

You said:

This EUYPD9 sub-theme explored young people's on how youthwashing be avoided in youth participation mechanisms, and how decision-makers can be held to account when they make commitments during participation activities with young people. It addressed young people's concerns that young people's voices, especially on the topic of sustainability and climate change were not being acted upon.

The EUYPD9 Youth Conferences in France and in the Czech Republic and the informal ministerial meeting of 22 January 2022 in Strasbourg identified concerns from young people about youth washing. The young people that participated in the consultation phase were less familiar with the concept but often able to recognise it. Youth washing was said to be an engagement between politicians or policy-makers and young people, which has no genuine possibility of creating political change, despite expectations to do so.

The EUYPD9 consultation identified that participatory mechanisms can reduce youth washing by:

- increasing transparency and visibility by giving young people clear information on the feasibility of implementing their demands and ensuring policy-makers' commitments are publicly recorded and promoted.
- providing follow up and feedback to young people on the actions taken by policy-makers after participation activities with policy makers publicly reporting on changes achieved or justifying the lack of changes by given deadlines, as well as engaging in ongoing dialogue with young people.
- developing more consistent and stronger links between participation mechanisms and policy sectors linked to sustainability.

We did:

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

1. Supported the delivery of activities for young people which:
 - Developed young people's skills, knowledge, attitudes and values in relation to awareness of youth-washing, meaningful participation and effective advocacy.
 - Promoted networking opportunities for EU Youth Delegates to build their understanding of political structures such as committees.

2. Tried to increase the quality of participation activities related to sustainability and inclusion by:
 - Promoting tools and opportunities that can help prevent youth washing, such as Governance models.
 - Supporting activities which increased expertise of youth organisations and provided capacity building to them.
 - Increasing co-operation amongst different bodies within the youth field.

3. Tried to influence Governance by:
 - Mainstreaming youth issues across different policy areas.
 - Introducing new policy tools.
 - Influencing policymaking via direct involvement in policymaking processes.
 - Influencing policymaking via direct contact with policymakers.
 - Influencing policymaking via giving feedback and recommendations from young people to policy makers.
 - Influencing policymaking via taking active role in policy evaluations.
 - Directly influencing upcoming policies (e.g., creating Youth Tests).
 - Building connections between policy-makers and youth field.

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.