

You said:

The EUYD9 consultation explored young people's views on what mechanisms and methods were successful at ensure the needs of their generation are taken into account in decision-making processes affecting their current life and future.

A common opinion amongst consultation participants was that policy makers and politicians have shown a lack of action on sustainability and environment issues, and young people have very limited ways to hold decision-makers to account on these topics. There were feelings of mistrust and discontent towards politicians. Many, but not all, young people were able to identify a variety of available participatory mechanisms, (e.g., protests, petitions, civil society organisations). In general, however, these mechanisms were all said to be failing to bring about change on sustainability, due to inaction from the relevant policy makers.

No specific types of mechanism were widely identified as more effective. Young people involved in formal structures, (e.g., youth councils, advisory boards) said that these structures did have some impact when embedded in policy-making. However, many young people were not aware of these structures. Opportunities to hold decision makers to account for were said to be improved by:

- policy-makers committing to more extensive action based on outcomes of participation mechanisms.
- improving the accessibility of participation mechanisms, ensuring that they focus on the concerns of marginalised groups as well as majority issues and enable marginalised young people to take leadership roles.
- increasing the number of opportunities for participation on sustainability, especially with informal and regular dialogue with elected representatives.
- Promoting and protecting youth councils with increased resources, establishing more local youth councils and ensuring legislative backing.

We did:

Through the implementation phase reports National Working Groups (NWGs) stated they had:

1. Supported the delivery of empowerment activities for young people which:
 - Developed young people's skills, knowledge, attitudes and values in relation to civic and political participation on sustainability issues.
 - Activated young people towards civic and political participation on the topic of sustainability and inclusion.
 - Supported community development.
2. Tried to increase the quality of participation activities related to sustainability and inclusion by:
 - Exploring new methods of political participation.
 - Increasing the expertise of youth organisations.
 - Increasing information and best practice sharing between organisations.
 - Supporting new developments related to participation on sustainability issues such as improving communication and evaluation of public consultations.
 - Creating links and synergies between the youth sector and other parts of the public sector.
3. Tried to influence policy related to action and empowerment by:
 - Holding lobbying meetings between policy-makers and young people / youth organisations to influence policy on this topic.
 - Becoming directly involved in upcoming policy making processes to influence legal frameworks and new policy.
 - Making specific recommendations to policy-makers leading to concrete influences in some policy.

Remember! Influencing change across Europe is a complex process that takes many years. These results show just the first steps taken by the EU and its Member States in response to EUYD9. More details can be found in the full implementation phase reports and the national implementation phase reports.