

ANNEX I: Recommendations from the 2019 Brussels Civil Forum and the 3rd youth workshop

MAJALAT – Online Thematic workshops on: Youth
24th & 27th November 2020

General recommendations

- ➔ Recommendations to DG NEAR, EEAS and National Authorities
 1. The EU needs to respond to the challenges faced by young people and youth organisations in the Southern Neighbourhood in a clearer and more transparent way:
 - by systematically inserting in bilateral agreements between the EU and the Southern Neighbourhood countries a special chapter on priority issues for young people and youth organisations. This chapter should:
 - clearly identify youth-related budgets in these bilateral agreements, as well as in the overall EU frameworks and in particular the MFF
 - indicate the means of assessing the impact of these bilateral agreements on policies and programmes on young people and make their results easily accessible to the public
 - by creating favourable conditions for the funding of youth organisations in the region by, for example:
 - increasing the number of calls for projects dedicated to youth and/or open to youth organisations in the region and adapting the dedicated budgets (possibility of funding micro and meso projects)
 - Simplifying of the response procedures for these calls
 - opening calls for proposals to unregistered entities [informal collectives, specific social movements, etc.] in the region.
 2. Support the strengthening of youth civic participation that has a long-term impact and leads to greater involvement of young men and women in policy making in the Southern Neighborhood, including building the advocacy capacity of youth and youth organizations.
- ➔ Recommendation to UEDs, DG NEAR, EEAS
 3. Recognize the youth diversity and reach a larger number and a wider range of young men and women, including those involved in informal groups and social movements

Supporting employment and vocational training

- ➔ Recommendations addressed to DUE, DG NEAR, EEAS

1. Support youth entrepreneurship by contributing to creating an enabling environment in terms of available funding and training in particular
2. Facilitate access to Southern Mediterranean labour markets for vulnerable groups of young people (people in situation of disabilities, and in migration)

Education

→ Recommendations to UEDs, DG NEAR, EEAS

1. Increase political, financial and administrative support to non-formal education programmes as a way to enhance young people's personal and professional skills and competences as well as their employability
2. Involve young people from different backgrounds and CSOs in the design and evaluation of EU employability and education programmes at national and regional level
3. Expand programmes facilitating youth mobility in the Southern Neighbourhood and call for education and capacity building to include disadvantaged groups (such as women, rural residents and people with disabilities).

Social protection of vulnerable groups in particular on the issue of Sexual and Reproductive Health

→ Recommendation to DG NEAR and EEAS

1. Call on DG NEAR and EEAS to acknowledge the challenge that SRHR represent for younger generations by:
 - providing increased financial support to civil society already engaged in this issue and encouraging new organizations to address the issue
 - systematically including SRH in bilateral dialogues with the Southern Neighborhood States

Security: Towards a new approach on youth and fight against all forms of violence

→ Recommendation to EEAS and DG HOME

1. Fully integrate the respect of human rights and democratic values as a fundamental component of all EU external policies and all forms of cooperation with third countries related to security and fight against terrorism

→ Recommendation to National Authorities



2. Include youth in decision making related to security and fight against all forms of violence when it comes to revise the EU Neighborhood Policy (consultations, evaluation of existing programs)

→ Recommendation addressed to DG Near, DEVCO (for financial support), EEAS (for political support)

3. To increase political and financial support to youth led initiatives for the promotion of peace and the prevention of violent extremism

Mobility and migration

→ Recommendations to DG NEAR, EUDs and National Authorities

1. Increase financial, political and administrative support to South South and North-South mobility partnerships like volunteering, professional training, non-formal education initiatives, cultural exchanges, university twinning projects.
2. Widen the budget for Erasmus+ VET Mobility in all the MENA countries, taking into consideration inclusive social and geographical criteria then facilitating visas for selected participants and by:
 - o facilitating the obtaining of visas for selected participants (administrative and political support)
 - o increasing the number of participants from the Southern Neighborhood who are eligible to participate each year.

Recommendations added as a result of the 3rd webinar

General and financing

→ Recommendations to DG NEAR, UEDs and national authorities

1. Support local organizations financially so that they can be more effective in responding to the consequences of the crisis, given the restrictions imposed by some governments (money transfers, currency exchange, etc.).

→ Recommendations to donors (including the EU)

2. In coordination with donors, in the case of certain projects, reallocate unused funds to small businesses and organizations that can provide essential health assistance.
3. Identify and capitalize on the new practices of collective youth action under Covid-19 in the countries of the region in order to feed and adapt public policies for youth, financing mechanisms and South-South, South-North and North-South mobility.



→ Recommendations addressed to the national authorities

4. To promote the development of an alternative economic model resulting from the practices set up during Covid-19 which is sustainable, social and solidarity-based, generates income for young people and favours local development.
5. To encourage and support the development of socio-cultural action centers of proximity and/or to reinforce the already existing devices in the countries and this mainly in rural areas.

Sexual and reproductive health

→ Recommendation to DG NEAR, EUDs and national authorities

1. Promote new ways to provide information and support to adolescents and young people on sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as supporting the implementation of outreach programs in community youth facilities.
- 2.

Security

→ Recommendations to DG NEAR, DG ECHO and national authorities

1. Conduct qualitative research that aims to highlight the effects of crises on women, girls and other marginalized groups to enable the development of appropriate responses.
2. In the event of a health crisis, systematically take a gender approach in order to best guarantee women's access to information (available support and resources, etc.).

Migration and mobility

→ Recommendation to national authorities

1. Favour inter-country mobility to promote exchange between peers.

Education

→ Recommendations to DG NEAR, UEDs and national authorities

1. Faced with the challenge of adapting distance education, support the training of teachers/teachers by multiplying examples of initiatives involving CSOs, foundations or companies, and promote access to adequate equipment (material, connection) for students and teachers.



- Recommendation to national authorities
 2. To centralize, on the same portal, reliable and specific information during health crisis situations in a country, in languages accessible to all inhabitants (nationals and foreigners).

Digital

- Recommendation to national authorities
 1. Support the virtual engagement of youth in:
 - o Making resources available in all local languages
 - o Fighting misinformation and xenophobia around the pandemic
 2. Ensure that any use of digital technologies, including applications and artificial intelligence, to monitor the spread of the virus and the behavior of human beings is legal, ethical and strictly temporary.

- Recommendation to DG NEAR
 3. To set up a study of the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the youth of the region using data:
 - o Statistics
 - o Testimonials in order to understand the immediate and future needs of young people.



ANNEX II: Recommendations addressed to EU on the issue of youth which were commented during the 3rd workshop

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Note

One of the objectives of the first round of webinars was to (re)draft recommendations for the European Union on the issue of youth based on those which had already been agreed on during the Brussels Civil Society Forum 2019 and taking into consideration the influence the current pandemic might have on their content and formulation. Among the long series of recommendations, 5 were jointly chosen to be commented, since they were prioritized by the participants, directly addressed to the European Commission. The charts below summarize remarks and statements made by EU representatives during the 3rd round on the recommendations formulated as part of the 1st webinar. Recommendations highlighted in green indicate that some commitment has been made by EU representatives. Those highlighted in red imply that no bigger commitment has been made during the webinar.

MAJALAT Recommendations	Remarks by EU Representatives
Political framework and financing	
<p>The EU needs to respond to the challenges faced by young people and youth organisations in the Southern Neighbourhood in a clearer and more transparent way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ by systematically inserting in bilateral agreements between the EU and the Southern Neighbourhood countries a special chapter on priority issues for young people and youth organisations. This chapter should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ clearly identify youth-related budgets in these bilateral agreements, as well as in the overall EU frameworks and in particular the MFF ➢ indicate the means of assessing the impact of these bilateral agreements on policies and programmes on young people and make their results easily accessible to the public ○ by creating favourable conditions for the funding of youth organisations in the region by, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ increasing the number of calls for projects dedicated to youth and/or open to youth organisations in the region and 	<p>Harmonization of financial procedures is important at the EU level. For the time being, the simplification of the response to the EU Commission calls for proposal is not considered as feasible. Moreover, EU Delegations do launch “easier” call for proposals in order to support youth organizations at the national level.</p> <p>Calls for thematic projects have been launched through the EUD in order to contain the effects of the Covid-19 on youth (mainly employability). Some projects are implemented by partners (UNICEF, UNESCO...).</p> <p>Also financing tools (small grants) for young people who want to start a business exist. Local banks can also benefit from guarantees from the EU Commission to provide cheaper loans to young people. They mainly focus on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). The examples of MedUp program (started in 2018) which aims to improve the</p>

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Ref

<p>adapting the dedicated budgets (possibility of funding micro and meso projects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ simplifying of the response procedures for these calls ➤ opening calls for proposals to unregistered entities [informal collectives, specific social movements, etc.] in the region. 	<p>environment for business creation and other programs to improve the structuring of the SSE sector and innovation in Algeria, were given.</p>
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Sexual and reproductive health

<p>Call on DG NEAR and EEAS to acknowledge the challenge that SRHR represent for younger generations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ providing increased financial support to civil society already engaged in this issue and encouraging new organizations to address the issue, more specifically during the Covid-19 pandemic ○ systematically including SRH in bilateral dialogues with the Southern Neighborhood States 	<p>The Union's speech stressed on the importance of health in general, all the more the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of addressing this issue urgently and in a more long-term perspective.</p> <p>During the crisis, the assistance has been redirected to meet emergency needs to ensure that the most fragile communities had access to basic health services, SRH included.</p> <p>Efforts from the EU and SN countries will have to be made to make this issue central in the dialogue.</p>
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Mobility/Education

<p>Widen the budget for Erasmus+ VET Mobility in all the MENA countries, taking into consideration inclusive social and geographical criteria then facilitating visas for selected participants and by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ facilitating the obtaining of visas for selected participants (administrative and political support) ○ increasing the number of participants from the Southern Neighborhood who are eligible to participate each year. 	<p>DG NEAR is currently working on the strategic orientations of Erasmus program which involves 10 SN countries. They are aware that this latter can be improved to be more accessible and to enable more vulnerable young people to benefit from it.</p> <p>According to German Bernal-Rios from DG EAC, this program is wide and encompasses many areas of education and targets people from both shores of the Mediterranean: high education mobility (study exchange and trainings), Erasmus Mundus Master degree, (2 years scholarship), high education cooperation (capacity building projects, Jean Monnet activities which foster the knowledge of the EU in partner countries), non-formal education (in Tunisia), virtual</p>
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exchanges and school education activities (e-twinning program to foster cooperation between schools of different countries (in Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon).

Although it is an international program, the priority in terms of mobility and funds allocated is given to the 3 EU neighborhood regions and more precisely the South (22% of the mobilities -South, 18% -Balkans...). The Erasmus + virtual exchanges (advocacy trainings, training to develop international projects, interactive open courses) is only opened to SN countries for now.

DG EAC recognizes the difficulties to sometimes participate to the Erasmus program but adds that efforts are made in order to facilitate the access to disadvantaged participants and improve the financial support (the grants allocated to SN participants are more advantageous).

Finally, in the new programming (2021-2027), the scope of action with SN countries in 2 areas will be expanded: vocational & educational training and capacity building trainings in the area of Sport (as a tool of social inclusion).

Increase political, financial and administrative support to non-formal education programmes as a way to enhance young people's personal and professional skills and competences as well as their employability

When it comes to the elaboration, implementation, and support of the programs, we must keep in mind the complexity of the process, which implies a cross-DG work but not only. As for the education field, the EU Commission has also launched a public consultation as part of the preparation of the European Education Area. DG NEAR is responsible for verifying that the interests of youth in the 3 regions of the neighborhood are reflected in the document and in the actions carried out in partners countries.



The European Training Foundation (ETF) is the main agency working on non-formal education and professional and vocational training. It decided to broaden its field of expertise to cover the human capital development part (up-skilling, personal development). DG NEAR is currently working with ETF to determine effective and relevant performance indicators (improving access, quality, equity to education). DG NEAR is also implementing a tailor-made tool to carry out diagnostics of education systems to base assistance and inform policy dialogue with country governments in the field of education, including on necessary reforms. They hope that they will be able to identify the main bottlenecks and weaknesses in education systems, whether in terms of the organization of administration, financing, or teacher training. The finality is to equip young people with tools that will facilitate their access to the job market.

The Union for the Mediterranean is currently preparing its youth strategy. It reflects the priorities mentioned in terms of education and employment. It will consider the specific needs of youth in the region and possibly a scheme to involve more young people in the formulation of the strategy.

Digital

To set up a study of the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the youth of the region using data:

- Statistics
- Testimonials in order to understand the immediate and future needs of young people

Studies that are not necessarily about youth only have been undertaken. It's expected that the impact on them is well represented.

