or overlapping of projects. KULT is experienced in drafting legal documents and regulations and has been involved in producing many draft laws at all levels of government. Furthermore, we initiated the adoption of the Youth Law in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Law on Volunteering in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc. We drafted the Youth Law and Law on Volunteering of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with other organisations and submitted it to the Parliament in cooperation with the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Commission for Youth Issues of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Assembly's House of Representatives. The laws were ultimately adopted. Ever since the Association was founded, through various non-formal training activities, counselling, monitoring, teaching, courses, seminars, simulations, problem-solving workshops, round tables, brochures, working materials, etc. we have been assisting youth, associations, non-formal groups, and other interested parties to become recognised members of the society, ready to take responsibility and make an effort to improve their position in life. The mission of the Institute for Youth Development KULT is to create and advocate legal and other strategic solutions, as well as to build and strengthen the capacities of associations and governmental authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, for a successful and sustainable youth policy. Our vision is an open society with empowered citizens who participate in all decision-making processes "in public life".*
- *"Organisations in Western Balkan don't have any support to adapt guide and their regular work."*
- *"Please don't block supports for Kosova. Youth should not be victim of dialogue between Kosova and Serbia."*
- *"Thanks for this opportunity! I don't want to make it about funding (at the very end of the survey, but I'd like to add that more flexible funding would be needed and impactful."*
- *"The Capital (Ankara) Youth Assembly, which is currently the largest and most active youth assembly in Türkiye, works with both the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye to determine national youth policies. Organised with 76 other youth assemblies in Türkiye, this assembly makes extraordinary efforts to promote the EU Identity. The development of dialogue within the scope of EU programmes and the academic reports prepared by the Başkent Youth Assembly and the "Youth Corridor for Participatory Democracy" model provide an opportunity to understand the structure of youth in Türkiye."*
- *"The limited availability of funding for inter-ethnic programmes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, such as the rare occurrence of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights/EIDHR initiatives happening only once every two years, underscores a critical gap in addressing the pressing issues of reconciliation and internal reintegration in our country. While economic development and youth employment are vital, we must not overlook the foundational need for sustained efforts in dialogue and peacebuilding. The history and complexities of Bosnia-Herzegovina demand ongoing and consistent support for projects that foster inter-ethnic understanding and cooperation. These initiatives are essential for the long-term stability and prosperity of our nation. Therefore, I strongly advocate for an increased allocation of resources and funding towards dialogue-based and peacebuilding programmes. By investing in these areas, we can pave the way for a more harmonious and integrated future, creating a solid foundation upon which other development endeavours can thrive."*
- *"The most important project to develop young people in Türkiye is the village institutes, which were closed in 1945. Reopening and supporting these institutes is the most important contribution to young people. Reopening these institutes is my most important goal in the youth field. I hope one day the EU will realise this."*
- *"Within the Kosovo Youth Participation a project funded by EU for the period 14.01.2022 – 15.01.2024 Output 1: Increased participation of disadvantaged youth in decision making, in local communities and on*

the central level. Output 2: Enhanced engagement and employability of marginalised youth, in particular young women, through skills development and involvement in volunteering initiatives. Output 3: Democratic dialogue across Kosovo youth fostered through raised awareness on and promotion of gender equality, solidarity, inter-cultural relations and counter stereotypes and dis-information. We have reach to have direct beneficiaries 1600 so far. Through the Financial Support to Thirds Parties we managed to enrol in internship, On-the Job Training 49 youngsters for 6 months based on the Active Labour Market Measures, Gave grants to the 5 sub-grantees to implement mini projects for 8-10 months and implemented 14 Local Actions targeting over 500 youth from small towns/cities and rural areas.”

- "Young people are even more pushed away, EU bodies have to find a way to outreach more efficiently (creatively) to them. Bureaucratic applications, monitoring and reporting forms, unreachable National Authority/NA officials, are discouraging and jobs in the third (NGO) sector are not attractive.”
- "Definitely we have more media literate youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina thanks to EU support projects, we need now more to focus on peacebuilding projects, dialogue, stopping polarisation among youth.”
- "There is a very small contribution to youth projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”
- "Usually I didn't apply in local calls, most of the time the youth here thinks that the vacancies are already filled out before the call publication. But I trusted an EU Funded Programme and the way they selected the members of the network, that's why I applied and after I understood that other peers felt the same. The youth in our country trusts the EU opportunities and processes.”

#### **Neighbourhood East region**

- "EU projects are most valuable, sustainable and effective. Will be used to solve visa issue for Armenia.”
- "Highlight the importance of cross-border knowledge sharing and collaboration. Encourage youth from the country or region to participate in EU-funded exchange programmes, workshops, and conferences with other European countries. This exposure can provide valuable insights and broaden their horizons.”
- "The EU support is often provided to consultancy companies who have little idea about youth and youth field. The activities they implement in my country have little or no impact on youth, youth policy or youth work.”
- "Through Erasmus+ mobilities many youth actors were capacitated in areas such as participation of young people, formal or informal education, due to more Policy Lab was influenced national politics for example introduction of Dual Education at the university level. Due to the financial support of EU were implement more politics and programmes for youth actors.”
- "We want greater access for local organisations (including youth organisations) to direct funding under EU programmes for Moldova.”
- "You do a great job for Ukraine. Thank you for that. Every programme and project are helpful. You just should find the right partner from youth sector here. The war changes everything and showed what platform is working or not. Wish you all the best and lot of peace.”

#### **Neighbourhood South region**

- "As a final remark, it is important to emphasise thorough planning, effective communication, and centralised information – as they are crucial for fostering open dialogue, increasing awareness, and encouraging meaningful discussions. In addition, actively involving the youth in participation and co-creation is essential to ensure their inclusion and to instil a sense of ownership and accountability in sustaining their initiatives. Thank you for your time and work!”
- "Considering Youth as a target: take more seriously in consideration the fact that sustainability of an initiative/organisation is not a major goal as such. Compose with flexibility and series of move/transformation that impact initiatives/organisations.”
- "Establishing a special "building" centre for youth or youth councils, to be a suitable space for young people to exchange ideas and issues easier, and therefore through the presence of such a building or centre for youth, it is possible to work continuously and on a daily basis to solve all issues and work better and faster with young people without mediation and without restrictions.”
- "EU projects and aid are not reaching our region well please work in Syria more.”
- "For my part, the EU has had a tangible impact in supporting youth or youth initiatives, but I count on several points, namely the lack of effective access of youth organisations to the activities of the EU, and we hope to reach them directly without an implementing partner or a technical partner.”
- "I am grateful for the efforts undertaken by the EU to include youth and to provide them with opportunities to exchange best practices with youth from all over the EU, however there are much more efforts that need to be taken including: 1- The meaningful representation of youth in EU-Egypt policy dialogues; especially if marginalised youth. 2- Youth consultation in all the cycles of the programmes and policies that are directed towards youth. 3- EU to work with the region on the protection of the freedom of speech and human rights to promote meaningful youth participation.”
- "I hope that in the coming period the EU will have activity on the ground and direct contact with women and youth. The suffering and need are very great, and I hope to take into consideration peacebuilding, protection and community integration in the region that suffers from ethnic and regional conflicts and high discrimination in the performance of the roles of institutions.”
- "Intervention must ensure greater youth participation in designing the project itself rather than having it ready.”
- "Thank you for creating this survey. I Hope that it's results can be shared with us and if there is an opportunity for us to inform as well as participate in guiding future EU policies in the neighbouring countries that it can be communicated with us!”

- *"Thank you. The EU's support was an important starting point for our youth initiative and was an important factor in encouraging many young people."*
- *"the EU must support in the recognition of the state of Palestine, so that Palestinian youth can act independently, move freely without being attacked by the Israeli settler colonialism. Freedom for Palestine if freedom for Palestinian youth."*
- *" UN Population Fund/UNFPA Palestine is proud to engage with the EU team in the country in a partnership aiming at protecting and empowering Palestinian youth to be leaders and enhancing the dialogue with policy makers. The UN Population Fund/UNFPA has been closely coordinating with the UN agencies to better respond to national youth needs through multiple projects components in the EU funded project, YOUTH LEADS."*
- *"Our engagement in the EU Coffee Talks and the EU Jeel Connect has been an eye opener for us as we learned with the youth about the work of the EU in Lebanon, and we also found out the huge gap in information and communication that exists. I believe doing more of these activities and providing more visibility about the EU work in Lebanon in addition to engaging directly with smaller and local NGO's will help create a stronger platform for all youth engagement work in Lebanon."*

## 6.2.4 Annex I: Questionnaire Survey to youth actors for the Evaluation of EU support to Youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions (2014-2021)

### 6.2.4.1 Introduction

Dear Respondent,

This survey is part of the **Evaluation of EU support to Youth in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions (2014-2021)**, commissioned by the EC (DG NEAR) and jointly implemented by Particip GmbH and ECDPM.

The **text below contains important information** to guide you on the scope of the questionnaire. Please read carefully.

*Audience:* the questionnaire is addressed to **youth actors** in Europe's **Southern and Neighbourhood East, Western Balkans and Türkiye**. Youth actors are defined as youth-led organisations, representative bodies, CSOs, activists, or programme participants who have directly engaged in initiatives supported by the EU. It is expected that participants to the survey have had an exposure to the EU through dialogues, support programmes or other initiatives.

*Scope of engagement with the EU:* Engagement can be with the EU can include inclusion in an **EU supported programme, initiative or dialogue implemented through a partner** (such as UN agencies, private sector, public bodies, NGOs, or CSOs), or **directly** (through open calls to youth groups, activists, national youth council, etc.).

*Examples of EU-initiatives include:* Erasmus+, Horizon, Cultural programmes, Youth Ambassadors, Eastern Partnership Youth Forum, Young Mediterranean Voices, EuroMed, Youth Labs, EU4Youth, VET, etc.

Importantly, the survey is interested in **EU support to four thematic areas** impacting youth groups:

- **Youth participation:** through youth work and participation in policy making (local, national, regional or international);
- **Youth economic integration:** through youth employment and employability; Youth entrepreneurship (including access to finance and quality of jobs); Digital skills (including skills for green and digital transition); Formal learning (including school retention); Non-formal and informal learning (including skills development);
- **Youth social inclusion** (including women, disadvantaged youth, youth from minorities and refugees youth): through Youth mobility (scholarships, exchange, and employment mobility); culture, school retention, and health (including sexual, reproductive and mental health);
- **Peace and security:** looking inclusion of youth in regional cooperation, reconciliation agendas, and addressing root causes of marginalisation, disengagement, and radicalisation.

Answering the survey should take you between **15-20 minutes**.

Survey responses will remain completely **anonymous**.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this evaluation in general, or this online survey, your contact persons are:

Evaluation Team:

- **Lorenzo Antoldi**, Survey Manager.
- **Mariam Hamad**, Evaluation Manager.
- **Emanuela Parisciani**, Evaluation Manager (DG NEAR).

If you know a person who is interested in taking the survey, but who didn't receive a personalised invitation, please feel free to approach the contact persons from the Evaluation Team indicated above.

We greatly appreciate your contribution to this evaluation as your answers will contribute to the enhancement of EU's future engagements in the area of Youth.

The Evaluation Team



### 6.2.4.2 Identification

1. [ALL] Please indicate **which type of organisation you are currently working in**. *If you work in multiple organisations, please select the one where you feel you have the most relevant experience in relation to EU support/engagement.*

- International NGO/CSO
- National/local NGO/CSO
- National Youth Council or representative youth bodies
- Youth leader/Activist/ Activist Organisations
- International Organisation (e.g. UN agencies)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Main role** in your organisation:

- management
- chairperson/president
- staff member
- consultant
- volunteer
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

3. [ALL] Please indicate the **country or region you are based in and/or have interacted with EU initiatives**. *If your work covers multiple countries, please select the one where you feel you have the most relevant experience to EU support.*

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albania                | <input type="checkbox"/> Israel                    | <input type="checkbox"/> North Macedonia            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Algeria                | <input type="checkbox"/> Jordan                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Palestine**                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armenia                | <input type="checkbox"/> Kosovo*                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbia                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Azerbaijan             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Syria                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belarus                | <input type="checkbox"/> Libya                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tunisia                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input type="checkbox"/> Moldova                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Türkiye                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egypt                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Montenegro                | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia                | <input type="checkbox"/> Morocco                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enlargement region     | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood East region | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood South region |

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with the UN Security Council Resolution/UNSCR 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice/ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

\*\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

4. To what extent are you familiar with EU initiatives, dialogues or programmes supporting youth?

Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know
()	()	()	()	()

5. To what extent have you or your organisation/group been **directly involved in EU activities or dialogues supporting youth or youth areas?**

Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know
()	()	()	()	()

6. What **type of EU activity** have you/your organisation been engaged in?

- Regional dialogue on youth issues.
- National dialogue on youth issues.
- Dialogue in framework of an EU project or programme (Regional or National).

- Participant / actor / beneficiary in an EU programme (Regional or National).
- Implementation of an EU project or programme (Regional or National).
- Exchange and peer to peer.
- Erasmus+.
- Other (please specify)

Please note the names of EU initiatives or dialogues in which you were engaged

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7. Have you or your organisation **ever received any financial assistance from the EU?**

- Yes
- No

**[If Yes]** What **type of financial assistance** have you received? (Check all that apply)

- Scholarship or fellowship
- Research grant
- Project grant
- Project sub-grant

**[if selected Project grant]** Please specify **the length of the grant:**

- Under 6 months
- 6 – 12 month
- 1 – 2 years
- More than two years

Direct support to your organisation

**[if selected Direct support to your organisation]** Please **clarify the type of support received:**

Other: please specify

### 6.2.4.3 Engagement and Participation

#### 6.2.4.3.1 Relevance

8. In your opinion, what are the **three most important challenges facing youth in your country?** (At most 3 choices)

- Lack of political participation.
- Apathy among young people and lack of empowerment.
- Access to high quality education, formal and informal education.
- Access to decent jobs, employment opportunities, and/or entrepreneurship.
- Access to critical services for Sexual and Reproductive Health, mental health, and other support services.
- Shrinking spaces available for participation through art, culture, and civil society.
- Marginalisation, discrimination and lack of social and economic justice.
- Polarisation, and/or radicalisation.
- Lack of opportunity to travel or participate in exchanges with EU youth.

9. Based on your knowledge, **to what extent does EU support to youth...**

	<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
...integrate <b>core youth challenges</b> in your country.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
...reflects an <b>understanding of national contexts</b> and local culture.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
...aligns with <b>national</b> and regional agendas.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

...aligns with local youth needs.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
...responds quickly and flexibly to changes in contexts.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
...consults local stakeholders and promotes ownership and accountability.	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

--

#### 6.2.4.3.2 Dialogue

10. Based on your experience, how would you define the quality of youth participation and engagement within EU programmes?

- Youth are not included
- Youth are informed
- Youth are consulted
- Youth are partners and co-creators
- Youth set their own agenda and define their priorities
- Don't know

11. Based on your experience, to what extent do you agree with following statements regarding dialogue with the EU or within EU supported initiatives or programmes?

	Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know
Dialogue with EU is structured and with clear objectives	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
The EU engages with youth at precisely the opportune moment, ensuring timely consultation when it is most needed	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
The EU consults with a diverse range of youth actors and integrates marginalised voices	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
EU translates inputs received from consultations with the youth in concrete actions/measures of support	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Outcomes from EU dialogues are clear and recommendations are adequately considered	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
Youth actors are able to influence the EU's final choices	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

12. Have you participated in networking or peer-to-peer exchanges supported by the EU (e.g. national, intra-regional, or with EU)?

- Yes
- No

[If Yes] To what networking or peer-to-peer exchanges supported by the EU (e.g. national, intra-regional, or with EU) have you participated?

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[If Yes] How would you rate the impact and utility of the exchanges?

- Very impactful
- Impactful
- Somewhat impactful
- Not at all impactful

- [ ] Don't know

Why was it or not impactful? Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

--

### 6.2.4.3.3 Implementation and results

13. Based on your experience, to what extent **do EU funding instruments and processes enable access to finance to youth groups, organisations and youth actors?**

Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know
()	()	()	()	()

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

--

14. Based on your experience, to what extent **are the implementing agencies delivering EU support programmes effective in engaging and including youth as actors rather than beneficiaries?**

Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know
()	()	()	()	()

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)

--

15. Based on your experience, to what extent has the **EU support positively contributed to...**

Please only answer to areas in which you/your organisation have directly engaged with.

	Great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Not at all	Don't know
...expanding space available for youth and youth organisations to <b>participate and influence local/regional policy processes</b> affecting them.	()	()	()	()	()
...enhancing access to quality formal and non-formal <b>education, VET, and higher education</b> opportunities for youth.	()	()	()	()	()
...enhancing <b>employment and employability</b> for youth groups.	()	()	()	()	()
...enhancing <b>entrepreneurship</b> for youth groups.					
...enhancing the capacity of <b>youth as producers of culture</b> .	()	()	()	()	()
...providing <b>opportunities for youth mobility</b> (for education, or employment).	()	()	()	()	()
...enhancing access to <b>mental health services</b> and address issues related to <b>sexual and gender-based health</b> .	()	()	()	()	()
...enhancing <b>social cohesion and reducing marginalisation</b> (by gender, migration status, sexual preference).	()	()	()	()	()
...empowering <b>youth as changemakers</b> on issues related to peace and security.	()	()	()	()	()
...addressing <b>root causes of marginalisation, disengagement, and radicalisation</b> .	()	()	()	()	()

Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)



16. In relation to those initiatives that you participated in/contributed to, **how would you rate the overall sustainability of the results?**

- Very sustainable
- Sustainable
- Somewhat sustainable
- Somewhat unsustainable
- Not at all
- Don't know

*Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)*

17. In your experience, **how would you assess the sustainability of EU support to youth organisations?**

- Very sustainable
- Sustainable
- Somewhat sustainable
- Somewhat unsustainable
- Not at all
- Don't know

*Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)*

18. Based on your experience, to what extent are youth organisations/actors **satisfied with the quality of financial support provided by the European Union for youth-focused projects/programmes?**

<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
()	()	()	()	()

*Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)*

19. Based on your experience, to what extent have youth organisations/actors **faced the following challenges while actively engaging with the European Union?** *(Check all that apply)*

	<i>Great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Little extent</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
<b>Limited awareness of opportunities for engagement</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>EU Complex bureaucratic procedures</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>Insufficient resources to participate effectively</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>Language barriers</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>Visa-related issues</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>Difficulty in accessing relevant information</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>Access to capacity building support</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>Absence of concrete follow-up to dialogue processes</b>	()	()	()	()	()
<b>Access to finance</b>	()	()	()	()	()

*Please feel free to explain your assessment and provide additional information (optional)*

--

20. What have been **the most important achievements of EU support to youth in your country/region in 2014-2021?**

	<i>Description</i>
Achievement 1	
Achievement 2	
Achievement 3	

21. **What improvements or changes would you suggest to enhance the EU engagement in youth areas in your country or region?**

	<i>Description</i>
Areas for improvement 1	
Areas for improvement 2	
Areas for improvement 3	

#### 6.2.4.4 Final remarks

*Please feel free to provide other contributions to this evaluation, focusing on sharing of experiences/good practices, lessons or concrete examples of impact of EU support in your country/region (optional)*

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#### 6.2.4.5 Thank you!

This is the final page of the survey. Once you click **“Submit”**, you will not be able to change you answers.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. Your contribution is a crucial source of information for this evaluation.

If you wish to complement the information provided in your answers, do not hesitate to send us additional information or any potentially relevant documents.

Your contact persons are:

- **Lorenzo Antoldi** Survey Manager.
- **Mariam Hamad**, Evaluation Manager.

Thank you very much again for contributing to this evaluation!

The Evaluation Team

## 7 List of youth targeted interventions

Region	Decision title	Decision	Contract no.	Year	Intervention name
ENI	EU4Youth programme – 2016 EACEA share	38772	Not available	2017	EU4Youth programme – 2016 EACEA share
	EU4Youth programme – 2017 EACEA share	39748	Not available	2017	EU4Youth programme – 2017 EACEA share
	EU4Youth Phase 2	41505	412395	2019	EU4Youth Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities
			412346	2019	EU4Youth – Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine
			411315	2019	EU4Youth II Youth Engagement Roadmaps
			412326	2019	EU4Youth Social Innovation Impact a strategic partnership
			412387	2019	EU4Youth Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)
	EU4Youth Phase 3	42751	399510	2021	EU4 Youth Coordination and Support
			423431	2021	EU4Youth phase III – Youth employment and Entrepreneurship
	ENI	Supporting Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) through improved skills anticipation systems and VET promotion	39921	388197	2017
ENI	Non-substantial increase of “NET Med Youth”/C(2013)7623	41311	336027	2018	NET Med Youth
ENI E	Employment and Vocational Education and Training in Belarus	30979	383822	2017	Employment and Vocational Education and Training in Belarus
			395897	2018	Employment and Vocational Education and Training in Belarus
ENI E	Better Qualifications for Better Jobs	38246	383251	2016	Better Qualifications for Better Jobs
			387859	2017	Technical assistance for Budget Support Programme “Better Qualifications for Better Jobs”
			395239	2018	Assistance to the Ministry of Labour for implementation of Budget Support programme
			401236	2018	EU for Armenia – Communicating the EU in Armenia
			408765	2019	Bridging VET Education with IT Businesses

			408787	2019	Promoting partnerships for effective work-based learning opportunities in VET
			408682	2019	Public-Private Partnerships for Successful Transition from Education to Employment in Shirak Region
			300034232	2022	Final evaluation of 3 FDs (025-026; 038-229; 038-246)
ENI E	EU4Youth programme – 2016 NEAR share	38795	394286	2017	YES! Youth Employability and Stability in Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine
			394138	2017	“EU4Youth: “School Garden” for Agricultural Entrepreneurship”
			394156	2017	EU4Youth: Fostering potential for greater employability
			394295	2017	"SAY YES – Strategic Actions for Youth
			394581	2017	Programme for Youth Employability and Skill
	EU4Youth programme – 2017 NEAR share	39576	400807	2018	EU4Youth – Enhancing Youth Education, Employment and Participation in Conflict-affected Areas in Georgia and Ukraine
			399510	2018	EU4 Youth Coordination and Support
			394581	2017	Youth UP4 change: better skills for successful transition
	EU4Youth Phase 2	41505	412395	2019	EU4Youth Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities
			412346	2019	EU4Youth – Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine
			411315	2019	EU4Youth II Youth Engagement Roadmaps
			412326	2019	EU4Youth Social Innovation Impact a strategic partnership
			412387	2019	EU4Youth Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)
	EU4Youth Phase 3	42751	412395	2021	EU4 Youth Coordination and Support
			423431	2021	EU4Youth phase III – Youth employment and Entrepreneurship
ENI E	Support to the European Humanities University	39379	382859	2016	Support to the European Humanities University

ENI E	EU4MOBILITY – most phase II MOST PHASE II	40283	399718	2018	Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People Contacts (MOST) – Phase II
ENI E	Skills Development and Matching for Labour Market Needs	40319	386153	2018	Promoting New and Inclusive Approaches to Informal Education in Abkhazia.
			403849	2018	EU-UN Joint Programme on Improving Vocational Education in Abkhazia
			403393	2018	Skills Development and Matching for Labour Market Needs -Budget Support Contract
			406898	2019	Strengthening capacities for quality assurance and governance of qualifications
			409668	2019	Improving the standards of employment conditions/relations as well as health and safety at work in Georgia
			410936	2019	EU4Georgia phase 3 – Communicating the European Union in Georgia
			409666	2019	Review of Sector Reform Performance Contract Skills Development and Matching for Labour Market Needs
			409175	2019	Technical assistance to Skills Development for Matching Labour Market Needs
			417289	2020	Local Investments in Networks for Knowledge and Skill-share (LINKS) Project
			417883	2020	Skill Building and Innovative Job Opportunities for Regional Development of Georgia
			417363	2020	Learn, Exercise, Achieve, Receive, Network for Employment! (LEARN for Employment!)
			417289	2020	Local Investments in Networks for Knowledge and Skill-share (LINKS) Project
			417374	2020	Skills for Employment and Cooperation Tailoring Opportunities for Regions of Georgia (SECTORS)
			418066	2020	ESCAPE Employment, Support, Counselling to Meet Labour Market Needs
			417449	2020	Creating Better LLL Opportunities through Local Partnerships
417748	2020	Skills for Success (Equipping Youth with Entrepreneurial Skills to Get Employed and to			

					Become More Independent)
			419711	2020	Development of youth coding and tech entrepreneurial club networks
			417316	2020	Laboratory Health and Safety Life Long Learning Courses for Youth in West and East Georgia
			300026007	2021	Review of Sector Reform Performance Contract – Skills Development and Matching for Labour Market Needs (4&5 tranches)
			409175	2021	Technical assistance to Skills Development for Matching Labour Market Needs
ENI E	EU4Innovation in Armenia: Enhanced Education focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics	40530	391909		EU TUMO Convergence Center for Engineering and Applied Science
			429744	2021	Communicating EU-Armenia Cooperation 2022
			424723	2021	Expenditure verification of 3 projects, systems audit of 4 projects
			404659	2018	EU4Innovation STEM Pilot Activities (TF073260)
ENI E	EU4BELARUS ¿ Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People Contacts Plus (MOST+)	41524	429831	2022	EU4BELARUS: Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People Contacts Plus (MOST+)
ENI E	Education for Employment in Azerbaijan	41537	418025	2020	VET for the future: development of VET providers' excellence in Azerbaijan
			300015042	2021	Strengthening Accreditation of Research Institutions and Quality Assurance process at doctoral studies level in Azerbaijan
			300035350	2022	Strengthening Institutional Capacities of the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education in Azerbaijan
ENI E	Support for Moldova's participation in Erasmus+ programme	41547	Not Available	2020	Support for Moldova's participation in Erasmus+ programme
ENI E	Support to the European Humanities University	42178	415321	2020 2021	Support to the European Humanities University
ENI E	European School in Georgia	42331	417373	2020 2021	European School in Georgia
ENI S	Euromed Youth Programme	20527	343432	2014 2015	Euromed Youth Programme Estimate IV
			345031	2014	Supporting Young Palestinian Women's to be Feminist Activists
			346676	2014	Explore Youth Initiatives in Palestine
			348500	2014	Social and Citizen Journalism

			355318	2014	Euro-Med Training and networking
			356487	2015	Euro Med Youth IV Programme Estimate No:4
			347095	2015	Paths to mutual understanding: volunteers cooperation for a better future
			358261	2015	EuroMed Jeunesse IV – Tunisie – DPC n° 4
			375391	2016	I can move, pedagogy training for young professional dancers
			376128	2016	Palestine in the Eyes of INDRA
			376215	2016	Footprint of Palestine
			375717	2016	Training of young AK teachers on the music education pedagogy for early ages children.
			376324	2016	EYE TO EYE : Bridging young perspectives through media
			373115	2016	Programme Euromed Jeunesse IV – Devis Programme de Clôture
ENI S	Provision of Higher Education to Syrian youth affected by the crisis in Syria and in Jordan	37732	368804	2015	The provision of higher education to Syrian refugees and disadvantaged Jordanians
			365710	2015	Provision of Higher Education to Syrian youth affected by the crisis in Syria and in Jordan
ENI S	Programme d'Appui Formation-Emploi-Qualifications (AFEQ)	34146	389055	2017 2020	Recrutement de l'Unité d'appui à la mise en oeuvre du programme pour l'adéquation formation-emploi-qualification (AFEQ)
			398785	2018	Forsa, l'apprentissage professionnel, l'école de la deuxième chance
			414035	2020	Evaluation à mi-parcours du Programme d'Appui à l'Adéquation Formation-Emploi Qualification (AFEQ)
ENI S	Empowerment and participation of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South	39475	390881	2017	EU and South Neighbourhood Civil Society: Enhancing Dialogue
			392984	2017	Youthroom
			392986	2017	Empowering Youth in the Middle East: Young Voices Speak up, and Media Makes them Heard
			377619	2017	Young Mediterranean Voices
ENI S	EMORI – Mesure spéciale Erasmus+ Tunisie pour la mobilité	39771	Not Available	2017 2018 2019 2020	EMORI –

ENI S	Top Up Décision EMORI – Mesure spéciale Erasmus+ Tunisie pour le renforcement des capacités	39772	Not Available	2017 2018	EMORI –
		40897	Not Available	2019 2020	
ENI S	Formation Professionnelle : Developpement Du Capital Humain Au Maroc	39865	381828	2016	Déboursement des tranches d'appui budgétaire du "Programme d'appui à la réforme du secteur de la formation professionnelle au Maroc"
			382215	2017	Suivi du programme d'appui à la réforme du secteur de la formation professionnelle
			384624	2017	Projet d'appui à la réforme du secteur de la formation professionnelle – Contrat PAGODA (British Council et AECID)
			396884	2018 2019	Assistance technique pour un programme d'appui sectoriel à la réforme du secteur de la formation professionnelle: développement du capital humain au Maroc
			300044645	2022	Evaluation du programme d'appui sectoriel à la réforme de la Formation professionnelle : Développement du Capital Humain au Maroc
ENI S	Programme d'appui à la jeunesse en Tunisie - EU4YOUTH	41142	399407656	2019	Appui au démarrage, suivi et un appui stratégique et opérationnel de la mise en œuvre du programme « EU4Youth »
			408330	2019	Jeun'ess: promotion de l'économie sociale et solidaire et création d'emploi décent pour la jeunesse tunisienne
			419938 419938	2020 2019	Programme pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie nationale de l'amélioration de l'intermédiation sur le marché de l'emploi
			429529	2021	Participation & inclusion des jeunes tunisien(ne)s a travers la création, l'accès à la culture et au sport au niveau local
			423050	2021	Politique jeunesse et participation des jeunes dans les politiques publiques en Tunisie
			433176	2022	Programme pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie nationale de l'amélioration de l'intermédiation sur le marché de l'emploi-2
			409057	2022	Conception, réalisation et mise en œuvre d'une politique de communication sur la coopération de



					l'Union européenne en Tunisie
			432935	2022	Programme de soutien au développement économique durable local pour l'emploi des jeunes IRADAYouth
			432485	2022	Science With And For Youth – SWAFY
ENI S	Programme d'appui à la Jeunesse au Maroc	41151	414284	2019	Programme d'appui à la Jeunesse au Maroc
			300006629	2020	Suivi de la mise en œuvre du programme d'appui de l'UE à la Jeunesse au Maroc
			300012443	2021	« Accompagnement à la conception et mise en œuvre du dispositif de pilotage de programmes du Ministère de la Culture, Jeunesse et Sports au Maroc »
			425720	2022	Assistance technique Appui à la Jeunesse au Maroc
ENI S	2018 Programme to Support Youth and Culture in the Neighbourhood South region	41260	412094	2019	SAFIR
			412914	2019	Thaqafa Daayer Maydoor (All-Around Culture)
			412505	2019	Creative Entrepreneurs ACTing FOR the future MEDiterranean (CREACT4MED)
ENI S	JIL-SIYAHA "Programme d'appui à l'inclusion et à l'employabilité des jeunes dans le secteur du tourisme et ses chaînes de valeurs"	42196	431308	2022	Assistance technique pour le programme d'appui à l'inclusion et à l'employabilité des jeunes dans le secteur du tourisme et ses chaînes de valeur « jil-siyaha »
ENI S	Youth Inclusion in Jordan's Development Process	42239	425399	2021	Dummy Contract to pay 3 invoices from the same supplier (Newspaper) with a total cost below 2500 EUR
ENI S	Palestinian Youth Empowerment Programme	42371	422818	2021	Youth Economic Empowerment in Palestine (YEP)
			422827	2021	YOUTH LEADS: Youth Political and Civic Participation in Palestine
			423082	2021	Youth Empowerment Programme Tamayyaz
ENI S	AAP 2020 – EIDHR Country Based Support Scheme NEAR	42665	428874	2021	EIDHR: Supporting the needs of children and youth under institutional care after Covid 19
			427459	2021	Empowering University Youth for Furthering Human Rights of Young People from Vulnerable Groups
IPA	EU Acquis Approximation Facility and Young Cell Scheme (YCS)	41247	300021538	2021	Evaluation of EU-Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (EU-RRK) Programme

			433304	2022	Young Cell Scheme Rounds XIII-XIV-XV
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## 8 List of persons met

The list below includes all interviews conducted during desk phase. It does not include interviews already conducted at inception stage, or interviews conducted within the case studies.

### 8.1 Global level

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Position/Role</i>
<b>DG NEAR</b>		
SARACEVIC, Milica	NEAR.A.1 – Young European Ambassadors	Communication Officer – Press and Strategic Communication for Neighbourhood & Enlargement
MENENDEZ-BONILLA, Javier	NEAR.A.3 – An Economy that works for People, Green, Digital and Connected	Team Leader – Thematic support, Socio-Economic Development Team
MAZAUD, Elise	NEAR.A.1 – Communication and Inter-institutional Relations	Communication Officer – Press and Strategic Communication Assistant
MASSON, Christophe	NEAR.C.2 – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership Coordination	Head of Sector
FRANCKE, Hillen	NEAR.D.5 – Western Balkans Regional Programmes, Economic Investment Plan	Head of Sector
IARRERA, Maria	NEAR.A.4 – Coordination of financing instruments – performance, results and evaluation	Policy Officer – Budget support / PFM/ Risk Management and Macro Financial assistance
SPIESER, Lucas	NEAR B.4 – Neighbourhood South and Türkiye	Evaluation Officer
MOYA SAN MARTIN, Andreas	NEAR B.4 – IPA Assistance to Turkey	Programme Manager
SCHMIDT, Jochen	NEAR C.2 -Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership Coordination	International Aid / Cooperation Officer
BUZALJKO, Karolina	NEAR D.5 – Western Balkans Regional Programmes, Economic Investment Plan	Programme Assistant – Civil Society and Social Inclusion
GOGOLL, Yvonne	NEAR D.4 -Western Balkans – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo	Team Leader – Rule of Law
GARCIA, Guzman	NEAR C.2 – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership Coordination	Programme and Policy Officer – Civil Society
<b>DG EAC</b>		
BERNAL-RIOS, German	EAC.C.3 – International Cooperation	Policy Officer – International Cooperation Unit
KORNBECK, Jacob	EAC.B.3 – Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office	Policy Officer – Youth Unit
SEAILLES, Pierre	EAC.B.3 – Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office	Policy Officer – Youth Unit
<b>Other DGs</b>		
VAN ZEVEREN, Benjamin	EMPL.E.3 – International Affairs, ETF	International Policy Officer
DIDERICH, Tom	GROW.A.3 – Strategy and Economic Analysis – International Value Chains	International Relations Officer
FAULLIMMEL, Natacha	GROW.A.3 – Strategy and Economic Analysis – International Value Chains	Policy Officer – International Value Chains
PORCELLI, Francesca	GROW.A.3 – Strategy and Economic Analysis – International Value Chains	International Relations Policy Officer
<b>Other</b>		
CRESTANI, Franca	European Training Foundation (ETF)	Senior Human Capital Development Expert – Focal point for Eastern Partnership – Country Liaison

KUUSELA, Timo	European Training Foundation (ETF)	Senior Human Capital Development Expert – Focal Point for Eastern Partnership -Country Liaison for Georgia and Belarus
MEJER, Lene	EACEA.A.5 – Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture – Youth, Education and Erasmus+ – Youth, EU Solidarity Corps and Aid Volunteers	Deputy Head of Unit
MCCORMACK, Daniel	EEAS – Financing Instruments and International Cooperation	Policy Officer
MEREUTA, Cristina	European Training Foundation (ETF)	Senior Human Capital Development Expert – Coordinator for Active Labour Market Policies
VAN ENK, Ruud	European Commission	Team Leader for Facility for Refugees in Turkey
OULKADI, Assia	European Youth Forum (EYF) Secretariat	Senior Policy Officer – Sustainability and Global Cooperation
DIMONOPOLI, Giulia	Union for the Mediterranean	Project Assistant – Youth Dossier at the Social and Civil Affairs Division

## 8.2 Country/ Region level

<i>Name</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Position</i>
<b>EUD</b>		
SINAKOLI, Xheni	EUD Albania	EU Youth focal point
LAREDJ, Amina	EUD (Algeria)	International Cooperation Office – Youth focal point
AVAKIAN, David	EUD (Armenia)	International Aid/Cooperation Officer – EU Youth focal point
SOROCINOV, Zuzana	EUD (Armenia)	Cooperation Section
ZULFUQARZADE, Rza	EUD (Azerbaijan)	Project Manager – Cooperation Section
PRONKO, Tatyana	EUD (Belarus)	Youth focal point
FAROUK, Ahlam	EUD (Egypt)	Programme Manager – Youth focal point
RIBOT, Isabelle	EUD (Egypt)	Attachée – Operational Coordination and Horizontal Issues
PERRY, Daphna	EUD (Israel)	Programme Officer – International Aid & Cooperation
ABUJERIES, Amal	EUD (Jordan)	EU Youth focal point
BYTYQI JAGXHIU, Syzana	EUD (Kosovo)	Political Section
ÇAKA, Ariana	EUD (Kosovo)	Youth Focal Point
COLCLOUGH, Orla	EUD (Lebanon)	Programme Officer – Cooperation – Jeel Programme
VASQUES, Giuseppe	EUD (Libya)	EU Youth focal point
PAGLIONE, Giuseppe	EUD (Moldova)	Programme Officer – Operations – Youth focal point
MARIGUESA, Ana	EUD (Montenegro)	Project Manager – Youth focal point
MILIC, Jadranka	EUD (Montenegro)	Programme Manager- Youth focal point
CITARELLA, Luca	EUD (North Macedonia)	Programme Office – Youth focal point
DOMINONI, Sara	EUD (Palestine)	Programme Manager – Youth focal point
RADINOVIC, Irena	EUD (Serbia)	Project Manager – Education and Social Policy – Youth focal point
NASR, Michael	EUD (Syria)	Interim Project Manager for the EU Delegation to Syria's Education Profile
SHULHA, Tetiana	EUD (Ukraine)	Sector Manager – Youth focal point
<b>Youth Organisations</b>		
YERISTYAN, Grigor	Armenian Progressive Youth NGO (APY)	President
HERYLOVICH, Dzmitry	Belarusian National Youth Council (RADA)	Policy and Advocacy Officer

SHEVCHUK, Natalia	National Youth Council of Ukraine (NYCU)	Chairperson
FRANKIVSKA, Olena	National Ukrainian Youth Association (NUMO)	Coordinator
PEJIC, Miljana	National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS)	Secretary General
PANUS, Teodora	National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM)	Chairperson
<b><i>Other</i></b>		
YAISH, Ziad	UNFPA (Palestine)	Deputy Representative
ALAMI, Sima	UNPFA (Palestine)	Programme Officer – Youth
MARKOVIC, Ognjen	Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)	Team Leader – Western Balkan Youth Lab
PIPLAŠ, Denis	Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)	Deputy Secretary General